

# The Winooski Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY 2023



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

## Letter from the Mayor

By Kristine Lott

Hello Neighbors. We are looking forward to Town Meeting Day 2023 on Tuesday, March 7! Voting will take place from 7am to 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center (123 Barlow St.). Early voting is also always an option. This is your chance to vote on local issues including the city and school budgets, city councilors, school board members, and this year, a charter change placed on the ballot by residents.



Here are a few things to consider in preparation for Town Meeting Day:

**City Budget** - faced with high inflation over the past years, we're looking at a higher-than-average tax rate increase to keep up with salaries and benefits with some adjustments to service areas both up and down. If voters approve the budget, we'll move forward with these investments, and know that we'll have to raise a bit more next year for increasing costs, potentially impacting the availability of new revenue we anticipate receiving after we pay off the debt from rebuilding our downtown, also known as the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district. If voters don't approve the budget, we'll have to propose a different budget and hold a special election in the future until we get something approved.

### Just Cause Eviction Petition

- as you may have heard, recently, a local organization called Rights and Democracy collected enough petition signatures from Winooski voters to add a charter change item to the 2023 Town Meeting Day Ballot. If approved by Winooski voters, it would allow charter change language related to tenant eviction protections (also known as Just Cause Eviction) to be advanced to the State Legislature and Governor for consideration (much like the charter change to approve All-Resident Voting). Another public hearing is planned for February 4th. All details and meeting info are available at [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov).

For reference, City Council discussed this topic back in August but didn't move forward with a charter change on our own because doing so on such a short timeline wouldn't be operationally possible. Creating a new ordinance and hiring new staff with the skills and capacity to enforce eviction protection ordinances would take a long time to figure out. Instead, City Council decided to advocate

on behalf of our residents to the State Legislature, as the State is positioned to handle all of the things that come with Just Cause Eviction policy (legal services, court procedures, ordinance enforcement, etc.) We chose to prioritize our local resources towards addressing housing quality issues through the ongoing work of our Housing Commission. Should this process get far enough to consider operational changes, we will have to make serious decisions about re-prioritizing resources and other staffing/budget impacts.

**Open Seats:** the ballot will include two City Council candidates, two Winooski School District Trustee candidates, and a Winooski School District Treasurer. I encourage you to get to know all of the candidates, attend any forums, and ask many questions before casting your vote.

### Preparing for Town Meeting

**Day:** As we always do, we'll be hosting informational events leading up to Town Meeting Day. If you haven't already, please sign up for our news updates at [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov) to receive up-to-date information delivered directly to your email! Keep an eye out for our joint meeting with the Winooski School District and for the annual meeting the night before the election.

For full budget, meeting, and election details, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting](http://winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting). And, there's always time to register to vote if you haven't yet - visit [winooski.vt.gov/vote](http://winooski.vt.gov/vote) for our voting and election resources. *As a reminder, all legal residents of Winooski may vote on our local ballot items on Town Meeting Day, regardless of citizenship status.*

As always, feel free to reach out any time. Email [klott@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:klott@winooski.vt.gov) or call 802-766-1988.

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## 2023-24 Vision-Driven, Learner Investment

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

“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.”

The WSD Ends Statement states the high expectations we have for our students. Over the past few months, the WSD administration worked with the Board of School Trustees to determine the proposed budgetary investment in our school for the upcoming year based on the WSD Ends Statement. Thanks to Board Chairwoman Allison Burlock, Vice Chairman Kamal Dahal, Clerk Alex Yin, and members Tori Cleiland and Steven Berbeco for their student-centered and forward-thinking approach to budget development. Also, it was wonderful to have the insights of budget buddies Moe Matte and Sarah Mell.

During this budget cycle, we presented to the board members a level services budget, grounded in priorities with data about enrollment, student demographics, staffing, and Special Education and Multilingual Learners (MLL) program information. All of this information can be found on our website. <https://www.wsdvt.org/school-board/budget/>

The Board of Trustees has adopted a \$25.4 million dollar budget with an estimated 9.6% tax impact depending on your specific income and/or house value. The overall tax impact has been lessened through the application of \$1.4 million dollars in fund balance which will bring the fund balance to the auditor-recommended 4% of the operating budget.

The significant variances in the proposed budget are:

- +\$1.7M in salaries and benefits, no new staff, a total increase tied to existing labor agreements, and rising healthcare costs
- +\$1.6M to begin paying off the 30-year note to support the capital project
- +\$400K for special education contracted services

We worked very hard to procure financing for our capital project through USDA with an incredibly low-interest rate of 2.25% which is a full 1.6% less than what we were modeling during the vote on the capital project. This is expected to save WSD taxpayers over \$18 million dollars over the life of the 30-year bond. Also, it is estimated that if we had delayed the capital project until the summer of 2022 we would have paid double or over \$100 million dollars to complete the same project

This budget maintains current programs and staffing levels and includes funds to continue to support student transportation back and forth to school for the upcoming school year which has been a great success this year including a drastic increase in student attendance and a decrease in tardiness.

I think you will see that the Board of Trustees has constructed



a thoughtful, vision-driven investment in Winooski children that continues to move us forward to meet the high expectations of our WSD Ends Statement! We are blessed with a diverse student population who also require a high level of support to meet our high standards. Our staff and leadership team clearly understand the strengths and challenges of our students and forge ahead with creativity, collaboration and compassion.

**Please join board members Kamal Dahal and Alex Yin on Wednesday, Feb 7th at 5:25pm for a budget presentation.**

The link can be found at [bit.ly/CCTVWinooski](https://bit.ly/CCTVWinooski). We will be holding two joint City-WSD FY24 budget presentations, one virtual and one in-person during the month of February and those specific dates will be coming out soon, please check our website: [wsdvt.org](https://www.wsdvt.org). The WSD Annual Meeting will be Monday, March 6th at 6pm for

the City budget presentation and 7:30pm for the WSD budget presentation in the WSD Performing Arts Center.

For more information about our proposed investment in Winooski students for the 2023-24 school year go to [bit.ly/WSDBudgetInfo](https://bit.ly/WSDBudgetInfo). **Voting is on March 7th from 7am to 7pm at the Senior Center on Barlow Street, and early and absentee voting information can be found at [bit.ly/WinooskiVote](https://bit.ly/WinooskiVote).**

Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!



### School Board Update

By Alex Yin, Board of School Trustees

This will be my last newsletter update and I wanted to thank the Winooski Community for giving me the opportunity, honor, and privilege to serve on your school board. I want to share my gratitude for Superintendent Sean McMannon's service to the district. Thank you for being a great partner to the school board as we navigated the pandemic, managed the capital project, and advocated for changes to the education funding formula. I appreciated our collaborations but am more grateful for our friendship. Our school district will miss your leadership. Many thanks also to my fellow school board members (too many to name here) for allowing me to be me. Oh, what a ride it has been.

I will be honest here and tell you, I had no clue what I was doing when I first joined the school board. Yet the job became easier when I learned about our 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."

I loved our ends statement because it is based on the principle that our students are the future. Thus, when we entered into every budget season, my goal was to have a school budget that was fiscally responsible, where if we properly invested in our education system, we would ensure the long-term health of Winooski's community. In my mind, being fiscally responsible did not mean we worked to have zero percent tax increases but instead investments that had long-term returns (i.e., students who wanted to stay and ensure we had a vibrant community). This is why I thought it was important for us to do the capital project because reactive fixes often have higher costs with smaller return on investment (such as repairing the water mainlines after the 100-year pipe burst in 2019). Yet, I hope I was also critical enough to ensure we did not propose a budget that would cause flight or gentrification. Our community is richer with wisdom when multi-generational families can afford to stay in Winooski.

I recognize that for residents who do not have children in the school, you may not see the immediate benefits in investing in our schools. Whereas with the city budget, it is much easier to see the tangible impacts based on the services provided. Yet investment in schools and education should always be seen as a long-term investment in democracy. I am a firm believer that a democracy cannot survive without an educated populace. To divest from education is to move away from the fundamental values that this country was founded on.

Investment in schools is also an investment in our community. Constantly, I have heard in the news that our youth do not stay in the state when they become adults. Truthfully, I do not blame them for leaving especially if they feel that we did not care enough to invest in their education. It takes a community to raise a child, and there are benefits to doing such things. These children become our future doctors, plumbers, chefs, carpenters, dentists, teachers, mechanics, scientists, and even governors. Productive community members that make living in

Winooski and Vermont great. I have a feeling that the divestment of education is the reason why it takes me a month before I can get a basic car tune-up (and do not get me going on scheduling a doctor's appointment).

The proposed school budget is \$25,447,670, a 20% increase from the previous year. This would equate to a 17.41 percent increase in the tax rate. I know this increase is hard for many people especially when the cost of living has increased at a higher rate than our income. This is why as a school board, we will be using \$1,467,376 of our reserve fund to reduce the tax rate to 9.66%.

Normally, I would not recommend using the reserve fund to reduce the tax rate, because it creates a bigger burden on future budgets. Next year, though, the new educational funding formula will supposedly be in place that will essentially provide Winooski more buying power with their taxes. For example, if the new education funding formula had been implemented this year our tax rate would have been reduced by 14% with the same proposed budget. This is why our board has tirelessly advocated for these changes, because we believed in education equity. We will continue to work with our legislators to ensure the state does not backtrack from the promise of equity for all Vermont students.

My moment of pride in being a school board member is that we learned as a community to advocate for ourselves. No longer were we satisfied with what we had, because we believed the Winooski community and its students deserved equity. Let us take a stand in passing this school budget so that Vermont knows that we will no longer tolerate the inequities that our students have faced for so long. Thank you again for allowing me to be your school board trustee for the past six years. I leave the school board full of Winooski Pride!

### Professional Development for WSD Teachers and Staff

By Gabby Hora, WSD Director of Communications

In the January newsletter, we discussed the need for additional professional development time to allow WSD staff to engage with new curriculums and assessment practices. Another benefit of weekly professional development time is that it allows our staff the opportunity to meet and collaborate.

One group in particular, the WSD BIPOC Affinity Group, has struggled to find time to meet this year. The WSD BIPOC Affinity Group, which creates a space for employees of the Winooski School District who identify as people of color to meet and form community, hopes to convene on a biweekly basis. In addition to providing people of color a space to come together and recenter themselves this group also plans

*(continued on page 5)*



## Introducing the WSD Necessity Store

By Gabby Hora, WSD Director of Communications

What is a school, if not a community? A high-quality education goes beyond the classroom and extends into all aspects of a student's life. What we know is that the security of basic resources is incredibly important to a student's success. So why not bring these resources to campus?

As part of a school project, students Bhumika Magar and Santu Kaldan, alongside the WSD Wellness Coordinator, and other school officials took initiative during the first days of the Capital Project to make their vision of having a hub for resources at WSD a reality. Magar and Kaldan toured schools with similar concepts, conducted research, and surveyed fellow students before solidifying their proposal; they called it the Necessity Store.

With plans for the Necessity Store included in the Capital Project, and a variety of grants from organizations such as The Vermont Foodbank and The Vermont Community Foundation, intended to stock and replenish the shelves, Magar and Kaldan's vision became a reality.

During the fall of 2022, as work on the building came to a close, WSD Wellness Coordinator, Patrice Lumumba, dedicated much of his time to getting the Necessity Store up and running. With the help of student volunteers, he ordered supplies such as a refrigerator, shelving, and clothing racks. He stocked the shelves with food, hygiene products, clothing, and winter gear, both purchased and donated. And he turned the once-blank canvas of a room into a welcoming and inclusive space for students and the community.

Throughout the process, which was not without its hiccups, Lumumba made sure resources were still available to students in need. He connected over 200 students with winter items before the Necessity Store doors even officially opened.

When students and staff returned from winter break in



January of 2023, the Necessity Store officially opened its doors with regular hours. Since then the store has served over 20 students a day.

During a visit to the Necessity Store in early January, I had the opportunity to speak with a group of high school students who regularly visit the Necessity Store. Their insight helped me grasp just how important the Necessity Store is to the community.

9th Grader, Mapenzi Selemani, talked about

how important the Necessity Store is for students whose families are not always able to buy items like winter clothing and food stating that "Parents are really thankful."

In addition to providing items that students can take home, the store also has a variety of snacks students can choose from throughout the day "When you are hungry and it is not time for lunch yet or after lunch, you can just come here and grab snacks" said 10th grader Mamy Kyungu.

11th grader Nadine

Ikizakubuntu, sang praise for the Necessity Store exclaiming that "It makes me want to come to school every day." Ikizakubuntu hopes that the store will continue for years to come so that "students like my siblings who are in like elementary have the same experience that I have."

Staff and students involved with the Necessity Store hope to see it continue to grow and transform to best fit the needs of the unique Winooski community. One thing at the top of the list is a wider variety of foods from different cultures.

For more information about the Necessity Store, including its store hours and donation procedures, please contact WSD Wellness Coordinator, Patrice Lumumba at 802-383-6130 or [plumumba@wsdvt.org](mailto:plumumba@wsdvt.org)

## NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT *(continued from page 3)*

to organize educational events for students, families, and the entire school community to raise awareness of the unique experiences and identities of people of color in WSD.

The addition of an added hour per week of professional development time would allow this group to fully explore its mission and do this important work.

The current proposal entails implementing a weekly late start at 9:10am on Thursdays or a weekly early dismissal at 1:50pm on Thursdays.

We know that any changes in the school schedule, go beyond impacting school time, and may have an effect on parent/guardian working hours. We invite you to engage with WSD around this proposal so that we can explore solutions to issues such as childcare. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey by visiting: <https://bit.ly/wsdprofessionaldevelopment> or reach out to [info@wsdvt.org](mailto:info@wsdvt.org)

“We would love to offer more cultural outing opportunities and celebrations, but without accessible time to plan these, it has been difficult for us to do the work we’d like to be doing!”

*—Camilla Thomassen-Tai, WMS Teacher*

### From the SRO Desk

*By School Resource Officer Jason Ziter*

I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying the beginning of an amazing new year! 2022 has come and gone and we’ve seen some amazing changes around the Winooski School District Campus. With the entire campus open and finishing touches (punch list) being completed it is SO EXCITING. With one of my primary focuses being safety for the entire campus, I want to take some time to share some of our procedures.



**Visitors:** Any visitor coming onto the campus must enter through the main entrance. Once there, they will sign in at the front desk and obtain a visitors badge. The badge must be worn in a way that is easily seen by staff and students. When the visitor leaves, they will sign out at the front desk. Our campus encourages any student or staff to report anyone they do not recognize or is not wearing a badge to the proper administrator or SRO to maintain a safe campus for everyone.

**Morning Drop Off:** The drop off loop closest to the school is meant for parents or guardians that are literally dropping off students. The lane is divided into 2 parts. The lane closest to the school is for BUSES ONLY. The left lane is for vehicle traffic. If you have to walk your child into school we ask you to use the second loop, which can be used to drop off or to park in a designated parking spot and then walk your student into the school.

## WINOOSKI SCHOOL HEALTH CORNER

### Health Office News

*By Elizabeth Parris BSN, RN, NCSN*

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a peaceful holiday season. We want to extend our thanks to UVMMC Primary Pediatrics for administering over 100 flu shots to children during the SBHC hours of operation. It is not too late to get your seasonal vaccines. If you have not already done so, please reach out to your provider to see if the COVID or flu vaccines are right for you.

### Symptoms of COVID-19, RSV and Flu

	COVID-19	RSV	Influenza
Onset of symptoms	Gradual	Gradual	Sudden
Cough	Common	Common	Common
Diarrhea	Sometimes	Rare	Sometimes*
Fatigue or tiredness	Common	Sometimes	Common
Fever	Common	Common	Common
Headache	Sometimes	Common	Common
Loss of taste and smell	Common	Rare	Rare
Muscle or body aches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
Runny or congested nose	Common	Common	Common
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Common	Sometimes	Rare
Sneezing	Common	Common	Common
Sore throat	Common	Common	Common
Vomiting	Sometimes	Rare	Sometimes*
Wheezing	Rare	Sometimes*	Rare

Experts say the only way to confirm a diagnosis is with testing. No matter the symptoms, people should stay home when sick and seek medical help if they experience any trouble breathing.

\*MORE COMMON IN CHILDREN

SOURCE: CDC, MAYO CLINIC



### Dental Services On-Site at WSD!

*By Tracy Towers RDH*

We are excited to be offering preventive dental services including cleanings, fluoride, and sealants. Currently, we are offering these services to 1st and 2nd-grade students. A consent form was sent home with all 1st and 2nd-grade students in early December. Please complete and return the form ASAP if you are interested in having your student receive these services. If you have any questions please email me at [Ttowers@wsdvt.org](mailto:Ttowers@wsdvt.org)

**Afternoon Pick Up:** With the addition of buses to our district, this has helped alleviate some of the congestion of vehicles at pick up. The loop closest to the school is for BUSES ONLY at pick up. The second loop can be used for one lane of vehicles waiting on students or parents/guardians can park in the designated parking spaces.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. HAPPY NEW YEAR and I wish you all a wonderful 2023.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Child Find Day

By: Maybeline Lopez, WSD Director of Early Learning

### Preschool Skills Screening Survey & Pre-registration

If your child is or will be 3 by September 1st, 2023 please complete a **Preschool Skills Screening & Pre-registration Form** for ACT 166 Publicly Funded Pre-K or to inquire about a Winooski Preschool Program and attend our preschool skills screening day. If you have concerns about your child's development, our Winooski Early Childhood team will screen your child's development. This screening is play-based and free for 3 and 4-year-old children living in Winooski.

**When:** Friday, March 24, 2023.

**Where:** The preschool classroom at JFK, room E121.

**How:** Please contact our Early Childhood Special Educator, Ada Wetmore at [awetmore@wsdvt.org](mailto:awetmore@wsdvt.org) or 802-383-6061 to schedule an appointment.

Teachers will also be filling out applications for all preschool slots at this time.

For more information about preschool opportunities visit our WSD website under Pre-Kindergarten.

### Winooski Preschool Programs: Preschool Skills Screening & Pre-registration Form

#### Winooski Early Childhood Program (at JFK):

The Winooski Early Childhood Program (WECP) is located at JFK Elementary school and collaborates with Head Start. There are two-morning sessions from 8am to 11am, and two-afternoon sessions from 11:30am to 3pm. Children attend 2, 3, or 4 days per week. Children participating in the Head Start program attend all 4 days and must also complete the Head Start Application. If you have any questions about the Head Start program please call 802-651-4180. *Find the Preschool Skills Screening & Pre-registration Form at <https://bit.ly/winooskiprek>*



#### Head Start Early Learning Center (at the Family Center)

The Early Learning Center (ELC) is a Head Start program that collaborates with the Winooski School District. The program is located at 87 Elm Street from 8:30am to 2:30pm where children attend Monday – Friday. To participate in the Head Start program you must also complete the Head Start Application. If you have any questions about the Head Start program please call 802-651-4180. Champlain Valley Head Start is a federally funded program that is required to follow eligibility guidelines as determined by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families. *Find the Headstart Form at <https://bit.ly/headstartform>*



### ACT 166 Publicly Funded Prekindergarten for children between the ages of 3 and 5 who reside in the town of Winooski, Vermont

### Preschool Skills Screening & ACT 166 Pre-registration Form

New and returning families must complete a new pre-registration form EACH year to participate.



#### What is publicly funded prekindergarten education?

Publicly funded prekindergarten education is defined as:

- Ten hours per week for 35 weeks in a community private early care and education programs. These pre-approved programs meet specific quality standards and provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences that are based on Vermont's Early Learning Standards. Prekindergarten education is limited to the academic year (September 2023 – June 2024).

#### Are these 10 hours/week pre-kindergarten programs tuition-free?

The pre-kindergarten program offered in public school is tuition-free. The pre-kindergarten program offered through a partner program will charge families for the care and education program the child needs beyond the 10 hours/week during the academic year. Your child's preschool must deduct these public funds from your annual tuition bill.

#### Is my child eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten?

If your child is 3 years old by September 1, 2023, and resides in Winooski, then your child is eligible to participate.

#### How much will Winooski School District pay?

The statewide rate of \$3,764.00 per child was established by the Agency of Education for the 2023/2024 school year. This covers 10 hours per week of high-quality prekindergarten education for 35 weeks.

#### How do I apply?

Winooski residents must first be enrolled at a pre-qualified preschool program in order to receive Act 166 funding. You need to contact the program directly to enroll your child. To search pre-qualified preschool programs visit: <http://www.brightfutures.dcf.state.vt.us/>

Once enrolled in a pre-qualified preschool program, then complete the Winooski ACT 166 Pre-registration Form to let WSD know what program your child will be attending for the 2022-2023 school year. A new pre-registration form must be completed EACH year.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act

By Katherine Blair, Director of Support Services

The McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. This legislation requires that all homeless children and youth have the same access to a free, appropriate public education as other children and youth in Vermont.

#### The goals of this legislation include:

- Identifying homeless children and youth
- Immediate enrollment and facilitation of enrollment disputes
- Ensuring access to school and appropriate educational services
- Reducing school transfers and supporting educational stability and continuity
- Increasing parental choice and involvement regarding school enrollment
- Ensuring the educational rights of an unaccompanied youth, and
- Providing information about the rights of homeless children and youth

#### Eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate education
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is the preference.

If the school system believes that the school selected is not in the best interest of the children, then the school system must provide a written explanation of its position and inform families of the right to appeal its decision.

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to children's needs.

For more information on Education for Homeless Children and Youth visit Agency of Education: Homeless Education or contact the Winooski School District's Homeless Liaison, Katherine Blair, Director of Support Services, at (802)383-6085

### The PTO Needs YOU!

By Molly Robin-Abbott

Do you want to help support students, teachers, and staff this school year? Join us at 6:00 pm on February 21st at the school. Share your ideas or help with current projects, including monthly staff appreciation events, school literacy support, a spring craft fair, parent athletic boosters, fundraising, and more. If you have questions or if you'd like to help but can't attend the meetings, contact us at PTO@wsdvt.org. We are still looking for a secretary. If you are organized, like taking notes, and value timely communications, this could be the position for you.

To learn more about the PTO, visit <https://www.wsdvt.org/parents-families/pto/> or check out our Facebook page (Winooski PTO).

### Stop School Violence

To encourage safety across the Winooski School District (WSD), the district's Public Safety Committee recently published a series of posters urging staff, students, and visitors to report threats of school violence. The posters, which direct users to an anonymous reporting system have been hung throughout the building and distributed widely. In summary, the Public Safety Committee wants the WSD community to be vigilant and take responsibility under the motto **Hear Something? See Something? Say Something!**

HEAR SOMETHING? SEE SOMETHING?  
SAY SOMETHING!

## STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Report threats to the  
Vermont School Safety Tip Line

**ONLINE: SAFE4VT.ORG**  
**CALL: 844-723-3488**  
**TEXT: SAFE4VT TO 274637**

Tips are 100% Anonymous

WINOOSKI SCHOOLS  
We are the future.



## Update from JFK Elementary

By Sara Raabe, Principal

### Learning the Recorder

4th grade JFK students have started learning the recorder and have started a unit called “Recorder Karate!” There are nine songs within the unit, with each one getting progressively harder. Each time students pass a song, they receive a “belt” to tie around their recorder. Students need to show understanding in note literacy, hand position, fingerings, and tone in order to pass each “belt.” They are off to an impressive start as they have already mastered their first song to earn their white belts and are eagerly working towards their second, the yellow belt. Students come to class excited to learn and love to show off their progress!



### EL Curriculum

Grade levels are wrapping up their first EL module. Kindergarten completed their Building Literacy in a Collaborative Class: Toys and Play module and have started their Learning through Science and Story: Weather Wonders module. First grade completed their Tools and Work module and have begun their What’s Up in the Sky: A Study of the Sun, Moon, and Stars. Our second graders learned all about different schools in their Schools and Community module, and have moved on to Learning through Science and Story: Fossils Tell of Earths Changes. Our third graders are learning about Overcoming Learning Challenges Near and Far and Researching to Build Knowledge and Teach Others: Adaptations and the Wide World of Frogs concurrently. They will

finish both modules soon. Our fourth graders have learned all about Poetry, Poets, and Becoming Writers, and are now learning about Researching to Build Knowledge and Teach Others: Animal Defense Mechanisms. Fifth graders have spent time entrenched in Stories of Human Rights and will be moving on to Researching to Build Knowledge and Teach Others: Biodiversity in the Rainforest. Our educators are talking about the fabulous writing and reading they are seeing our students do every day with the new EL curriculum.



### Coffee & Curriculum

Join Principal Sara Raabe, Curriculum Director Michael Eppolito, and Math and Literacy Coaches Stefanie Hamble and Jacie Barber, for monthly conversations on how we support your children in meeting Vermont’s challenging academic standards through our new math and ELA programs. We will also seek your input on how to best engage the community and present how we improved math and literacy outcomes for our students.

#### Monthly Conversation Schedule:

- 2/10/2023:** Literacy Program presentation
- 3/10/2023:** Math Program presentation
- 4/14/2023:** Community Discussion around caregiver engagement
- 5/12/2023:** Community Data presentation

Note that meetings will take place at WSD from 8-9am. Contact the JFK office for more information.

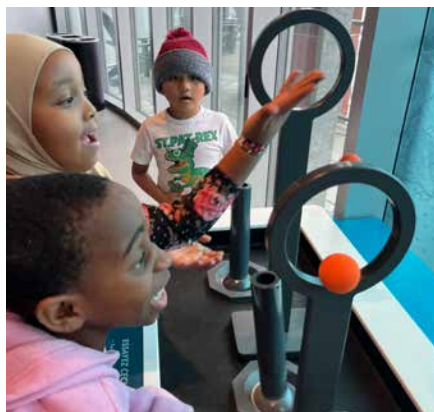


## ECHO Center Field Trip for Multilingual Learners in First Grade

By Sarah Forbes (K-1 ML Teacher) and Erin Hurley (Grades 1 - 2 ML Teacher)



For the first time in a few years, multilingual learners in first grade made a visit to Burlington's Echo Center, to learn about the animals native to Vermont's lake habitat, and explore all the science activities available to children there. Students were amazed at the large fish, the colorful frogs and turtles, and enjoyed the hands-on play to understand the forces of nature around them. This field trip was made possible by the ECHO STEM Teacher Institute, which grades 1 and 2 ML Teacher Erin Hurley is participating in this year.





## WIDA ACCESS Testing Window Open

By Sarah Forbes, K-1 ML Teacher

The WIDA ACCESS testing window for Vermont is open from January 5th to March 3rd. During this time, multilingual learners in kindergarten through twelfth grade will complete the annual standardized test of English language proficiency. The test assesses students' language development in listening, speaking, reading and writing. It is one vital way we monitor student progress towards full immersion in English education. Students who receive an overall score of 4 on the test are considered fluent and able to participate in regular class instruction without additional support. In this photo, multilingual learners in JFK first grade get familiar with a computer as it will be used for upcoming WIDA ACCESS training. In first grade, students begin taking the test on a computer, and they are all very excited!



## JanPo Celebrates Student Learning and New Semester

By Jean Berthiaume and Kate Grodin, WMHS Co-Principals

During the week of January 16th our high school paused to reflect, grow, and celebrate student learning. Students in grades 9-12, as well as our students who participate in our tech centers, presented their learning in our Graduate Expectations (GX's). Student work was grounded in artifacts/evidence from their semester learning experiences, and shared with peers and adults for feedback and support on next steps. Students who did not present, learned from other students on how to present learning and receive feedback. Additionally, exhibitions provided teachers with rich feedback on how they can continue to support students on their learning journeys.

When students know they will share their work with an audience beyond the classroom, they are motivated to make it high quality. Recently, Winooski High School (WHS) students exhibited their work in all 6 Graduate Expectations known commonly to us as GXs. Exhibitions showcase what students have learned, how they thought critically, problem solved, and revised their work through multiple drafts. Exhibitions are a great way for students to share their writing, speeches, art work, performances, experiments, engineering projects, business plans, podcasts, or videos.

Here at WHS exhibitions set the expectation that all students, not just a select group, are capable of producing high-quality work that must be shared with people beyond their classroom. They motivate all students to do their best, so they can stand proudly beside their work. Recently, we celebrated our students' journey of learning during our Expo week, short for exhibition. From this culmination of the first semester, we look forward to the next half of the school year. Our second Expo week happens in June, at the end of the school year.

This month we are looking forward to in person Student and Family Conferences that will happen on Thursday, February 23rd and Friday, February 24th. Conferences for both the middle and high school will ideally include the student and will provide an opportunity for the family, student, advisor and possibly a key teacher or other adult to discuss each student's goals for the school year. We support students taking the lead on sharing their learning and experiences and then engage everyone to contribute or share their perspective on the student's goals.

## Poetry Out Loud

By Gabby Hora, WSD Director of Communications

Students in American Literature participated in the national Poetry Out Loud competition on Wednesday, Dec. 21. As part of their curriculum, students have been interpreting poems, practicing performing poems, and writing their own poems. Our winners will have a chance to participate in the state semifinals in Barre in March.



L-R: Judges Award for Accuracy- Sean Larkin; Judges Award for Interpretation- Nixandy Ferdinand; Third Place- Sali Diallo; Second Place- Campbell Sweeney; First Place- Sam Galle.

## Alumni Basketball Game

The first annual Spartan Alumni Basketball Game was held on December 30th in the new Winooski School District gym. In total 25 alumni participated. With current WHS basketball players serving as coaches and announcers, the game went to double overtime before the white team could come out on top. WSD plans to host this game every year during the last week of December as an opportunity for the community to come together and for the school to build strong partnerships with our alumni.



## WSD's Renovation Transparency: Students and teachers Reflect on the Process

By Thera Neilson, WHS Junior

WSD's \$57.8M renovation, announced in 2020, is set to be completed by the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. According to the WSD website, the Capitol Project, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan, has developed 75,000 sq ft of new learning areas. These areas include a new gym, middle school, and elementary school wing, along with the renovation of approximately 125,000 sq ft of existing space.

Krista Parisi, executive assistant to the superintendent commented, "The renovations were addressing a lack of much-needed space for our students, staff, and community. The design team was working to improve our learning environments and create open spaces that brought in natural light and allowed for shared gathering spaces for students in each grade level/school." This project has aimed to "improve comfort" in an environmentally friendly way with its conscious approach towards renewable energy and more modern "pod design" in the elementary and middle school, rather than traditional classroom spaces. As well as a full school-based health center, a more significant performing arts center, and a new cafeteria.

The original estimated term of completion was August 2022. However, the lack of working personnel and other technical factors caused the project to be setback several months. "The pandemic brought labor shortage issues, decreased crew sizes due to positive COVID tests, and some very serious supply and shipping issues," Parisi said.

Students and faculty are eager for information on the newly updated space. "It was supposed to be done in November, but now it's been pushed back a couple of months." Theo Abbott-Smith '25 said. "And I think other parts were delayed even more than that."

Thanks to the support from members at ReArch, a construction company based in South Burlington, and TruexCullins, an architecture and interior design firm with a focus on education projects, the renovation was able to move forward despite the setbacks. Parisi adds, "We were extremely lucky to work with some great people from ReArch and TruexCullins that were as determined as we were to move forward with this project and stay on track for an on-time completion of the project."

To keep the student population and the public notified of these setbacks, the news was given at public monthly meetings, "Updates were communicated to the Capital Project Executive Committee during their monthly meetings. Each of these meetings was a warned public meeting that anyone could attend." Parisi said. District-wide specific information was conveyed



through WSD community emails. Parisi notes, "Staff and community updates were sent out regularly via email by Emily Hecker, our then Director of Communication, and continue to be sent out by Gabby Hora our current Director of Communication."

When interviewed, WHS students expressed a desire for information regarding the project to be more easily accessible. "Yeah, it would have been a lot better just to know, like, what's going

on." Klara Bronz-Russo '26 said. Alexis Blend '25 added, "They told us tons of different dates for when it was going to be fully finished. And it would have been really nice to have an actual date."

"I looked into a lot, but there wasn't really a lot of information to be found. I don't think there was really a lot of information being put out there for people to learn about to know what was going on" Theo Abbott-Smith '25 said.

George Rogers '23 offered possible solutions to this lack of accessible information, "I wish there was like something we could see on the school website of like a process bar where it like gives us consistent updates on how far until the school is done."

Alexis Blend '25 commented on the renovation process, and its effect on her mental health, "When I'm in school, anxiety is a really big problem. There's banging all over the school and like there's not really space to get out of the classroom to breathe and move around." She adds, "It's affected the coping mechanisms that I have for dealing with that during school."

Marc McQuinn, a WHS history teacher remarked, "I'm not sure what to say is the biggest disruption to education in my teaching career. I'm not sure if it's COVID or construction. The fact that they were happening at the same time, it's just unbelievable."

Looking ahead to the final stretch of construction, having a fully finished school is on many students' minds. With the main lobby recently opening up, Nixandy Ferdinand '24 described the convenience of this new space, "You had to like go all around the school to finally get in. By the time you got there, it's like late so you had to get here extra early. When we got the new entrance it got better."

"It's hard to get around. I don't know where things are most of the time, but I'm getting used to it." Deanna McCoy '24 said.

Recalling his school experience, McQuinn mentioned, "I can go back to my days as a student here back in the 1980s, but certainly since I've been teaching here, the population has become more and more diverse over time. For towns like Winooski to get a building like this, I think is awesome. Winooski kids deserve a nice place to go to school too."

## Cubism

By Emily Jacobs, WMS Visual Arts Teacher

Our 7th and 8th grade art students recently explored the style of art known as Cubism. Cubist artists break down representational subjects -- people, landscapes, still life -- into shapes in a way that can indicate form, light and shadow, and portray multiple viewpoints at once. After observing and reflecting on the work of Cubist artists such as Pablo Picasso, our young artists created refreshing, creative artworks of their own, inspired by the Cubism movement.



*Colors and Shades sunlit by Esther, 8th grade*



*The Museum, by Hue, 8th grade*



*Sunset sunlit by Jazmine, 8th grade*



*Royalty sunlit by Dahlia, 8th grade*



*By Moo July, 8th grade*



*Chill by Smarika, 7th grade*

# WINOOSKI SCHOOL MENUS



## Winooski Hot Breakfast in the Cafeteria K-12 February 2023



=Vegetarian

Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Fluffy Pancakes Real Maple Syrup Breakfast Scrambled Eggs 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	2 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Omelette Made to Order w/1/2 English Muffin 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	3 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Homemade Blueberry Muffin 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
6 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets French Toast Sticks 1/2 English Muffin Sausage Links Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	7 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Warm Cinnamon Bun 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	8 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Fluffy Pancakes Real Maple Syrup Breakfast Scrambled Eggs 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	9 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Omelette Made to Order w/1/2 English Muffin 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	10 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Homemade Blueberry Muffin 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
13 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets French Toast Sticks 1/2 English Muffin Sausage Links Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	14 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Warm Cinnamon Bun 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	15 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Fluffy Pancakes Real Maple Syrup Breakfast Scrambled Eggs 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	16 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Omelette Made to Order w/1/2 English Muffin 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	17 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Homemade Blueberry Muffin 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
20 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets French Toast Sticks 1/2 English Muffin Sausage Links Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	21 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Warm Cinnamon Bun 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	22 Sausage & Cheese Croissant Egg & Cheese English Muffin Variety Oatmeal Packets Fluffy Pancakes Real Maple Syrup Breakfast Scrambled Eggs 1/2 English Muffin Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	23 <b>No School</b>	24 <b>No School</b>
27 <b>No School</b>	28 <b>No School</b>	Please advise us if special meal accommodations are required for allergens or other special dietary needs.		

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### Meals Are Free To All Students

Adult Breakfast \$2.90  
Adult Lunch \$4.75  
Milk \$0.50

Please Click Links Below for Nutrition Information on Daily Options:

Fresh, Dried, or Canned Fruit, Skim White Milk, 1% White Milk, & Fat Free Chocolate Milk Offered With All Meals.

Milk Condiments

Fresh, Dried Or Canned Fruit

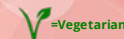
Pay for meals on-line. Click on Link Below:



Click Image Below for employment opportunities



## Winooski Elementary School Lunch February 2023



=Vegetarian

Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 <b>Golden Crispy Chicken Tenders</b> Maple Glazed Carrots Fresh Celery Sticks Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	2 <b>Cheesy Breadsticks</b> Chicken Noodle Soup Fresh Cucumber Sticks Tossed Garden Salad Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	3 <b>BBQ Chicken Wrap</b> Homemade Potato Salad Fresh Carrot Sticks Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
6 <b>Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets</b> BBQ sauce Roasted Potato Wedges Vegetarian Baked Beans Homemade Dinner Roll Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	7 <b>Chicken &amp; Cheese Fajita</b> Garden Salsa Mexicali Corn Tomato Cucumber Salad Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	8 <b>Cheese Pizza</b> Honey Glazed Carrots Caesar Salad Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	9 <b>Marinated Chicken Breast</b> Steamed Green Peas Cherry Tomato & Corn Salad Rice Pilaf Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	10 <b>French Toast Sticks</b> Real Maple Syrup Sweet & White Homefries Fresh Green Pepper Strips Lunch Scrambled Eggs Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
13 <b>Dress Your Own Burger on a Bun</b> Hand Cut French Fries Maple Baked Beans Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	14 <b>Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce</b> Steamed Broccoli Fresh Cucumber Sticks Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	15 <b>Hearty Chicken &amp; Biscuits</b> Steamed Green Peas Diced Carrots Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	16 <b>Cheesy Ravioli Bake</b> Steamed Broccoli Fresh Celery Sticks Garlic Breadstick Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	17 <b>Grilled Cheese Sandwich</b> Oven Baked Potato Puffs Seasoned Green Beans Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
20 <b>Chicken Fried Rice</b> Honey Glazed Carrots Fresh Green Pepper Strips Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	21 <b>Chicken Patty Sandwich w/Lettuce &amp; Tomato</b> Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Carrot Sticks Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	22 <b>Cheesy Breadsticks</b> Fresh Celery Sticks Marinara Sauce Caesar Salad Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	23 <b>No School</b>	24 <b>No School</b>
27 <b>No School</b>	28 <b>No School</b>	Please advise us if special meal accommodations are required for allergens or other special dietary needs.		

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### Meals Are Free To All Students

Adult Breakfast \$2.90  
Adult Lunch \$4.75  
Milk \$0.50

Please Click Links Below for Nutrition Information on Daily Options:

Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola, Deli Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich w/Cheese Stick

Fresh, Dried, or Canned Fruit, Skim White Milk, 1% White Milk, & Fat Free Chocolate Milk Offered With All

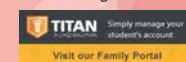
Deli Options K 8

Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola

Milk Condiments

Fresh, Dried Or Canned Fruit

Pay for meals on-line. Click Image Below



Harvest of the Month: Carrots



Click on the image above for more info on the Harvest of the Month!



## From Your Local Representatives

By Representative Taylor Small

Hi Neighbors!

Our 2023-24 legislative is underway and comes with a whole host of changes: new faces, new committees, and new priorities. On the first day, we re-elected Representative Jill Krowinski as our Speaker of the House – this took a total of 12 minutes, in stark contrast to our counterparts in DC. We also received our committee assignments; I will be returning to the House Human Services Committee and Representative Daisy Berbeco was appointed to the House Health Care Committee. These committee assignments came along with a reorganization of House committees. Most notably, the House Energy & Technology Committee was dissolved and the priorities of this committee were added to the newly created Environment & Energy Committee and Government Operations & Military Affairs.

Over in the Senate, Senator Phil Baruth was elected as the Senate Pro Tempore (or Senate President) and he will continue to serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee as well as Senate Appropriations Committee. As for our new Chittenden Central Senators, Senator Tanya Vyhovsky was appointed as Vice Chair of the Senate Government Operations Committee and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Martine Larocque Gulick was appointed as Vice Chair of the Senate Education

Committee and a member of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

To see a full list of the House & Senate committees slated for the 2023-24 session, go to: [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov) and look under the 'Committees' tab. You can navigate to the individual committee pages to see the members, committee jurisdiction, livestream link and bills appointed.

The first week of our legislative session was largely ceremonial in nature and did not involve significant policy work. Though before the Governor's Inaugural Address, we did get to witness the swearing in of Winooski's own Mike Pieciak as our State Treasurer who made history as Vermont's first out LGBTQ+ person to serve as treasurer. We also witnessed Vermont's first woman elected as Attorney General, Charity Clark, be sworn into office.

Over the course of this first month, our body will primarily focus on getting new members acclimated to their committees and the departments / policy areas that they oversee. I encourage folks to watch the livestreams of any committees of interest as they will provide great overviews for legislators and community members throughout the session.

As always, please reach out to me (TSmall@leg.state.vt.us) or Representative Berbeco (DBerbeco@leg.state.vt.us) with any questions as they arise.



## 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](http://winooski.vt.gov/about).

## Economic Vitality

In December, Elaine Wang, City Manager, presented the City Council with the City's Economic Vitality goals update, which notes the phase 1 completion of the City's wayfinding initiative, the adoption of municipal code amendments to incentivize priority housing, the ongoing efforts to expand the downtown designation, and more.

## Municipal Infrastructure

Last month, the Municipal Infrastructure goals update was also presented to the Council. Jon Rauscher, Director of Public Works, provided progress updates on a City-wide ADA Transition Plan, the Main Street Revitalization project, future repair work on the Winooski/Burlington Bridge, and the upcoming Exit 16 DDI project.

## Housing

Do you know about the Winooski Housing Trust Fund? Community members can access three new programs: the Down Payment Assistance Program, the Home Improvement Program, and the Affordable Housing Construction/ Rehabilitation Program. To learn more, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/housing](http://winooski.vt.gov/housing).

## Safe, Healthy, Connected People

On January 9th, the City gave an update to the Winooski City Council on the American Rescue Plan Act Community Feedback results, which will assist in the decision making process for the remainder of funds (appx. \$1.8 mil). To view the results, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/arpa](http://winooski.vt.gov/arpa)

All state-run walk-in vaccination clinics will close by Jan. 31, 2023.

Vaccines will still be widely available at doctors' offices and pharmacies.

## COVID-19 Information

The City of Winooski encourages our residents and visitors to do everything they can to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## WINOOSKI MUNICIPAL UPDATES

### Stay up to date on vaccinations.

Vaccines are the best tool we have to protect ourselves against COVID-19, especially from severe illness, hospitalization and death. Vermonters ages 6 months and older can get vaccinated, including with the new “bivalent” vaccines. Bivalent vaccines protect against older and newer strains circulating in Vermont. We strongly encourage you to protect yourself by getting vaccinated as soon as possible.

### Stay home if sick.

Whether you have symptoms of COVID-19, the flu, or another contagious illness, please stay home if you are sick and call your health care provider if needed. (If you don't have a health care provider, call 2-1-1.) This helps keep germs from spreading, protects those who may be at risk of serious illness, and gives you a chance to get well.

### Continue to wear a mask in public.

While masking is no longer mandatory in Vermont, community members can still use this important preventative tool. Examples of high-quality masks are N95 or KN95 masks, which are very good at blocking the droplets from our breath that spreads the virus. You can also wear a well-fitting mask with at least two layers of tightly-woven fabric, or layer a disposable mask under a cloth mask to increase effectiveness.

### Get tested when needed.

You can protect others by getting tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms or if you are a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, so you can decide whether to isolate. It's especially important to get tested if you are at higher risk for COVID-19, so you can reach out to your health care provider to ask about treatment. Free COVID tests are available at the Winooski Clerk's Office at 27 W Allen St., the Winooski Library at 32 Mallets Bay Ave, and the Winooski Senior Center at 123 Barlow St.

To learn more about preventing the spread of COVID-19, please visit [healthvermont.gov/covid-19](https://healthvermont.gov/covid-19).

Please note: walk-in vaccination clinics

provided by the Vermont Department closed on January 31st. Vaccines will continue to be widely available, at no cost to the patient, by appointment at doctors' offices, pharmacies, or other locations where vaccines are offered. Vermonters who do not have a health care provider or access to a pharmacy can reach out to their Local Health Office to be vaccinated. The Health Department will also continue to work with partners to vaccinate homebound Vermonters, English language learners, and immigrant or refugee community members.



### Reminders from the City Clerk's Office

#### Town Meeting Day

Town Meeting Day is on March 7th from 7am to 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center (123 Barlow Street). Election, voting, and budget information can be found at [winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting](https://winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting). This election is open to all legal residents, regardless of citizenship status.

To request an absentee ballot, please contact the Clerk's Office by phone or email: 802 655 6410 / [clerk@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:clerk@winooski.vt.gov). You can also request online at [mvp.vermont.gov](https://mvp.vermont.gov).

Our next property and utility bills will be due on February 15th. Payments can be made online at [winooski.vt.gov/pay](https://winooski.vt.gov/pay) or in person at Winooski City Hall. If we can be of any assistance, please contact us!

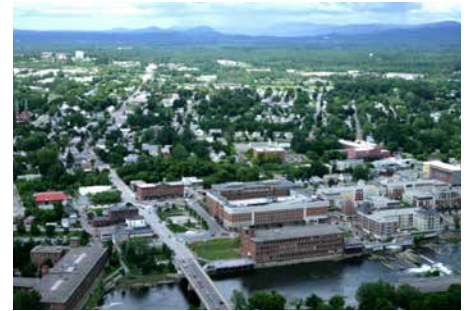
#### 2023 Dog Licenses Now Available!

Please note it is Vermont State Law to license a dog (6 months or older) each year. To license your dog, we will need a currently valid rabies certificate. Each dog owner will need to license the dog on or before April 3rd. On April 4th, an additional late fee will be applied.

- \$14 (altered) on or before April 1st

- \$18 (un-altered) on or before April 1st
- On April 2nd, there will be additional late fees!

Winooski City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 20th, 2023 for Presidents Day.



### 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 city-wide 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](https://winooski.vt.gov/reappraisal)



## Annual Winter Parking Ban Reminder

There is no overnight street parking from 2:30am – 6am in Downtown Winooski from December 1 – March 31. For everywhere else in Winooski, overnight winter parking bans are made during winter storms and for snow removal where street parking is not allowed from 11pm to 7am.

- To sign up for our winter parking ban alerts, text Winooski to 888 777 or register at [nixle.com](http://nixle.com).
- Winter parking bans may last more than one evening. The alerts will say when the ban starts, if it keeps going, and when it is done.
- The City of Winooski reserves the right to tow vehicles at the owner's expense.
- Landline phone users can get updates by calling 802 655 3908.
- Signs will flash at exit 15 on East Allen Street and on the Winooski side of the Winooski/Burlington Bridge.
- Parking is available from 6pm to 7am in the Winooski Parking Garage on Cascade Way. Users can pay in the garage or by using the ParkMobile app.
- If your vehicle has been towed, please call Elite Auto at 802 497 0176.

To learn more, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/parking](http://winooski.vt.gov/parking)

## Community Services Updates



### Recreation and Parks

[winooski.vt.gov/rec](http://winooski.vt.gov/rec)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/winooskirec) [i](https://www.instagram.com/winooskirec) @winooskirec

#### Adult Programs (18+)

**Vinyasa Flow Yoga:** Wednesdays, January 4-February 15 @ 8:30-9:30am @ Winooski Senior Center

Join yoga practitioner Sarah Sears of Yoga Vermont in this 6-week yoga flow program. Open to everyone and all levels, happy to help people adapt postures to create their own practice. Bring your mat and if you don't have one, let us know so we can bring one for you!

#### Pickleball Court Rentals

Wednesdays, Jan 4 – end of winter / 5 – 6 PM @ O'Brien Community Center

Looking to continue your pickleball play throughout the winter? Rent a pickleball court at the O'Brien Community Center Gym with friends and other pickleball enthusiasts. All team fees will go toward sponsoring program scholarships for community members.

#### Trex Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge

Do you have an abundance of plastic bags you are looking to get rid of? Winooski Rec. is partnering with TREX's recycling challenge to collect 500 pounds of unwanted plastic materials by June 12, 2023 in exchange for an upcycled bench for a Winooski Park! Donation locations: City Hall, O'Brien Community Center, Winooski Senior Center

#### Saint Michael's College Basketball Tickets

Are you interested in attending a Saint Michael's College women's or men's basketball game? Donated by a

community member, tickets are free while supplies last and good for any home men's or women's basketball game at Saint Michael's College. Contact Zahra Mohamed at 802 655 1392 or [zmohamed@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:zmohamed@winooski.vt.gov) to reserve yours today. Tickets can be picked up at the City of Winooski Community Services Offices at 32 Malletts Bay Ave.

#### Youth Programs

**Indoor Pickup Soccer with Vermont Patriots / Ages 5-11 / Sundays Jan 15 – Feb 19 @ Winooski School District gym**  
U8 girls and boys 9 – 10am  
U10 girls and boys 10 – 11am  
U12 girls and boys 11am – 12pm

**Youth Climbing / Ages 9-12: / Thursdays / Mar 9 - Apr 13 / 3 - 4:45pm**  
Winooski Recreation & Parks partnered with MetroRock to offer amazing rock-climbing sessions! Youth will work with coaches to learn the basics of climbing techniques, get comfortable with safe belaying, and build their confidence. Transportation is provided.

**Cartooning and Comic Book Club / Ages 7-12 / Mondays / Mar 13 - Apr 17 / 3 – 4pm @ Winooski School District**  
Do you like drawing cartoons and comics? Join us to learn about cartooning, comic creation, and drawing. Collaborate with friends to create storylines, choose your dialogue, and create illustrations to produce your own comic book.

**April Break Camp:** Science and Superheroes with Wicked Cool for Kids / Grades K-5 / Apr 24 – 28 / 9 AM – 3 PM @ O'Brien Community Center  
Campers will learn about the engineering and design process to build a sail car that rides the wind, build a model X-wing fighter, conduct gravity experiments to learn what it would take for Superman to leap over tall buildings, create optical illusions to understand how Wonder Woman's jet can disappear, and more!

#### Teen Job Training Opportunities

**Soccer Referee Training / Grades 9-12: / Mondays / Mar 13 - Apr 3 / 3:15 - 5:15pm @ Winooski School District**  
Are you a teen interested in obtaining a new skill set that could lead to a job opportunity in your community? Join



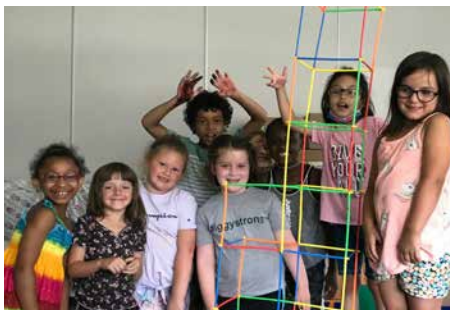
## WINOOSKI MUNICIPAL UPDATES

us in this 6-week First-Time Grassroots Referee Certification. This is an amazing opportunity to bulk up your resume!

**Safe Sitter Certification** / Grades 9-12 / Tuesdays / Mar 14 - Apr 18 / 3:15 - 4:30pm @ Winooski School District  
Are you a teen interested in obtaining a new skill set that could lead to helping out families in your community and earning some money? Join Community Services Admin and Outreach Assistant, Zahra Mohamed, in this 6-week babysitting training course to obtain your Safe Sitter Certification as well as an introduction to First Aid/CPR this spring. This is an amazing opportunity to bulk up your resume!

**Lifeguard Training** / Grades 9-12 / Wednesdays / Feb 1 - May 17 / 3:15 - 5:30pm @ YMCA

Are you a teen interested in learning about lifeguarding, improving your swimming skills, gaining your Red Cross Lifeguard Certification, and the opportunity of a lifeguarding job at Myers Memorial Pool during Summer 2023? Join us in collaboration with the Greater Burlington YMCA in this three series program which includes 4 weeks of swim lessons, 15 hours of online coursework, and 10 weeks of in-person lifeguard training.



### Thrive After School

[winooskivt.gov/thrive](http://winooskivt.gov/thrive)

 @thrivewinooski

Our state-licensed, 3 STAR childcare/enrichment program runs from 3pm to 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.

To learn more and sign up, please visit [winooskivt.gov/thrive](http://winooskivt.gov/thrive).



### Winooski Memorial Library

[winooskivt.gov/library](http://winooskivt.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 at the Winooski Library on select Saturdays for 1:1 assistance and to learn new skills!

- Saturday, February 4, 11, & 25th from 12-2pm
- Free to join, open to adults 18+
- Drop-in, no registration required

#### After School Games

Join us for endless possibilities of fun at the Winooski Memorial Library! Every Thursday after school we will gather to hang out and play with board games, toys, and Legos. We will also have simple craft projects available and many books for check out. Relax and unwind after school with old and new friends at the Library!

- Thursdays, 3:30-4:30pm
- Drop-in fun; no registration required
- Recommended for youth ages 5+
- Children 9 and under must be with an adult

#### 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 our website at <https://winooskivt.gov/library> or stop by the library with questions about access and/or additional information.

#### 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, February 18 from 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 from 11am-12pm
- Free to join, open to adults 18+

#### First Friday Activities

Join the City of Winooski's Community Services Department on the first Friday of each month for a free activity for community members! Each month will feature a different type of drop-in group activity at the O'Brien Community Center from 4 - 5:30pm.

The First Friday activity for February will be Board Games! There will be a variety of board games available for all

## WINOOSKI MUNICIPAL UPDATES

ages and skill levels. Come play and socialize with your friends and neighbors over new board games and old favorites!

- Friday, February 3rd from 4 - 5:30pm
- O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave
- Recommended for ages 5+
- Drop-in; no registration required.

### Free Produce 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 for our winter distribution!

- Wednesday, February 1 from 3:30-5:30pm @ in the O'Brien Community Center
- Please bring your own reusable grocery bags
- Seasonal item availability on a first-served basis

### Friends of the Winooski Library

The Friends of the Winooski Memorial Library is recruiting new members interested in supporting the values and mission of the Library! The Friends are a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that aims to promote use of the library's resources, work to encourage contributions and lead fundraising efforts, and serve as an advocate of all things library in the community.

As a Friend, you might participate on the Board, attend quarterly meetings, help to create public support and awareness for the Library and its programs, raise money for capital campaigns or direct gifts for items not in the Library's own budget, sponsor and support Library programs and events, volunteer to work in the Library or on specific tasks, and/or something else of your choosing!

Membership is free and open to anyone in the Winooski community! Please reach with interest or questions to Nate Eddy, Library Director, at [neddy@winooskivt.gov](mailto:neddy@winooskivt.gov) / 802 655 6424

### 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 from 10:30-11:30am

For more information, please reach out to Kirsten Wilson at [kwilson@winooskivt.gov](mailto:kwilson@winooskivt.gov); 802 655 6424

### Pokémon Club

Join us on Wednesdays at the Library for all things Pokemon! Franchise fans will get together to discuss their favorite cards, games, and TV episodes. Along with card trading, we'll have simple art projects and other activities for club members to enjoy while socializing at this weekly activity group.

- Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30pm
  - Drop-in, no registration required
- Youth 8+

### 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 10:30am 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@winooskivt.gov](mailto:neddy@winooskivt.gov) / 802 655 6424

### Youth Graphic Novel Group

Winooski youth are invited to join a monthly drop-in graphic novel discussion at the Winooski Memorial Library! February's read is "Cardboard Kingdom" by Chad Sell. Patrons can borrow their own copy of the book from the Library to read before our first meeting.

- Friday, February 17 from 4-5pm
- Recommended for youth ages 10+
- Snacks will be provided!

Please reach out to Kirsten Wilson, Youth Services Coordinator, at [kwilson@winooskivt.gov](mailto:kwilson@winooskivt.gov) for more information or to sign up for email updates on this program.



### Winooski Senior Center

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

 @winooskiseniorcenter

The Winooski Senior Center is open for regular programming 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@winooskivt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov)

## WINOOSKI MUNICIPAL UPDATES

### TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

#### Breakfast Café 9 to 11am

Everyone is welcome to drop in and join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11am as we gather and converse with community members. Our eat-in Breakfast Cafe features hot breakfast sandwiches, fruit, treats and beverages. Gluten Free and vegetarian options now available — priced by donation.

### WEDNESDAYS

#### More than a Meal – Meals for Seniors, 10am-12pm

In partnership with Age Well, we are offering Older Vermonters (60+) a 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 Center. Reservations must be made by 12pm the Thursday before the scheduled Wednesday meal. Please call us at 802 655 6425 or email us at [seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov) for the weekly menu and to register for this program. \$5 suggested donation to Age Well.

### THURSDAYS

#### Fun & Games – 9am – 12pm

We've got a room full of great games! Ping Pong, Nintendo Wii sports games, cards, board games and Foosball! FREE!

#### Special programs at the Senior Center

#### Valentine's Day Breakfast

Join us for a special Valentine's Day themed Breakfast Cafe on Tuesday 2/14 from 9-11am, RSVP. Priced by Donation.

#### AARP Tax-Aide

The volunteers from AARP will be back for free income tax assistance. Appointments will be in the mornings on Mondays and Fridays. Please call the Senior Center at 802 655 6425 to make an appointment and learn the details of this year's program. FREE!

#### Bone Builders

- Mondays and Wednesdays at 2-3pm

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!

*No Program on 2/20.*



**MEALS on WHEELS**  
AMERICA

#### 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.



### Meet the Members of Your Winooski Community Services Team!

From L to R: **Robin Merrit**, Recreation and Parks Manager / **Kirsten Wilson**, Library Youth Services Coordinator / **Miruna Muresan**, Recreation and Parks Assistant / **Claudine Nkurinziza**, Thrive Site Director / **Kayla Loving**, Director of Restorative Justice at Spectrum Youth & Family Services / **Nate Eddy**, Library Director / **Barb Pitfido**, Senior Programs Manager / **Ray Coffey**, Community Services Director / **Zahra Mohamed**, Community Services Administrator and Outreach Assistant

## Downtown Winooski's New Website

By Meredith Bay-Tyack, Executive Director, Downtown Winooski

It may seem like a small change to some, but the launch of our new website [www.DowntownWinooski.org](http://www.DowntownWinooski.org) is very exciting to us! It showcases not only our non profit organization but all of Winooski as a destination and welcoming place for all whether you live here or are visiting. We are so thrilled to have been chosen by the Vermont Department of Tourism to receive a grant in 2022 to make this possible. Please take a look and let us know your feedback, we are always looking for ideas and ways to improve!



### Winooski Farmers Market

Vendor application now available for the Summer 2023 season, beginning May 28, 2023. Winooski Farmers Market is open 10am - 2pm every Sunday May 28 - October 15. Get all the details at <https://downtownwinooski.org/farmersmarket>

### What do you want to see in your city in 2023?

Downtown Winooski “builds community by supporting the business community.” As a nonprofit organization working hard to support the economic vitality of Winooski, we can’t be everything to everyone but we love feedback and constructive suggestions!



If you want to get involved or want to recommend a band, vendor, or anyone you think might want to join in one of our 2023 events, please get in touch! You can reach me at [meredith@downtownwinooski.org](mailto:meredith@downtownwinooski.org).



### 2023 Calendar (so far):

- Winooski Farmers Market
- Winooski Wednesdays Concerts & Market
- Juneteenth
- French Heritage Day
- Winooski Pride
- Halloween in Winooski
- Small Business Saturday
- Winooski Holiday Pop Up Shop

We are currently working to secure event sponsorships and general fund donations to support and sustain programming and operations in 2023. We know it will take many sponsors and donors working together to help us reach our goals for 2023 and beyond.

Downtown Winooski is in a unique position to bring our strong business community together to identify and achieve common goals. Do you know of an individual, business or organization who may want to partner with us? Please reach out to [meredith@downtownwinooski.org](mailto:meredith@downtownwinooski.org).



## Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Kate Nugent, Director

### Social Host Responsibilities



According to our last parent survey, most parents in Winooski aren't providing substances to their youth. That is important, because when parents or peers provide alcohol to people under 21, it increases youth risk for binge drinking, drinking and driving, and other alcohol-related problems. Social hosting, or providing alcohol to a minor in a home or other setting, is illegal in Vermont. Furthermore, communities sometimes enact additional stronger or more specific ordinances. Social host laws are considered a best practice and have been shown to help reduce the amount of underage alcohol use that occurs in a state or community. For more background information, check out the CDC's guide on Alcohol and Public Health: <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/underage-drinking.htm>

### February Community Dinner

Join us for our next community dinner on February 9 with Alganesh Michael, Chef/Owner of A Taste of Abyssinia! Sign up for our newsletter at [winooskiprevention.org](http://winooskiprevention.org) to get notified about how to sign up for the dinner.

### What Parents Are Saying

This month, we highlight what we find to be a tremendous resource for all parents and guardians. "What Parents Are Saying," part Talk, They Hear You, covers such topics as brain-based parenting, parenting in recovery, and parent chats on raising and socializing drug-free youth. Scan the code below to check it out!



## Winooski Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball

By Jeffrey Brosseau

Online registration is currently open, see our website address below, open the link and you will need register and set up your account to register your child and also to volunteer as Head Coach, Assistant or Team Manager.

Fees for Little League are \$50 for one player, family will be \$90.00, Babe Ruth Baseball 13-18 year old fee is \$75.00; you will have the option to pay with either a Visa/Master Card or pay with check and mail to me.

Let me know if you have any issues, after March 31st, late fee of \$10 will be added. Winooski Little League and Babe Ruth is open to all Winooski Residences and anyone who attends St. Francis School and the Winooski School System that may reside outside of our city boundaries.

Website Address: <http://tshq.bluesombrero.com/winooskibaseball> . For more information contact Jeffrey Brosseau at 802-233-5530, [jeffrey.brosseau@aol.com](mailto:jeffrey.brosseau@aol.com)



**TOWN MEETING TV**

# Your Election Connection!

Town Meeting election forums begin soon!

**Subscribe to Town Meeting TV on YouTube** to stay up-to-date with our latest election coverage.

**Town Meeting Day is March 7th.**



**LOCAL VOTES**

**Tune in here!**



**ON COMCAST 1087, BT 17/217, [YOUTUBE.COM/TOWNMEETINGTV](https://www.youtube.com/townmeetingtv)**



## Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for February

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

<b>Wednesday, February 8th</b>	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, veggies, eggs, meat, and diapers
<b>Saturday, February 11th</b>	9:30am to 11:00am	Veggies, deli, bakery, meat, eggs, and diapers
<b>Wednesday, February 22nd</b>	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, veggies, eggs, meat, and diapers
<b>Saturday, February 25th</b>	9:30am to 11:00am	Veggies, deli, bakery, meat, eggs, and diapers

We are now back to our regular monthly schedule of the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons and 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings of each month.

We will continue to receive diapers from the Diaper Bank at least until July. We are hoping the State Legislature will vote to fund a Vermont Diaper Bank. The need is there. Low income families want healthy, happy babies who are not suffering with diaper rash and infections. Clean diapers are critical to baby health. Currently, we are supplying diapers and wipes to 250 Winooski babies each month.

Thank you to everyone who had provided funds, food and toiletries to the Food Shelf in 2022. You are the reason we have been able to send food home to 1,300 people each month! Each family takes home a 2 to 3 day supply of food each time they come. Each family can come one Wednesday and two Saturdays each month.

We are asking for donations of cooking oil, dried beans, children's cereals, and condiments such as mayo, ketchup and mustard. Store bought packages of cookies are always appreciated.

**Food Shelf Policy:** Winooski residents coming for the first time should bring proof that they 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](http://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](mailto:winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com). We especially need help serving clients on Wednesdays.

## Homesharing Could Help You With Rising Costs

By Ric Cengeri, Communications Specialist

There's no doubt that we're all facing more expensive heating bills this winter. Add that to the other items you purchase that have been impacted by inflation, and you have significantly higher costs of operating your home.

One possible solution would be to consider homesharing, which could provide additional income by having someone stay in one of the bedrooms in your home. If needed, they could also provide help with household chores, including shoveling some of the snow we tend to attract each winter here in Vermont.

HomeShare Vermont has been helping people find compatible matches and creating stronger communities for over 40 years. This is accomplished by allowing seniors age in place, providing people with disabilities to be more independent and finding or maintaining affordable housing for individuals with low

or moderate incomes. For guests, homesharing provides incredibly cost-effective housing, using existing housing stock.

HomeShare Vermont guests pay an average monthly rent of \$340. A typical homeshare match lasts around 19 months. We conduct background and reference checks and interviews. Then, you decide which of our pre-screened candidates you'd like to live with.

We'd love to speak with you about the process we use to create compatible matches and how homesharing might benefit you. To learn more, call us at (802) 863-5625 or visit [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org).

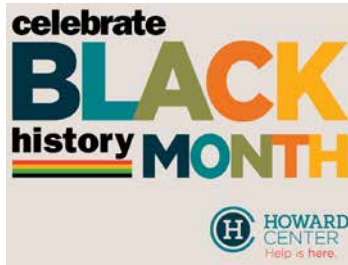


## Howard Center News

By Paul Detzer, Development and Communications Engagement Manager

### Black History Month

Black History Month is an important time for us to celebrate and honor the achievements and contributions of Black people, and to recognize the ongoing struggles for justice and equality. As a part of Howard Center's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative, we commit to promoting a welcoming, inclusive, equitable, and diverse environment for all members of the community.



### Program Highlight: Community Outreach Program

Howard Center Community Outreach Program is a team available to provide support to those in Winooski and in several communities throughout Chittenden County who are struggling with mental health, substance use, or other social service needs. They work with local law enforcement and service providers to coordinate support. The team is also a resource for businesses and service providers, helping them provide social service support and making referrals as needed.

Anyone in need of assistance, or anyone who knows someone in need, can reach out to the program for help by calling 802-488-7778 from Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

### Save the Date for the 2023 Curling Classic

The 11th annual Curling Classic is coming up on March 18, and we need your help to make it a success. This event is a great opportunity to support Howard Center, Dragonheart Vermont, and South Burlington Rotary Club. Interested in curling? Mark your calendars and come watch the curling teams take to the ice at Cairns Arena in South Burlington on March 18 from 8 am – 6 pm. It's a free and open to the public event.



Winooski Timeline Mural by Elizabeth Antoinette

### Winooski Job Fair is Feb. 4

Looking for a new career? Visit with Howard Center's experienced staff at our February 4 job fair and find out first-hand about our unique and rewarding career opportunities. Learn about current openings, flexible work schedules, competitive compensation, excellent benefits, and how your skills and experiences can benefit the people we serve.



### Access and Intake: Resources and Support

Help is Here: Howard Center provides mental health, substance use, and developmental needs support in our community. When someone calls **802-488-6000**, an Access Specialist will provide assistance, conduct a brief screening, schedule an intake assessment, and provide information about other community resources. In addition, the caller will be paired with an Intake Navigator who will provide interim support and services while on a waitlist or eligibility for services is being determined.

Access and Intake operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 am–5pm. Visit [howardcenter.org](http://howardcenter.org) to learn more.



Community Mural at the Winooski Memorial Library by Juniper Creative



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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI**

**WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**[www.wsdvt.org](http://www.wsdvt.org)**

**Superintendent of Schools**

Sean McMannon, [smcmannon@wsdvt.org](mailto:smcmannon@wsdvt.org)  
 802-383-6000

**John F. Kennedy Elementary School**

Principal: Sara Raabe  
 802-655-0411  
[sraabe@wsdvt.org](mailto:sraabe@wsdvt.org)

**Winooski Middle and High School**

Co-Principals: Kate Grodin and Jean Berthiaume  
 802-655-3530  
[kgrodin@wsdvt.org](mailto:kgrodin@wsdvt.org)  
[jberthiaume@wsdvt.org](mailto:jberthiaume@wsdvt.org)

**Board of School Trustees**

Allison Burlock, 802-349-7018, [aburlock@wsdvt.org](mailto:aburlock@wsdvt.org)  
 Tori Cleiland, *President*, 802-655-7678, [tcleiland@wsdvt.org](mailto:tcleiland@wsdvt.org)  
 Steven Berbeco, 858-376-7269, [sberbeco@wsdvt.org](mailto:sberbeco@wsdvt.org)  
 Kamal Dahal, 802-310-2821, [kdahal@wsdvt.org](mailto:kdahal@wsdvt.org)  
 Dr. Alex Yin, 516-423-9601, [ayin@wsdvt.org](mailto:ayin@wsdvt.org)

**CITY OF WINOOSKI**

**[www.winooskivt.gov](http://www.winooskivt.gov), 802-655-6410**

**Mayor**

Kristine Lott, 802-766-1988, [klott@winooskivt.gov](mailto:klott@winooskivt.gov)

**City Manager**

Elaine Wang, 802-655-6410, [ewang@winooskivt.gov](mailto:ewang@winooskivt.gov)

**City Councilors**

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

**City Clerk**

Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, [jwillingham@winooskivt.gov](mailto: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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