

The Winooski Newsletter

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

AUGUST 2023



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Kristine Lott

Hello Winooski,

To start my update, I'd like to thank our Public Works and Public Safety teams for their vigilance in monitoring the situation and keeping our community members safe during the storm

and flooding last month. I'd also like to commend the first responders and everyone involved with the emergency response throughout Vermont for their excellent service. To those most affected, please know that Winooski stands with



you during this time of recovery. And while I am pleased that Winooski did not experience catastrophic damages, I encourage our residents to let this event serve as an opportunity to assess their natural disaster preparedness. All of our residents should have an emergency action plan and should sign up for the City's emergency alerts. You can sign up for text alerts by messaging the word 'Winooski' to 888-777 or you can register at nixle.com. I also recommend signing up for our direct email news updates at winooskivt.gov.

Moving on to some project updates, the developer for the hotel/housing/parking garage project at 17 Abenaki Way is expected to break ground in the coming months. I'm excited to see this voter-approved project come to life and add to the economic vitality and vibrancy of our downtown. Depending on the timing of this publication, our contractor may have completed or is on their way to completing the much-needed crosswalk and lane markings to make our municipal infrastructure safer. We budget annually for this work, but due to supply issues and other delays, it has been a difficult process. Thank you to the many residents who provided helpful feedback during this time. Speaking of infrastructure investments, the Main Street Revitalization Project is right around the corner. For project info and updates, please visit winooskivt.gov/mainstreet. While this project and others support our shared vision (winooskivt.gov/vision) for a walkable, bikeable community, our annual pavement and sidewalk budget isn't enough to keep up with the conditions across Winooski. We continue to hear your feedback regarding this issue - which is included in our 2023/2024 policy priorities/strategies document, viewable at winooskivt.gov/council.

To expand upon budgets and priorities a bit more, recent years have resulted in Community Services and Public Safety improvements, such as the Myers Memorial Pool, Thrive After School, new fire trucks, and so on. Winooski is not a high-income community, and our Grand List (the total taxable value of our properties) is only about \$6 million - significantly smaller than our neighboring towns of Colchester (\$22 million), South Burlington (\$40 million), and Burlington (\$58 million). Winooski's ~8,000 residents across ~3,500 households contribute to the total tax base, resulting in a higher cost per household to provide municipal services compared to our neighbors. A strategic focus on growth has helped increase the tax base and lessen the burden, but it is not enough to keep pace with inflation and the cost of living. Grant funding is often on the table, but does not provide a sustainable solution. The voter-approved 1% local options tax provides revenue from our businesses, but there are few other opportunities like this to lean on. We cannot afford everything our residents want and deserve, so we must be thoughtful about our services and investments and continue to make difficult choices during budget season. Community input is critical to this process and the more we hear from residents about their highest priorities for Winooski, the better decisions we can make.

A few public safety updates: critical staffing shortages continue at Saint Michael's Fire and Rescue, which provides us with mutual aid. We hope the shortages are temporary - in the meantime, our partnership with the Colchester Fire Department helps fill the gap. The Regional Dispatch initiative has been put on hold until 2025, but Winooski will continue to be a part of

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August News from the District Office

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent

Dear Winooski community,

It is incredible how fast the summer is going. Planning for the upcoming school year is well underway in our school and our summer programs have been ongoing, providing the building with the usual music of laughter and energy from our students. Part of the most exciting aspect of the summer for administrators is also the prospect of new possibilities, successes, creativity, and innovation for the following year. Before you know it, however, the time has come to put it all into practice. We are energized to welcome our students back into the building and will spend the next few weeks finalizing the details, preparing our new members of the educational staff, and re-gathering as a team before officially opening our doors. We are excited to welcome our students and staff back for what we feel will be an exciting year of

learning and growth.

In hopes of helping families with the transition from summer to the start of a new school year we have included a few important dates below. Additional information will be posted on the WSD website as we move closer to the first day of school. Please remember to check the site regularly for these updates.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **WSD Back-to-School Family BBQ:** Thurs., Aug 24th, 5:30pm
- **1st Day for K-5th graders:** Wed., Aug. 30th, 8:00-3:00
- **1st Day for 6th and 9th Graders:** Wed., Aug.30th, 8:00-12:15
- **1st Day for all K-12 Students:** Thurs., Aug. 31st, 8:00-3:00
- **1st Day for Pre-K:** Tues., Sept. 5th

The summer has also brought adversity to our state. As a survivor of a historic storm (Hurricane Mitch), I understand that the impact of a natural disaster of this kind goes much farther than material losses. Not only do I encourage us as a school community to be there for each other when the time comes, but also to do everything possible to protect ourselves and those near us, especially children. This protection comes from making prudent decisions in the face of crisis and from educating our families in times of calm. We as schools will continue to do our part to prepare our students for emergencies and to improve their understanding of the environment. I invite you to do the same in whichever capacity you are able. Part of this education involves speaking frankly about the political, economic, and social dimensions of the climate conversation. It is only fair to our young people that we acknowledge our shortcomings as a society when it comes to the environment, and to accept that we must now adapt.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everybody who has been patient with me as well as with my team of administrators as we slowly transition into our new system of leadership. I am proud of the work that has been carried out so far and I am more than happy to find a culture of support and enthusiasm surrounding me. I am grateful for our outgoing board President Allison Burlock for supporting me with information and planning for the beginning of my tenure, and to the rest of the board as they move swiftly toward getting themselves reorganized, ready, and strong for the year. I am also happy to announce the hiring of our new Director of Communications, award-winning and seasoned communications professional Miriam Greenfield. I am confident that she will do justice to the wonderful work of Gabby Hora and more.

I look forward to what this year will bring, and I cannot wait to welcome our students and families back.

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. 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 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winooski School District Child Find Notice

By Katherine Blair, Director of Support Services

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

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

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

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, 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, 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.



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Return of the Craft Fair and Join the PTO!

By Libby Daghlian, Winooski PTO

The Winooski PTO is thrilled to officially announce that the 2023 Craft Fair will take place at the school on Saturday, November 18. Join the PTO to help us plan this great community event or sign up as a crafter. Email winooskiptocraftfair@gmail.com to request the application link. Your spot will be reserved upon receipt of \$55 per 10x6 space (first come first served).

The Winooski PTO is a dedicated group of parents working together to support the WSD learning community—and we want to hear from you! Join the PTO to share your enthusiasm and ideas for supporting our students, teachers and staff.

Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month, starting on September 18th. We can't wait to meet you! Visit <https://www.wsdvt.org/parents-families/pto/>, check out our Facebook page (Winooski PTO), or email us at PTO@wsdvt.org.



HEALTH CORNER

Winooski School District now offering ON SITE Preventive Dental Services!

By Tracy Towers, RDH, CDHC

Your child can now be seen at school for dental cleanings, fluoride treatments, and dental sealants, regardless of insurance coverage. (If your student has Medicaid coverage, fees for services will be billed. If your child has other insurance or no insurance at all, services will be provided free of charge)

Please fill out the WSD Dental On Site Consent form if you would like your child to participate, available at school (paper copy) and online in the PowerSchool Portal at Winooski School District at www.wsdvt.org.

The ON SITE Dental Services DO NOT take the place of a yearly exam with your Dentist. Dental Exams and X-rays will not be provided on site and should be scheduled at your child's usual dental office.

Questions? Email me at ttowers@wsdvt.org

Burlington/Winooski Middle School Summer Programming, 2023

By Suzanne Skaflestad, 21C Director

Twenty-five students from Winooski Middle School engaged in five weeks of summer programming Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm at Hunt Middle School.

The Burlington Winooski MS Summer Program provides students with enriching academics that maintain or accelerate learning gains, social-emotional support, socialization, fun, and safe ways for youth to be active and engaged.



Students are exposed to new learning, caring mentors and trained educators, and are provided with healthy meals and transportation. The activities support physical health and well-being, creativity, and opportunities to explore careers and gain workforce skills.

Students learn about how to advocate for what they need and that it is okay to use their voice in a respectful way. They find their passions through social summer experiences and decide which activities they enjoy most. It is an opportunity for students to get out of their comfort zone and take risks.

Our students took the initiative via email or text to express their interest in this summer program and were able to access the program once they were enrolled. Our students learned valuable lessons in communication and persistence...two of the WSD's graduate expectations. They are practicing essential



life skills as they take responsibility for their participation. Way to go Winooski students!

As students boarded the bus one morning, they were asked why they showed up for the Burlington/Winooski program, and they had lots of positive things to say:

- "Game Club- I can play any game I want"
- "I get to hang out with friends"

- "It's fun- I love sports"
- "Archery"
- "D & D"
- "Hunt is amazing. I get to do activities I enjoy like art."



Thank you to bus driver Tim who has driven Winooski students for the past seven summers. We are fortunate to have such a reliable bus driver who cares about the students and their safety. When he was asked why he shows up every morning, he said, "I do it every year, I like working with everyone. I enjoy picking up the students. The students are great!"



MAYOR'S UPDATE *(continued from cover)*

the ongoing conversation with our sights set on faster and improved emergency response times. Our Fire Department/ Code Enforcement team has been working with the Housing Commission to strengthen the City's Public Building Registry ordinance, which dictates how we ensure health and safety standards in rental units. Keep an eye out for the public hearing notices related to these changes to provide important community input before the City Council formally adopts the changes.

Lastly, be sure to check out downtownwinooski.org for more summer events! We're looking forward to the final two Winooski Wednesdays and the 2023 Winooski Pride event in September. There's still plenty of time to enjoy the pool (winooski.vt.gov/pool) and other amazing Recreation and Parks programs (winooski.vt.gov/rec).

As always, feel free to reach out at any time: klott@winooski.vt.gov, 802-766-1988



From Your Local Representatives

By Representative Taylor Small

As I sit down to write this legislative update, my heart is heavy as I reflect on the recent historic flood that swept through our beautiful state. Though the flooding has finished and passed, its devastating impacts are still fresh in our minds. While our city of Winooski was fortunate to have been spared from significant damage, we must acknowledge that many of our fellow Vermonters in other parts of the state have experienced unimaginable loss and hardship.

During times of crisis, the true spirit of Vermont shines through. We have always prided ourselves on being a tight-knit community that comes together in the face of adversity. This flood has reminded us once again of the strength and resilience that resides within our state. It has shown us the importance of stepping up to help our neighbors, friends, and family members who have been directly impacted by this natural disaster.

The stories of Vermonters rallying to support one another in the aftermath of the flood have been truly inspiring. People from all walks of life have extended helping hands, offering shelter, supplies, and emotional support to those in need. It is in these moments that we realize the power of community and the impact we can have when we stand united.

Even as we reflect on the destruction caused by the flood, we must also recognize the ongoing work that lies ahead. The recovery and rebuilding process will be a long and arduous journey for many. It is our responsibility as Vermonters to continue supporting one another throughout this process. Whether it's lending a listening ear, volunteering our time and resources, or advocating for necessary aid and assistance, every act of kindness and compassion matters.

Let us also remember the importance of preparedness in the face of future challenges. It is crucial that we remain vigilant and informed. Disasters can strike when least expected, and it is our duty to be prepared and ready to respond.

As your representative, I want to assure you that I am committed to working tirelessly on behalf of all Vermonters. I will continue to advocate for the necessary resources and support to aid in the recovery process. Our focus in this upcoming session will be on ensuring that no one is left behind and that our communities have the necessary tools to rebuild and thrive once again.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has stepped up to help those affected by the flood. Your generosity, resilience, and unwavering spirit are a testament to the strength of our Vermont

community. Together, we will overcome this challenging chapter and emerge stronger than ever before.

Stay strong, stay connected, and let us continue to support one another in the true spirit of Vermont. As always, please reach out via email, TSmall@leg.state.vt.us, or phone, (802) 391-0569, if there is anything that I can help you with.



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 and view progress updates, visit winooski.vt.gov/vision.

Economic Vitality:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$7,250,000 from President Biden's Investing in America Agenda to expedite the assessment and cleanup of brownfields sites in Vermont while advancing environmental justice. The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission has been selected to receive \$500,000 for a Brownfields Assessment Grant, with Winooski as one of the target areas. Community-wide grant funds will be used to environmental site assessments, prepare cleanup plans, and conduct community outreach activities.

Municipal Infrastructure:

The Vermont Department of Transportation continues to send 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.

Housing:

A progress update on this area was delivered during the July 17th City Council meeting, including information on the public building registry ordinance, the Housing Initiative Director's annual workplan, the Winooski Housing Trust Fund, the citywide reappraisal process, and more. The Winooski Housing Commission put a short-term rental discussion item on their July agenda.

Safe, Healthy, Connected People:

A progress update on this area was delivered during the June 20th City Council meeting, including information about the future of the O'Brien Community Center, Recreation and Parks programs, status of the Winooski School District School Resource Officer position, the Regional Dispatch initiative, and more.



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 Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 in observance of Battle of Bennington Day.

The new 2023-2024 tax bills were mailed to the owner of record on July 14, 2023. Please note we mail out one (1) tax bill with the four coupons with due dates. If there is a change of ownership, please forward the tax bill to the new owner. The first installment is due on August 15, 2023. In addition, the utility bills were mailed out on July 14, 2023. The due date is August 15, 2023. Tax and utility payments can be made at winooski.vt.gov/pay.



Vermont Department of Health Resources

The Vermont Department of Health has many excellent resources available for Winooski residents. See the following current initiative links on their website to get informed:

Flood Safety

healthvermont.gov/flood

Summer Safety

healthvermont.gov/summer-safety-tips

Hot Weather Resources

healthvermont.gov/hot-weather

COVID-19

healthvermont.gov/covid-19

Mental Health

healthvermont.gov/mental-health



Myers Memorial Pool

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 for details!
- 62 Pine Street / 802 497 2903 / pool@winooski.vt.gov
- 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

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Junior Lifeguarding

Ages 11-14 / Saturdays July 29 - August 26

Interested in eventually becoming a Myers Memorial Pool lifeguard? This is an opportunity for future lifeguards

to begin building the skills necessary to become a lifeguard. We will focus on basic save techniques, understanding how to recognize the signs of swimmer distress, basic first aid, awareness in a public pool setting, and an introduction to professionalism as a lifeguard. This is not an official certification, however this course will focus on building lifeguarding skill sets.

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. Our two final home meets will be Tuesday, August 18 and Thursday, August 20. Please note that open swim will close at 4:30pm on these days.

Skateboarding with Burton Chill

Ages 10-19 / Mondays / June 26-August 7 / 10:30am-12:30pm @ Landry Park Skatepark
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.

Outdoor Movie Nights

Soul / All Ages / Friday / August 4 / 7:30 - 9:30pm @ Richard's Park
Raya and the Last Dragon / All Ages / Friday / September 1 / 7:30 - 9:30pm @ Richard's Park
Grab some blankets, snacks, your friends and family, and join us at Richard's Park for free outdoor movie nights this summer. No registration is required.

Performance Camp

Ages 6-12 / Monday - Friday / August 14 - August 18 / 9am - 3pm @ O'Brien Community Center
Are you interested in learning more about acting, playwriting, improvisation, comedy, dance, creative drama, and other performance skills? Join Recreation & Parks for a week of immersion in the performing arts.

Olympians Camp

Ages 6-12 / Monday - Friday / August 21 - August 25 / 9am – 3pm @ Landry Park
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be an Olympian? Join Rec & Parks for a week of learning new sports, team challenges, competitions, fun prizes, and live out your Olympic dream this summer.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Vinyasa Flow

Age 18+ / Wednesdays / August - September / 8:30 - 9:30am @ O'Brien Community Center Studio
Ages 18+ / Mondays / August - September / 5:40 – 7pm @ 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 - 6:30pm @ 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

 @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 winooski.vt.gov/thrive.



Winooski Memorial Library

winooski.vt.gov/library

  @winooskilibrary

Updated Library Hours

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

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 winooski.vt.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, August 19 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+

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.

- August, 2, 9, 23, 30 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@winooski.vt.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; 802-655-6424.

Make a Healthy Snack with UVM Extension 4-H

Join UVM Extension 4-H at the Winooski Library for a youth workshop where you'll make your own healthy snack. Learn what nutrients make your body feel great while you prepare a delicious rainbow fruit snack to eat.

- Tuesday, August 15 from 3 - 4:30pm
- Drop-in, no registration required.
- Recommended for ages 6+

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. Any reference to commercial products, trade names, or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended.

Questions? Call or email 802 655 6424 / kwilson@winooski.vt.gov

Morning Coffee Social

Join us on the back lawn at the Winooski Memorial Library for our morning coffee social - meet up with friends and neighbors, new faces and old, for some casual conversation while enjoying a locally roasted brew.

- Friday, August 18, 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 is intended to nurture a sense of wonder, place, and well-being for little ones.

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

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 - 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.

Wigglebot Fun with UVM Extension 4-H

Join UVM Extension 4-H at the Winooski Library for a workshop on how to make your own Wigglebot! Wigglebots are mini-creatures you will create and bring to life with some imagination and a small motor. Watch your "bot" shake, wiggle and draw. You'll get to use your creativity and design skills and learn how electricity and a bit of wiggle can bring your design to life.

- Tuesday, August 22, 3:00 - 4:30pm
- Drop-in, no registration required. Supplies is limited to 20 kits – please arrive on time to ensure your youth's participation.
- Recommended for ages 6+

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Questions? Call or email 802 655 6424 / kwilson@winooskivt.gov

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@winooskivt.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@winooskivt.gov / 802-655-6424.

Youth Jewelry Club

Join us every Thursday this summer as we learn to make jewelry at the Library. Each week we'll try out a different pattern or style of friendship, paracord, or bead bracelets together.

- Thursday, August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
 - 1 - 2pm
 - Recommended for youth ages 8+.
- Youth 9 and younger must be with an adult to visit the Library.

- Drop-in; no registration required

Questions? Please contact Kirsten Wilson, Library Youth Services Coordinator, at kwilson@winooskivt.gov or 802 655 6424.

Youth Summer Reading Program & Community Celebration

This summer, join the Winooski Memorial Library for our Youth Summer Reading Program! This summer's theme, "All Together Now," invites youth to explore concepts of kindness, friendship, and interconnectedness within our community. Youth can still pick up their own Summer Reading Program booklet, which includes 10 weeks of prompts and the chance to win an ice cream voucher to Off Beat Creemee.

Join us also on August 23rd for our summer sendoff celebration with food, fun, and games! We'll be raffling off some final prizes, too, for participants of our Summer Reading Program.

- Wednesday, August 23 from 4 - 5pm
- Behind the Library at 32 Mallets Bay Ave, weather permitting.
- All are welcomed - youth 9 and under must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.



Winooski Senior Center

winooskivt.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@winooskivt.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 12pm the Thursday before the scheduled Tuesday meal. Find our monthly menus at winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter.

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

WEDNESDAYS

Breakfast Café & Coffee Chat -serving 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. No Program on August 16.

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:

- August 2: Elaine Wang, Winooski City Manager - Join us as we welcome back Elaine Wang for an informal discussion about all things Winooski! Hear updates on City initiatives and projects. Bring your questions, concerns, and thoughts.
- August 9: Medicare Fraud Presentation - Thanks to the Community of Vermont Elders, we are hosting the Vermont Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) for a presentation on Medicare fraud. This will include how to detect, prevent and report it. SMPs are federally funded through the Administration of Community Living and exist in every state.
- August 16: Closed for Bennington Battle Day
- August 23: TED Talk on Aging with Jane Fonda - Watch a fascinating presentation about "Life's Third Act." Within this generation, an extra 30 years have been added to our life expectancy -- and these years aren't just a footnote! Jane Fonda asks how we can re-imagine this new phase of our lives. Roundtable discussion to follow.
- August 30: Ray Coffey, Director of Community Services - Ray leads the Community Services Department which includes: Recreation & Parks, the Myers Memorial Pool, the Winooski Memorial Library, the Winooski Senior Center, Thrive After School, and Community Gardens. Come and meet Ray — Hear about upcoming programming, bring your questions, concerns and ideas!

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 winooskivt.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

Senior Swim Party at the Myers Pool. August 6, 6:30 – 8pm

Have a cold drink and a bite to eat by the pool. We'll have great music, lawn games and tons of fun! Swim, dip your toes in the water, or just hang out and socialize on the pool deck. FREE. RSVP by 12pm on August 1st.

National Senior Citizen Day BBQ. August 24, 12pm.

Join us as we celebrate National Senior Citizens Day with the Winooski Police Department! Our free annual BBQ lunch is for all folks 55+. We'll have WPD cooking up hot dogs and hamburgers, and we'll be offering summer salads, chips, cold drinks and special desserts. RSVP by 12pm on August 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.



Reimagining Rotary Park

By Melissa Corbin, Executive Director, Downtown Winooski

Downtown Winooski is a nonprofit organization that upholds the downtown designation established by the State of Vermont. Winooski is 1 of 24 downtowns to hold this historic designation. The Vermont Downtown Program helps support community revitalization while preserving the historic character and enhancing the future of medium to large-sized historic centers. As a designated downtown nonprofit organization, Downtown Winooski qualifies to apply for a Better Places Grant to reimagine our Rotary Park.

Better Places is a non-competitive, community matching grant program empowering Vermonters to create inclusive and vibrant public places serving Vermont’s designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas. The program provides one-on-one project coaching, local fundraising support, and two to one (2:1) matching grants ranging from

\$5,000 to \$40,000 to make your community-led placemaking ideas happen. *

Call to Action

Downtown Winooski is calling on our community to send your ideas for what you want to see in

a newly refreshed Rotary Park. As an organization, Downtown Winooski will distill down all the ideas from the community and develop a plan to submit to the City and the State for approval.

Email ideas to info@downtownwinooski.org with Better Places in the subject.

How it Works

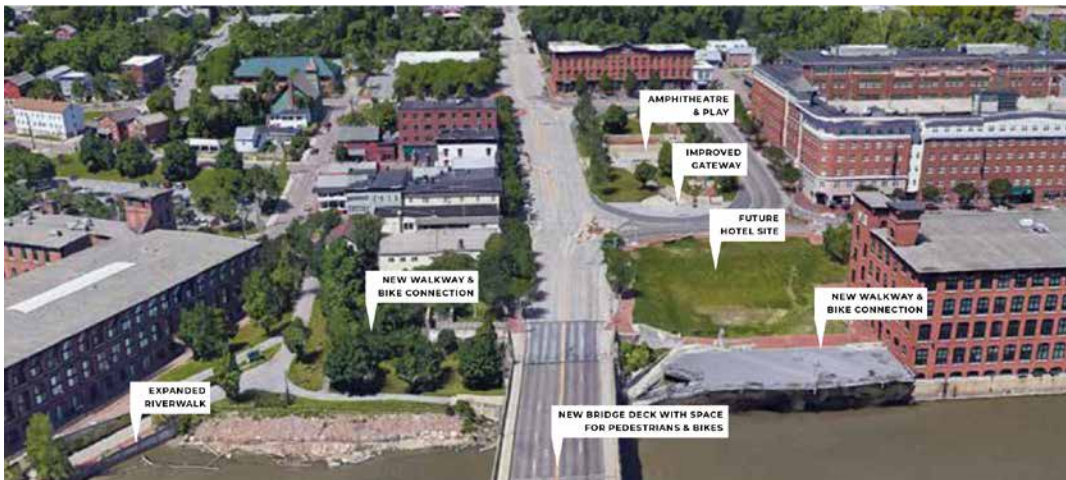
Better Places uses a method of grantmaking called “crowdgranting”. Crowdgranting combines crowdfunding – the practice of funding a project with small donations from a large number of people – paired with a matching grant from the State. Crowdgranting builds local awareness, excitement, and shared investment in community-led placemaking projects. *

Setting our Goal

We need to raise money together to receive matching funding from the program. WE CAN DO THIS just like the 32 other communities in Vermont who created beautiful places through this program. When you send your ideas, send your suggestion for a fundraising goal for our community. The maximum amount the program will grant is up to \$40K. What do you think we can

raise as a community to get the matching grant funding? If we fundraise \$20K we have a \$40K match to spend \$60K making Rotary Park the place our residents want for our community. If we think \$10K is a more reasonable goal, the match grant is \$20K to spend \$30K in the park. Every project must meet their fundraising goal to receive the matching grant funds, so we need to be realistic. Check out what other communities have accomplished: <https://www.patronicity.com/BetterPlacesVT>.

Email ideas to info@downtownwinooski.org with Better Places in the subject.



Program Partners

The Better Places program is managed by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont

Community Foundation, and Patronicity. The program relies on the expertise and generous support of the Better Places Partners that include the Vermont Arts Council, AARP Vermont, Local Motion, Preservation Trust of Vermont, Vermont Agency of Transportation, and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. Details about the program from the State of Vermont’s website: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/better-places>:

As an organization, Downtown Winooski fundraises to provide free events in our community like the upcoming Winooski Wednesdays concerts on August 2nd & September 6th and Winooski Pride on September 9th .

To support these events in your community, donate on our website at downtownwinooski.org or drop a check at City Hall. Your donations make these events free to our community. Thanks to everyone who made Juneteenth, French Heritage Day, June and July Winooski Wednesday concerts and the Winooski Farmers Market every Sunday a collective success so far this summer. We couldn’t do it all without the support from our residential and business community members.

Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for August

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Wednesday, August 9th | 1:00pm to 3:00pm | Pantry staples, veggies, eggs, meat and diapers |
| Saturday, August 12th | 9:30am to 11:00am | Veggies, deli, bakery, meat, eggs and diapers |
| Wednesday, August 23rd | 1:00pm to 3:00pm | Pantry staples, veggies, eggs, meat and diapers |
| Saturday, August 26th | 9:30am to 11:00am | Veggies, deli, bakery, meat, eggs and diapers |

Our client numbers remain high. Please pack your patience and some reusable shopping bags when you come. We are requesting that all our clients provide proof that they live in Winooski. If you have not brought us a current piece of mail such as a utility bill (gas, electric, phone, water) or rental lease, please be sure to bring a copy next time you come. We also need the names of all household members.

This will be the last month we will be able to provide families with baby diapers. We will let families know where they can go to get them.

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.

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. We especially need help serving clients on Wednesdays.

A Lifelong Friendship is One of the Many Benefits of Homesharing

By Ric Cengeri, Communications Specialist

There are so many benefits to homesharing. The obvious ones include earning some extra income and possibly receiving help with chores around the house.

We've also learned that our hosts feel healthier and happier, less lonely, safer at home, and even sleep better. Another unexpected benefit that many of our homesharers tell us about is the friendship that develops between homeshare host and guest. Some have even described it as gaining a lifelong friend and another family member.

HomeShare Vermont has been creating 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.

We have 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 when you're away from home.



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. You can also visit HomeShareVermont.org, where you can read about some of the matches we've created in our past newsletters.

HomeShareVermont.org.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Kate Nugent, Executive Director

Taking our temperatures

This winter and spring, the WPP ran youth and adult focus groups, surveyed students in school, and started to gather additional information about community attitudes and beliefs related to substance use. This information is important to gather systematically and regularly, and we try to do a more thorough gathering every three to five years. It guides the strategies and actions our organization takes to reduce problem substance use in Winooski and gives us an opportunity to look at what the information is telling us, instead of going by a feeling or opinion. With this information, we can apply a public health approach that hopefully, both increases the community's ability to solve its own challenges and improves

community resiliency. Many thanks to our incredible staff for their hard work in gathering this information and connecting with community leaders. As you can probably anticipate, we'll be sharing a report that summarizes the information we have gathered and analyzed, probably sometime in the late fall or early winter. Stay tuned!

The WPP & Partners Donate Food to Flood Recover Volunteers in Barre

When storms again impacted Vermont the second weekend the WPP was scheduled to host a table at the Winooski Farmer's Market, we worked with our guest chef for the day, Hakima, to donate her delicious Moroccan food to volunteers in Barre.

Look for us again at the Winooski Farmer's Market on August 27 when we'll be featuring food from Northern Spain!

Resource Corner

ParentUp Vermont helps parents and guardians of pre-teens and teens with facts, tips, examples, role-plays and more and is a service of the Vermont Department of Health: "Kids want to hear your opinion on topics like alcohol, mental health, cannabis, and other drugs. Creating ongoing, two-way dialogue can help make these discussions easier. Watch the videos for tips on helping your child open up." The website is always being updated with new helpful information. Check it out!

Howard Center August News

By Paul Detzer, Development and Communications Engagement Manager

Zoe's Race

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 by The Hokum Brothers. There is a fee for the 5K or 10K event. Register or volunteer: www.howardcenter.org/zoes-race-2023.



• Create a routine.

Getting back into a regular routine can be tough after the relaxing days of summer. Start gradually implementing a bedtime and wake-up time a few weeks before school starts. This will help your child adjust to the new schedule and make mornings less chaotic.

- **Talk about expectations.** Sit down with your child and talk about what you expect of their behavior and academics. It's important that they know what is expected of them so that they can start the year off on the right foot.
- **Be positive.** Returning to school can be an exciting time for your child. Try talking about all the great things that will happen this year, such as making new friends and learning new ideas.
- **Communicate with the school.** If you have any concerns or questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your



child's teacher. They want your child to have a successful year too.

- **Limit screentime** and consider using parental controls and supervising the types of content they consume online and on TV.

Substance Use Addiction Summit

Champlain Valley Expo on Friday, August 11, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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 eliminate 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) or Melinda White – (802-393-9196 / melindaw@howardcenter.org).

Back-to-School Tips for Parents/Caregivers

For students, returning to a school routine following summer vacation can be an adjustment. If you're feeling stressed about getting your child ready for the new school year, you're not alone. Here are some tips to help:

- **Get organized.** Make a list of all the supplies your child will need for the school year and then check it off as you go.



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.wsdvt.org

Superintendent of Schools
 Wilmer Chavarria, wchavarria@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, *President*, 802-349-7018, aburlock@wsdvt.org
 Kamal Dahal, 802-310-2821, kdahal@wsdvt.org
 Isaiah Donaldson, 802-383-6000, idonaldson@wsdvt.org
 Robert Millar, 802-383-6000, rmillar@wsdvt.org

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CITY OF WINOOSKI
www.winooski.vt.gov, 802-655-6410

Mayor
 Kristine Lott, 802-766-1988, klott@winooski.vt.gov

City Manager
 Elaine Wang, 802-655-6410, ewang@winooski.vt.gov

City Councilors
 Aurora Hurd, 802-734-7082, ahurd@winooski.vt.gov
 Charles Judge, 802-655-6410, cjudge@winooski.vt.gov
 Bryn Oakleaf, 802-448-2966, boakleaf@winooski.vt.gov
 Thomas Renner, *Deputy Mayor*, 802-922-3265, renner@winooski.vt.gov

City Clerk
 Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, 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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