

The Winooski Newsletter

A newsletter created in partnership by the City of Winooski and the Winooski School District.

AUGUST 2022

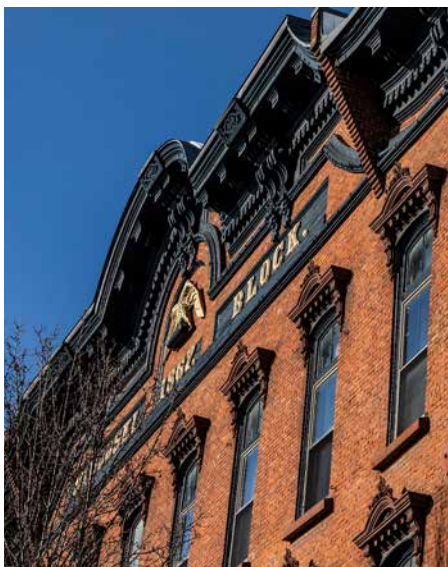


WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

*** DO YOUR PART ***

VOTE!

AUGUST 9, 2022



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Letter from the Mayor

By Kristine Lott

Hello Winooski, We've had a most exciting summer of events in Winooski. With the steady return to in-person gatherings, the City Council recently discussed ramping up our community engagement opportunities. It has been great re-connecting with neighbors at our community events. Remember, we can also always be reached by phone, email, or during City Council and other public meetings. With that, we're also interested in doing more to meet people where they are. If you'd like to invite me or a member of the City Council to your event, organization, or neighborhood - we'd be delighted to join you.



In COVID-related news, we've seen a tremendous return to more normal circumstances, however, we're still working on supporting our residents and businesses who have been impacted by the pandemic. Earlier this year, we launched a survey asking residents about the impacts they've experienced and hosted several listening sessions for non-English speaking residents to better understand how to prioritize the \$2 million in federal relief funds. If you'd like to learn more about this process, please visit winooskivt.gov/arpa.

Speaking of community feedback, we're also interested in hearing from Winooski's residents, landlords, tenants, and service providers regarding the ongoing housing crisis.

While the issue remains shared at the state and federal levels, we've begun to focus on local solutions. Our Planning Commission has been working on updates to our Zoning regulations to incentivize developers to build more affordable housing and more 3-bedroom/large units (a known need in our community). The Planning Commission hosted two well-attended public hearings on these changes, and the City Council will host another before anything is finalized. We'd love to hear from community members on this topic. Please consider attending any upcoming Planning or City Council meetings. The more feedback we receive, the better informed we can be!

As always, feel free to reach out at any time.

MEET the **Candidates**

Vermont's Primary Election is August 9th

Watch Election Forums before you cast your vote! Then, stay tuned for local results on August 10th.

Visit our website for dates & details on how to participate.



ON COMCAST 1087, BT 217/317, YOUTUBE & CH17.TV



Hope!

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: “We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope.” We have collectively navigated, endured, and learned from the challenging COVID and Capital Project period in addition to political, social and racial unrest, and our personal struggles over the past two and half years. You have done heroic work since the dismissal of school on March 18, 2020 to support your children, WSD, your neighbors and the broader community. It was truly inspiring to watch our community come together and I am incredibly proud of how we kept each other healthy, safe and hopeful for our bright future together.

Each school year is an opportunity for a fresh and energized start so we can all be our very best for our students who deserve to be loved and academically challenged with high expectations. They need us more than ever after the past two years and it is our collective responsibility to collaborate so we can continue to help our students reach their true potential. Parents and caregivers, I would ask you to review the “Back to School Tips” article later in this newsletter for some tangible ways to prepare for the routine back to school.

As we transition out of the past two and half years of uncertainty and move into a more “normal” state of affairs, we must also keep in mind that the future is bright and full of hope! By early November we will have a completed capital project with amazing new spaces that will provide a ton of new teaching and learning opportunities, a healthier and safer facility

and additional spaces for community activities. Taxpayers will be borrowing \$2-3 million less at a much lower interest rate than anticipated for this investment. We will have student transportation to and from school each day. We will have the most diverse WSD Leadership Team and overall staff than ever before. Our pursuit of becoming an antiracist school district will continue with all the action teams picking up their work in the fall. We will be planning how to best implement in the 2024-25 school year the recently passed Act 127 of 2022 (S.287: An act relating to improving student equity by adjusting the school funding formula and providing education quality and funding oversight. And, of course, we have the most amazing students in the state to work with each day!

Lastly, I want to remind you of some important school dates:

- **WSD Back-to-School Family BBQ:** Thursday, September 1st, 5:30 pm
- **1st Day for K-5th graders:** Tuesday, September 6th, 8:00-3:00
- **1st Day for 6th and 9th graders:** Tuesday, September 6th, 8:00-12:15
- **1st Day for All Students:** Wednesday, September 7th, 8:00-3:00

Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!

Back to School Tips

Originally published on kidshealth.org by Kathryn Hoffses, PhD

1. Battling the Butterflies

As with any new or potentially unsettling situation — like starting school for the first time or entering a new grade or new school — allow kids time to adjust. Remind them that everyone feels a little nervous about the first day of school and that it will all become an everyday routine in no time.

Emphasize the positive things about going back to school, such as hanging out with old friends, meeting new classmates, buying cool school supplies, getting involved in sports and other activities. It's also important to talk to kids about what worries them and offer reassurance: Are they afraid they won't make new friends or get along with their teachers? Is the thought of school work stressing them out? Are they worried about the bully from last year?

Although it's normal to be anxious in any new situation, a few kids develop real physical symptoms, such as headaches or stomach aches, associated with the start of school. If you're concerned that your child's worries go beyond the normal back-to-school jitters, speak with your child's doctor, teacher, or school counselor.

2. Re-Establish School Routines

Use the last few weeks of summer to get into a school-day rhythm. "Have your child practice getting up and getting dressed at the same time every morning," suggests school psychologist Kelly Vaillancourt, MA, CAS. Start eating breakfast, lunch, and snacks around the times your child will eat when school is in session. It's also important to get your child used to leaving the house in the morning, so plan morning activities outside the house in the week or two before school. Finally, make sure students get enough sleep, eat a healthy breakfast (free breakfast is served for all WSD students each morning) and have them organize and set out what they need the night before. Homework and books should be put in their backpacks by the door and clothes should be laid out in their bedrooms.

3. Nurture Independence

Once the classroom door shuts, your child will need to manage a lot of things on his own. Get him ready for independence by talking ahead of time about responsibilities he's old enough to shoulder. This might include organizing his school materials, writing down assignments, and bringing home

NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

homework, says Nicole Pflieger, school counselor at Nickajack Elementary School in Smyrna, GA.

Even if your child is young, you can instill skills that will build confidence and independence at school. Have your young child practice writing her name and tying her own shoes. "The transition to school will be easier for everyone if your child can manage basic needs without relying on an adult," Pflieger says.

4. Create a Launch Pad

"Parents and teachers should do whatever they can to facilitate a child being responsible," says Pflieger, who was named School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counselor Association in 2012. At home, you can designate a spot where school things like backpacks and lunch boxes always go to avoid last-minute scrambles in the morning. You might also have your child make a list of things to bring to school and post it by the front door.

5. Set Up a Time and Place for Homework

Head off daily battles by making homework part of your child's everyday routine. Establish a time and a place for studying at home. "Even if it's the kitchen table, it really helps if kids know that's where they sit down and do homework, and that it happens at the same time every day," says Pflieger. As much as possible, plan to make yourself available during homework time, especially with younger kids. You might be reading the paper or cooking dinner, but be around to check in on your child's progress.

Encourage kids to:

- Develop good work habits from the get-go, like taking notes, writing down assignments, and turning in homework on time
- Take their time with schoolwork
- Ask the teacher if they don't understand something

6. Make it a Family Affair

Together, you and your child can plan for success in school. For instance, sit down with your child to create a routine chart. Ask your child what she wants to do first when she first gets home from school: play outside or do homework? Her answers go on the chart. "The more kids have ownership in creating a routine for themselves and setting expectations, the more likely they are to follow it," says Vaillancourt.

Whether their summer was jam-packed with activities or filled with complaints about being bored with nothing to do, kids often have a tough time making the back-to-school transition.

7. After-School Plans

School gets out before most working parents get home, so it's important to figure out where your children will go, or who will be at home, in the afternoons. You might find an after-school program through the school itself, a local YMCA, or a Boys and Girls Club. If possible, try to arrange your schedule so you can be there when your child gets home during those first few days of school. It may help your child adjust to the new schedule and teachers.

8. Talk to the Teachers

Of course, teachers are the reason your child is there. To ensure kids get the most out of school, maintain an open channel of communication with the teachers by e-mailing or talking with them throughout the school year to discuss your kids' academic strengths as well as weaknesses.

When you talk to your child's teachers, ask about their approach to homework. Some teachers assign homework so kids can practice new skills while others focus on the accuracy of the assignments they turn in. Ask for the dates of tests and large assignments so you can help your child plan accordingly. For instance, if you know a big test is coming up on Friday morning, you will know to keep things simple on Thursday evening.

9. Notify School of Medical Issues

- Have your kids received all necessary immunizations?
- Have you filled out any forms that the school has sent home, such as emergency contact and health information forms?
- Do the school nurse and teachers know about any medical conditions your child may have, particularly food allergies, asthma, diabetes, and any other conditions that may need to be managed during the school day?
- Have you made arrangements with the school nurse to administer any medications your child might need?
- Do the teachers know about any conditions that may affect how your child learns? For example, kids with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) should be seated in the front of the room, and a child with vision problems

Most of all, whether it's the first day of school or the last, make sure your kids know you're there to listen to their feelings and concerns, and that you don't expect perfection — only that they try their best.

(http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/learning/back_school.html#)
Additional source: <http://www.webmd.com/parenting/family-health-12/back-to-school-prep?page=1>



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.



Reflections from the Restorative Justice Conference in Chicago

By Kayla Loving



Kayla Loving and Winooski's Youth Interventionist, Francine Bahati, took three youth: Mearee Jan, Eliza Willis, and Auishma Pradhan to Chicago for the National Association on Community and Restorative Justice conference in July.

They attended sessions to learn about the youth engagement in restorative justice, indigenous peacemaking, the connection between climate change and restorative justice, systems change, and ubuntu. They also went out into the community to learn from and interact with youth and adults involved in restorative justice in Lawndale, Chicago. They participated in drumming circles and activities from the theater of the oppressed. They sang and danced in circle and shared their perspectives. They connected with other youth leaders and thought about how to bring these values and practices to Winooski.

Here are some of their reflections from the experience:

"I really appreciated and enjoyed listening to everyone's questions and concerns about conflict in their own lives and their differences as well as conflict experienced by so many people because it really made me reflect and think about things differently. I also appreciated and enjoyed the session led by youth from Oakland, California because

the session was enjoyable and engaging. The partnership between the youth and adults was very inspiring because they did amazing in involving, elevating and supporting youth in becoming powerful leaders." -Auishma Pradhan

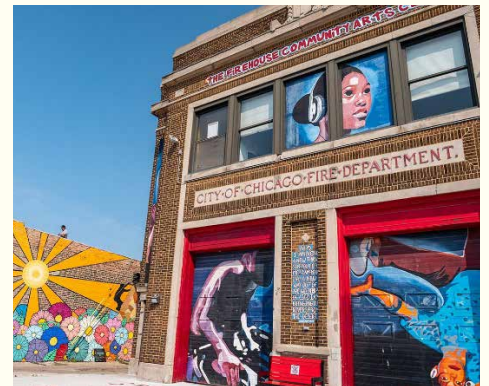
"Listening to the indigenous peoples' stories about their culture/family really made me think about where I was from, it also made me think about the harm they experienced from colonizers.

I also really appreciated the circle run by Oakland youth. It was so fun to be a part of and I was really amazed by how far they had come in adding youth to the conversations in school." -Eliza Willis

"I loved hearing the stories of those who understood their identity, their roots, and their culture. As well as empathizing with those who are struggling with that. I value the advice and lessons the indigenous people, the community leaders, and fellow youth leaders had to share. It really opened my eyes more on what I can do better for myself, and the ones around me. I think my favorite session was with the restorative practices in healthcare. The speakers did a great job on teaching the audience key RJ approaches to better improve relationships

with their patients and co-workers and how to support that. I loved the advice that the process isn't a magic wand. It takes time, that won't go wasted." -Mearee Jan

"I really appreciated the session titled Climate Change and Restorative Justice. The facilitator emphasized the interconnection between all types of justice and talked about how restorative justice is about repairing interpersonal, communal, AND systemic harm." -Kayla Loving





Winooski School District's Antiracism Steering Committee Reflects & Celebrates Successes for 2021-2022

By Kayla Loving

The Winooski Antiracism Steering Committee (ARSC) came together during one of the last weeks of the school year to share and celebrate the many accomplishments of the Action Teams tasked with taking action on the six demands from the Winooski Students for Antiracism. For the past two years, UP for Learning has facilitated this work, providing meeting structure and resources, as well as supporting the teams' development of youth partners and leaders. With the support of the ARSC, the Action Teams have researched relevant issues, overcome obstacles (including several COVID-19 related postponements!), and made concrete strides towards creating a more equitable school district. Here are highlights from some of the action teams:

- **Demand Action Team Two:** Recruit and Retain Faculty and Staff of Color The group is also working to expedite processes and eliminate financial barriers so that community members can get the licensing they need in order to work at the school. For instance, after several meetings about the lack of bus drivers in the district, the group helped develop a pilot program for community members to get their bus licenses



- **Demand Action Team Three:** Develop an Ethnic Studies Curriculum UVM School of Education professor Dr. Cynthia Reyes came to speak to the group about the history of ethnic studies in Vermont and in the U.S. During their work this year, one of the chief concerns that the group discussed was students not learning their heritage languages in school; heritage language classes on Saturday afternoons have attracted some participants, but the group would like them to be integrated into the school curriculum.
- **Demand Action Team Six:** Multilingual Learner Mentoring Program This group has partnered with Mentor Vermont, which offers free training and assistance for organizations that are looking to start a mentorship program. They have also created a Winooski-specific handbook for the program that includes anti-bias training for mentors. The next step is to hire a mentorship coordinator in consultation with the newly hired Multilingual Program Director, Mohamed Diop.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winooski School District Child Find Notice

By Katherine Blair

The Winooski School District is required by federal law to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities. The process of locating, identifying, and evaluating children with disabilities is known as Child Find. The Winooski School District conducts a Kindergarten Screening every spring, but parents may call to make an appointment to discuss their concerns at any time. As the school district of residence, we have the responsibility to identify and provide services to any child with special needs who may require special education and related

services in order to access and benefit from public education.

If you have, or know of any resident who has, a child with a disability under the age of 21, to include children enrolled in a private school located in Winooski, and those being home-schooled, we would like to hear from you. Sometimes parents and guardians are unaware that special education services are available to their children.

Please contact the Director of Support Services, Katherine Blair at 802-383-6085 or kblair@wsdvt.org



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!



Attendance and Timeliness Matters!

By the Winooski School District Leadership Team

When does a student's absences start to negatively impact their learning? Is it when a student misses 18 days or more during the school year? Is it when they miss 10% of the school year? Or, is it when they miss 2 days of school each month?

Believe it or not, these are all ways of saying the same thing. Students who miss 2 days of school each month end up missing 18 days for the year, and that equals 10% of their school year. The past few years created many barriers to regular attendance. We have been told to stay home for so many reasons it has been challenging to create healthy routines and habits. We are hopeful that this fall will allow all Winooski students and families to reboot their routines and improve daily attendance and timeliness to school! Regular, on-time attendance to school creates a positive school culture. Our staff is excited to welcome students each morning. Teachers thoughtfully create morning routines that support students feeling supported and connected. Regular attendance also supports academic success for individual students as well as the entire class—fewer absent students means that teachers can keep the group on track together.



When students are absent, it matters, and there is a reason timeliness is one of our HEART values. For our youngest students, poor attendance can impact whether children read proficiently by 3rd grade and by 6th grade chronic absence (missing 18

days per year) is one of the biggest indicators that a student will not finish high school. When students improve their attendance

rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating. This is true for students in preschool through senior year! It also starts right away. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September will go on to miss nearly a month of school!

This year we aim to partner better than ever with families to engage excellent attendance. We will be welcoming a new district wide Attendance Assistant to support clear, common protocols across the district, and with the completion of our new building, we will also return to more efficient arrival and dismissal routines. Our bussing program has expanded too! Lastly, the middle and high school hopes to use a bell (or chime) system, to support timeliness to classes throughout the day.

Families can help support attendance and timeliness too!

- Create regular evening and morning routines for all ages.
- Schedule dental and medical appointments outside of the school day as much as possible.
- Take vacations during our designated weeks off!
- Stay home when sick and also call our wonderful nurses when you're not sure your student needs to stay home; our nurses can help determine if a student should come in.
- Have a back-up plan for when your normal routine is disrupted; if you need help planning for a situation, please reach out to your student's counselor!

Again, this fall, let's reboot our routines and habits and aim for every student to have excellent attendance. We are looking forward to seeing you at school!

- Jean Berthiaume, Co-principal WMHS
- Mohamedou Diop, Director of Multilingual Learning
- Kate Grodin, Co-principal WMHS
- Maybeline Lopez, Director of Early Learning
- Sara Raabe, Principal of JFK

For more information about attendance, please see attendanceworks.org.



Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students access learning opportunities and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job. Families can also advocate for resources to help students learn if they cannot attend in-person.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-Covid-19 related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your child healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick or in quarantine, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your children are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your child's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Notice and support your children if they are showing signs of anxiety.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents or community agencies if you need support.

Revised October 2021





From Your Local Representatives

Freedom & Unity in Vermont

By Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale

Many neighbors have reached out in the wake of the Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court decision, raising concerns about more than medical privacy.

Additional threats were made to Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell that would roll back LGBTQ+ rights and privacies; West Virginia v. EPA has called into question our entire environmental protection framework; and the Court has indicated it will hear Moore v. Harper, potentially devolving our federal elections to state control where voter disenfranchisement and gerrymandering has become rampant.

In the face of all of this, we are reviewing our policy and constitutional options in Vermont to ensure we protect Vermonters against these attacks on our freedoms, our health, and the foundation of our democracy.

We are keeping a close eye on gubernatorial executive orders to protect medical providers and those traveling across state lines to seek care from extradition. We are also following efforts like the expansion of New York's Equal Rights Amendment to bring identity classes based on ethnicity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression under greater constitutional protection. They are also advancing a constitutional right to marriage equality, which is something Vermont may also want to do.

Props 2 and 5, which erase language around slavery and enshrine reproductive freedoms in our Vermont Constitution, will culminate in their four-year process with your vote in November, so any additional constitutional changes would

take effect in 2026 at the earliest.

I urge you not to feel powerless. Pay attention to who is running in your local and legislative races (vtdigger.org/vtdigger-2022-election-guide). Vote (mvp.vermont.gov), volunteer, and hold your elected officials accountable. Some of you have even reached out to share articles, offer research help, and co-author legislation. I welcome that, and I know my colleagues do, too. We don't have all the answers, but we are here to listen and search for them with you.

Thank you, as always. It is a privilege to serve you in these challenging times.



Community Vision

This section of the Winooski Newsletter is designed to keep our residents and visitors informed of the progress being made in the City's Strategic Vision areas – or “community vision”. To learn more, visit winooski.vt.gov/about.

Economic Vitality

During the annual budget season, Winooski's tax rate increase was anticipated to be 2.89%, which was approved by voters on Town Meeting Day. Due to new developments being valued \$2,464,871 higher than projected, the tax rate increase is actually lower than anticipated, at a finalized 2.33%, saving taxpayers an appx. \$14.40 per year in municipal taxes (per \$225,000 of property value). Reminder: you should have or will be receiving your annual tax bills in the mail. Quarterly installments are due on August 15th! You can easily make your payments at winooski.vt.gov/pay or at the City Clerk's Office (27 West Allen St, M-F, 7:30am - 4:30pm).

Municipal Infrastructure

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has begun construction work on U.S. Route 7 and East Allen St. (near the Rotary). The City of Winooski is sharing weekly project updates provided by VTrans – to view these updates, sign up for our email newsletter at winooski.vt.gov/list.aspx or follow us (@winooski.vt) on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter or on the Winooski Front Porch Forum. Questions and comments regarding this project can be sent to Natalie Boyle, Public Information Consultant: 802 855 3893 / nboyle@eivtech.com.

Housing

The Winooski Housing Commission met last month to review the City's Master Plan, the Council's 2022-2023 Priorities and Strategies, and the recently completed Equity Audit. To view the minutes from this meeting, and to sign up for upcoming meeting notices, please visit winooski.vt.gov/housing. The Champlain Housing Trust is currently promoting their Shared Equity and Home Ownership Equity programs, designed to help community members with affordable homeownership options. To learn more, visit getahome.org!

Safe, Healthy, Connected People

This has been an incredible summer for events! Thanks to everyone who joined us and Downtown Winooski for the Centennial Birthday Party, Juneteenth, and French Heritage Day! There are three more Winooski Wednesdays concert events planned for August and the Winooski Farmer's Market runs until October! To learn more, visit downtownwinooski.org.

*** DO YOUR PART ***
VOTE!
AUGUST 9, 2022



For up-to-date guidance, visit winooski.vt.gov/covid-19

COVID-19 Information

Reminder: the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) has discontinued COVID-19 testing at the O'Brien Community Center. VDH currently recommends getting at-home tests from your local pharmacy or healthcare provider. For a limited time, take-home COVID-19 tests can be acquired at the following locations while supplies last:

Winooski Memorial Library (33 Malletts Bay Ave)

- Tues.-Fri., 10am-6pm
- Sat., 10am-2pm

Winooski Senior Center (123 Barlow Street)

- Tues., Wed., Thurs., 9am-12pm

Winooski City Hall (27 West Allen Street)

- City Clerk's Office:
Mon.-Fri., 7:30am-4:30pm
- Winooski Police Department: 24/7

COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone ages 6 months and older – for info, please visit healthvermont.gov/myvaccine.

The Vermont Health Equity Initiative is partnering with the Vermont Department of Health to offer a limited series of BIPOC Under 5 COVID-19 vaccine clinics!

To see the current schedule, please visit vermontthehealthequity.org.

*** DO YOUR PART ***

VOTE!

AUGUST 9, 2022



Reminders from the City Clerk's Office

The Statewide Primary election is on August 9! Voting will take place at the Winooski Senior Center (123 Barlow St.) from 7am-7pm. Early voting is also available – please visit winooski.vt.gov/vote for details.

Residents should have or will be receiving your annual tax bill in the mail. Quarterly installments are due on August 15. You can easily make your payments at winooski.vt.gov/pay or at the City Clerk's Office (27 West Allen St, M-F, 7:30am-4:30pm).

Questions? Call or email any time: 802 655 6410 / clerk@winooski.vt.gov



Citywide Reappraisal

The City of Winooski was ordered by the State of Vermont to complete a citywide reappraisal. State law requires Vermont municipalities to reappraise all forms of property when the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) falls below 85% or rises above 115%. The purpose of the citywide reappraisal is to ensure that every property taxpayer is paying their fair share of (but not more than) property taxes. The citywide reappraisal will be completed in phases during a two-year process.

On June 15th, the City of Winooski began to send out letters (street by street) to property owners requesting

information or inspection. On July 1, the City's contracted appraiser began field work which includes a market study that establishes preliminary valuation tables and schedules for the reappraisal. If you are a property owner, please keep an eye out for one of these letters as we make our way through each address

The new values are set to begin on April 1st, 2024 for the 2024-25 budget and tax year.

To view the full details and FAQs on this process, please visit winooski.vt.gov/reappraisal.



Centennial Merch

There's still time to get a shirt, hoodie, or hat to celebrate Winooski's 100th municipal birthday!

Reserve yours at legacy.winooski.vt.gov/merch – payments can be made at Winooski City Hall (27 W. Allen St.) by credit card, cash, or check.

Community Services Updates



Recreation and Parks

winooski.vt.gov/rec

[f](#) [@winooskirec](#)

Enjoy the last month of fun in the sun at the Myers Memorial Pool! Day passes and other engaging activities such as Lap

WINOOSKI MUNICIPAL UPDATES

Swim, Senior Swim, Aqua Aerobics, Swim Lessons and more are available. For hours and info, please visit winooski.vt.gov/pool.

Keep an eye out for our fall programs announcement in the coming weeks! Visit winooski.vt.gov/recprogrms for details.



Thrive After School

winooski.vt.gov/thrive

 @thrivewinooski


Thanks to everyone who enrolled in our amazing summer camp programs! Our regular season will be back in session starting in September. For full details and to sign up, visit winooski.vt.gov/thrive.

About Thrive: Our state-licensed, 3 STAR childcare/enrichment program runs from 3 - 5:30pm, Monday – Friday. We partner with WSD 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. Thrive costs \$19 per day enrollment or \$90 for full week. We accept state childcare subsidy as well as offer scholarships to families in need.



Winooski Memorial Library

winooski.vt.gov/library

  @winooskilibrary

1:1 Tech Assistance

The Winooski Memorial Library is excited to announce our partnership with USCRI Vermont to offer tech assistance

to community residents! Do you have a new computer or device that you don't know how to use? Do you need help downloading ebooks or audiobooks to your smartphone, e-reader, tablet, or computer? Do you want to learn more about technology and have questions? Interested in checking out a library Chromebook? Join us on Saturdays at the Winooski Library for 1:1 assistance and to learn new skills! Drop-in, no registration required.

- Saturdays, 11:30am-1:30pm
- Free to join, open to adults 18+

Audiobooks, Ebooks, & More

Did you know that all Winooski Memorial Library cardholders have access to FREE online resources including audiobooks, ebooks, film streaming, language learning, educational and professional development courses, and more? Visit winooski.vt.gov/library or stop by the library for questions about access and/or additional information.

Community Restorative Justice Circle

Join us on the third Thursday of every month for our Community Restorative Justice Circle. Facilitated by Kayla Loving, Restorative Justice Coordinator at Spectrum Youth & Family Services, the circle practice is one of the most well-known restorative justice practices. Eat together, share stories, and talk about what changes you'd like to see in the community.

If you have an interest in getting to know your neighbors on a deeper level, learning about restorative justice, and organizing for change in your community, consider joining us. Everyone is welcome. Interpretation can be provided if we are notified ahead of time.

- Wednesday, August 17th, 6–7pm.
- Free to join, open to all.

“Restorative justice is a philosophy and set of practices, rooted in indigenous teachings, that emphasize our interconnection by repairing relationships when harm occurs while proactively building and maintaining relationships to prevent future harm” (Amplify RJ).

Dad Guild Playgroup

Join the Dad Guild for an afternoon of play and connect with other parents, guardians, and caregivers – all are welcome regardless of gender identity! This event is free and open to all.

- Saturday, August 20th, 12:30-2pm
- Children 0-5; parents, guardians, and caregivers.

About Dad Guild: Founded in 2019, Dad Guild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to create a supportive network for new fathers in the greater Burlington, VT region. They offer opportunities for dads to connect with one another, share their experiences, model positive father engagement, and advocate for parental equality.

English Conversation Group

We're excited to announce our partnership with USCRI Vermont to offer their English Conversation Group program! Join a weekly conversation group to practice English skills. Each week will have a different theme and new vocabulary to practice. Do you have a topic you would like to talk about? Join the conversation!

- Tuesdays 11am-12pm
- Free to join, open to adults 18+

Free Bike Repair

Have a bicycle in need of repair or a tune-up? Throughout the summer, mechanics from Old Spokes Home will be on-site with their Mobile Repair Unit to provide free bike repair for the Winooski community! Drop in, no registration required.

- Every other Wednesday 11am-1pm; August 3rd and 17th
- Free, no age restrictions

Free Veggie Distribution

We've partnered with the Intervale Center to provide FREE local produce to our community members! Looking to add color and vibrancy to your next meal? Want to enjoy something fresh and amazing from a local Vermont farm? Drop by and say hello all summer!

- July 13th-November 9th
- Wednesdays from 4-6p, at the O'Brien Community Center (Parking Lot)

WINOOSKI MUNICIPAL UPDATES

- Please bring your own reusable grocery bags.
Seasonal item availability on a first-served basis

LEGO Club

Join the club and get creative during an imaginative-hour of Lego play! Use one of our sets or bring your own! No registration required. Youth of all ages are welcome to participate!

- Thursdays, 3:30-4:30pm

Library of Things

Did you know the library has a collection of nontraditional items available for loan to Winooski cardholders? We call this our "Library of Things" and it includes such items as Chromebooks, snow shovels, birding backpacks, home and yard tools, board games, blood pressure kits, a telescope, and more! Stop by today and check-out something new!

Library Playgroup and Family Support

Join the Winooski Memorial Library for a fun playgroup for parents, caregivers, and young children ages 0-5. Meet at the Library for activities such as reading stories, movement exercises, and sing-alongs. Adults will also have the opportunity to talk about child development or just chat. Come connect with your child and meet other families within your community!

- Tuesdays, 10 – 11am.

For more information, please reach out to Kirsten Wilson at kwilson@winooski.vt.gov; 802 655 6424

Morning Coffee Social

Join us on the back lawn at the Winooski Memorial Library on the first and third Friday of each month throughout the summer for our morning coffee social! Meet up with friends and neighbors, new faces and old, for some casual conversation while enjoying a locally roasted brew.

- Friday August 5th & August 19th, 9:30-10:30am

On the back lawn of the Winooski Memorial Library, weather permitting

Movie Time @ the Library

This summer, the Winooski Memorial Library invites you to attend a free movie matinee on every fourth Friday of the month! Our movie license agreement doesn't allow us to name the movie, but here's a hint: : "After a lifetime of legendary heists, notorious criminals Mr. Wolf, Mr. Snake, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Shark and Ms. Tarantula are finally caught. To avoid a prison sentence, the animal outlaws must pull off their most challenging con yet -- becoming model citizens. With the help of their mentor, Professor Marmalade, the dubious gang sets out to fool the world that they're turning good."

- August 26th, 3pm

No registration required, ages 6+, and youth under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

STEAM Ahead Saturdays

Find us on Saturdays from 10-11am for our STEAM Activity hour. Each week will feature a new project for young learners that will engage the mind and introduce participants to science, technology, engineering, art and math-based concepts!

- This program is intended for youth ages 5 and up, however parents are encouraged to partake! Youth should attend in clothing appropriate for art projects.

Weekly Storytime

Join us on Thursdays at 10am for our weekly storytime! We'll be reading our favorite books, singing songs, doing a little dancing, and sharing in fun! No registration required.

Winooski Reads Book Group

The Winooski Library is excited to offer a chance to participate in our 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, at neddy@winooski.vt.gov / 802 655 6424

Youth Summer Reading Program

There's an "Ocean of Possibilities" this summer at the Winooski Memorial Library with our Youth Summer Reading Program! Throughout the summer, youth can pick up their own Reading Program booklet, which includes 10 weeks of prompts to encourage kids to get outside, build connections, set personal goals, and read for fun.

Join us on August 24th at 4pm at our summer send off celebration for food, fun, and games! We'll be raffling some prizes, too, for participants of our Summer Reading Program.



Winooski Senior Center

winooski.vt.gov/seniorcenter

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

The Winooski Senior Center is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9am–12pm. Join us for events and programs! Stay connected with us: call: 802 655 6425, voice mail 24/7. Email us at seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov

TUESDAYS

Breakfast Café

- 9–11am

Community Coffee Chat

- 10–11am

Everyone is welcome to join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9–11am as we gather and converse with community members. This is a unique opportunity to meet and talk with local officials, residents and others about issues related to the Onion City (10–11am). Our eat-in Breakfast Café now features hot breakfast sandwiches, fruit, treats and beverages – Priced by donation. *No Café on 8/9.*

WINOOSKI MUNICIPAL UPDATES

WEDNESDAYS

More than a Meal – Free Meals for Seniors

- 10am - 12pm

In partnership with Age Well, we are offering Older Vermonters (60+) a free nutritious take-out meal every Wednesday. 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! Pick up between 10am – 12pm at the Senior Center. Reservations must be made by 12pm the Friday before the scheduled Wednesday meal. Please call us at 802 655 6425 or email us at seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov for the weekly menu and to register for this program. FREE!

THURSDAYS

Breakfast Café

- 9am - 11am

Everyone is welcome to join us on Thursdays and Tuesdays from 9-11am as we gather and converse with community members. Our eat-in Breakfast Cafe now features hot breakfast sandwiches, fruit, treats and beverages – Priced by donation. NOTE: No Cafe on 8/18.

FRIDAYS

Senior Swim Time

- 11:30am-12:30pm

Join us for Senior Swim time at the Myers Pool. If you are 55+ come and play with us! We'll have cold treats and great tunes! Enjoy the water or sit poolside and relax. FREE!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Senior Evening Pool Party

- Saturday, August 6 from 6 – 8pm

Join us for an Evening at the Pool! This is an Adult Only event for folks who are 55+. It's National Root Beer Float Day, so come and have a cold drink and some snacks by the pool. Great music and tons of fun! FREE! Please call us to RSVP by 8/4.

Senior BBQ Luncheon

- Thursday, August 18 at 12pm
Join us for annual National Senior Citizen's Day BBQ Luncheon. Enjoy burgers and dogs grilled by the Winooski Police Department. This is an eat-in event. Sorry, no take out. Doors open at 11:30am. Meal served at 12pm. FREE! You must have a reservation to attend, Please call us to RSVP by 8/15.

Bone Builders

- Mondays and Wednesdays from 3–4pm
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. Bone Builders classes fill a vital need for regular physical exercise as well as increased social interaction, both well-known components of healthy aging. FREE!
NOTE: No program 8/8

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.

Pickleball

- Thursdays through September 29th
6 – 7pm
Join Winooski Recreation & Parks for a drop-in program every Thursday at Landry Park. The courts have been renovated and staff will be on-site to hand out gear and facilitate games. FREE! For more information go to winooski.vt.gov/recreations.

Artist-in-Residence – Tom Locatell

Local carpenter and artist, Tom Locatell will be in his workshop at the Senior Center. Stop by during our open hours (Tues/Wed/Thurs 9am – 12pm) and meet Tom and see what he's building using downed trees from our city's parks.



August Update for Downtown Winooski

By Meredith Bay-Tyack, Executive Director, Downtown Winooski

Winooski Wednesdays



Save the dates: August 10 (*Troy Millette + The Fire Below*), August 24 (*Myra Flynn Band*), and August 31 (*Josh Panda*).

From 5–8pm, Rotary Park will be filled with local vendors, local performers and a headliner sure to please the all-ages crowd. Bring a picnic blanket, grab takeout and enjoy! 21+ bar hosted by The Monkey House. Winooski Wednesdays is presented by Mascoma Bank and supported by Barr Hill. Brought to you by Downtown Winooski.



OLOP Staffer Raises Funds For Cancer

Text & photo by Gail Callahan

Katherine Escobedo looked no farther for inspiration from her mother for her impetus to raise money for children suffering from cancer.

Escobedo’s mother works in New York City with pediatric cancer patients.

Escobedo, a member of Our Lady of Providence’s Nursing department for about one year, and a rising St. Michael’s College senior, hosted a fundraiser for St. Baldrick’s Foundation, an organization that garners money for pediatric cancer patients, whose mission is to ensure kids with the disease will have the best chance for a long and healthy life.

Held at St. Michael’s College campus in spring, the event, which included head shaving, raised over \$28,000, with Escobedo’s pledges garnering about \$18,000.

Escobedo shaved her head, and the new hair style didn’t go unnoticed. “The majority of comments I’ve gotten is that it looks so good,” she said.

Escobedo received donations from two members of the OLOP’s nursing department, Health Services Director Barbara Liberty and Kathleen Michaels, who works in human resources and nursing scheduling.

“I was nervous leading up to the event,” said Escobedo. “I was afraid people wouldn’t show up, but Saint Michael’s College really showed up. Everyone was so happy and so supportive.”



Katherine Escobedo

Partnership for Prevention August Update

By Kate Nugent, Director

This month, the Winooski Partnership for Prevention is excited to be getting ready for the next school year, planning for our events and programs, and still enjoying summer in Vermont. Some exciting news and updates include:

Our raffle winner received his season family pool pass in early July! Many thanks to the Recreation and Parks department, as well, for their help. Last summer, we surveyed youth in Winooski about their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors related to substances to help us understand the community better. To thank survey respondents for their time, we gave them each a free day pool pass, and entered them in a raffle for a season pass for this year.

Starting this fall, we’ll be out surveying the community, both youth ages 12-18, and guardians and parents, as well. Be on

the lookout for the link and an incentive, as well!

We can now help any business, agency, or nonprofit become a 3-4-50 partner and earn recognition for your work. 3-4-50 is a statewide program that recognizes businesses, nonprofits, agencies, faith organizations and more for what they are doing to help their employees, members, and participants with their health. For more information or for answers to your questions, please get in touch with the WPP by emailing info@winooskiprevention.org or calling 802-655-4565.

Thank you for being a part of this work and caring for our neighbors!



Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for August

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

Wednesday, August 10th	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, veggies, eggs, meat, diapers
Saturday, August 13th	9:30am to 11:00am	Veggies, deli, bakery, meat, eggs, diapers
Wednesday, August 24th	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, veggies, eggs, meat, diapers
Saturday, August 27th	9:30am to 11:00am	Veggies, deli, bakery, meat, eggs, diapers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! We continue to see around 200 households each month – that is about 800 people. Most of our neighbors needing some extra help are young families with children. We have around 200 babies in need of diapers each month. Volunteers help pack bags of food, repack bulk potatoes and other veggies, go and pick up donated diapers and food, set up tables for food shelves and serve clients.

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 Food Shelf is located in the United Methodist Church at 24 West Allen Street. 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 donate at winooskifoodshelf.org.

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. **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 especially need help serving clients on Wednesdays.

Howard Center August Update

By the Howard Center Development Team

Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Resources

Substance use disorder impacts the person using substances and their circle of family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. Isolation can increase the risk for substance use and overdose.

It’s not always easy to tell whether someone is experiencing a drug overdose. If you are worried that someone who you are with is experiencing an overdose, you should call 911 immediately, and:

- stay with the person and don’t leave them alone.
- try to keep them awake, and if necessary, help them to walk around.
- monitor their breathing.

Overdose symptoms may include the inability to speak, loss of muscle control, bluing of the fingernails and lips, slow or erratic pulse or heartbeat, vomiting, unconscious, and unresponsive to stimulus. We want to remind our community that we have substance use treatment programs and supports. Please visit our website at www.howardcenter.org for additional resources.

Howard Center’s Safe Recovery provides free and anonymous NARCAN® (Naloxone); overdose reversal kits;

free and anonymous Fentanyl test strips; and connection to treatment and supports.

The program is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00-5:00 pm; 802-488-6067. Individuals do not need to have an appointment to receive services. Please don’t use alone. Treatment is available and recovery is possible.



Zoe’s Race: Howard Center’s Zoe’s Race returns August 28 in Oakledge Park. The annual fundraiser helps local individuals and families who need support to make their homes accessible. Join the free 1K fun run and enjoy the food and music! There is a fee for the 5K or 10K event. Register or volunteer: www.howardcenter.org/zoes-race-2022

Need Help or Services? If you need support or information, please contact our Access and Intake Main Number at 802-488-6000; M-TH 8:00am – 6:00pm, and Friday 8am – 5pm. Our staff will help you to find supportive resources and services. Our First Call for Chittenden County crisis hotline can be reached at 802-488-7777 and is available 24/7/365.



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.wsdvt.org

Superintendent of Schools

Sean McMannon, smcmannon@wsdvt.org
802-383-6000

John F. Kennedy Elementary School

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

Winooski Middle and High School

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

Board of School Trustees

Allison Burlock, 802-349-7018, aburlock@wsdvt.org
Tori Cleiland, *President*, 802-655-7678, tcleiland@wsdvt.org
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Dr. Alex Yin, 516-423-9601, ayin@wsdvt.org

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CITY OF WINOOSKI

www.winooskivt.gov, 802-655-6410

Mayor

Kristine Lott, 802-766-1988, klott@winooskivt.gov

City Manager

Elaine Wang, 802-655-6410, ewang@winooskivt.gov

City Councilors

James Duncan, *Deputy Mayor*, 802-310-7103, jduncan@winooskivt.gov
Aurora Hurd, 802-734-7082, ahurd@winooskivt.gov
Bryn Oakleaf, 802-448-2966, boakleaf@winooskivt.gov
Thomas Renner, 802-922-3265, trenner@winooskivt.gov

City Clerk

Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, jwillingham@winooskivt.gov

Winooski Police

Emergency: Call 9-1-1
Non-emergency: 802-655-0221

Winooski Fire Department

Emergency: Call 9-1-1
Non-emergency: 802-655-6420

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