The Winooski Newsletter

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

APRIL 2023





Letter from the Mayor

Hello, neighbors. First, let me thank you for another amazing Town Meeting Day election! Many thanks to our City Clerk's Office, election workers, and volunteers for your great work to ensure success during this beloved Vermont tradition. To summarize, both City and School budgets passed as well as the voter-proposed charter change for Just Cause Eviction (more on this below). We bid Deputy Mayor Jim Duncan a fond farewell, congratulated Councilor Bryn Oakleaf on her re-election, welcomed newly elected Councilor Charles Judge, and appointed Councilor Thomas Renner to Deputy Mayor. Please join me in thanking this

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amazing group of people for their dedicated and excellent service!

For the rest of my April update, I would like to focus on housing in Winooski.

During the Town Meeting Day election, the voterproposed charter change language for 'Just Cause Eviction' was approved by Winooski voters. If you are new to this initiative, the process

may allow the City Council to create a new law that protects renters from eviction without 'just cause'. This language will now advance to the State Legislature and Governor for consideration (much like our All-Resident Voting charter change). They could approve the language as is, change it, or choose not to take it up at all. If it does come back to the City Council, we will have more work to do with opportunities for community input and public hearings. For full details, please visit winooskivt.gov/justcause.

Last year, the City and School hired a consultant to complete a joint equity audit. The results of this audit outlined housing as a top priority and I want to mention a few points of progress:

Our Public Safety team and Housing Commission are working through proposed improvement updates to our housing quality ordinances. The commission will advance recommendations to the City Council for public hearings before any changes are adopted and we encouraged community members to get engaged in this process.

We have created a new Housing Initiative Director position and are actively looking to hire someone. This position will focus on policy-level work related to housing access, affordability, and quality. My monthly meetings with local housing and service providers and staff at the Winooski School District continue to be successful in addressing challenges in the community and building collaboration between partners. This group was formed in response to the 300 Main Street indecent last year.

We have provided testimony to legislative committees considering changes at the State level to address the housing crisis.

Even with this progress, I know things remain difficult. It has been a tough year for displacement in Winooski. House fires and other circumstances have put our neighbors in the unfortunate situation of having to move. Vacancy is very low, and rent continues to increase - market demand is making it easier to charge higher rents or convert long-term housing to short-term opportunities for a higher profit margin, and on top of inflation, there are many challenges to overcome. I encourage any property owner in Winooski to see if they can find ways to help and solve these issues.

We have several housing resources available at winooskivt.gov/housing. One worth mentioning is the Vermont Tenants Hotline, which provides renters with answers, information about your rights, and connections to services. Interpreters provided as needed - calls are free and confidential: 802-864-0099. The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) also has helpful resources on their website, including training, videos, workshops, and more: cvoeo.org/get-help.

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

—Mayor Kristine Lott klott@winooskivt.gov 802-766-1988

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

School Board Update

By Steven Berbeco, Board of School Trustees

Neighbors, thank you for your strong vote of support for our school budget! The board worked closely with our superintendent, administrators, and community member "budget buddies" to develop a budget that meets the needs of our students, while keeping costs as low as possible for our community.

Strong schools need strong community support. As board members, we are grateful for the support of all the residents who voted on Town Meeting Day! I am especially grateful that our community values the high-quality education that all children in Winooski have a right to, and that is so important to our continued growth and success as a city.

With the approval of this budget, the board, administration, teachers, and staff will continue to do our utmost to ensure that all students graduate from our schools college and career ready!

As you may have read in the recent agenda, the Winooski School District re-organized in March. We re-elected President Allison Burlock and Vice-President Kamal Dahal. The board also



welcomed our newest member Robert Millar, who was elected to the position of Clerk. Robert also agreed to join the Capital Project Committee that oversees any major changes as the school renovation wraps up.

Looking forward, we are excited to interview the superintendent finalists in April. We will invite them to Winooski to meet our students and staff, as well as to get to know our city first-hand. This national search is an important step in continuing the great work of our current superintendent while also keeping an eye to the benefits that a fresh perspective can bring.

The month of April can play tricks on us in Vermont, with winter sometimes lingering and at other times an early spring coming as a pleasant surprise. Whatever the weather, I hope that you are well and enjoying all that our city can offer.

Wellness Day 2023

The 9th Annual WSD Staff Wellness Day took place on Tuesday, March 7th, offering WSD staff an opportunity to reset, have fun, and work on their wellness practices. Wellness Day is a unique opportunity that WSD offers staff as a greater effort to promote health and wellness for all. WSD Wellness Coordinator, Patrice Lumumba, organized the day with a schedule that offered a wide range of activities including yoga, dog agility, badminton, and so much more. On top of allowing staff the opportunity to put wellness into practice, this day also resulted in much-needed staff bonding time. WSD Staff Wellness Day is a tradition that we are proud of at WSD and one we plan to continue for years to come.

WHS students offered a session on African Dance, emphasizing the benefits that come from dancing

such as increased balance, strength, and coordination.
Staff learned all about Needle Felting, a fun and stress-

relieving craft. Check out these creative projects!

A session on Vegetarian Cooking offered alternatives to









cooking with Beyond Meat and Impossible products.

The annual cribbage tournament included a bracket of newcomers and veterans, which posed the question, is the key to winning luck or skill?

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

Antiracism Work Update

By Christie Beveridge Howell, UP for Learning

The Antiracism Steering Committee (ARSC) met at Winooski School on Monday, March 13th from 5-7pm. They celebrated that Action Team Two, Hiring and Retaining Faculty of Color, has two new team leads, WSD Director of Human Resources Sarah Haven, and 9th grade student Natalie Dzessou! They heard updates from the six Action Teams, and then broke into two subcommittees to work on communications and planning for their celebratory event at the Winooski Farmers Market in early June. Stay tuned for more information!

If you are interested in joining any of the Demand Action teams, particularly Action Team Two, please contact christie@upforlearning. org. You can also visit the Equity & Antiracism at Winooski website at bit.

ly/WSDEquity to learn more about the steering committee and the teams' work.

The following are updates from the Demand Action teams:

- 1. Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) will be visiting Winooski during the first or second week of May. The team has been thinking of ways to prepare the community for RJOY's visit. They are planning an event that will happen in April. They also plan to share with students through advisory. They created a more accessible statement to explain the work of their group: "Instead of thinking that revenge is always the answer, we should encourage healing. Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) is going to be holding a space for those who may have experienced discrimination. This space will be confidential, so your information will not be shared unless given permission. Your stories are important to prevent harm from happening again."
- **2. Hiring and Retaining Teachers of Color:** WSD Director of Human Resources Sarah Haven and 9th grader Natalie Dzessou are taking over as co-leads. Please let us know if you are interested in joining this team, and we will connect you with them!
- **3. Ethnic Studies:** The team has not yet held their March meeting, but they are planning on providing structured opportunities for community members to assess elements of the school's curriculum, and whether or not they meet the standards provided by the Washington State Ethnic Studies framework.



- **4. Equity Review:** The team continues to identify highlights from the WSD equity audit and is beginning to think about follow-up questions they have from the audit. It is clear there are already some items that have seen action (buses, for example!) and they will continue to think about ways to make the audit more student-friendly.
- **5. Civil Rights Workshops:** The team has not yet held their March meeting, but they are continuing to look for a local group who would make the Civil Rights workshops more accessible for youth and who can support the school in the long-term. They have potential leads with experts from St. Michael's College and the City Clerk's Office in Winooski.
- **6. Multilingual Learner Mentorship:** The team has encountered two roadblocks: securing funding for the Program Coordinator position, and approval of the mentorship handbook that they created. Their next step is to connect with area schools that have existing mentor programs, to learn about their successful processes of implementation. They are also planning on meeting with the administration to share youth testimonials of why a Winooski Multilingual Youth-specific program would be the best fit, rather than a program that serves all local youth. If you would like to express your support of the creation of this program, and/or share a testimonial about why mentorship is important to you, please contact Action Team Leader Maeve Poleman at mpoleman@wsdvt.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

Winooski School District Job Fair!

By Sarah Haven, Director of Human Resources

Come find your next career! Please join us at our first job fair in our new building. On-the-spot interviews. Please come with a resume and references. We look forward to meeting you all!



WHEN:

- April 27th from 4-7pm
- April 28th 10 am-1 pm

WHERE:

· Winooski School Main Lobby

Winooski PTO

By Amelie W Thurston

The Winooski PTO is a small but dedicated group of parents working together to support the WSD learning community. We would love some new members to bring some fresh energy and ideas to the group! Your imagination is the limit! Join us!



Visit https://www.wsdvt.org/parents-families/pto/, check out our Facebook page (Winooski PTO), or email us at PTO@wsdvt.org.

Our next meeting is Tuesday April 18th at 6pm in the school cafeteria! Childcare available but please let us know in advance if you plan to utilize it!

Host Families Needed!

This spring, PH International (www.ph-int.org) will bring a group of 12 Burmese students and adults to the United States through a six-week environmental sustainability program called the Myanmar Youth Leadership Program (MYLP).

PH International is currently seeking host families for the Vermont-based portion of this program. The tentative hosting dates would be from the evening of May 8, 2023 through the morning of May 28, 2023. The hosting commitment can be for part of this 3-week time or for the whole 3 weeks.

All participants will speak English proficiently and be fully COVID vaccinated before arriving in the United States. Please note that it will also be a requirement for host families to be fully vaccinated.

General hosting responsibilities include:

- Provide a bedroom (bedroom can be shared but the participant must have their own bed)
- Minimal transportation to centralized pick-up and drop-off locations on weekdays (participants will be in program from around 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday, so hosting times are mainly evenings and weekends)
- Provide breakfast and dinner on weekdays
- Allow host student to participate in your family's evening and weekend activities.

If you are interested in hosting or have any questions please reach out to tracy.guion@ph-int.org or call 802-496-4545.

Remembering Marion Kennedy

The JFK Elementary community lost a very important person in February of 2023 with the passing of Foster Grandparent, Marion Kennedy. Nana, as the students knew her, volunteered for thousands of hours over the past six years with Nancy Johnson's first-grade class, providing invaluable support to both students and her partner teacher.

Amongst Nana's many roles, she frequently worked one on one with students who needed extra assistance to improve their reading, writing, spelling, and counting skills. She was also a huge asset to our multilingual learners, particularly those newest to our community, whom she welcomed with open arms. On top of her work



with students, Nana supported her partner teacher in prep work, including sharpening pencils and organizing supplies.

Nana was involved in education throughout her life. She loved her dogs and lived an active lifestyle. Nana will be missed at JFK Elementary and beyond. She made an impact on the lives of hundreds of children throughout her time volunteering as a Foster Grandparent.

The Foster Grandparent program is run by United Way of Northwest Vermont to allow adults aged 55 and older to earn supplemental income and remain engaged in the community by volunteering in schools.

For more information and to get involved, contact program director Trezanra Robertson at trezanra@ unitedwaynwyt.org or 802-309-4777.

News from JFK Elementary

By Sara Raabe, Principal

JFK Family School Climate Survey

This year we are asking families to help provide input regarding our Layer 1 behavior support systems in our school. We are using what is called the School Climate Survey, or the SCS, to do this.

The School Climate Survey for Families is a Feedback and Input Survey where families help school teams learn about the experiences family members have with the behavior support systems surrounding their students. Families can share their experiences in their experiences in their experiences.



share their experiences in their own words. School teams will use the results to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and sustainability of their Layer 1 PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) systems. The survey is 19 yes/no and 11 open-ended questions which should take about 10 minutes to complete. All responses are completely anonymous. We have no way to connect you to your answers, and results will only be reported as group responses. There are no right or wrong answers. We want to know about your personal experiences.

This survey will be open from March 6, 2023, to April 22, 2023. Scan the QR code above to take the Family School Climate Survey. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Big Change RoundUp

Since 2016, JFK Elementary has participated in WOKO's Big Change Roundup. The Big Change Roundup is the largest fundraiser for the UVM Children's Hospital. The money goes directly to the Children's Hospital and helps to provide thousands of children and families with the highest quality, child-friendly, family-centered care available in Vermont and northern New York.

Each year we have a contest, and the adult(s) that raises the most money wins! Our first two years were hair-dying contests, and Courtney Bryan won both years. In 2018, Andy Schlatter won and got to be a T-Rex for the day. In 2019, Coach B won and spent the day as a unicorn. In 2020, Nurse Liz worked really hard to win and dress up as a tutu-wearing hippo for the day. We were not able to participate in the Big Change Roundup because of the pandemic in 2021. Last year the Super 7 (Savanna



Bechard, Amanda Babcock, Peter Lindholm, Sarah Murphy, Manny Robertson, Cheyne Racine, and Grace Holcomb) won and dressed up like SuperHeros (see photo)!

Last year was our first year doing teams, and it was so much fun we are doing teams again this year! This year our teams are:

- Elephant and Piggy Matt Gile and Cathy Burbo
- **Tacos** Kristin Van Fossen, Carlos Spigel, Nayeon Maas, Caitlyn Batche, Daviah Lawrence, Niky Falques, Kiera Manion-Fischer, Laura Niedecker
- Adams Family Jess Smith, Erin Hurley, Casey hogan, Stephanie Beland, Angela Moulton, Katie Letourneau, Andy Schlatter
- The Cool Ranch (Farmer and animals) Kari Bohlen, Monique Hanson, Siobhan Crosier, Tiffany Demore, Jody Taparauskas, Lisa Goodrich, Mary Carleton, Bev Couture, Elizabeth Wood, Rebecca Viens
- **Sesame Street** Savanna Bechard, Amanda Babcock, Peter Lindholm, Grace Holcomb, Sarah Murphy, Jess Cohn, Adriana Roehmholdt, Cheyne Racine
- Mike And Sully (Monsters Inc) Kendra Spector and Jesse Halverson
- Baby Shark Libby Lane, Meghan Dieterle, Pirawan Ratanapratum, Patrick Cafferky, Keegan Bliss, Maddy DeVeuve

Starting Monday, March 13th, each team has had a bucket in the JFK office. Students are voting by putting their change into the bucket of the team that they want to win. The team that raises the most money by April 19th wins and gets to wear their costume to school on April 21st.

Each year the Big Change Roundup is incredibly fun, and we support a fantastic community resource!



Spartan Champions Again!

By Jean Berthiaume & Kate Grodin, WMHS Co-Principals

The Winooski High School boys basketball team accomplished perfection and redemption to cap a season-long mission on Saturday.

In a rematch of last year's final, top-seeded Winooski won against No. 2 seeded Hazen for a 57-52 victory in the Division III championship at Barre Auditorium, seizing the program's first state crown in 12 years!

The varsity boys Spartans (22-0), who won their 12th overall title and completed their first undefeated season. Congratulations to our varsity boys basketball team and our incredible Spartan spirit! We are so proud of our student athletes: Trevon Bradley, Xavier Perez, Hassan Hassan, Daniel Surma, Sam Freiji, Ayden Johnson, George Rogers, Kellen Bourgeois, Hussien Abdulaziz, Sam Parris, Nick Ferdinand. Our community is also proud of the hard

work of our head varsity coach & athletic director, Sam Jackson, head JV coach Josh Safran, and volunteer assistant coaches, Abudullahi Sadik and Tim Ely!

This makes the second championship for Winooski High School this year. We are looking forward to engaging the Winooski community in a celebration of both our varsity boys basketball and soccer teams with a parade sometime in April. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

Here at Winooski, our athletes are students. On the court or on the field, we refer to them as student-athletes. Sport is an engaging opportunity for our students to learn about themselves, develop their skills, be part of a community, and know the power of being part of a team.

Congratulations Winooski! Go Spartans!









Winooski Wild Onions — Jr. Iron Chef Winners!!

By Suzanne Skaflestad, 21C Director

CONGRATULATIONS to the Winooski Wild Onions for

winning the **Crowd Pleaser Award** in the Jr. Iron

Chef competition held on Saturday, March 11th.

This award goes to the team that best incorporates color, texture, and taste for a true crowd pleaser! Their recipe was Vegetarian Dumplings.



Way to go Kamiya

Coleman, Ankita Dhungana, Aili Olson and Anisha Tamang!!

A special shout to Adam Raftery, Waterworks Restaurant and Camilla Thomassen-Tai, WMS teacher for helping our students prepare for the competition.

Personal Finance: Setting an Example in Vermont and Beyond

By Gabby Hora, WSD Director of Communications

The Winooski High School (WHS) Personal Finance Class has been all over the news lately, setting an example for school districts across the state, the nation, and the world. This class, taught by 17-year WHS veteran teacher, Courtney Poquette, is unique in many ways, perhaps the most obvious is the class's standing as a graduation requirement for WHS students.

When Courtney was first hired as a business teacher at WHS, the school principal tasked her with determining what she wanted to teach. What she soon noticed was a major lack of education surrounding personal finance. Students were

learning all kinds of great things about the world of business, but nothing about how to manage their own finances. Thus her journey began.

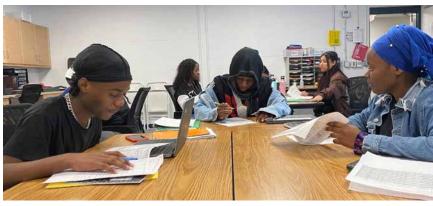
Courtney spent the next several years learning about learning the ins and outs of personal finance. She polished her course, advocated with local and federal lawmakers, and even helped educate other teachers on providing

financial literacy instruction. In 2018 she was part of a committee that led to the Agency of Education adopting national financial literacy standards for grades K-12.

Courtney's personal-professional work on the topic mirrored much of what was happening at WHS. After many years of offering Personal Finance as an elective at WHS, the Class of 2021 became the inaugural class to require a Personal Finance Class for graduation. Today the WHS Personal Finance Class models the Winooski School District End Statement, preparing students to live healthy, productive, and successful lives. The class is a semester-long and is typically taken by 10th-12th grade students. Topics throughout the semester include applying for jobs, filing taxes, investing, saving, buying a car, and so much more.

Students in the WHS Personal Finance class never ask "why am I learning this?" because the real-world application is crystal clear. Oftentimes, students even pass the information on to their parents, many of whom never had the opportunity to take a personal finance class for themselves.

The current semester's class has already covered a variety of topics including careers, education after high school, and taxes. Now they are diving into lessons on how banks work and different kinds of bank accounts. Students have reported that they are now keeping a better eye on their finances and working





harder to protect what they have.

"I've learned a lot in this class since the beginning. I have learned to try to buy things that are less expensive in order to save more money." -Winner Mampuya

"Personal Finance is something that can be used in all stages of life and it's good to know how to use my money

properly." - Theo Abbott-Smith

"I learned a lot of things from Personal Finance like how to fill out tax forms and how to budget. We also learned about paying for college and applying for grants and scholarships" -Nick Ferdinand

While WHS has made financial literacy a priority for our students, in the state of Vermont, only about 25% of high schools currently require a financial literacy course for graduation and in the nation, just 17 states guarantee their students the ability to take a semester long class on financial literacy. Things are looking up though, and changing faster than ever before. In the first 2 months of 2023, more bills were introduced in regard to financial literacy than in the entire year of 2022.

Throughout the past few years, Winooski has been looked at as an example of what financial literacy can look like in high school curriculum. Several current and former students have shared their stories as they relate to the WHS Personal Finance class with various news reporters and legislators. They are vocal about how taking this class has set them up for future success. These students, alongside WHS staff, including Courtney Poquette, will continue to advocate and share their stories, with the hope that someday financial literacy classes will be offered to all students in Vermont and beyond.

SCHOOL MATTERS — K TO 12

Surrealist Self-Portraits

By Emily Jacobs, WMS Visual Arts Teacher

Our Spring Semester 7th and 8th graders recently completed their surrealist self-portraits, full of fantastical elements that represent parts of their identities. Enjoy this small collection, and look for another batch of portraits in next month's newsletter!



Gabby, grade 7



Iggy, grade 7, Beach Night



Olivia, grade 8, Space Out



Sam, grade 7, The B Flash



Taliah, grade 8



Walden, grade 7, Space Me



Yozna, grade 7, Spring Falls



Ausbin, grade 7, Myself

Winooski Students Head to Broadway

By Courtney Poquette, WMHS Business Teacher

Thirty Winooski High School students have the unique opportunity to travel to New York City to watch Hamilton on Broadway this April. Students spent time learning about Hamilton and the Founding Era after school and now they are able to attend the Broadway show! In addition to the show, they have the opportunity to spend the day learning alongside the actors and actresses.

In order to make this trip a reality, we will have ONE fundraiser to raise the remaining funds we need for food, transportation, tickets and lodging. We are so appreciative that so many businesses in the community donated AMAZING prizes to our raffle. We hope you will consider supporting our students, by purchasing tickets and entering to win some great prizes! ALL of the money earned will go directly to our trip. To purchase tickets, please email or call teacher Courtney Poquette at cpoquette@wsdvt.org or 802-655-3530. Thank you so much for your support and stay tuned for photos from our adventure!

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100% of the proceeds will go towards the trip expense. Thank you to our business community for the incredible support				
EVEN MORE PRIZES ON THE OTHER SIDE!				

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DRAWING APRIL 12th AT 11AM TICKETS \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00 You stated your prize(d) Winners will be notified by phose. Complete list of winners will be seen to provided email delinears. Thesis yes for pure support!			donations from	ou for generous Winouski PTO imiumity Bank

April Health Office News

By Kelly Marcus, RN

The school nurse is a crucial member of the team that participates in the prevention of bullying in schools and we play an important role in preventing school bullying and identifying students who are bullied, bully others, or both. Our role provides a direction to support student health and academic success by contributing to a healthy and safe school environment poised to prevent and mitigate bullying and cyberbullying.

Bullying includes in person and cyberbullying, which uses technology to share aggressive messages on social media. Social media can include but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat.

For both the student who bullies and the student who is bullied, bullying can have serious and long term consequences including increased absences, behavior issues, low self -esteem, sleep deprivation, anxiety and self harm. Bullied students are also at risk for physical symptoms including stomach pain, headaches, fatigue and decreased appetite.

Our Health office has created a safe and supportive school environment where students can verbalize concerns about health issues including bullying. We then collaborate with other school based professionals to advocate for intervention to help the student and family.

(National Association of School Nurses.(2018) Bullying and cyberbullying-prevention in schools)

Junk Drawer Engineering in partnership with 4-H

By Suzanne Skaflestad, 21C Afterschool Director

Students in the Junk Drawer Engineering program have been busy making roller coasters (out of paper!) and wigglebots (motorized "robots" made with items found in your recycling bin).

Students have used their creativity, curiosity and the engineering design-build process to turn their unique visions into working models. Check out what the students have made so far!







Here is what they enjoy about this afterschool program:

"I like making new things and building, being myself through engineering" (Jalena, 5th grader)

"I am having fun building a cement flattener" (Liem 4th grader)

"I enjoy making stuff" (Lee, 3rd grader)

"This class is very fun. I love being creative and building, and I get to do that in this class." (Cameron, 5th grader)

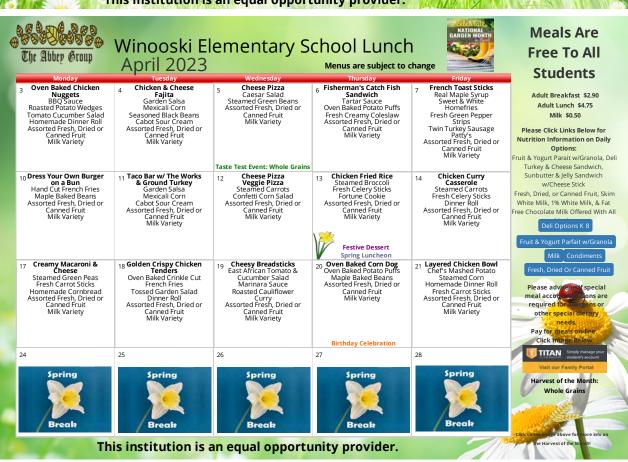
"I like that you get to use different materials to make different things." (Zachary, 3rd grader)

We want to thank Margaret
Coan, 4-H Educator, for
sharing her passion and expertise with our students.











From Your Local Representatives

By Representative Taylor Small

We have reached the half-way point of this legislative session and still have a lot of work ahead of us. With the Covid recovery funds coming to an end, we need to find creative ways to address the challenges we face and fund our programs in a sustainable way. Some of our top priorities include passing a fiscally responsible budget that supports Vermonters in all 14 counties, tackling the interconnected challenges of housing, workforce, and child care, and enacting inclusive strategies to combat climate change and prepare for severe weather patterns.

In all of this work, we are committed to centering equity and thinking deeply about the future of our state so that we can enact legislation that protects the most vulnerable, boosts vitality for all of our municipalities, and leaves no Vermonter behind. The House has already approved the budget adjustment bill, H.145, which is a mid-year true-up of the current budget. This bill includes additional investments in housing and supportive services, broadband that leverages federal grant funds, and IT improvements.

We are now working on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. We have seen substantial revenue growth this year, largely due to the impact of federal pandemic stimulus and recovery dollars. Our challenge is to make strategic use of one-time funds to meet state priorities. We plan to leverage federal funds to support improvements in roads, bridges, and other infrastructure needs under Congress' Infrastructure Investment and Jobs

Act. We will also invest in housing, broadband expansion, workforce training, clean energy, and childcare.

In addition to our budget work, the Family Medical Leave Insurance Bill, H.66, has passed out of the General & Housing Committee. This legislation would provide wage replacement for Vermonters that need to take off from work for family and medical reasons such as illness, the birth of a child, or to care for a family member with a serious health condition. Importantly, the bill also extends the definition of "family" to be far more robust and contemporary. The definition now includes individuals with whom a person's everyday life is closely bound: "any other individual with whom the employee has a significant personal bond that is or is like a family relationship, regardless of biological or legal relationship under the totality of the circumstances surrounding the relationship." Under the bill, employers and employees would share the insurance premium costs to provide paid leave benefits equally through small payroll contributions, ensuring a valuable benefit at a low predictable cost to employers.

As we know, the lack of affordable, high-quality early childhood education profoundly impacts Vermont and its economy. The Senate has begun work on S.56, an act relating to child care and early childhood education which would increase state-funded financial assistance for children in child care, expand the current funding for part-time pre-K to a full-time program for all 4-year-olds in Vermont, increase compensation for early childhood educators, and provide financial support for community and home-based child care programs by reimbursing centers for enrollment and streamlining state-level oversight of early childhood education.

We are also working to create affordable housing for Vermont's families by modernizing zoning laws and increasing funding for construction. This work has already begun in the Senate, S.100, and

in its current form this legislation would drastically expand housing development across the state. As these bills move between the two chambers, we will keep you updated on their progress.



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 winooskivt. gov/about.

Economic Vitality:

During their meeting in March, the Winooski Finance Commission reviewed the Economic Vitality goals of the City's Master Plan. The commission considered many important questions outlined in a memo provided by the Finance Director, such as: Are current efforts supporting multiple goals? What priorities should the City be focused on achieving in the next five years? Are we able to make policy advisory decisions moving towards our master plan and community vision? To view the minutes from the meeting, visit winooskivt.gov/agendacenter.

Municipal infrastructure:

The Vermont Department of Transportation has begun sending out weekly updates regarding the Exit 16 Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) project. If you are not yet familiar, this project aims to improve traffic and pedestrian conditions near the Exit 16 area of Colchester by building Vermont's first DDI. To learn more and sign up for the weekly construction and traffic impact updates, visit exit16ddi.vtransprojects. vermont.gov.

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Housing:

During their meeting in February, the Winooski Housing Commission were presented with a special webinar titled "Unpacking the Equity Challenges of Housing Code Enforcement". This educational opportunity offered strategies that local governments can use to center tenants' health and move toward more equitable enforcement practices. The commission will continue the review process to propose changes to the housing chapter of our municipal code.

Safe, Healthy, Connected People:

Last month, the Safe, Healthy,
Connected People Commission met to
review the goals of the City's Master Plan,
discuss the Equity Audit, and review
a Community Services Department
program needs/interest survey. The
Inclusion and Belonging Commission
also met to review the City Council's
draft of an Equity Assessment Worksheet.
Community members are encouraged to
attend these commission meetings, ask
questions, and provide input on these
matters!



COVID-19 Information

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

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*.

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

Adjusted Hours

Due to current staffing availability, the open hours of the Winooski City Clerk's Office have been temporarily changed. To see the most up to date hours, please visit winooskivt.gov/clerk.

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
- On April 2nd, there will be additional late fees!



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 *winooskivt.gov/reappraisal*



Having a Dog in Winooski

Winooski is a great community to share with canine companions! Whether at home or out and about, our four-legged neighbors require a special level of care and attention. Here are some helpful things to know about having a dog in Winooski:

Licensing

All dogs owned in the City of Winooski must be registered with the City Clerk before April 1st of each year pursuant to state law. In order to register your dog, you must have a copy of the current Rabies Certificate. To get started, please call the Winooski City Clerk's Office at 802-655- 6410 or email clerk@ winooskivt.gov.

Dogs must be licensed every year. Licensing provides the City with a method of ensuring that dogs are properly vaccinated against rabies. Additionally, dog owners receive great value from a license in that authorities make every effort to return lost dogs to their owners when the dog is wearing a current tag. Other dogs that are not licensed are transported to an animal shelter where impounding and boarding fees are charged.

Cost: On or before April 1: \$14 (altered) / \$18 (un-altered) (after April 1 a late fee will be applied)

Leash Laws

The City of Winooski has leash laws! While you may have a well-behaved animal, leash laws protect you, your dog, your neighbors, and your neighbor's dogs from unwanted interactions and/ or an unexpected attack. Leashing your dog is also respectful to your neighbor's personal preferences and cultural differences – remember, not everyone is comfortable around animals. We recommend that residents and visitors familiarize themselves with our leash laws - please visit winooskivt.gov to view section 3.12 of our Municipal Code - "Leashes and collars required; dogs running at large".

West Allen Street Dog Park

The West Allen Street Park encompasses 1.3 acres of green space and includes a family-friendly playground and dog park perfect for your pets. Conveniently located on West Allen Street, this park is just around the O'Brien Community Center and central to a residential area. Please note – the fenced-in area is the only off-leash area of this dog park.

Cleaning up After Your Dog

We know it's not the most fun part of owning a dog, but it's required that you clean up after it in Winooski. We recommend always keeping dog waste bags on-hand. We also offer them in most of our public parks. In addition to protecting your neighbor's shoes, cleaning up after your dog prevents waste from getting into our waterways and keeps the environment clean.

Animal Control Warden

If you need to report an animal-related incident, please contact the Winooski Police Department Animal Control Warden: Stephanie.Gingras@colchesterpdvt.org / 802-655- 0221

Community Services Updates



Recreation and Parks

Sign up for our programs at winooskivt.gov/recprograms

YOUTH PROGRAMS Cartooning and Comic Book Club

 Ages 7-12 / Mondays / March 13 -April 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.

Very Merry Theatre

 Grades K-6 / Wednesdays / March 8-April 19 / 3-4:30pm @ WSD Performing Arts Center

Interested in exploring your talents and learning more about theatre arts and stage performance? Join Winooski Rec & Parks in collaboration with Very Merry Theatre for this 7-week performing arts program!

April Break Camp - Superhero Science

 Grades K-5 / Weekdays / April 24–April 28 / 9am–3pm @ O'Brien Community Center

Winooski Recreation and Parks has partnered with Wicked Cool for Kids to provide an amazing week of engaging activities, fun games, and hands-on experiences during April break from school!

Vermont Patriots Futsal League

 U10-U12 / Fridays / March 10-April 14 / 4-9pm @ Champlain Valley Exposition

Join us in partnership with Vermont Patriots and volunteer coaches in this indoor soccer-like sport played with five on a side on a smaller court!

Drop-in Indoor Soccer

 U8-U12 / Sundays / March 5-April 23 / 9am-12pm @ Winooski School District

Join Winooski Rec staff and volunteer coaches in collaboration with Vermont Patriots for this indoor soccer program! This is a drop-in, pick-up program and registration is not necessary.

Vermont Patriots Soccer

 U6-U12 / Monday-Sunday / May 1– June 11 / 5–7:30pm @ Landry Park Join Winooski Rec staff and volunteer coaches in collaboration with Vermont Patriots for this outdoor soccer program!

Get Air Trampoline Park Outing

 Grades K-5 / Thursday / April 20 / 12:15–2:30pm @ Get Air Trampoline Park

Are you interested in playing games with friends and jumping at an indoor trampoline park? Get Air offers different activities and games including basketball, dodgeball, slamball, ninja activities, an obstacle course, and an open trampoline area!

Wheel Throwing Pottery Workshop at BCA Studios

 Ages 8-13 / Friday / May 5 / 3-5:15pm @ Burlington City Arts Studios

Interested in working on your wheel

throwing skills and creating a custom piece of pottery? Join Winooski Rec and BCA staff in this workshop! Your instructors will lead you in a wheel throwing demo and then assist your group on the wheel to create a pottery piece that will be fired and glazed.

TEEN JOB TRAINING Lifeguard Training

 Grades 9-12 / Wednesdays / February 15-May 17 / 3-5:30pm @ YMCA
 Join us in collaboration with the

Join us in collaboration with the Greater Burlington YMCA for this amazing teen job training/certification opportunity! This is a three series program which includes several weeks of swim lessons, 15 hours of online coursework, and 10 weeks of in-person lifeguard training.

Soccer Referee Certification

 Grades 9-12 / Tuesdays / March 14-April 4 / 3-5:15pm @ 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 us in this 4 week First-Time Grassroots Referee Certification.

Safe Sitter Certification

 Grades 9-12 / Tuesdays / March 14-April 18 / 3-4:30pm @ Winooski School District

Are you a teen interested in gaining 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.

Generator

• Grades 9-12 / Fridays / April 7–May 26 / 3–5:15pm @ Generator

Are you a teen looking to learn a new hands-on skill? Join Rec & Parks in collaboration with Generator Makerspace to explore different types of tools and workshops including wood shop, metal shop, jewelry studio, laser cutting, 3-D printing, electronics lab, and more!

ADULT PROGRAMS Pickleball Court Rentals

 Ages 18+ / Wednesdays / throughout the spring / 5–6pm @ O'Brien Community Center Gym

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 by registering online!

Pickleball Tournament

• All ages / Saturday / April 8 / 9am—2pm @ Winooski School District
Join us in the Winooski School District
gyms for a battle of the pickleballers! We
are welcoming community members to
compete in pairs to decide once and for
all who plays the best pickleball here in
Winooski.

Vinyasa Flow yoga with Sarah Sears

Ages 18+ / Wednesdays / February
 22-April 12 / 8:30-9:30am @ O'Brien
 Community Center Studio

Looking to slow down, engage in lowimpact exercise, and practice living in the present moment? Join yoga practitioner Sarah Sears of Yoga Vermont in an 8-week Vinyasa Flow program!



Thrive After School winooskivt.gov/thrive

ethrivewinooski

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.



Winooski Memorial Library winooskivt.gov/library



🚮 📵 @winooskilibrarv

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, April 1, 8, 15, & 22 from 12:00-2:00pm 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 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, April 15 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 April will be photography! Learn the ins and outs of your camera and how to capture that

perfect picture!

- Friday, April 1 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! This month will also include resources and info from CarShare VT and Efficiency Vermont!

- Wednesday, April 5 from 3:30-5:30pm @ the O'Brien Community Center
- Please bring your own reusable grocery bags
- Seasonal item availability on a firstserved 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 Friend's 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 / 802-655-6424.

Library of Things

We've added a number of new outdoor items to our Library of Things collection including snowshoes, walking poles, headlamps, hiking backpacks, and tents! 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; 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 10:00 - 11:00am 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 mathbased 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 Poetry Project

Join us throughout April as we celebrate National Poetry Month and kickoff the 3rd annual Winooski Poetry Project, a participatory program that invites community members to leave us their best word, sentence, verse, feeling, or observation using our roving typewriter. Look for us throughout the month "popping up" at various locations across the city: at your favorite bar or restaurant, at the WSD, in one of our parks, and of course, at the library! We're looking for any and all work - leave us a haiku about what you love most about Winooski, craft a springtime rhyme, share the sound of the river, or type out whatever inspiration might strike! We'll showcase community works in the window of the library and share on social media and other places, too.

• April 1st-April 30th

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 / 802-655-6424.

Youth Graphic Novel Group

Winooski youth are invited to join a monthly drop-in graphic novel group at the Winooski Memorial Library! Stop by or call the library to reserve a copy for discussion!

- Friday, April 21 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 for more information or to sign up for email updates on this program.



Winooski Senior Center

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! Stav connected with us: call: 802-655-6425 - voice mail 24/7. Email us at: seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov

Please note, our programming schedule will be changing in May. We'll have more meals, events and open hours. Check our website for updates!

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS Breakfast Café 9 to 11am

Everyone is welcome to drop in and join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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. No Cafe on 4/25 or 4/27.

WEDNESDAYS

Grab-N-Go Meals for Seniors - pick up 10am - 12pm

In partnership with Age Well, we offer Older Vermonters (60+) a nutritious take out meal every Wednesday. We want 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! Reservations must be made by Noon the Thursday before the scheduled Wednesday meal. Please call us at 802-655-6425 or email us at seniorcenter@ winooskivt.gov for the weekly menu and to register for this program. \$5 suggested donation to Age Well. No Meal on 4/26.

THURSDAYS

Fun & Games - 9am-12pm

We've got a room full of great games! Ping Pong, Wii sports games, cards, board games and Foosball! FREE! No Program on 4/27.

Special programs at the Senior Center

National Scrabble Day Breakfast

Thursday 4/13, serving 9–11am. Join us for a fun-filled morning as we celebrate National Scrabble Day with a special themed breakfast. RSVP by noon on 4/6. By Donation.

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!



MEALS ON WHEELS

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.

SUMMER IS COMING!

Senior Swim at the Myers Memorial Pool

Seniors - be sure to join us for Senior Swim at the Myers Memorial Pool this summer! Open to Winooski seniors ages 55+ from June - August, Fridays from 11:30am-12:30pm. Cool off, get some exercise, and be with friends and neighbors this summer. Visit winooskivt.gov/pool for info.







Rediscover Winooski's Small Business Community

By Meredith Bay-Tyack, Executive Director, Downtown Winooski

Now accepting Winooski Farmers Market vendor applications

Every Sunday starting May 28, the Winooski Farmers Market will be set up on Winooski Falls Way between 10am and 2pm. Plan your trip - grab brunch



or lunch nearby, meander through the market and then enjoy a walk at the riverfront. Every year we get excellent feedback from vendors and visitors to our small but mighty market. We welcome EBT users to receive dollars and matching Crop Cash to spend at the market!

The market features fresh local produce, unique goods and free entertainment from local musicians. We are still accepting applications for vendors on a case-by-case basis, please fill out the vendor application: <code>downtownwinooski.org/winooski-farmers-market/</code>

Now accepting non-profits and local organizations to sign up for the Winooski Farmers Market

Every week we reserve a free vendor space for a local cause or nonprofit organization. If you are interested in reserving a spot, please reach out to <code>farmersmarket@downtownwinooski.org</code>, dates are filling up fast!

Help make our community events more inclusive and welcoming

Volunteer help is critical to ensure all residents and visitors who attend our summer events in downtown Winooski feel safe and comfortable. Help us welcome people of all ages, abilities, and mobility at these free, communitybuilding events. Please consider



volunteering your time to help with event set up or takedown, acting as a crossing guard, and more. Email info@ downtownwinooski.org to get on the volunteer list!







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. We are also always in need of volunteers too!

- Winooski Farmers
 Market Opens May
 28, 2023!
- Winooski Wednesdays

Concerts & Market
- First Wednesday of each month June September

- Juneteenth Sunday June 18
- French Heritage Day
- Sunday June 25
- Winooski Pride
 (TBC) Saturday
 September 16





News from local businesses

- Congratulations to McKee's Pub & Grill new owners Ryan Johnston and Jamie Lacourse, who bought the bar at 19 East Allen Street from Lance McKee. www.mckeespubsvt.com/ Winooski/
- Onion City Chicken and Oyster expands offerings and hours, get the details at https:// www.mlcvt.com/#occo
- Morning Light
 Bakery reopens after

owner's trip to Hong Kong concludes. Welcome back! Order online: https://www.morning-light-vt.com/



Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Executive Director Kate Nugent and Youth & Data Coordinator, Heather Win

Upcoming Events!

 April 13 is the next WPP community dinner with Chef Alganesh Michael, in case you missed the last one, here's your chance to experience her award-winning cuisine.

Your Input Needed

- The Winooski Partnership for Prevention wants to better understand the opinions and perceptions of parents and guardians about substances like tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis/marijuana. Parents/Caregivers with students in grades 5-12 in Winooski can access this important, anonymous survey beginning on April 8th on our website: www.winooskiprevention.org/winooskipartnership-prevention. For interpretation services, please contact WSD ML Liaisons. As a thank you for participating, a gift card for \$30 is available for the first 20 parents/guardians with 5th-12th grade students who complete all questions April 8-15. One survey participant per household, please.
- If you are interested in participating in a 1.5-hour **discussion focus group** about substance behaviors and perceptions in Winooski, you may register on our website beginning after April 8. Interpretation services will be available. All participant volunteers who are selected to help us best learn a wide variety of perspectives from the Winooski community will receive \$50 gift cards as an appreciation for their time.

Updates from Above the Influence

 ATI students recently decorated sugar cookie "brains" to celebrate what they've learned about how their brains are developing, until age 25, and why it's so beneficial to avoid substance use until the legal minimum age of 21.

Resources

What parents and guardians ask their kids to do—even if it doesn't seem like it—really does matter to them. This resource from SAMHSA's Talk They Hear You campaign lays

out five helpful tips and the research behind them to help make it easier: https://www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you/parent-resources/why-you-should-talk-your-child

Reyna and Keegan

cortexes!

showing off their brains!

Check out those cerebral

Please also always reach out to the WPP staff if you ever want to talk something through with us, too, or need some help finding the right resource. We're all in this together.

Winooski Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball

By Jeffrey Brosseau

Online registrations 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, will have the option to pay with either a Visa/MasterCard or pay with check and mail to me. Let me know if you have any issues

After March 31st, a 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: http://tshq.bluesombrero.com/winooskibaseball. For more information contact Jeffrey Brosseau at 802-233-5530, Jeffrey.brosseau@aol.com

Free Throw Contest Winners

By Jeffrey Brosseau

Winooski Knights of Columbus Council # 2284 and Saint Francis Xavier CYO Basketball jointly sponsored our annual free throw contest on Saturday, February 25th at the Winooski High School Gym.

Congratulations to all (twenty-eight) local youths who participated in the event! The winners were:

I I				
Age	Boys	Girls		
9	_	Audrey Luck		
10	Cade Barcomb	Gwyneviere Winner		
11	Griffin Luck	Cecelia Zierak		
12	Anthony Jones	Abby English		
13	Brinton Ohler	Paige Barcomb		
14	Justin Pham	_		

Each winner will received a K of C winner's certificate and prize (a Barnes & Noble gift card) prior to our Knights of Columbus Council meeting on Monday March 13th at 6:30pm at St. Francis Xavier School.

Each winner is eligible to participate in the State level free throw competition on Saturday, March 18th at Vergennes Union High School.

Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for April

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

Saturday, April 8th	9:30am to 11:00am	Veggies, deli, bakery, meat, eggs and diapers	
Wednesday, April 12th	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, veggies, eggs, meat and diapers	
Saturday, April 22nd 9:30am to 11:00am		Veggies, deli, bakery, meat, eggs and diapers	
Wednesday, April 26th	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, veggies, eggs, meat and diapers	

Welcome Spring! We are all looking forward to warmer, longer and sunnier days! I am working with farmers to plan crops for our clients. We go through literally tons of veggies! Sadly, our egg supplier is retiring from the egg business and we must find another farm that can provide up to 200 dozen eggs twice a month. Not all egg producers can meet that kind of need here in Winooski.



We are encouraging anyone growing a garden this year to consider adding a row or two of veggies. Popular ones include: tomatoes, cukes, zucchini, African eggplant and green beans. And if you don't grow veggies, we can always use toiletries such as laundry and dish detergent, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and toilet paper. Drop off time is on Tuesdays from 9am to 11am and during food distribution hours.

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*.

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

Food Shelf Volunteers Needed: If you have some free time and would like to do some pickups and deliveries, pack food boxes, set up for food shelves or serve our clients, please reach out to us at our e-mail address: winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com. We especially need help serving clients on Wednesdays.

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Burlington Telecom 17, 217, & 317
YouTube.com/TownMeetingTV

Howard Center News

By Paul Detzer, Development and Communications Engagement Manager

The Marna and Stephen Wise Tulin Spring Community Education Series

Join us Thursday, April 13 from 6:30-8:00 pm for a 25-minute excerpt of the Emmy award-winning HBO documentary "Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops" followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. The documentary is an intimate portrait of two officers from the San Antonio Police Department's Mental Health Unit who are helping to change the way police respond to mental health calls. Panelists include Kristin Chandler, Team Two; Shawn Burke, South Burlington Police Department; and Howard Center staff Tammy

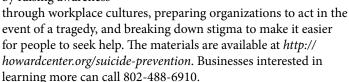


Boudah, Street Outreach; Rachel Lawler, Community Outreach; and Leslie Nelson, START. **This is a free and open to the public virtual Zoom webinar.** Registration is free but required. Learn more and register today at *howardcenter.org*.

Suicide Prevention & Postvention Materials Available for Businesses

Howard Center and the Center for Health and Learning have partnered to address Vermont's high suicide rate, particularly

focusing on postvention in the workplace. The goal is to prevent suicide by raising awareness



First Call for Chittenden County - Crisis Hotline

We serve clients and the community regardless of age or diagnosis. Our trained, professional staff are available 24/7/365, regardless of the type of service. When you call First Call, you can expect phone support, crisis intervention and assessment, referrals to appropriate services, and connection to follow-up care. 802-488-7777.



Please remember that during a medical emergency call 911 immediately.

Access and Intake – Resources and Assistance

When someone calls 802-488-6000, an Access Specialist will provide support, conduct a brief screening, schedule an intake assessment, and provide information about other community resources. In addition, the caller will be paired with an Intake Navigator who will provide interim support and services while on a waitlist or eligibility for services is being determined. Access and Intake operates Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Homesharing is One Part of Solving the State's Housing Shortage

By Ric Cengeri, Communications Specialist

The HomeShare Vermont staff had the wonderful opportunity recently to spend the day at the Vermont State House. We were at "The People's House" to let our legislators know about the work we do and how homesharing fits into their work of battling Vermont's housing crisis.

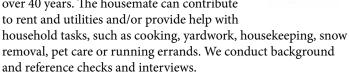
Among the legislators who stopped by to chat with us was Winooski Representative Daisy Berbeco, who took an active interest in learning about what we do.

We were proud to share that in fiscal year 2022, the State of Vermont provided \$123,200 in state funds and \$156,800 in matching federal funds to HomeShare Vermont. Through our work, that investment leveraged the following:

- HomeShare Vermont hosts received over \$270,000 in rental income.
- HomeShare guests provided almost 27,000 hours of assistance to their hosts.
- The average rent was only \$340/month, with 27% of guests

paying no rent at all. Using the difference between market rents and actual homeshare rents, HomeShare guests saved over \$450,000 in rental expenses.

HomeShare Vermont is an organization that has been matching people who have a room in their home with those seeking an affordable place to live for over 40 years. The housemate can contribute to rent and utilities and/or provide help with household tasks, such as cooking, yardwork.



We're available to answer questions about how homesharing can be a benefit to you. Call us to learn more at (802) 863-5625 or visit our website at www.HomeShareVermont.org.





The Winooski Newsletter

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT www.wsdvt.org

Superintendent of Schools

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

John F. Kennedy Elementary School

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

Winooski Middle and High School

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

Board of School Trustees

Steven Berbeco, 858-376-7269, sberbeco@wsdvt.org Allison Burlock, 802-349-7018, aburlock@wsdvt.org Tori Cleiland, President, 802-655-7678, tcleiland@wsdvt.org Kamal Dahal, 802-310-2821, kdahal@wsdvt.org Robert Millar, 802-383-6000, rmillar@wsdvt.org

CITY OF WINOOSKI www.winooskivt.gov, 802-655-6410

Mayor

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

City Manager

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

City Councilors

Aurora Hurd, 802-734-7082, ahurd@winooskivt.gov Charles Judge, 802-655-6410, cjudge@winooskivt.gov Bryn Oakleaf, 802-448-2966, boakleaf@winooskivt.gov Thomas Renner, Deputy Mayor, 802-922-3265, trenner@winooskivt.gov

City Clerk

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

Winooski Police

Emergency: Call 9-1-1

Non-emergency: 802-655-0221

Winooski Fire Department

Emergency: Call 9-1-1

Non-emergency: 802-655-6420





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