

# The Winooski Newsletter

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

JULY 2023



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



All graduation photos by Becky Savage

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## Presenting... The Class of 2023!

*Congratulations to all graduates! We are so proud of you.*

Rowyn Abbott-Smith	Janvier Mufaume
Hussein A. Abdulaziz	Shabani Munyugu
Zainab A. Abdulaziz	Djuma Mwamba
Heidar Talal Fadel Jassim Al Samrai	Emmanuel Omar
Brianna Andersen	Shabani Kakila Omar
Maryan Aweis	Ghamaril Osman
Kellen Paul Bourgeois	Makayla Parrott
Trevon Micah Bradley	Xavier Perez
Logan T. Carter	William George Perrotte
Ahmed Daud	Neerusha Phuyal
Reilly Ferreira-Renold	Ayush Pradhan
Tide O. Gully	George Antonyo Rogers
Anusha Gurung	Dipen Sanyashi
Hassan O. Hassan	Anifa B. Selemani
Carter D. Irish	Kitete Joshua Selemani
Bonne-Idee Kashindi	Zaina Selemani
Arianna LaStrada	Eh Shee
Nuru Mami	Dilly Kali Siki
Yusufu Mami	Daniel K. Surma
Aymard Math Nzimoto	Stacie A. Truong
Jayda Mae Mathews	Jonathan Willard
Mariam Mayange	Mohamed Yusuf
Dahlia Catherine Whitney	Lukas Andrew Zweeres
Maynard	

# 2023 Graduation Scholarships and Awards

Before awarding the Graduation Scholarships and Awards, it is important for us to recognize the recipient of the **UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**

**GREEN AND GOLD** scholarship, this years recipient is **Neerusha Phuyal**



*Neerusha Phuyal*

Also, we would like to acknowledge two seniors who received scholarships from their Tech programs. **Makayla Parrott** received the Instructors Scholarship for Professional Foods and **William Perrotte** received The Professionalism Award for Professional Food 2. Congratulations!

**THE KYLE TIPSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - The Kyle Tipson Memorial Scholarship is given in memory of Kyle, a graduate and lifelong member of the Winooski Community. It is given to 2 students, 1 female, 1 male, who are continuing their education and have participated in sports for at least 2 years. This years recipients are: **Daniel Surma** and **Dahlia Maynard**

**MAIDA F. TOWNSEND SCHOLARSHIP** - The Maida F. Townsend Scholarship, is given to a student who has demonstrated a love of learning, an openness to the richness of differences among people, and a willingness to use his/her time and talent in service to others. This years recipient is **Trevon Bradley**

**ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP** - The Academic Scholarships, is presented to two students who excel academically. This years recipients are **Neerusha Phuyal** and **Carter Irish**

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS AWARDS** - These awards are presented to two graduates who have shown the most improvement during their four years of high school. This years recipients are **Ghamaril Osman** and **Carter Irish**

**BILL EVERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - The Bill Everts Memorial Scholarship, given in memory

of Bill Everts, is given to a senior who is the first in their family to go to college. This years recipient is **Anusha Gurung**

**NICHOLAS CUSSON-DUCHARME ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP** - The Nicholas-Cusson Ducharme Athletic Scholarship is given in memory of Nicholas Cusson-Ducharme to a hard-working, dedicated, student athlete who has participated in athletics throughout high school, especially their senior year, while demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities. This years recipient is **Daniel Surma**



*Tide Gully*

**WINOOSKI EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP** - The Winooski Education Association Scholarship is presented to two individuals entering the field of education in recognition of exceptional contributions to school activities and all around excellence in academics. This years recipients are **Maryan Aweis** and **Rowyn Abbott-Smith**

**THE REARCH COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP** - The ReArch Company Scholarship is given to a student or students who are furthering their education in a STEM or trade related program. This could include engineering, electricians, plumbing, and welding. This scholarship is sponsored by The ReArch Company. This years recipient is **Joshua Selemani**

**CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP** - The Challenge Scholarship is presented to a well-rounded, highly motivated student (in the top 25% of the graduating class) who has overcome obstacles in achieving his/her success. This year recipient is **Yusufu Mami**

**PTO EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP** - The PTO Education Scholarship is presented to a student who is pursuing a career in education and who has displayed community involvement through school or work experience. This years recipient is **Makayla Parrott**

**THE PTO SCHOLARSHIP** - The PTO Scholarship, is given to two students who have shown an overall commitment to and involvement with the high school in multiple and varying ways. This year's recipients are **Hussein Abdulaziz** and **Tide Gully**

**VERMONT HONOR SCHOLARSHIP** - The Vermont Honor Scholarship, initiated by the Vermont Legislature, is presented to a student with outstanding academic achievement going on to college. This years recipient is **Neerusha Phuyal**

**CAROL L. KESSLER, R.N. MEMORIAL AWARD** - The Carol L. Kessler, R.N.

Memorial Award is presented to a student or students who are in the upper 25% of the senior class and who are intending to continue their education in healthcare or a related field. This years recipient is **Anonymous**

**PERSISTENCE SCHOLARSHIP** - The persistence scholarship is given to 2 students who have shown perseverance through all they have faced to make it to high school graduation and plan to pursue a post secondary education. This years recipients are **Djuma Mwamba** and **Ghamaril Osman**

**JOHN J. MALCOVSKY COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP** - The John J. Malcovsky Community Service Scholarship is given to a deserving student who has participated actively in community service. This years recipient is **Lukas Zweeres**



*Ghamaril Osman welcomed the guests and families of graduating seniors.*

### LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP - The

Leadership Scholarship is given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and exemplified positive attitudes. This year's recipient is **Joshua Selemeni**

### CLASS OF 2013 SCHOLARSHIP -

A Scholarship for a senior who has demonstrated dedication to his/her class and exhibited a genuine care and respect for Winooski High School. This year's recipient is **Djuma Mwamba**

### VFW COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD -

The VFW Community Service Award is presented to two graduates in recognition of outstanding community service. This year's recipients are **Dilly Siki** and **Anonymous**.

**VFW SCHOLARSHIP** - A scholarship presented to a student pursuing a degree and has been involved in other extra-curricular activities. This year's recipient is **Zaina Selemeni**



*The Selemeni siblings – Anifa, Joshua and Zaina.*

## NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

### School Board Update

*By Kamal Dahal, Board of School Trustees*

First, I would like to congratulate WSD's graduating class of 2023!

The graduation ceremony is truly a momentous occasion, as it marks the culmination of years of dedication, hard work, and perseverance. I know that the firm commitment to learning and personal growth of each of our graduates has brought them to this pivotal milestone. And, as a school board member, I couldn't be prouder. Through countless challenges and uncertainties in the last couple of years, our students have shown resilience and determination, setting an inspiring example for future generations. As our graduates embark on the next chapter of their lives, I am certain that each of them holds dear the invaluable lessons they've learned, the friendships they've nurtured, and the cherished memories they've created. These experiences have shaped them into the remarkable individuals they are today. Their accomplishments are a testament to their tenacity, and I have no doubt that they will continue to excel in all their future endeavors. Again, on behalf of the board, congratulations to our graduating class of 2023, and best wishes for their bright and prosperous future!

Furthermore, there have been notable changes within the school board and district leadership team. We bid farewell to an exceptional school board member and former board Chair, **Tori Cleiland**, who has made the difficult decision to step down after a decade of dedicated service to the district due to personal reasons. **Tori's** commitment and advocacy

for our schools have left an indelible impact, and her mentorship has guided numerous new board members as they transitioned into their roles. Her selfless contributions have played a significant role in shaping our district into what it is today.

In addition, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to **Sean McMannon**, our outgoing superintendent. Throughout his tenure, Sean worked tirelessly to ensure that our students received the highest quality education possible, within the budget supported by the district. His relentless dedication and passion have been instrumental in driving change within our school's infrastructure and many other areas of operations.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to **Nicole Mace**, our former director of finance and operations, and **Gabby Hora**, our outgoing director of communications. Their countless contributions to the school cannot be overstated. Their steadfast dedication and tireless efforts, particularly during challenging times, have made a significant impact on our school, students, and community.

Together, **Tori**, **Sean**, **Nicole**, and **Gabby** have exemplified the spirit of service, leadership and professionalism and have left an enduring legacy within our district. We are deeply grateful for their contributions and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to our newly appointed



## WINOOSKI SCHOOLS

*We are the future.*

superintendent, **Wilmer Chavaria**, and our new director of finance and operations, **Sarah Haven**.

**Wilmer** brings a wealth of expertise and leadership to our district, and we are excited to have him at the helm, guiding our schools toward continued success. His extensive background in education leadership, administration, and policy roles will undoubtedly benefit our students, staff, and the entire community.

Equally deserving of our enthusiasm is **Sarah Haven**, who will transition into the role of director of finance and operations. **Sarah's** previous experience as the district's human resource director, coupled with her strong background in finance and accounting, makes her an ideal fit for this vital role. Her comprehensive understanding of both the operational and financial aspects of our school system will undoubtedly ensure sound fiscal management, enabling us to provide the best possible resources for our students' education.

With **Wilmer Chavaria** leading the way and **Sarah Haven** overseeing our financial matters, we are confident in the future of our district. Their passion for education and dedication to our students' success make them valuable additions to our leadership team. We eagerly look forward to the positive impact they will undoubtedly have as we strive to provide an exceptional learning environment for all our students.





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

## A Note From Our New Winooski School District Superintendent

*By Wilmer Chavarria, WSD Superintendent of Schools*

Dear members of the Winooski community,

Allow me to formally introduce myself for the first time as the incoming Superintendent. As you may have heard, it was quite the comprehensive selection process and I am grateful to have been trusted to take on the leadership of the institution that holds the present and future of our most precious members. This is no small task and I understand the weight of this responsibility. It is one that is best achieved together, working in collaboration rather than isolation, and adhering closely to the principle that each one of us plays a critical role in the equation.



I have spent the past few weeks quietly becoming familiarized with as many aspects of the community as possible without causing disruption (the end of the year is always an exciting yet busy time for schools). Superintendent McMannon has graciously made time for transition work and offered much insight and information that will be key to maintaining consistency and efficiency during the transitional period. I have learned much from this, and I have been inspired and energized by the conversations I have had with the different educators and leaders so far, but I am most looking forward to getting to see our students in action. For me, the most important data comes from the lived experiences of people, their stories, and their hopes. Gathering this information in person is a necessary part of effective and data-informed leadership. As a teacher at heart, I need to constantly hear from students because their honesty is

unparalleled—even if unfiltered at times.

For what lies ahead, I am committed to respecting systems that have been established and proven to have made a difference for students while also critically examining challenges that still remain in order to deliver carefully-designed solutions. Depending on the issue, not all things can happen overnight and without actual time, energy, and resources invested. Because a long road has been traveled, I will carry myself with prudence in decision-making, especially when not all information is yet fully available. This means that, at least for this first year, I ask for

your patience and support in whichever capacity you and I interact. As a guardian of a child in the system, for example, you can support me by extending this same grace and understanding to our principals, teachers, and school staff that work tirelessly every day to keep your child safe, nourished, and curious. If you are a local official, you can support me by sharing your insight, expertise, and knowledge regarding the needs and assets of the community and establishing or re-committing to partnerships with our schools. If you are a student, you can help by continuing to question us and allowing us to know whether you are being served well.

I look forward to seeing you around and engaging in important conversations about the well-being and growth of everyone in our care.

## Heart of Winooski Foundation Seeks Board Members

*By Gabby Hora, WSD Director of Communications*

The Heart of Winooski (HOW) Foundation, a local 501c3 organization that funds projects and programs that uplift our school community and empower students to change their world for the better, has several board positions opening in July of 2023. The HOW Foundation's current focus is on diversifying the workforce at the Winooski School District. Responsibilities of board members includes attending periodic board meetings, voting on actionable items, providing insight and expertise, and more.

The open board positions include:

WSD Student.....	1 year
WSD Student.....	2 years
Parent Teacher Organization Member .....	2 years
WSD Alumni.....	3 years
Community Member .....	3 years



**HEART OF WINOOSKI**  
*Foundation*

Multilingual Community Member .....	3 years
WSD Staff .....	3 years

If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, please contact the WSD Director of Communications/HOW Foundation Secretary, at [info@wsdvt.org](mailto:info@wsdvt.org). For more information visit [howvt.org](http://howvt.org).

### Antiracism Work Update

By Christie Beveridge Howell, UP for Learning

The Antiracism Steering Committee held their final meeting of the school year at Winooski School on Monday, June 5th, from 5-7pm. The committee celebrated their tabling at the Winooski Farmers Market on June 4th, sharing how they engaged with and received ideas and feedback from the larger community. They are planning on tabling at the Winooski Juneteenth Celebration on June 18th. They participated in a protocol facilitated by Action Team Leader Emily Gilmore to give feedback on the team's idea for students to earn credit for examining the city Equity Audit, and heard updates from the other Action Teams. They took time to reflect on the year, discussing what they have learned, the best part of being on the ARSC, challenges they have encountered, and what they wish people knew about the work. Youth facilitators from the ARSC and some of the Action Team leads presented their accomplishments, recommendations, and budget requests to the School Board at their meeting on June 14th, and are awaiting budget approval.

If you are interested in joining any of the Demand Action teams, please contact [christie@upforlearning.org](mailto:christie@upforlearning.org). You can also visit the Equity & Antiracism at Winooski website at [bit.ly/WSDEquity](http://bit.ly/WSDEquity) to learn more about the Steering Committee and the teams' work over the past three years!

The following are updates from the Demand Action teams:

#### Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

The team has reached out to Mia Schultz, a member of the newly formed VT Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as well as Restore Forward, a NY-based restorative justice organization, to see how they might work together. They are planning to hold a "Truth-Telling Jam" as part of a community event next year.

#### Hiring and Retaining Teachers of Color:

Representatives from The New Teacher Project (TNTP) facilitated an ARSC meeting in early May to share their ideas for implementing a scope and sequence for affinity groups in the upcoming school year. It became clear during this meeting that there was a disconnect between the Action Team and the work that TNTP has been doing with WSD. Given the nature of their work with Winooski, the ARSC is interested in TNTP joining forces with this Action Team. TNTP could then have regular connections with community members so that they can hear feedback on upcoming initiatives, such as the discrimination reporting protocol that they are currently working on.

#### Ethnic Studies:

The team recommended to the School Board during their June 14th meeting that funding be used towards hiring an ethnic studies coordinator as well as providing quality professional development for teachers so that they can start implementing an ethnic studies curriculum. They also recommend an ethnic studies framework from Washington State to be utilized moving forward. This team is in search of a new adult team lead.



*Final Antiracism Steering Committee meeting of the 2022-23 school year*

#### Equity Review:

One of the chief findings to come out of the City Equity Audit was that BIPOC students do not feel they have a voice. Two essential questions are, how can we ask the young people the best ways to engage them in the Equity Audit and larger WSD work? How can we engage all the community groups to have an impact on the policies? What would this process look like? Moving forward, the team suggests that the new Superintendent work with high school faculty to design a flexible pathways course where students collect and analyze data and receive credit for their labor. They recommend that the Superintendent work with the Board and the community to examine current policies in light of the recommendations of the Equity Audit, looking for inclusive language gaps and overlaps. They would need a budget to stipend students to take the flexible pathway class. They would also need funds to hire a consultant to help the board and Superintendent examine policy.

#### Student Civil Rights:

The team is refreshing their mission statement, and once that is ready, they intend to work with the school's Advisory Coordinators to spread the word so other students and WSD staff members who might be interested can join. After pursuing some out-of-state experts, they have decided to reach out to someone local who could run the civil rights workshops and make them more youth-accessible. With support from community member Bruce Wilson, the team has reached out to representatives from the Vermont Human Rights Commission.

#### Multilingual Mentoring Program:

This team has done incredible work this year, creating a handbook for multilingual mentorship program policies, as well as securing an \$7,500 grant from Mentor Vermont to help with funding a Multilingual Mentor Coordinator position. They ran into obstacles when the legal team took several months to review the handbook before it could be approved, as well as the fact that there was not funding specifically designated for this position in the current ARSC and Action teams budget. As a starting point, the team is looking into the possibility of creating a part-time, after school Multilingual Mentor Coordinator position.





### What's Happening at WSD?



#### 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

Surrounded by friends, family, staff, and supporters, Winooski Middle School 8th Graders participated in a moving-up ceremony, marking the end of their time in middle school! Congratulations to all, we can't wait to see you back in the fall as high schoolers!



#### A Day at Camp Abnaki

Winooski Middle School students had a blast at Camp Abnaki, participating in activities ranging from archery to volleyball, hammocking, fishing, rock wall climbing, and so much more!



#### JFK All School Celebration

JFK Elementary celebrated a year of accomplishments with a day of fun, including a trip to the Myers Memorial Pool!



#### First Grade Celebration

First grade held a celebration of learning with families. Students answered questions about the sun, moon, and stars. Then they read poems that they wrote.



## NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE



### The Unheard Stories Project

*Nixandy Ferdinand and all the students involved with the Unheard Stories project put on an incredible performance, sharing stories, traditions, and games from their homes in Africa.*



### High School Track & Field Championships

*Winooski High School athletes competed in Track and Field State Championships in Manchester VT. They worked hard all season to get a chance to compete with other schools in the division. Winooski athletes experienced PRs in every single event.*



### Senior Lunch at Waterworks

*Waterworks hosted Winooski High School graduating seniors and WHS staff for a farewell lunch to share one final meal together and celebrate all they accomplished.*



### June Exposition of Learning at Winooski High School

*This year's JunePo was a huge success. JunePo is a final requirement for the spring semester and allows students to demonstrate what they learned in their classes.*



### Third Grade Math

*Ahoy Mateys! 3rd Grade Mathematicians used their best problem-solving skills to find pirates' treasure as they solved multiplication and division math riddles!*





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



## Summer Food Access Resources for the Winooski Community

The Winooski School District has selected several dates throughout the summer to open the Necessity Store and hold Veggie VanGo. These resources are completely free to the community and all are welcome to come.

### WSD Necessity Store Summer Hours

Thursday, July 6, 2023	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday, July 7, 2023	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday, August 24, 2023	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday, August 25, 2023	11:00 am - 2:00 pm

### WSD Veggie VanGo Summer Hours

Friday, July 21, 2023	8:45 am - 10:20 am
Friday, August 18, 2023	8:45 am - 10:20 am
Friday, September 1, 2023	8:45 am - 10:20 am *

\* When school is in session, family and community members must wait until 10:00 am to go through the line.

In addition to the Necessity Store and Veggie VanGo, there are lots of other food access resources available to families and community members in Winooski and the surrounding areas. These resources consist of food pantries and shelves, free prepared meals, and so much more. For more information including a full list and map of locations, visit <https://bit.ly/SummerFoodResources> or scan the QR code.



## 2023 Summer Meals For Winooski Students

*By Sarah Haven, Director of Finance & Operations*

The Winooski School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program.

As always, students participating in summer programming offered through the Winooski School District or the City of Winooski will have access to breakfast, lunch, or both depending on the hours of the program.

Students who are not registered in programming are also eligible for meals. Starting on Monday, June 19th, students may come to the school for breakfast and/or lunch and the Myers Memorial Pool for lunch. Meals at the school will be permitted between 8:00 am-12:00 pm Monday-Friday through the main entrance. This meal service will run through August 18th at both locations.

Every child in Winooski, aged 0-18, is eligible for summer meals. Summer meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to the USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442 or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

## Winooski PTO

*By Molly Robin-Abbott*

The Winooski PTO is a small but dedicated group of parents working together to support the WSD learning community. We would love to have more members and volunteers next school year to help plan a November craft fair and support the school community in ways large and small. New ideas, faces, and fundraising ideas are welcome! For more information, visit <https://www.wsdvt.org/parents-families/pto/>, check out our Facebook page (Winooski PTO), or email us at [PTO@wsdvt.org](mailto:PTO@wsdvt.org).





# We are growing!

## Winooski School District Job Opportunities

**Whether you're an experienced educator or just starting out, we're seeking diverse and talented individuals to join our team!**

At Winooski School District, we believe that our strong connections among students, staff, and families in our diverse community is our greatest strength. We are dedicated to creating a learning environment where all students graduate, college and career ready, equipped with the skills and knowledge to lead healthy, productive, and successful lives within their community. We recognize the importance of representation, and we strive to increase diversity among our staff to ensure that our students see themselves reflected in their teachers and leaders, and to create a more inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment.

As a staff member at Winooski School District, you will have the opportunity to be a part of our community and build connections and relationships with our students and their families as you work alongside a collaborative team who shares your commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and equity. We strive to offer a welcoming workplace culture and professional development opportunities to ensure an inclusive environment where all are valued, included, and empowered to succeed.

**Scan to Apply!**



[wsdvt.org/careers](https://wsdvt.org/careers)

**Discover what makes  
Winooski Schools  
a special place to  
work and grow!**

“WSD is a place where you are inspired and excited about learning and growing as an educator and those feelings are easily transferred to students through teaching!”

-Mary Carleton, Winooski Schools



## Update from JFK Elementary

By Sara Raabe, JFK Elementary School Principal

JFK will have four weeks of summer school starting on July 10th and ending on August 3rd. Over 100 students that will be in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade in the 2023-24 school year will be joining us. Students will come for a two-week session, four days a week. This structure allows students to gain important skills and knowledge through directed and individualized instruction.

Students will engage deeply in literacy instruction grounded in the science of reading. Literacy learning will be enhanced through foundational literacy practices such as phonics skills, encoding, and decoding text to support reading acquisition. Students will also explore EL Module topics that they will encounter in the 2023-24 school year:

- **Kindergarten:** Toys and Play
- **1st Grade:** Tools and Work

- **2nd Grade:** Schools and Community
- **3rd Grade:** Overcoming Learning Challenges Near and Far
- **4th Grade:** Poetry, Poets and Becoming Writers
- **5th Grade:** Stories of Human Rights

This work will build background knowledge for their next school year. Some students may engage in community-based field trips aimed at deepening and extending their learning around the EL Module topics they will be learning about in the fall.

Students will also engage in math work based on high-leverage math concepts:

- **Kindergarten:** 1:1 correspondence, understanding of number values and sequences to 10
- **1st Grade:** Quantity discrimination/ number sense, number identification

- **2nd Grade:** Understanding of number values and sequences to 120, understanding place value when adding and subtracting numbers within 100
- **3rd Grade:** Using place value understanding to add and subtract numbers accurately, flexibly, efficiently, and strategically within 1,000
- **4th Grade:** Multiply and divide numbers within 100
- **5th Grade:** Multiply and divide any two numbers within 1,000

The team at JFK has worked hard to create and plan meaningful and academically challenging summer school experiences for all our students. It is going to be a great summer!

## In Search of Winooski's Wild Onions

By Nancy Keller, WMS Teacher

For the final few months of school, Winooski sixth graders learned about Winooski's namesake, the wild onion (ramp). In early May, students searched Memorial Park and the LaPlatte Nature Area for ramps, and while they were absent in the Onion City's park, wild onions were found in the woods in



Shelburne near the LaPlatte River. Students wondered, "Why were ramps in one location and not another?"

To answer this question, students learned about ecology, botany, and sustainable harvesting in science, calculated the growth rate of wild onions in math, and read about the indigenous practice of the "Honorable Harvest" in language arts. In social studies, sixth graders practiced historical thinking by investigating Winooski's past through the lens of continuity and change.

To share their learning, students created an historical walking tour of Winooski, and shared their wild onion



knowledge with third grade classes at JFK Elementary School.

By scanning the QR code, you can read about the history of Winooski, the Onion City, and enjoy our students' projects, too.





## Shifting Perspectives

*By Emily Jacobs,  
WMS Visual Arts Teacher*

Winooski 7th and 8th grade artists recently studied the Cubist art movement, with a specific focus on the work of Pablo Picasso.

After observing and analyzing defining qualities of Cubism through Picasso's work, students created Cubism-inspired artworks of their own; using color, shape and line to fragment, shift, or warp their subjects.



*Nadia,  
grade 7  
Sherbert  
Mountain*



*Diya, grade 7, 2-sided*



*Hawa, grade 7, Colors of Night*



*Gabby, grade 7, Face*



*Olivia, grade 8, Shattered Light*



*Markus,  
grade 8,  
The Sun  
Gate*





### Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Kristine Lott

Hello Winooski,

Since my last update, the City has welcomed two new staff members to the team. Please join me in welcoming our new Youth Interventionist, **Ndayisenga Vandame**,



who brings an extensive background in youth mentorship and behavior intervention to the position where he'll be working 1 on 1 with community youth. Many thanks to Francine Bahati who formerly filled this position, and best of luck on your grad school adventure! Please also join me in welcoming **Jazmine Hurley**, our new Housing Initiative Director, who brings expertise in social work, housing navigation, childhood homelessness, and substance use prevention. The Housing Initiative Director's role will be focused on systems-level and policy work in support of Winooski's Strategic Vision and Master Plan housing goals, which you can learn about at [winooski.vt.gov/vision](http://winooski.vt.gov/vision). Jazmine's position works closely with our Housing Commission, which recently proposed changes to our rental housing quality ordinances to the City Council. Keep an eye out for the public hearing notice to weigh in on the proposed changes. For more info on housing initiatives and resources, visit [winooski.vt.gov/housing](http://winooski.vt.gov/housing).

On a related note, you may be wondering about the status of the Just Cause Eviction voter-backed charter change proposal that was on the Town Meeting Day ballot in March. The State Legislature has not yet approved this proposal and we expect it to be taken up next year for consideration. I know both of our State Representatives are tracking and supporting it! If you are new to this initiative, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/justcause](http://winooski.vt.gov/justcause).

Speaking of progress, the City has been exploring a partnership with the Champlain Housing Trust to create a more vibrant, functional, and financially sustainable O'Brien Community Center. While this preliminary process is still in the works, existing tenants and community partners have expressed interest in staying and we remain committed to this location for the Winooski Memorial Library, Community Services Department offices, and public gathering spaces - keeping the community center a hub for everyone to enjoy. We'll keep you up to date on the status.

Moving onto municipal infrastructure updates, we're aware that community members are concerned about railroad crossing conditions. City staff are coordinating with the Vermont Agency of Transportation to develop an agreement with the New England Central Railroad to plan repair work. If you have questions about this work, please reach out to Percy Bannerman, Crossing Engineer: [percy.bannerman@vermont.gov](mailto:percy.bannerman@vermont.gov) / 802 498 7698. Related, we're also aware of the need for line striping around the city. Our contracting partner who operates the line striping epoxy truck is looking into scheduling work in Winooski after an initial equipment test in the coming weeks.

Lastly, the amazing summer weather continues and there's so much going on. Many thanks to everyone who celebrated Juneteenth and French Heritage Day last month. Be sure to check out the Winooski Wednesdays concert series in Rotary Park, the Winooski Farmers Market on Sundays, and our annual Pride event later this summer. For details, visit [downtownwinooski.org](http://downtownwinooski.org). Also - you can host a neighborhood block party in Winooski! Apply for a street closure by visiting [winooski.vt.gov/rentals](http://winooski.vt.gov/rentals), and let us know if you're interested in partnering with a City department. This is a great way to connect with the staff, your representatives, and your neighbors.

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



### From Your Local Representatives

By Representative Daisy Berbeco

As state legislators, it's our job to represent your interests and shape policies that meet your needs. It's our job to ensure equity and stability, now and for our future, and to fund infrastructure and services that support all families, businesses, and communities.

This year, legislators have continued to hear that Vermonters are struggling. Parents can't afford child care. We can't find housing or get dentist appointments. We are losing loved ones to overdoses. Car repair bills are competing with grocery bills.

These enduring struggles make clear that we've been patching holes in a perpetually leaky roof. Short-term fixes may be temporarily cheaper but as problems compound, the overall cost climbs higher. For example, when we don't fund evidence-based substance misuse prevention programs, we end up spending far more money on treatment, recovery, inappropriate incarceration and crucial support for loved ones. When we delay routine raises of DMV fees for years, road maintenance is also delayed and our cars suffer more wear and tear.

We can't allow Vermonters to keep paying the price for our leaky roof. You're already investing in Vermont's public programs—you deserve effective solutions that prevent excessive spending in the long run.

Good governance requires regularly and predictably adjusting fees to track with inflation, developing a progressive, equitable tax system, and ensuring we have a solid mix of revenue sources so as times change funds can supplement each



other. Vermont's progressive tax structure means that people and corporations pay into the program according to their taxable income, so those with lower income pay a lower percentage than those with a higher income.

This session we passed a balanced budget for FY24 that makes one-time and ongoing investments in critical infrastructure and services that too many Vermonters have gone without. With a focus on long-term stability, these investments will have immediate and lasting impacts on day-to-day life in Vermont.

We increased funding for child care subsidies and child care centers so that children can get quality care, families can find and afford that care, and early childhood educators and staff who provide that care can earn a higher wage.

We funded evidence-based prevention and treatment programs and raised Medicaid provider reimbursement rates. With increased rates, more doctors, dentists and mental health professionals will accept Medicaid, and Vermonters will have access to the care they need. These long-overdue rate increases will support dentists, primary and specialty care providers, adult day services, home health, nursing homes and residential care, substance use and mental health, and ambulance services.

We invested in the repair of existing rental housing and the development of new units. We relaxed regulations to encourage housing development in downtowns and village centers. This means that current and prospective residents will have more housing options that meet their needs and budget.

And by passing the Affordable Heat Act, we aren't raising the price of fuel or creating any new fuel taxes. Rather, we're launching an intensive two-year process to determine how to ensure low- and middle-income Vermonters can access the same stable, affordable sources of heat for their homes that wealthy Vermonters can. The result will be a detailed proposal for the legislature to consider or reject in 2025.

We're funding one-time, transformative investments with one-time federal recovery funding and unexpected

state revenues. And by ensuring that all taxpayers—including corporations—pay their fair share, we're able to balance ongoing expenses without burdening working families or low-income residents. In fact, thanks to Vermont's earned income tax credit for working Vermonters and the child tax credit for young families, many families earning \$50,000 and under won't have any personal income tax liability, and many will see refunds. Middle-income families who now qualify for a child care subsidy could save up to \$24K per year.

I voted in June to overturn the Governor's veto of our budget because these strategic investments in the health and wellness of Winooski are critical for our longevity. The budget as-passed—by committee process with input from expert witnesses, including those with lived experience and technical expertise—did that. Winooski sent me to Montpelier to collaborate, and make informed policy changes that will make life more affordable and healthy for us so we may build stronger families, businesses, and community. Thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or you may visit my website anytime at [www.daisyforwinooski.com](http://www.daisyforwinooski.com). I update information there regularly, and have two blog posts that focus specifically on the financial aspects of this legislative session. You can email me at [dberbeco@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:dberbeco@leg.state.vt.us).



### 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:

A progress update on this area was delivered during the June 5th City Council meeting, including information about the redevelopment of 17 Abenaki Way, land use incentives, the Working Communities Challenge Grant (related to equity work in Winooski), updates to our sidewalk use permit process, and retail cannabis applications.

### 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.vttransprojects.vermont.gov](http://exit16ddi.vttransprojects.vermont.gov).

### Housing:

The Winooski Housing Commission will reconvene their regular meetings this month with Jazmine Hurley, our newly hired Housing Initiative Director, serving as the Staff Liaison. Residents are encouraged to participate during these meetings! For details, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/housing](http://winooski.vt.gov/housing). And, be sure to view the housing goal update from May via [winooski.vt.gov/vision](http://winooski.vt.gov/vision).

### Safe, Healthy, Connected People:

The City of Winooski is seeking engaged and dedicated residents to serve on our boards, commissions, and committees. Many of these positions have expiring terms ending soon on June 30, 2023. Current members may reapply, and residents who aren't currently serving are welcome to apply! These opportunities are an excellent way to get involved in the public process. Looking to get connected to your neighbors or discover a new way to give back to the community? Applicants with related experience, skill sets, and interests are encouraged to apply. Council and staff welcome diverse voices. If you've never served, we will do our best to support you! Visit [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov).

[gov/representatives](#) to learn more and apply.



### 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](#).



### 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:

Monday:	8am-4pm
Tuesday:	Closed
Wednesday:	8am-4pm
Thursday:	8am-4pm
Friday:	8am-4pm
Saturday:	Closed
Sunday:	Closed

Thank you for your patience while we continue to provide services to our residents and visitors! Our after-hours drop box is available just to the left of the entrance at Winooski City Hall. For up-to-date information, please visit

[winooski.vt.gov/clerk](#). Questions? Call or email 802 655 6410 / [clerk@winooski.vt.gov](#).

Winooski City Hall will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, 2023 in observance of Independence Day.

The new 2023-2024 tax bills will be mailed to the owner of record on or before July 15, 2023. Please note we mail out one (1) tax bill with the four (4) perforated coupons with due dates. If there is a change of ownership, please forward the tax bill to the new owner. The utility bills are mailed out quarterly and will be mailed out on or before July 15, 2023. Tax and utility payments can always be made at [winooski.vt.gov/pay](#).

### Vermont Office of Racial Equity “Voices Uplifted”

*In case you missed it:* The Office of Racial Equity and the Vermont Human Rights Commission featured Winooski City Manager, Elaine Wang, for the “Voices Uplifted” interview series in celebration of National Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Scan the QR code below with your smartphone to watch the video!

“Hear from Elaine as she shares about her tenure in Vermont and the different ways we are treated based on how long we have been in the state. Elaine's story shows how visible we sometimes are in public spaces, and the intentional practice of not averting our gaze. Elaine wears a multitude of hats and identities that reveal how race, gender, occupation, and generation all intersect. We are grateful to Elaine for sitting down with us and uplifting her voice.”







## Myers Memorial Pool NOW OPEN!

Located in the heart of Winooski, the Myers Memorial Pool has been a place of recreation and growth for community members since the 1970's. The newly renovated pool facility includes a 6-lane lap pool (depths from 4'-8'), a zero-entry program pool (max depth of 4'), spray features, and a 16 ft water slide

- Visit [winooski.vt.gov/pool](http://winooski.vt.gov/pool) for details!
- 62 Pine Street / 802 497 2903 / [pool@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:pool@winooski.vt.gov)
- Opening day: Sunday, June 4, 2023 (open 7 days a week)
- Season passes for adults, families, youth, and seniors
- Enjoy open swim, lap swim, aquatic programs, event space rentals, Offbeat Creemee, & more

## Community Services Updates



### Recreation and Parks

Sign up for our programs at [winooski.vt.gov/recprograms](http://winooski.vt.gov/recprograms)

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

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

#### Winooski Waves Swim Team

- Ages 5-18 / Monday-Friday / June

12-August 6 / 5:30 – 8pm @ Myers Memorial Pool

The Winooski Waves Summer Swim Team is part of the Champlain Valley Swim League and the Vermont Swim Association and is focused on developing a love of swimming and a positive team spirit. The Winooski Waves have been a staple of the Myers Memorial Pool since the 1970s. The team is led by Swim Team Director Jacsen Callanan.

#### Skateboarding with Burton Chill

- Ages 10-19 / Mondays / June 26-July 31 / 10:30am-12:30pm @ Landry Park
- Join Burton Chill instructors to shred it up at the Landry Park Skatepark with Chill Skateboarding! All gear will be provided. There is no experience necessary—first time skaters are welcomed and encouraged!

#### Youth Climbing

- Ages 5-7 / Tuesdays / June 27-August 1 / 11:30am-2:15pm @ MetroRock
  - Ages 8-12 / Thursdays / June 29-August 3 / 11:30am-2:15pm @ MetroRock
- Youth will work with coaches to learn the basics of climbing techniques, get comfortable with safe belaying, and build their confidence. All gear is provided.

#### Outdoor Adventure Series

- Ages 8-12 / Wednesdays / June 28-August 2 / 8:30am-2:30 pm @ various local parks

Join us for an opportunity to learn wilderness survival skills! Youth will participate in a hike each week accompanied by staff and Mischa Tourin from Sterling Mountain Guides and engage in hands-on learning about fire building, water purifying, shelter building, orienteering, knot tying, and more!

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Vinyasa Flow

- Ages 18+ / Wednesdays, June 7 to July 26/ 8:30-9:30am @ O'Brien Community Center Studio
- Ages 18+ / Mondays, May 1-July 24 / 5:40-7:00 pm @ O'Brien Community Center Studio

Join yoga practitioner Sarah Sears of

Yoga Vermont for an amazing Vinyasa Flow program! Open to everyone and all levels, this program is designed to help you adapt to postures and create your own practice routine.

#### Winooski Bike Gang

- Ages 18+ / Wednesdays / April 12 - September 6 / 5:30 - 7:30pm @ Winooski Wheels

The Winooski Bike Gang invites community members to be active outside together on Wednesday evenings! This program is open to people of all ages, skill levels, and abilities. Anyone is welcome! No registration is required.

#### Winooski Running Club

- Ages 18+ / Wednesdays / May 3-September 6 / 5:30-6:30 pm @ Monkey House

The Winooski Run & Ride Club invites community members to be active outside together on Wednesday evenings, running, walking, or biking! This program is open to people of all ages, skill levels, and abilities. No registration is required.



#### Thrive After School

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

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

[f](#) [ig](#) @winooskilibrary

### New Library Hours!

Be on the lookout for a slight change in our hours of operation on Thursdays and Fridays.

Monday: Closed  
 Tuesday: 10 am-6 pm  
 Wednesday: 10 am-6 pm  
 Thursday: 10 am-5 pm  
 Friday: 10 am-5 pm  
 Saturday: 10 am-2 pm  
 Sunday: Closed

### 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](http://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, July 15 from 12:30-2:00pm
- 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+

### 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 free weekly distribution!

- Wednesday, July 5, 12, 19, 26 from 4-6pm @ 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 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](mailto:neddy@winooskivt.gov) / 802-655-6424.

### Lake Watershed Model Workshop

Join the Library and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) for an interactive activity on the Lake Champlain watershed, the surrounding area of land that drains into our beautiful lake which includes Winooski! Through a hands-on watershed model activity that allows participants to visualize and connect with the land and water, young learners will learn what a watershed is, how human activity impacts the lake and the watershed, and how we can make a difference in protecting and maintaining the watershed.

- Saturday, July 15th from 10-11am
- Drop-in; no registration required
- Recommended for Ages 5+

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

### Library of Things

Stop by for camping tents, museum passes, headlamps, birding backpacks, a telescope, walking poles, and other items to enjoy in the outdoors this summer!

### 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@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:kwilson@winooski.vt.gov); 802-655-6424.

## Morning Coffee Social

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

- Friday, July 7th, 9:30-10:30am

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

## Nature-Based Play

Join the library and Four Winds Nature Institute for outdoor storytime and nature-based play that's intended to nurture a sense of wonder, place, and well-being for little ones!

- Friday, July 28 from 10:30-11:30am
- Drop-in, no registration required
- Youth 0-5+

For more information, please reach out to Kirsten Wilson at [kwilson@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:kwilson@winooski.vt.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 Library Committee: Seeking Youth Member!

Do you or someone you know live or go to school in Winooski and are entering or currently in grades 8-12? The Winooski Library is accepting applications for a new Youth Member Position to serve alongside our current members of the Winooski Library Committee! Applicants should have an interest in learning more about the library and a desire to bring a youth perspective to our library services for the community. Financial scholarship available for participation and completing a nine-month term (September-June).

Interested in learning more? Email or call Nate Eddy, Library Director: [neddy@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:neddy@winooski.vt.gov) / 802 655 6424

## Winooski Reads Book Group

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

## Youth Summer Reading Program & Kickoff Party

This summer, join the Winooski Memorial Library for our Youth Summer Reading Program!

This program encourages youth of all ages to keep reading and learning all summer long through free access

to books, activities, and fun at the Library. This summer's theme, "All Together Now," invites youth to explore concepts of kindness, friendship, and interconnectedness within our community.

How does it work? Youth can pick up their own Summer Reading Program booklet, which includes 10 weeks of prompts that encourage kids to get outside, build connections, set personal goals, and read for fun. All youth participants will be entered into a raffle for the chance to win some exciting prizes!

Whether you like movies, games, books, activities, or just hanging out, there's something for everyone to connect with this summer at the Library!



## Winooski Senior Center

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

 @winooskiseniorcenter

The Winooski Senior Center is open for regular programming on Tuesdays, Wednesdays from 9am-12pm & Thursdays from 9am-2pm. Join us for events and programs! Stay connected with us: call: 802-655-6425, voice mail 24/7. Email us at: [seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov)

## TUESDAYS

### 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 Tuesday. 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. Reservations must be made by Noon the Thursday before the scheduled Tuesday meal. Find our monthly menus at [winooski.vt.gov/seniorcenter](http://winooski.vt.gov/seniorcenter).

Call us at 802 655 6425 to register for this program. \$5 suggested donation to Age Well.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Breakfast Café & Coffee Chat 9–11am

Breakfast and Conversation are served! Everyone is welcome to drop in and join us as we gather and converse with community members. Our eat-in Breakfast Café features hot breakfast sandwiches, fruit, treats & beverages. Priced by donation.

### Coffee Chat from 10–11am

Join us for a unique opportunity to meet and talk with local officials, residents and others about issues related to Vermont's Opportunity City:

- July 5: Walk/Bike Plan with CCRPC: The City of Winooski is creating its first comprehensive walk/bike plan. The plan will provide the vision for a connected network of walking and biking facilities that gets people safely to where they want to go. Hear more about this project and share your experiences and suggestions with Bryan Davis from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.
- July 12: Anatomical Gift Program: Meet Steve Line and learn about the UVM College of Medicine's Anatomical Gift Program. Steve will guide us through the process of human body donation and explain how the program is an integral part of educating students and medical professionals.
- July 19: Open Mic: Join us as we all share the microphone! Bring a story, joke, poem or sing a song! Everyone is invited.

- July 26: History of Winooski DVD: Watch a fascinating presentation by Al Blondin about Winooski History. This is a 1.5 hour presentation.

## THURSDAYS

### Sit Down Community Meals - served at 12pm

In partnership with Age Well, we are now offering healthy sit-down community meals for older Vermonters (60+). Reservations must be made by 12pm the Tuesday before the scheduled meal. Call us at 802-655-6425 to register for this program. \$5 suggested donation to Age Well.

Find monthly menus at [winooski.vt.gov/seniorcenter](http://winooski.vt.gov/seniorcenter). After lunch, stay and play games or just relax with friends and neighbors!

## FRIDAYS

### Senior Open Swim

Join us at the Myers Pool every Friday from 11:30am - 12:30pm for a FREE hour of Senior (55+) Open Swim.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### July 6th - Annual Teddy Bear Picnic at 12pm

Bring your Teddy Bear to Lunch! Join us for sandwiches and salads and wonderful desserts! RSVP by 12pm on July 3, 2023. \$5 Donation at the door.

### July 13th - Ice Cream Social at 12pm

We're serving grilled hot dogs and sides, and New England Federal Credit Union. will be serving ice cream! RSVP by noon on July 10, 2023. FREE for folks 55+

### July 23rd - The Vermont Boys of Summer at 2pm (with a nod to Winooski's own Ralph LaPointe)

The Winooski Historical Society will host a talk by Tom Simon on the extraordinary history of baseball in Vermont. FREE!

### July 27th - Exploring Cultures: Community Meal at 12pm

In partnership with AgeWell, we are hosting a unique meal featuring Nepali and Somali foods. FREE for folks 60+. Seating is limited. Reservations are required by noon on July 21.

## Special Programs

### 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

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.





## July Update

By Melissa Corbin, Executive Director, Downtown Winooski

### Farmers Market Start a Smashing Success

The late May and June markets have seen increased participation by local businesses with 21 seasonal plus 20 day vendors and 9 nonprofit partners. Our customer base has also increased and feedback from the community has been great.

"There are vendors selling coffee and donuts and breakfast sandwiches and coffee cake and things I think real people actually want!" ~ Winooski Resident



The Winooski Farmers Market welcomes EBT/3 Squares Vermont and Farm to Family customers. New this year, in addition to NOFA-VT's match of up to \$10 in Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus adds even more access to local produce. Thank you to CarShare Vermont for being a sponsor and partner of this beloved event.

The Winooski Farmers Market is hosted on Winooski Falls Way (in front of the Champlain Mill) every Sunday through October 15 from 10am - 2pm. Free parking is available on the street and in the parking garage across from the market. Find fresh local produce, unique foods, locally made items, live music and that just-can't-put-your-finger-on-it sense of community.

### Winooski Wednesday on July 5th

Starting at 5pm, Rotary Park will be filled with local performers and a headliner sure to please the all-ages crowd. Bring a picnic blanket, grab takeout and enjoy! 21+ bar hosted by The Monkey House. Winooski Wednesdays is presented by Mascoma Bank and supported by CarShare Vermont. Brought to you by Downtown Winooski. Save the dates: August 2, and September 6.

Check out Downtown Winooski's new website for details as performances are confirmed. [www.downtownwinooski.org/events](http://www.downtownwinooski.org/events)

### Pride Planning for September 9th

Interested in helping with planning for our second annual Pride event in September? Get in touch and let us know you want to be involved.

### Halloween in Winooski ... yes, already

We are already seeking help from the community to bring this wonderful event to the City once again. If you're interested in joining the planning committee or volunteering before or during the Halloween in Winooski 2023 event, please be in touch!

### Care about Inclusivity and Safety?

Volunteer at Events!

We love hosting free community events in Winooski, but we need your help! In order to make events welcoming, safe and enjoyable for all, we are looking for volunteers to act as crossing guards, work with vendors and event coordinators to set up, and more. Email [melissa@downtownwinooski.org](mailto:melissa@downtownwinooski.org) to share your volunteer interest and we'll work with you to find the dates and jobs that fit your availability best. Thank you so much!

## Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for July

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

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

Our client numbers remain very high. Please pack your patience and some reusable shopping bags when you come. In May, we served 1,140 people and sent food home with them to last two to three days. That is a lot of food!

**Food Shelf Policy:** We are hoping to re register all our clients by July 1st. We are asking new clients and current clients to bring a piece of mail such as a utility bill or a lease and information on household members. Winooski residents may come to the food shelf only one Wednesday for pantry staples. Winooski residents may also come both Saturdays for veggies, bread and pastries. Starbucks in Colchester provides the pastry and Hannaford Market at the University Mall helps supply Saturdays' food selection.

**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 Times at Food Shelf:** Drop off time is on Tuesdays from 9am to 11am and during food distribution hours. We do not accept clothing or household items. Please do not leave food outside our door when we are not there.

**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.

## Above the Influence

By Kate Nugent, Executive Director

Students in the Winooski School District with Above the Influence recently went to work to hang new substance-free signs provided by Vermont Department of Health and Winooski Partnership for Prevention on the school property. Buildings and outside spaces at the school district have been substance-free for years, and signs provide a reminder to visitors.

Students walked the school grounds with their advisor Heather Win, Facilities Supervisor Cheyne Racine, and Director of Communications Gabby Hora to identify areas where signs would be visible and impactful.

Rayna, grade 5, summarized her thoughts on the signs: "I think that substance use signs should be hung up on the property because mostly the reason why people come to the school is to pick up their kids and if they're smoking or drinking on the school property that might encourage the little kids for when they get older to do it. And also, it's important for us to care about kids' AND parents' health at Winooski School District because we have to make sure that everybody will come out okay and everybody will be safe and smart with their choices."

Brendan, grade 5, commented: "The



**Winooski Partnership  
for Prevention**

reason I think these posters should be put around the property is so when teenagers or kids go around the property, they see 'Oh, this is

bad, we shouldn't do this' and they find a way to quit."

Vermont passed a statewide smokefree school grounds law in 2014 – Act 135 protects people from second hand smoke (including from vapes) in public places, workplaces, state buildings, and motor vehicles when a child under the age of 8 is inside.

If you or someone you know needs help quitting smoking or vaping nicotine, you can call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. If you or someone you know needs help quitting smoking or vaping cannabis, quitting alcohol, or other drugs, call VT Help Link at 802-565-LINK or visit [vthelplink.org](http://vthelplink.org).

Visit the WPP at the Winooski Farmer's Market

This summer, the WPP will be hosting a table three times at the Winooski Farmer's Market featuring free samples from our amazing community dinner chefs, as well as other resources and updates. Please check us out at the remaining two dates, Sundays, 10am to 2pm, on July 16 and August 27.



*Winooski School District students and staff hang smoke free and vape free signs with WPP after school advisor. From left to right: Keegan, Gabby, Lukas, Brendan, Rayna, Heather, and Cheyne.*



### Howard Center Update

By Paul Detzer, Development and Communications Engagement Manager



#### Registration for Zoe's Race is Now Open!

Howard Center's Zoe's Race returns August 27 in Oakledge Park. The annual fundraiser helps local individuals and families who need support to make their homes accessible. Join the free 1K fun run and enjoy the food and music. There is an entry fee for the 5K or 10K event. Register or volunteer: [www.howardcenter.org/zoe](http://www.howardcenter.org/zoe)

#### Substance Use Addiction Summit

- Champlain Valley Expo, Friday, August 11, 10am – 4pm

Howard Center is pleased to support and spread the word about "Coming Together; A Substance Use Addiction Summit." This free-and-open-to-the-public event is organized and hosted

by SUASVT. This summit aims to eliminating the stigma surrounding Substance Use Disorders (SUD) and Recovery. The day will start with a keynote presentation and will continue into breakout rooms and informational/resource booths. For more information, contact Brad Ferland (802-999-2633 / [bferland@together.net](mailto:bferland@together.net)) or Melinda White – (802-393-9196 / [melindaw@howardcenter.org](mailto:melindaw@howardcenter.org)).

#### Resources for Suicide Prevention

Despite the numerous resources available in Vermont, the devastating impact of suicide continues to claim many lives each year. When individuals display signs of mental health struggles or symptoms, seeking assistance from mental health professionals, such as therapists or a primary care physicians, can provide crucial support. Friends, colleagues, or family members can also offer a valuable network of support. It is vital for us as a community to be vigilant and extend a helping hand when we recognize signs of distress. Here are several avenues that offer treatment and intervention options, accessible at any time of day:

- Howard Center First Call for Chittenden County: 802-488-7777 (Local)



- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988
- Crisis Text Line: Text "741741" (National)
- In case of immediate danger, dial 9-1-1 or accompany the person to the Emergency Department.

Additionally, we provide a comprehensive and complimentary information and resource guide called Suicide Prevention Across the Lifespan. For more details, kindly reach out to [pdetzer@howardcenter.org](mailto:pdetzer@howardcenter.org) or visit [howardcenter.org/educational-resources/suicide-prevention](http://howardcenter.org/educational-resources/suicide-prevention).



### Who Needs Help in the Yard and Garden?

By Ric Cengeri, Communications Specialist

It is greening up all around us. And while that's wonderful aesthetically, it also means more maintenance is needed for your lawn and garden. If you need help in those areas, you might find that a homeshare guest could help you with those and other household chores.

HomeShare Vermont has been helping people find compatible matches for over 40 years. This is accomplished by helping not just seniors, but hosts of any age, to benefit from rent, sharing of utilities, or help with tech questions, gardening, meal prep, and more! For guests, homesharing provides incredibly cost-effective housing,

using existing housing stock.

If you have a room in your home that you've been thinking would be a great place for someone to live, consider offering it through HomeShare Vermont.

HomeShare Vermont has a maximum rent of \$650 in Chittenden County and guests pay an average monthly rent of \$340 through our program. Guests can provide help around the home or even keep an eye on things while you take a summer vacation.

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 meet and who you'd like to live with.

If you'd like to learn more about how we create compatible matches and how homesharing might benefit you, call us at (802) 863-5625 or visit [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org).



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

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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI

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

#### Superintendent of Schools

Wilmer Chavarria, [wchavarria@wsdvt.org](mailto:wchavarria@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

Steven Berbeco, 858-376-7269, [sberbeco@wsdvt.org](mailto:sberbeco@wsdvt.org)  
Allison Burlock, *President*, 802-349-7018, [aburlock@wsdvt.org](mailto:aburlock@wsdvt.org)  
Kamal Dahal, 802-310-2821, [kdahal@wsdvt.org](mailto:kdahal@wsdvt.org)  
Isaiah Donaldson, 802-383-6000, [idonaldson@wsdvt.org](mailto:idonaldson@wsdvt.org)  
Robert Millar, 802-383-6000, [rmillar@wsdvt.org](mailto:rmillar@wsdvt.org)

### CITY OF WINOOSKI [www.winooski.vt.gov](http://www.winooski.vt.gov), 802-655-6410

#### Mayor

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

#### City Manager

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

#### City Councilors

Aurora Hurd, 802-734-7082, [ahurd@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:ahurd@winooski.vt.gov)  
Charles Judge, 802-655-6410, [cjudge@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:cjudge@winooski.vt.gov)  
Bryn Oakleaf, 802-448-2966, [boakleaf@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:boakleaf@winooski.vt.gov)  
Thomas Renner, *Deputy Mayor*, 802-922-3265, [trenner@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:trenner@winooski.vt.gov)

#### City Clerk

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