



# WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

ALSO INCLUDES 10 PAGES OF  
**Community News!**  
STARTING ON PAGE 14

JULY 2020

## *Celebrating Our Achievements!*



Graduation photos by Becky Savage

### Presenting... The Class of 2020!

*The 2020 Graduation Celebration went mobile this year. Graduation speakers were students Kai Daud and Maryam Alchaderchi and the keynote was delivered by former principal Leon Wheeler. Congratulations to all!*

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Abbas A. Abdulaziz      | Peguy J. Kulemfuka          |
| Maryam Omar Alchaderchi | Corbin Matthew Lawrence     |
| Najib Ali               | Bishal Limbu                |
| Austin Hunter Benoit    | Susmita Limbu               |
| Reeta Chamlagai         | Lek Nath Luitel             |
| Xavier Clark            | Milan Magar                 |
| Jaysean Nasir Coleman   | Isha Mayange                |
| Kusa M. Daud            | Wendo Mbilizi               |
| Dhiraj Dhakal           | Isaac Esai McIntire-Nunez   |
| Sophia L. Do            | Caleb Moore                 |
| Jennifer Faske          | Prajwal Pradhan             |
| Alexis Marie Gordon     | Kassidy Rotunno             |
| Adison Joan Granger     | Sara Elizabeth Schmoll      |
| Shamir Gurung           | Andy Siki                   |
| Ramadan Said Hassan     | Garraat Somboon             |
| Scott Hunt Jr.          | Farhan Sugow                |
| Ali Hassan Hussein      | Padam Tiwari (Posthumously) |
| Chandrika Kadariya      | Najlaa Yahya                |
| Parker R. Kane          | Azee Zar                    |



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# Congratulations to all 2020 Scholarship Recipients



**Lek Nath Luitel** is the recipient of the University of Vermont Green and Gold Scholarship given to the student with the highest academic distinction at the end of their junior year.



**Scott Hunt** is the recipient of the Class of 2013 Scholarship for being dedicated to his class and showing great respect for our school.



**Xavier Clark** is the recipient of the Bill Everts Memorial Scholarship given to a senior who is the first in his family to go to college.



**Sara Schmoll** is the recipient of The Class of 2003 Scholarship for showing great respect for our school, the School Board scholarship for showing improvement over the four years, and the Challenge Scholarship for overcoming obstacles.



**Susmita Limbu** is the recipient of the Part Time Scholarship.



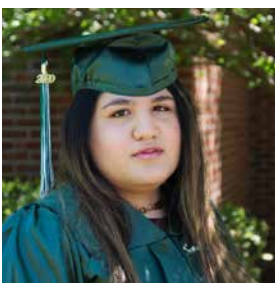
**Andy Siki** is the recipient of the PTO Scholarship and the Leadership Scholarship for demonstrating outstanding leadership and a positive attitude.



**Milan Magar** is the recipient of the PTO Scholarship for being a positive all-round student, the Nicholas Cusson-Ducharme Memorial Scholarship for being a hard working, dedicated student athlete, and the Business Department Scholarship for excelling in business classes.



**Abbas Abdulaziz** is the recipient of the School Board Scholarship for showing the most improvement of his 4 years.



**Najlaa Aref** is the recipient of the Business Department Scholarship for excelling in business classes and going on to school to study business.



**Cyphrian (Kai) Daud** is the recipient of Academic Scholarship for all around excellence over four years, the Leadership Scholarship for outstanding leadership and a positive attitude and the Vermont Honors Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement.

Graduate photos by Hillary Dubie Photography



**Ali Hussein** is the recipient of the WEA Scholarship for outstanding academics and going on to college in the field of education.



**Parker Kane** is the recipient of the WEA Scholarship for outstanding academics and going on to college in the field of education.



**Maryam Alchaderchi** is the recipient of the Carol Kessler Memorial Scholarship for outstanding academics and going into the medical profession.



**Sophia Do** is the recipient of the PTO Scholarship for being a positive, all-round student, and the John Malcovsky Scholarship for participating in community service.



**Isha Mayange** is the recipient of the Challenge Scholarship for overcoming obstacles during her four years.



**Austin Benoit** is the recipient of the Skills and Trade Scholarship and continuing his education in the skills and trade field.



**Azee Zar** is the recipient of the Academic Scholarship for all around excellence over four years and the Bob Weis Scholarship for asking questions and being curious about the world around us.



**Adison Granger** is the recipient of the Bob Weis Scholarship for being curious and asking questions about the world around us and the Maida Townsend Scholarship for loving learning, accepting the differences among people and giving of herself for the goodness of others.



*Congratulations everyone!  
We are so proud of you.*



## There is a George Floyd in every city in America

Our hearts break for George Floyd's family, friends and community. Our hearts break for our country. Our hearts break for our students - who have inherited a system founded on racism and injustice.

The Winooski school community vehemently condemns the mental and physical violence directed at People of Color in the United States. As an organization, the Winooski Board of School Directors firmly believe that everyone should be afforded their inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The abhorrent killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many, many others demonstrates that we are utterly failing to uphold our country's founding principles in the Black community.

The condemnation is easy. What is much harder is knowing what to do now. We may not be able to solve the country's problems, but we can take ownership of what happens in Winooski and its school district.

Our Board of Trustees vows to:

- Build trust with marginalized communities, truly listening to the voices that are often left unheard.
- Be vigilant and consistent in dealing with racism in any form.
- Require that all of our students and staff are treated fairly and equally.
- Examine our policies and practices to ensure that we are truly meeting our ends statement for all.
- Require measurable equity progress, as shown by data that is based not just on students' academic achievements but also on connection to our community and school.
- Ensure everyone in our learning community has access to bias and equity training.
- Educate our students to be allies in ending discrimination.
- Empower our students of color to speak up for themselves and others.
- Hold ourselves to high standards of accountability to our community in

meeting these equity goals.

We are the board of the most diverse school district in Vermont. WSD has the highest percentage of students who identify as Black within the second whitest state in the United States. We have a profound responsibility to our students and their families to do better.

We also recognize that many of our students are discovering racism since they moved to our country for safety. Tragically, our students are quickly learning that the U.S. does not, in fact, guarantee safety to people who look like them.

We might not be able to end institutional racism across America. But we can try to end racism in Winooski. Providing an equitable education to our students is the best tool we have to accomplish this goal. We will ask our students: What do you want from your future and how do we get you there? They will see their dreams and goals reflected in our policies, practices and course offerings.

The School Board of Winooski Schools is committed to providing this equitable education. We, the Winooski School Board of Trustees, call on the community of Winooski to stand with us in combating racism in all its forms to ensure each of our students are truly afforded their inalienable rights.

*In solidarity,  
Michael Decarreau, WSD School Board President, Margaret Bass, Tori Cleiland, Matthew MacNeil, Alex Yin, WSD School Board Members*

## Message about the Killing of George Floyd

The Winooski School District Leadership Team wants to express our deep sadness and outrage at George Floyd's death, yet another Black person killed because of the systemic racism inherent in our nation.

We understand that despite the long

history of racism and injustice in our country and in our schools, Families of Color continue to entrust us with their precious children's education. We must be worthy of their trust. These are some of the ways we are trying to combat racism in ourselves and our schools:

A group has been reviewing our hiring procedures and drafting a hiring statement for the active recruitment of teachers of color. We are prepared to back this work with financial resources.

We are committed to offering a safe space for our students to process their emotions and express their voices - through art, video activism, and letter writing.

We are training our staff to help facilitate these challenging conversations with our students.

Over the last few years, educators at the Winooski School District have begun the journey of engaging in courageous conversations together about race and equity through different types of professional development. There is much more for us to do. It is moments like this that highlight why this work is so important and it must serve as a catalyst for promoting change in our community so we can expand this important work.

We recognize the need to develop a clear vision and action plan for moving our school community's equity work ahead. This work will take shape over the course of the next school year. We are organizing informal equity dialogues over the summer to begin this process. If you would like to participate in these groups please email Kirsten Kollgaard at [kkollgaard@wsdvt.org](mailto:kkollgaard@wsdvt.org).

*In solidarity,  
Sara Raabe, JFK Elementary Principal, Kate Grodin, WMHS Co-Principal, Jean Berthiaume, WMHS Co-Principal, Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of ELL & Curriculum, Robin Hood, Director of Support Services & Early Learning, Nicole Mace, Finance Manager, Sean McMannon, Superintendent*

## Capital Project Updates, July 2020

By ReArch, Construction Management Company

For the duration of the renovation and construction of the Winooski School District there will be ongoing impacts to site access and established pedestrian and vehicle traffic flows. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to creating new facilities that will better serve our students, neighbors, visitors, family, and friends.

Below is a list of updates, expected closings, and areas that are off-limits:

### June 15, 2020 through August 2022:

- George Street parking lot is closed.
- Vehicular access to the Outdoor Basketball Court, East Backfields, Baseball Facilities, and Track is limited to the Franklin Street Extension.
- Main street sidewalk between Normand Street right turn exit lane and Checkers Carwash will be closed. Please use crosswalks Located at South Park Drive and Tigan Street.

### June 15, 2020 through August 2020:

- Pedestrian access to the Outdoor Basketball Court, East Backfields, Baseball Facilities, and Track:
- Via Franklin Street Extension is not impacted. This is the suggested route.
- Via George Street will be available intermittently, pending completion of required utility work.
- Via the drop-off loop is unavailable.
- All play structures remain closed.
- Parking and traffic flow in the main parking lot (Normand Street) will be impacted for completion of new utility



work. Construction fencing will be installed at working areas and removed when underground utility work is complete.

- Use of the track may be impacted due to completion of required utility work. Pending confirmation from Green Mountain Power.
- Student drop off areas will be closed 6/15 thru 7/15 for completion of required utility work.

### September, 2020 through May, 2021:

- Pedestrian access to the Outdoor Basketball Court, East Backfields, Baseball Facilities, and Track is limited to Franklin Street Extension and George Street.
- Access via George St may be interrupted pending completion of required utility work.

## WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.wsdvt.org](http://www.wsdvt.org)

### Superintendent of Schools

Sean McMannon: 655-0485  
smcmannon@wsdvt.org

### John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Principal: Sara Raabe  
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sraabe@wsdvt.org

### Winooski Middle and High School

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### WSD ENDS STATEMENT

All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community.

### ABOUT OUR DISTRICT

The Winooski School District is a PreK through 12 system that is housed in one educational center. At press time, there were 490 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5) and 396 attending Winooski Middle/High School (grades 6-12).

As one of the most diverse school districts in the state of Vermont, Winooski's teachers and staff are highly involved in professional development programs that help increase student achievement, address the needs of a diverse student population, and allow students to thrive in an engaging environment with high expectations.

"District News!" is published by the Winooski School District, 60 Normand Street, Winooski, VT 05404. Anne Linton Elston, Editor. Phone: 802-655-0942. Email: [newsletter@wsdvt.org](mailto:newsletter@wsdvt.org)

# Welcome New Staff!

By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications and Development Director

We asked these new staffers a few questions so we could all get to know them better.

## Michael Eppolito, WSD's new Curriculum Director

Michael Eppolito is currently the Director of Curriculum for the Two Rivers Supervisory in Ludlow, Vermont. He taught middle



school social studies at Flood Brook Union School in Londonderry, Vermont, for ten years. Before that, he was a special educator in Londonderry and Silver Spring, Maryland. Michael earned his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and his M.A. in Special Education from the George Washington University. He has gone through the middle grades institute and was instrumental in establishing a middle-level program at Flood Brook. He worked with Curriculum Directors in Southwest Vermont to organize "Vermont's Journey to Proficiency and Personalization" symposium in Castleton, Vermont. Michael runs seminars for Vermont schools on collaborative practices and facilitative leadership. He is also a Teaching Fellow for the Flow of History, where he works with educators to design proficiency-based history lessons. His current focus is on developing teacher leadership teams and implementing personalized and proficiency-based education programs. Michael likes to spend his free time mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and when the ground is not frozen, gardening. He currently lives in Londonderry, Vermont, with his wife, Jeanie, his son, Eli, and their dog, Charlie.

### What did you do before you came to WSD?

I am currently the Director of Curriculum at Two Rivers Supervisory

Union, which covers the towns of Chester, Andover, Cavendish, Ludlow, and Mt Holly. In that role, I oversee the teacher mentoring system, professional learning for all the teachers, and all aspects of our curriculum. I am also a national facilitator for the School Reform Initiative; a national organization focused on educational equity and excellence. In that role, I have had the honor of working with teachers from all over the country. I also serve as a teaching fellow for the Flow of History, an organization centered in the Connecticut River Valley. I help design and deliver professional learning on how to teach history effectively.

### What do you hope to accomplish in your first year with WSD?

My primary goal is to learn about Winooski's culture and values. I will spend time listening to students and the community about what they value and want to see in their curriculum. I also plan to get to know the teaching staff at JFK and Winooski High School and Middle School. I have learned over my years in leadership that anything I accomplish has to be grounded in the community and the relationships I build.

### What is your proudest accomplishment?

I am very proud of the teacher leadership teams I nurtured at Two Rivers. TRSU was formed through a merger several years before Act 46. That merger joined two organizations with different histories, organizational cultures, and belief systems. This new supervisory union could have quickly become six isolated schools and a central office. Over seven years, I worked with our Administrative Council to build several teacher leadership groups and supported them as they created a coherent and unified educational organization. We rebuilt our mentoring system, designed teacher-driven inservice, and began the transition to a proficiency-based curriculum. I guess those were the teachers' and the principals' accomplishments, but I played a part.

### What do you do for fun?

I enjoy the walks my dog Charlie takes

me on. I love getting out on my mountain bike in the warmer months and cross-country skis when there is snow. I also love reading. I am reading *These Truths* by Jill Lepore and *Reading In The Brain* by Stanislas Dehaene.

### Why do you heart Winooski?

I love how Winooski centers student voices and experiences. I have already participated in a Culture and Community Capstone presented by two students. One part of my interview process involved a discussion with a team of students. I observed a high school community meeting and was impressed by how students ran the program.

Please join us in welcoming Michael to the WSD team. You can connect with him at michael\_eppolito@yahoo.com

## Stephanie Beland, WSD's new 2nd Grade Teacher

### What did you do before you came to WSD?

Before joining Winooski School District, I taught 1st grade in Bakersfield, Vermont for 4 years. I began working at Bakersfield Elementary School after graduating from The University of Vermont with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I am currently completing my Master's Degree through Southern New Hampshire University. One of the many things that brought me to WSD was my experience with THRIVE Summer Program. I have been a THRIVE teacher in Winooski for 3 years and I completely fell in love with the school and the community.



### What do you hope to accomplish in your first year with WSD?

I hope to create lasting relationships with students and coworkers. I believe that relationships are one of the most

important pieces to teaching. I cannot wait to play games with my students, make silly jokes, and learn together throughout the year! I hope to bring my love of music to the classroom and learn about what my students are passionate about.

### **What is your proudest accomplishment?**

My proudest accomplishment is deciding to be a teacher! I struggled with figuring out “what I want to be when I grow up” for quite some time. Throughout my time at UVM I switched majors 3 times before I discovered that teaching was my perfect fit. I always knew that I wanted to work with children, but I didn’t know in what capacity. Deciding to become a teacher and beginning my career after graduating gave me an incredible sense of purpose and accomplishment.

### **What do you do for fun?**

I live in Winooski so I enjoy trying new restaurants - I’ve got to say, we have the best food choices in Winooski! I also enjoy spending time with my two dogs, Griffin and Galadriel (yes, my 8 pound Chihuahua is named after a Lord of the Rings elf). You can often find me walking my dogs around Winooski or reading a book in my yard with my pups close by.

### **Why do you heart Winooski?**

I heart Winooski because the community is a family. This community is loving, accepting, and provides opportunities for all of its residents to enjoy the small city. I heart Winooski because the students and teachers are so of the most passionate and inspiring people I have ever met. Most of all, I heart Winooski because it is my home and I love the people in it.

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## **Patrick Cafferky, WSD’s new 4th grade teacher**

### **What did you do before you came to WSD?**

Before I came to WSD I taught 4th grade for two years in Morrisville, Vermont. I coached cross-country skiing for two of those years and started my masters degree, which I am still working on. Before that I taught 4th grade in

Westminster, Vermont for two years. Before I became a teacher I was a bicycle mechanic. I love figuring out how to make things work and create new things with my hands.



### **What do you hope to accomplish in your first year with WSD?**

I am looking forward to joining a new community of learners. I have always thought that Winooski was an interesting place and to be joining this community really excites me. I can’t wait to get to know my colleagues and the students next year.

### **What is your proudest accomplishment?**

Seeing my students succeed when they are in my classroom and after they move on to the next grade makes me very proud. Seeing students achieve their goals and dreams makes me very happy.

### **What do you do for fun?**

In the summer I spend a lot of time riding my bicycle (mountain biking and riding dirt roads), running, and working on woodworking projects. In the winter, I spend a lot of time cross country skiing. The activities make me happy but the connections I make with others are why I do it.

### **Why do you heart Winooski?**

I have been so impressed by how welcoming the school has been already and I’ve heard so many positive things about the Winooski Community as a whole.

## **Winooski Students Meet Dr. Terrence Roberts**

*By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications and Development Director*

In late May, high school students had an incredible experience in meeting Dr. Terrence Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine.



The students were studying the desegregation efforts of Sylvia Mendez in CA and the Little Rock Nine in AR. This work was part of a broader unit about how ordinary people can fight against injustice. The opportunity to meet Dr. Roberts came up through teacher Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver’s connections with Facing History and Ourselves.

In 1955, a teenage Roberts volunteered to be one of the first Black students to desegregate one of the largest high schools in America. The Arkansas Governor’s efforts to fight desegregation resulted in a temporary closure of Little Rock’s public high schools - historically called “The Lost Year”. Roberts then spent his senior year in Los Angeles, and continued his education, eventually earning a Ph.D. degree in Psychology. He spent the latter part of his career as the Assistant Dean in the UCLA School of Social Welfare. He was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.

One student asked, “Were you ever scared going into the school with the white parents screaming at you that you shouldn’t go in and making death threats?” Dr. Terrence Roberts replied, “Scared? I didn’t even know a person could be that afraid! However, being a life-long learner I learned about fear. Other people will do things that are harmful. You can respond with hatred or fear...but that’s letting the other person’s actions affect you. I wanted to be in control of what I could be in control of -- myself. So I learned how to stop responding with fear.”

After the meeting, student William P. said, “I will remember what he said about how to help a person who is having trouble if I see an injustice.”

# Eight Actions You Can Take to Strengthen Your Anti-Racist Practice

by Graham Clarke, WSD MTSS Coordinator

## 1 - Read, listen, observe and develop your PANing skills (Pay Attention Now).

Pay close attention to the situations you are in and the words being spoken. In early June, I was listening to the Florida police chief and deputy mayor speak with a student protestor. Five times the adult officials spoke of “the tragedy that happened to Mr. Floyd.” There was no mention of any other unarmed citizen who also had been killed by police nor recognition of the growing pattern of such incidents. From this observable fact, it seemed the dialogue was being framed as “there are a few bad apples” rather than “our institutions’ systems (health care, courts, police, schools, etc.) are rotten and need fundamental change.”

**2 - Show up!** Grab a mask and attend a local demonstration to support students and others. Participate in the march or drive by and honk your horn or drop off a case of water. Have your voice heard and your body seen.

**3 - Ask yourself, “Do I identify myself as a racist?”** If not, “Do I identify myself as anti-racist?” If not, “Why don’t I identify myself as an anti-racist person?”

**4 - With an open mind and open heart, watch and listen to Dr. Ibrahim Kendi** on YouTube, best selling author of *How To Be An Antiracist* [https://bit.ly/HowToBeAntiRacist\\_KENDI](https://bit.ly/HowToBeAntiRacist_KENDI)

**5 - Do not ask a person of color, “Do you think I am racist?”** Try to own your actions/ statements and don’t put the burden on other people. Even if everyone agrees that you are not a racist, that doesn’t mean you won’t say or do something that others view as a racist comment/action. Consider deeply the idea that all of us, racist and anti-racist alike, live, learn and/or work in a country that was built on land taken by force and /or by breaking treaties with Indigenous Nations and in a country largely built by the labor of slaves and indentured servants.

**6 - Be less silent and ask questions**



Andrew M. Ibrahim MD ([surgeryredesign.com](http://surgeryredesign.com)) found it impossible to work on “Redesigning Healthcare” and “Health in All Design” without the lens and context of Race. Inspired by the work of Dr. Kendi, he created this graphic which reflects his journey toward becoming Anti-Racist.

## and speak up more when you observe discrimination and acts of prejudice.

In early May, before George Floyd was murdered, I was in a local coffee shop with one other customer and two store clerks. All four of us wore a mask and no one in the store was speaking. After a while, I started wondering why it was taking so long for the young black woman in front of me to be served. A few seconds later she turned around, she quickly and silently left the store. I was slow to react and didn’t say anything to her. I stepped forward and was immediately waited on. “What would you like?” the employee asked. “I would like to know why you never waited on the woman who was patiently waiting to be served?” “There are only two of us here and we were busy,” he replied. “Doing what?” I asked. “Nobody has placed an order.” I left with my coffee and looked for the woman but couldn’t find her and apologize for not reacting more quickly and speaking up while she was still in the store. A few minutes later, in one of those “I wish I had said this” moments, it occurred to me that I should also have said, “I sure hope that the reason you ignored her was

not because she is black.” Writing about that incident, I’ve just decided that I’ll speak to the store manager and make him aware of the situation that I witnessed.

**7 - Reduce, or stop, saying, “It was not my intent to ..... offend you / cause you pain with my words / or make you feel inferior to me etc. etc.”** “People in (institutional) power tend to focus on what their intent of a statement was and people not in power tend to focus on the impact the statement or action has (on them),” a parent commented at Burlington High School meeting responding to racial issues in the community and schools. “Denying the impact of something said or not said, done or not done, by focusing on intent is often more destructive than the initial interaction,” writes R. Kim.

## 8 - Be mindful of using the phrase “I don’t feel safe...”

It can shut down a conversation about race. While the “it was not my intent” response tends to end a conversation; my experience is when a white person says “I don’t not feel safe” the discussion also quickly ends. Courageous conversations on race usually involve one or more person feeling discomfort. But R. Kim reminds us that “discomfort is different from harm.” Recently the “I am being threatened/I don’t feel safe” language was used by a white woman as a weapon toward a black man who was bird watching in Central Park. Recorded on cellphone on Memorial Day, she is seen calling NYC police screaming that she was, “being threatened by an African-American man”. I have no idea if she felt safe or unsafe but I did observe (PAN) that the video clearly showed that she walked toward the black man who was recording her on his phone. When was the last time you saw someone walk toward the person they said was threatening them? My experience is that people walk away from “danger” not toward it. The man and the woman left before the police arrived and so he avoided a potential life-threatening situation.



# Ethnic and Social Equity Standards in Vermont Schools (in conformance with Act 1) — An Interview with Winooski State Rep. Diana Gonzalez

By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications and Development Director

Last year, the General Assembly of the State of Vermont enacted an Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group to review current Vermont State Board of Education standards for students in Vermont, and make recommendations for updates and additional requirements that will allow students to recognize fully the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic and social groups.

These additional standards shall be designed to:

- increase cultural competency of students in prekindergarten through grade 12;
- increase attention to the history, contribution, and perspectives of ethnic groups and social groups;
- promote critical thinking regarding the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic groups and social groups;
- commit the school to eradicating any racial bias in its curriculum;
- provide, across its curriculum, content and methods that enable students to explore safely questions of identity, race equality, and racism; and
- ensure that the basic curriculum and extracurricular programs are welcoming to all students and take into account parental concerns about religion or culture.

*I spoke to Rep. Gonzalez about Act 1, which she co-sponsored.*

## Can you tell us more about the bill?

DG: This came about because a number of parents, students and general activists saw that in Vermont schools students were not being represented in the curriculum they were being taught. It was painful for many of them. They wanted to fix this problem. They wanted to make sure what students were learning reflected the full spectrum of the students in Vermont schools: Students of color, immigrant or refugee students, LGBTIA students, and students with disabilities. Current state-wide curriculum does not necessarily reflect students who have been traditionally marginalized. Some districts, like Winooski, do include the struggles, celebrations and everyday lives of People of Color and other marginalized groups in their curriculum, but it's inconsistent across the state. The parents, students and general activists who advocated for this bill wanted curriculum across Vermont to be enhanced and to make it easier for teachers to offer their students different perspectives instead of the burden being on individual teachers.

## When can students and teachers expect to see these recommendations reflected in their curriculum?

Currently, we have passed a bill that says we will form a group of people who will work together to figure out how to make our goals of ethnic and social equity standards happen. This group will create the method and timeline for implementation across the state.

## What are you hoping Act 1 will accomplish?

My aspiration is that it provides a foundation for teachers to provide meaningful support for their students. I was a teacher for a few years - I know how important it is to have access to a curriculum that reflects the successes and challenges of our students, especially for students from groups who have overcome adversity. Having this support across the state will make it easier for students to be reflected. I think of the need for curriculum to function both as a window and as a mirror.

When students see a mirror, who they are is reflected back at them. Their interests and identity groups are reflected back at them.

Windows allow students to see the realities of others, the lives of people who are different from them.

Vermont students need a curriculum that reflects their own experiences as well as the experiences of others. I hope this bill will help all students grow as whole human beings, to feel accepted and learn how to accept other people.

*Read more about the bill, and follow along with the Work Group's progress here: <https://education.vermont.gov/state-board-councils/ethnic-and-social-equity-standards-advisory-working-group>*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Records

Per the Vermont State Board of Education the Special Education Office of the Winooski School District hereby gives notification of the destruction of Special Education records of many students who graduated or attended the Winooski Schools during the following school years: 2012-13.

Be advised that select information from these Special Education records may be useful later for non-educational purposes such as qualifying for social security benefits.

If you wish to collect these records before they are destroyed, please contact Sandy Castle at 802-383-6009 or at [scastle@wsdvt.org](mailto:scastle@wsdvt.org). The deadline is 30 days from this ad.

### Stay in the Loop — Join Front Porch Forum

It's a free and easy online way to get on the local grapevine, connect with neighbors, and build community. You can post and read about block parties, neighborhood watches, lost dogs, plumber recommendations, helping neighbors in need, free furniture, and all kinds of good stuff. Check it out at [www.frontporchforum.com](http://www.frontporchforum.com).



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

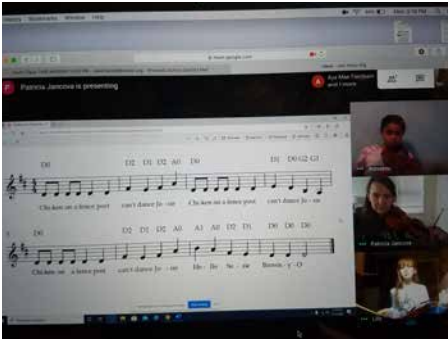


### 5th Graders Enjoy Mobile Celebration

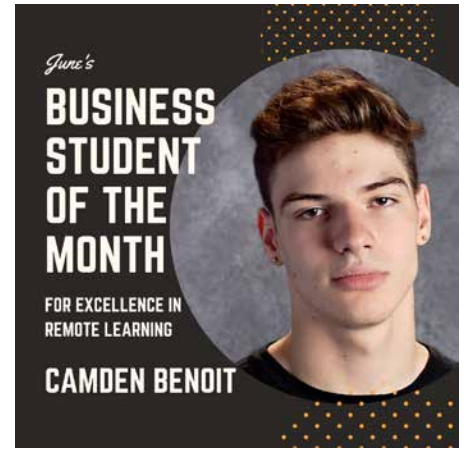
Each year, JFK Elementary has a 5th grade BBQ and Dance to celebrate our 5th graders moving onto middle school. This year, that was not possible! Instead, the 5th grade team got creative, and we organized a mobile 5th grade celebration. In the weeks following up to the mobile celebration, we created goodie bags for each of our 5th grade students. We had WSD silicone bracelets made, heart shaped iced cookies, and each 5th grader received a copy of the book *Be You!* By Peter Reynolds. Each 5th grade teacher signed the book, and I wrote each student a personalized message in their book. Past teachers wrote notes to students, all individualized and heartfelt. We added their JFK certificate, and the bags were ready to go. Sarah Murphy mapped out a route for us, including a time schedule so families could be outside ready to celebrate. The planning and preparation was detailed and made the actual event run smoothly.

On Monday, June 8th the 5th grade teachers and myself decorated our cars, and drove to each 5th grader's home. We socially distanced, and wore masks, but we were able to celebrate each student, their accomplishments, and their completion of 5th grade. While it wasn't a traditional end to their JFK school experience, it was amazing and unique. A huge thank you to the 5th grade team for all of their hard work putting it all together. We are so proud of this 5th grade class, all they accomplished, and their ability to end their last year at JFK strong, embracing all of the changes that happened.





*As JFK Elementary shifted to distance learning due to COVID-19, the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association (VYOA), offered virtual violin lessons for the students enrolled in the 21C afterschool program. Last month we didn't have room to include photos so here are a few! Left column: advanced violin students. Top right: Aili from the Beginner's violin class; bottom right: Diya from the Beginner's violin class*



## June Business Student of the Month

*By Courtney Poquette, WHS Business Teacher*

Our final Business Student of the Month of the year is awarded to Camden Benoit!

When it came to distance learning in Personal Finance, Camden CRUSHED IT! Not only was he the first to turn in assignments; he went above and beyond the expectations by writing in depth reflections and sending emails to ask questions and learn more. I am excited to see the plans he developed play out in the years to come.

Colleagues: Please feel free to shower Camden with emails congratulating him. It is a well deserved recognition!

# Black Lives Matter

By Emily Jacobs, Art Teacher

## Artist Statement by Hawa Mayange, Grade 8

I feel sad, heartbroken and angry that Black people get killed for no reason simply because of their skin color. Just because someone has a different skin color from you and is different from you doesn't mean they deserve to be treated differently. Just because they are different from you doesn't mean they are terrorist, illegal, or a threat. We might come from different places, but we are all human beings and we deserve to be treated the same.

For my artwork I drew a Black woman with the US flag covering her mouth, with George Floyd's name on it. I wrote Black Lives Matter across the bottom, and filled the background with names of Black men and women who have been murdered. Across the top, I wrote "Stop Killing Us." So many Black people have been killed by police or [civilian] white people for no reason, and so the message of my artwork is that BLACK LIVES MATTER.

I hope white people learn that treating people differently because of their skin is not okay, and saying racist stuff about someone's culture, religion, skin color is wrong. Yes, I am different from you, but that doesn't mean you can say and do whatever you want to me.

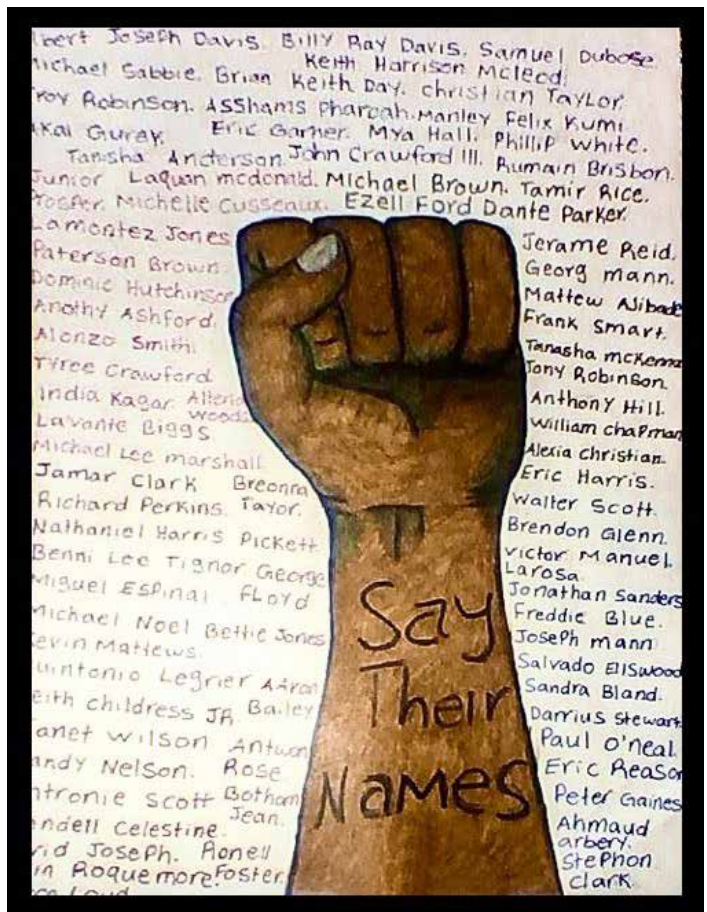
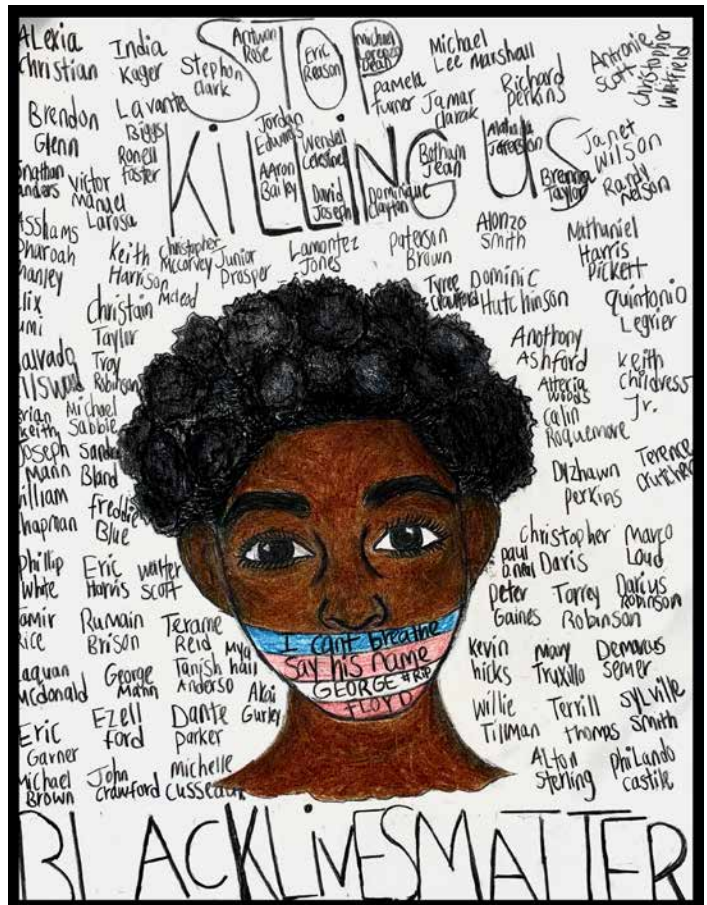
I hope my fellow Black people never feel bad or ashamed about having their dark skin color. I hope they feel proud about having a different skin color, because Black skin color is special, and Blackness is like a gift from God. I hope my fellow Black people know that their Blackness is the best thing that ever happened to them, because Black is beautiful.

## Artist Statement by Nadine Ikizakubuntu, Grade 8

The incident that happened to George Floyd inspired me to make this artwork. It's very sad and disappointing to see this still happening to Black people just because of their skin color. Some people say that, "It's not only black lives matter---it's all lives" That's true---that all lives should matter---but the reason we say "BLACK LIVES MATTER" is because other lives---white lives---have mattered to America and to police for as long as we can remember, but Black lives haven't seemed to matter. That's why we say Black Lives Matter. BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL.

My artwork is meant to say that enough is enough. Too many Black people have been killed just because of their skin color. I don't understand how the color of your skin matters---what matters is what is inside you.

Even though there have been a lot of our people killed, I hope that we can still stand and fight for our rights and never give up. Our skin color is not a threat. Of course, all life matters---so Black lives need to matter to America.



## Black Lives Matter

By Evelyn Monje

“I would like to acknowledge every white person here. I will not thank you. You are here to stand because you stand for basic human rights for EVERYONE. In this period of time, yes, this is revolutionary, and yet how is it possible that any human has been denied HUMAN rights. For hundreds of years, Africans and African Americans have been viewed as less than human. I’m glad you’ve decided to come here today, but this should not be a mission of gratitude for you. I would like to thank all the African and African American kings and queens, our kings and queens of melanin who have joined us here today. Because this act is truly revolutionary. This is an act that deserves awe. You have stood against the power of a nation, even when the risk of you losing your life is so high. This is EXTRAORDINARY.

We, kings and queens of melanin, have hundreds of years of resentment, hate, pain, and sorrow sown into our very being waiting to explode, AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE MUST DO

We must refine this explosion into an overwhelming power. Revolution is nothing new to us. Our bodies hold the quiet power of ‘no, I will not leave this seat,’ and our voices hold the everlasting weight of ‘I have a dream,’ so no, revolution is not new to us and I am proud of every single king and queen for drawing their power from their bones and standing here with me today.

We are here to stand against the police who are murdering us. Something I see often is ACAB. I cannot believe that every cop is bad, but many of them do not have revolution coursing in their beings. This is new to them. How do you stand against



your brother in arms? Look to the kings and queens who have stood for centuries against those with more power. Follow our lead. Use your voice, because I do not believe that all cops are bad, but when you have a force of over half a million officers who have sworn to protect and serve. If ANY, EVEN ONE, is bad they have the power to snuff the life out of innocents,

and in our today those innocents are majorly kings of melanin. Where do these cops get their power? From our silence, but NEVER AGAIN.

To the white people here today. I nod at you. I acknowledge your presence in this battle. Please continue to use your privilege to lift black voices to the skies. Continue following our example, as we have known how to fight for our lives from a young age, for a very long time.

To the black peoples here today I thank you, I admire you, and I ask that you please continue to fight. Draw power from those before us and stand tall. We are a tsunami ready to revolutionize the nation. and it is no longer if it is a when!

Do we have any police here today?

No, we did not: While it was gracious of them to permit officers to join us it is unfortunate that they’re not here alongside us... we hope that they join our movement and represent what real police look like.”

*Evelyn Monje is a junior at Winooski High School. She gave this speech in June at a student-led Black Lives Matter march in response to the murder of George Floyd.*

## A Reflection on Racial Justice and Antiracism

By Luke Dorfman, High School Math Teacher and 2019 Rowland Foundation Fellow

The words of my friend, Christie Nold, are ringing in my ears right now: “During the past week, our country has revisited a cycle of violence that seems to disappear from the news for a moment before returning again.” I’m thinking about the recent murder of George Floyd, the racial profiling of Christian Cooper, among so many others.

I recognize that racism exists everywhere - including in our own Winooski community. I’m thinking about the statement: “Racism and inequality are products of design. They can be redesigned” (equityXdesign). As a white educator, I see it as my responsibility to transform my own practice to be in service of equity, justice, and antiracism - work I am still making sense of and learning about. I know it is important to listen, learn, and act. Below, I’m sharing some resources I find valuable in case others will find meaning in them too.

As a good place to start, I encourage you to check out...

- “Talking About Race” from the National Museum of African American History & Culture, which provides numerous tools for and guidance on talking about race and engaging others in conversation.

- “The Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture” from Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups, which gives name to what white supremacy culture looks like and how it appears in our organizations and institutions.

- “What’s My Complicity? Talking White Fragility with Robin DiAngelo” from Teaching Tolerance, which shares an important perspective for white people who are well-intentioned and doing anti-racist and social justice work.

Some books about racial justice and antiracism I plan to read closely include...

- “So You Want To Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo
- “How to Be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi
- 28 Books That Talk About Race - a reading list published by Read It Forward
- If you’re looking for other resources to learn more about racial justice and antiracism, or if you’d like to get involved with equity work happening at WSD or in the City, please feel free to reach out to myself (ldorfman@wsdvt.org) or Kirsten Kollgaard (kkollgaard@wsdvt.org).



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Municipal Update July 2020

By Paul Sarne, Communications Coordinator



**COVID-19  
Information  
& Updates**

### City of Winooski Continues to Provide Essential Services

During the COVID-19 pandemic, essential City services continue. While municipal buildings may be closed, rest assured that staff is here to support you.

- Our Public Safety and Municipal Infrastructure service continues - Police, Fire, and Public Works staff are providing these essential services every day.
- The City Clerk's Office is available by appointment only. Please call 802 655 6410 to schedule an appointment for time-sensitive, non-electronic needs. If you need to make a tax or utility payment, pay a fee or fine, or register for a program, please use our online services available at [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov). Members of the public must wear a mask or face covering when entering the building while adhering to the 6 Ft. physical distancing guidance.
- City Council Meetings will be held on schedule, remotely – via Zoom. Public participation information will be provided when these meetings are warned.
- Policy Commissions will meet remotely on an as-needed basis and will be publicly warned before each meeting.

### COVID-19 Updates and Information

For current updates, resources, and municipal service information please visit [winooskivt.gov/covid-19](http://winooskivt.gov/covid-19) or dial 802 655 3908. At this site, you'll find many links and resources organized by topic, including:

- Businesses and Employees
- Families and Childcare
- Federal/State/Local Support

- Food Security
- Health and Safety
- Multilingual/Translation
- Seniors & Older Vermonters
- Volunteering
- Winooski School District

Seniors and older Vermonters can call our dedicated support line: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am - 2pm / 802 655 6425 / Voice Mail 24/7.

Our Community Services Department has provided remote resources for community members during this difficult time. They include everything from health and safety resources to education and entertainment offerings. We've got a little something for everyone, organized by department:

- Children and Family Programs
- Recreation and Parks
- Senior Programs
- Winooski Memorial Library

To view our remote resources, visit [winooskivt.gov/remoteresources](http://winooskivt.gov/remoteresources)

We also encourage you to go to the Vermont Department of Health for regular state-wide updates, data, and resources: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>

### Testing in Winooski

The City of Winooski would like to thank our partners at the Vermont Department of Health for their continued support, guidance, and leadership in providing extensive testing in our

community. To learn more about testing opportunities in Winooski, visit [humanresources.vermont.gov/winooski](http://humanresources.vermont.gov/winooski).

### Winooski Business Resources



We are proud and grateful to our business community in Winooski for taking good care of their customers and employees during this

challenging time. Please continue to support our small business community if you are able! Downtown Winooski has created a "support Winooski businesses page" where you can find out how to help and support our business community: [downtownwinooski.org/support-winooski-businesses-during-covid-19](http://downtownwinooski.org/support-winooski-businesses-during-covid-19)

Business owners can also access their Winooski Business Portal for an extensive list of resources for businesses: [downtownwinooski.org/covid-19-winooski-business-portal](http://downtownwinooski.org/covid-19-winooski-business-portal)

In response to the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Winooski business community, the City of Winooski has adapted the Winooski Small Business Loan (WSBL) Program to provide businesses with emergency loans to assist them in bridging this difficult time. The new Tier 4 COVID-19 Relief Loan through the Winooski Small Business Loan Program offers businesses a 0% interest rate for the first 24 months of the loan term through a City interest rate buy-down and defers the principal

| Your City Officials       | Email addresses  | Telephone    |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| Mayor Kristine Lott       | <a href="mailto:klott@winooskivt.gov">klott@winooskivt.gov</a>           | 802-766-1988 |
| Councilor Hal Colston     | <a href="mailto:hcolston@winooskivt.gov">hcolston@winooskivt.gov</a>     | 802-922-2908 |
| Councilor James Duncan    | <a href="mailto:jduncan@winooskivt.gov">jduncan@winooskivt.gov</a>       | 802-310-7103 |
| Councilor Amy Lafayette   | <a href="mailto:alafayette@winooskivt.gov">alafayette@winooskivt.gov</a> | 802-598-7704 |
| Councilor Mike Myers      | <a href="mailto:mmyers@winooskivt.gov">mmyers@winooskivt.gov</a>         | 802-355-5348 |
| City Manager Jessie Baker | <a href="mailto:jbaker@winooskivt.gov">jbaker@winooskivt.gov</a>         | 802-655-6410 |

Visit the city website at [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov) or call 802-655-6410.

Keep up to date with announcements and news:

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK** We are "City of Winooski - Government"  
**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER** We are @winooskivt

payments for the first four months of the loan. This proposed loan structure will allow businesses leeway while they remain under mandatory closure orders and is serviced by Opportunities Credit Union.

To learn more about this program and to apply, visit [winooski.vt.gov/332/Small-Business-Loan-Program](http://winooski.vt.gov/332/Small-Business-Loan-Program)



### **Message from Mayor Kristine Lott**

Hello Neighbors. That word means so much to me right now as more of our neighbors are dealing with positive cases of COVID-19, a diagnosis that is hard to hear. I hope we can continue to come together as a community to support and protect each other.

We are grateful for the hard work and collaborative approach of the Vermont Department of Health, Community Health Centers of Burlington, City staff, and other community partners helping to support a robust testing effort to meet our community's needs. We are grateful for neighbors who continue to practice health safety by wearing masks and face coverings in public places, washing their hands, and following the physical distancing guidelines that continue to be set by the Vermont Department of Health and the CDC. We know that even though the state is opening back up, the virus is still here and we have to continue to be vigilant. Remember, people can be positive without symptoms (asymptomatic) so the best thing to do is focus on what you as an individual can do to protect others. In addition to our continued fight against COVID-19, we're also addressing the fight against racism. The senseless murder of George Floyd and the resulting national unrest has compounded our grief tremendously

- please know that we are here for you and we are listening. I stand with our Chief of Police in condemning these actions, please take a moment to read the recent statement made by the Winooski Police Department at [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov). WPD has one of the strongest Fair and Impartial Policing policies in Vermont. Over the years, WPD has participated in many training exercises and educational opportunities spanning a variety of equity and inclusion efforts including early adoption of body cameras, unconscious bias workshops, focused de-escalation training, restorative justice, and committing to the ongoing equity work the City has done and will continue to do together. Winooski continues to be a place of welcoming and opportunity, now more than ever - but we are not immune to racism in Vermont. Winooski's leaders will continue to educate ourselves and listen to the important experiences of our neighbors. We are committed to being a part of the solution and will continue to invite new voices to the policy-making and government process, work with our partner organizations, and make progress through our equity and inclusion efforts.

Community members continue to share their amazing ideas with me on how we can approve our policing policies together and I encourage any resident to do the same - what other ideas do you have on how we can do better? I am all ears, email or call any time. Remember, Winooski's strongest asset is our safe, healthy, and connected community - now more than ever.

#WinooskiWithLove

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

### **Winooski Police Department Statements on George Floyd and Current Policing Policies**

On June 1, 2020 – Chief of Police Rick Hebert released a statement regarding George Floyd. He stated: “Once again, we find ourselves devastated by an appalling and heartbreaking use of force incident that has resulted in those we have sworn to protect and serve, fearing for their own safety at the hands of those whose duty it is to keep them safe. To stand as a profession and condemn the actions of the officers involved in these many tragic events is a start, but we need to do

so much more. Most importantly police executives need to take steps to ensure the officers under their command are provided a culture that values equality, respect, human dignity and above all the sanctity of all human life. Leadership needs to continuously support and promote these values and recognize officers that are positive examples in their agency.”

Many of our residents have asked about our current policing policies, the work that we've done as a department and City, and the work we're dedicated to continue to do. We've outlined those and welcome the opportunity to engage with and talk with all members of our community about how Winooski can be a safe, healthy, and connected City into the future.

Please take a moment to view both statements on [winooski.vt.gov/police](http://winooski.vt.gov/police)

We will continue to invest in the community and ourselves through these policies and our ongoing dedication to the City's equity and inclusion initiatives. We will continue to host block parties, BBQ's, educational opportunities, coffee sessions, and discussions. We always welcome any and all community feedback – feel free to reach out any time: Rick Hebert, Chief of Police [rhebert@winooskipolice.com](mailto:rhebert@winooskipolice.com) / 802 655 0221

### **Community Services Updates**

#### **Winooski Memorial Library**

While the library remains closed to the public at this time, we are still offering pickup and home delivery. Materials can be picked up on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 AM to 1 PM! Please contact the library at 802 655 6424 or [winooskilibrary@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:winooskilibrary@winooski.vt.gov) to request materials, schedule a pick up, or request an at-home delivery. All due dates have been extended and we never charge late fees. Patrons can also view our remote resources at [www.winooski.vt.gov/library](http://www.winooski.vt.gov/library)

#### **Recreation and Parks**

- **Tennis in the Parks**

Winooski Rec. is excited to announce our Tennis in the Parks program where kids play while they learn! Led by an approved USTA NetGeneration tennis coach, the program will focus on developing the skills to serve, rally and

play - so it's perfect for beginners. This program uses modified tennis balls, age-appropriate rackets, court sizes, and the latest fun and engaging activities that help players successfully learn and play the game quicker.

Sessions will occur on Mondays and Wednesdays, July 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22. Visit [winooski.vt.gov/rec](http://winooski.vt.gov/rec) for full details and register today!

- [Outdoor Scavenger Hunts and StoryWalks](#)

Keep an eye out for our upcoming Scavenger Hunts and StoryWalks! Details will be available via our Facebook page: [facebook.com/winooskirec](https://facebook.com/winooskirec)

## Myers Memorial Pool Update



Based on an impacted construction schedule and the on-going state-mandated COVID-19 restrictions, the Myers Memorial Pool will not open for the 2020 season. Please visit [www.winooski.vt.gov/pool](http://www.winooski.vt.gov/pool) for progress updates regarding this project.

## Volunteer Opportunities



Many community members have inquired about COVID-19 volunteering and are interested in helping their neighbors. For the time being, the City of Winooski has postponed all current volunteer opportunities and activities to focus our attention on COVID-19 related requests. Our top priority is the health and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers, and residents while following the state-wide goals of minimizing transmission and promoting social distancing. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/volunteer](http://winooski.vt.gov/volunteer)

Thank you, 2019/2020 Volunteers  
Although we cannot gather for the

annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, we would like to show our gratitude with a video thanking all City of Winooski Volunteers - please visit [winooski.vt.gov/volunteer](http://winooski.vt.gov/volunteer) to view this video if you haven't yet!

## Employment Opportunities

The City of Winooski is hiring! Visit [winooski.vt.gov/jobs](http://winooski.vt.gov/jobs) for full details and apply today.

### Library Director

Our library exists to enrich lives, build community, and foster success by bringing together people, information and ideas. The Library Director position exists to provide leadership, vision, and direct service for the Winooski Memorial Library so as to respond to the needs and interest of patrons while also establishing the Winooski Memorial Library as a center for informational resources, literacy resources, culture, and community gatherings.

### Thrive After School Program Assistant

The Thrive Program Assistant will work collaboratively with other staff as part of The City of Winooski's state-licensed Thrive After School and Summer Program, which uses a mix of academic learning activities and recreational opportunities to provide school-age children (grades K – 5) in Winooski an enriching afterschool experience during out-of-school time throughout the year. Program Assistants will work collaboratively with the Program Director and other staff to develop and implement age-appropriate activities.

### Part time, On-Call Firefighter

The Part-time Firefighter serves the community by responding to a wide variety of situations, ranging from emergencies that immediately threaten life or property to routine citizen request for information or assistance. This work shall be done within the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's) of the Winooski Fire Department and City policy, within the following general categories: fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material responses, training, equipment and station maintenance. It will be a requirement to attend regularly

scheduled training(s) in order to maintain the level of knowledge, skill, and ability to work as part of a team. Candidates who live within a 5-minute response time near the Winooski Fire Department are encouraged to apply for this position.

### FT Police Officer

The Winooski Police Department is currently accepting applications for a full-time Police Officer. We are a progressive, community-oriented, 24-hour police department, serving a diverse population of over 7,500 people in the heart of Chittenden County. WPD provides a wide range of police services for its residents and is a highly motivated, professional organization that embraces the Community Oriented Policing philosophy. The department is committed to building relationships of mutual trust, understanding and respect of individual rights and responsibilities.

### Per-Diem Firefighter

A Per-Diem Firefighter serves the community by responding to a wide variety of situations, ranging from emergencies that immediately threaten life or property to routine citizen request for information or assistance. This work will be done within the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's) of the Winooski Fire Department and City policy, within the following general categories: fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material responses, fire prevention, training, equipment and station maintenance. Per Diem Staff will be on a pre-qualified list and utilized as assigned by the Fire Chief to enhance coverage during service demands.

### Code Enforcement Officer

The Code Enforcement Officer position serves as the frontline parking enforcement force and is responsible for the routine enforcement of all parking related ordinances throughout the City of Winooski. Additionally, the Code Enforcement Officer assists other code enforcement staff with investigating and enforcing other municipal ordinances that relate to city ordinances such as; land use violations, sanitation (trash), and other enforcement duties as assigned.



# Winooski Senior Center Update

By Barb Pitfido, Senior Programs Manager

## Staying Connected with the Community

As we continue to practice steps to stay safe and work on decreasing the spread of coronavirus in our community, we are wanting to stay connected with you! We are currently offering limited services to our older Vermonter community in the form of Meals on Wheels, our Senior Support Line, Winooski Community Gardens, and our “More than a Meal” program. Want to know more? Have ideas for us? You can call us, email us, check our City web page, and catch up on Facebook. We miss being with you all and look forward to actively participating together soon.



## Senior Support Line

Want to chat? Got a question? Want to know about resources available to you in the community? Call us at 802 655 6425 - we'd love to talk with you! We are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM – 2 PM, or you can leave a message 24/7 and we'll call you back.



## Meals on Wheels Program

We remain the hub site for Meals on Wheels processing and delivery. If you know of an older Vermont 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.

## More than a Meal Program

In partnership with Age Well, we are offering Older Vermonters (60+) a free nutritious meal on Wednesdays. We want to continue to support you being well at home and provide you with an opportunity to stay connected to your community while enjoying a healthy and deliciously prepared meal, and some goodies from us! We will offer contactless delivery to your Winooski home or apartment building entrance. Curbside pickup is also available. Reservations must be made by Noon the Friday before the scheduled Wednesday meal. Please call us at 655-6425 for the weekly menu and all the details.



## Community Gardens

The Senior Center Community Gardens are open and planted. Many residents have planted food for their families and neighbors to enjoy. The senior garden plot will be growing veggies and herbs, while our Pollinator Garden and Perennial Flower Farm are bursting with colors and textures. Check our Facebook page for great photos and updates: [www.facebook.com/winooskiseniorcenter](https://www.facebook.com/winooskiseniorcenter)

*The Winooski Senior Center...the most exciting place in Winooski!*

**Connect with us anytime!**

**Phone:** 802 655 6425

**Email:** [seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov)

**Web:** <https://www.winooski.vt.gov/247/Senior-Programs>

**Facebook:** @winooskiseniorcenter

## Charter Commission Message to Community

Hello neighbors,

The Winooski Charter Commission is charged with examining options to present Winooski voters with a charter change that would enable all Winooski residents to vote in Winooski municipal elections, regardless of citizenship status.

As part of this process, the Commission is charged with conducting public outreach to the community through public information sessions, forums, and direct outreach. After a brief hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and health crisis, the Commission has returned to holding virtual meetings, and is seeking your input.

The fact sheet on this and the following page provides more information regarding the current consideration in front of the Commission. We are hoping to gain as much community input as possible, centering on our Winooski residents most impacted by this potential change, in advance of making a recommendation to the City Council. We welcome public input at our meetings, which can be joined via Zoom or by telephone.

For more information, and a calendar of our upcoming meetings, please visit [winooskivt.gov/charter](http://winooskivt.gov/charter).

You can also email us your feedback, or ask us any questions you may have by emailing [charter@winooskivt.gov](mailto:charter@winooskivt.gov). We hope to hear from you soon, as we work towards equity for all residents of our little city.

## Winooski Charter Commission - All-Resident Voting Factsheet

**Winooski Charter Commission info:** [winooskivt.gov/charter](http://winooskivt.gov/charter)

**Meetings:** First and third Tuesdays at 5:30 pm

**Email your questions & comments:** [charter@winooskivt.gov](mailto:charter@winooskivt.gov)

### Introduction

The Winooski Charter Commission is a task-oriented Commission that advises the City Council on potential changes to the Municipal Charter, the foundational governance document of the City of Winooski. Currently, the Commission is charged with examining options to present Winooski voters with a charter change that would enable all residents to vote in Winooski municipal elections, protect Winooski voter information, align the School and City charters, and consider additional governance changes identified by the Council, staff, and public. The Winooski Charter Commission needs your input during this important public outreach process and is happy to provide you with the information you need.

### Winooski Population Data

2017 American Community Survey

#### **Total (18+): 6,131**

- Native U.S. Citizens = 5,041 (82%)
- Naturalized Citizens = 472 (8%)
- Not a U.S. Citizen = 618 (10%)

### Purpose

All of our residents contribute in a multitude of ways. We pay our taxes, buy homes and property, open businesses, and send our kids to our schools. Together we create the advantageous diversity our community has celebrated for almost 100 years - regardless of our citizenship status. A change to our municipal charter would allow any qualified Winooski resident, who may for various reasons not have US citizenship, to vote only in municipal elections – giving a voice to our neighbors in local matters that affect them, their families, and their lives.

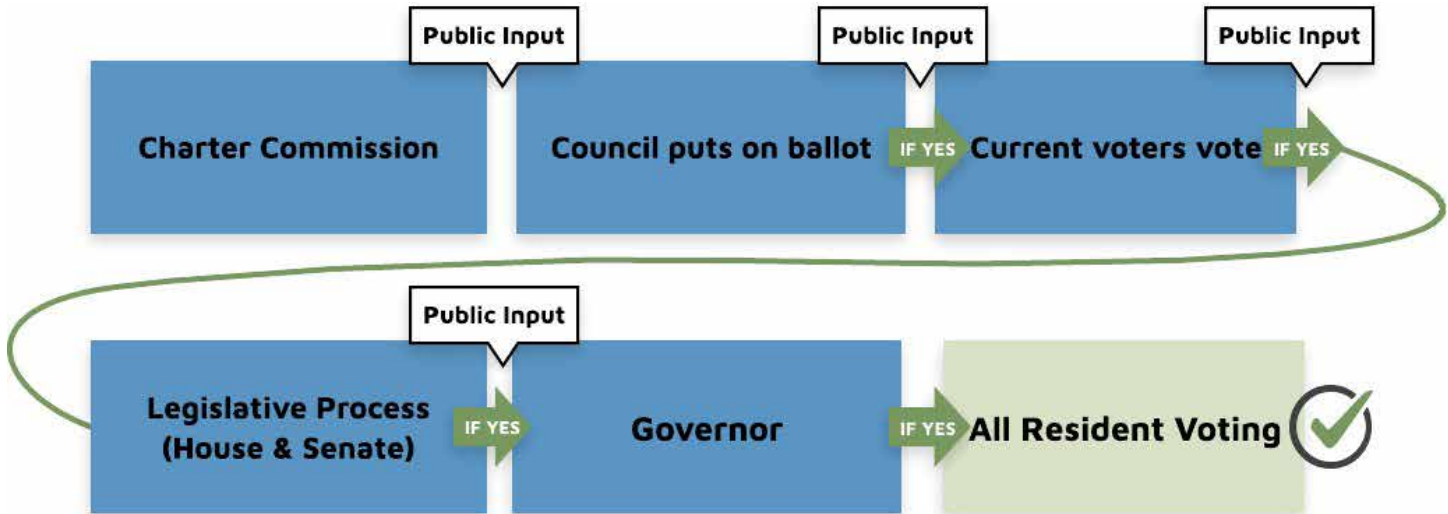
### Context

All-resident voting in elections goes back to the founding of the United States. After the American Revolution, non-US citizens were allowed to vote in many states. By the 19th century, non-citizens in at least 22 US states were voting in local, state, and federal elections. But a flood of immigrants to America at the start of the 20th century fueled a rise of anti-immigrant sentiment - and by 1926, all states had abolished the practice. As of today, non-citizens are allowed to vote in some local

elections in Chicago, San Francisco, and Maryland – a process that has proven successful. Other communities in Vermont are also considering this. It was approved locally in Montpelier in 2019 and is also under discussion in Burlington.

## What are the steps to allow for all-resident voting?

The Supreme Court of Vermont has stated that the Legislature has the ability to change charters for towns and cities. This is a multistep process:



*Any “no” vote above and the process is over for now.*

### Questions We’ve Considered (FAQs): **We welcome your feedback on all of these ideas!**

- Who would be qualified to vote? Residents here under a federally sanctioned legal category (such as a green card or a permanent resident visa, etc.) and who will be 18 years of age or older on or by election day.
- What does resident mean? Someone who resides in Winooski with the intent to stay – the same as applies to citizen voters.
- Could non-citizens run for office? Under the current charter language, if all qualified Winooski residents are allowed to vote, all qualified Winooski residents will be able to run for local office.
- Would the voter registration lists be public? Yes. The City would maintain (1) a state and federal voter registration list and (2) a municipal voter registration list of all qualified Winooski voters. Both would be available upon request.
- How would non-citizens register? The same way all voters register: come to City Hall or the polling place and swear that they are who they say they are and are a resident of Winooski.
- Why don’t people just become citizens? It’s complicated. There are lots of barriers to gaining citizenship. These could include:
  - » Time. You often have to have lived here for at a minimum 3 to 5 years before you can apply.
  - » Eligibility or long waiting lists. Depending on where you are from, only a small number of people are allowed access to citizenship every year.
  - » Future access to homeland. Some don’t want to give up the right to travel home or move home in the future and US citizenship could eliminate that possibility.
  - » Cost. The application itself is \$725 plus classes and lawyers if needed.
- I’m not a US citizen. If I register to vote, is my information public? Yes. Your standard voter information is on the list. Your citizenship status is not.
- Will this prohibit me from applying for citizenship status? To date, this has not inhibited citizenship applications.
- When is the vote? If approved by the City Council and after three public hearings, current voters would be asked to vote on a Charter change in November 2020.
- How can I provide more feedback? Email us at [charter@winooskivt.gov](mailto:charter@winooskivt.gov).

## How Do I Know If This Is A Crisis?

By Brandi Littlefield, Assistant Director of First Call for Chittenden County & Community Outreach Program Lead, Howard Center

We often hear from individuals that they don't know who to call for help or that they are uncertain if what they are experiencing is enough to reach out for additional support. If a situation is causing you or someone you are in contact with distress, we urge you to always reach out. There is no wrong call when assistance is needed. Your community is committed to the well-being of their members, and help is just a phone call away.

But, how do you know if something is a crisis? Reach out and make that call if you are concerned about the well-being of yourself or another, if someone needs immediate services, or if there is the potential for risk.

Here are a few possible scenarios to help you get a better sense of who you could call:

- Your teenager tells you he or she is worried that their classmate is struggling with thoughts of suicide.

You're not sure what to do next. Call First Call for Chittenden County (a 24/7/365 crisis hotline) at 802-488-7777, or if there are immediate safety concerns, call 911.

- You're a business owner and an individual's behavior is making your customers uncomfortable. You are unsure if substance use or mental health challenges are involved. If the individual is not posing a safety risk, contact Community Outreach for Winooski at 802-488-7778.
- If you have concerns for someone you know, but you don't know how to help, or if you see someone on the street who looks lost or confused but isn't able to communicate a need for help, call Community Outreach or First Call for Chittenden County. If safety is a concern, contact 911.
- Someone may have thoughts of harming themselves. They may become very withdrawn or make



concerning statements. Maybe they hear voices or become emotionally overwhelmed. For any concerning changes in behavior, this is a time to reach out for help.

We are all aware of 911, but when a situation doesn't require a first responder—police, ambulance, fire—there are other options for help.

The most important thing to remember is that there is no wrong number to call. We--and our network of community providers--will work with you to make sure that you are connected to the services that best support your needs. Our goal is to make the connections, build relationships, and reduce the stigma frequently associated with asking for help. Together we can make a difference for our neighbors.

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## The Power of Parents

By Kate Nugent, Partnership for Prevention Executive Director

People in recovery often will say the one of the most important lessons they've learned about life is that allowing themselves to feel their negative feelings makes them better able to experience their positive feelings. Brené Brown, author and doctorate in psychology, states that it's not possible to numb negative emotions without also numbing the positive ones.

To that end, during this time of increased stress and anxiety, we continue to work to provide tools, resources, and ideas that can support the community's health. When our environment supports our health as adults, we are able to model healthier behaviors, which benefits youth, who are future adults.

Here are ways some folks are managing the Pandemic that do not involve substance use:

- Locally, Sports cards, and a local business is thriving.
- Across the country, people are adopting pets, raising backyard chickens, and baking bread.

If you need help, there are resources for you that range from reading to connecting with people with specific skills to work through the anxiety and depression that many of us are faced with right now.

### Alcohol Policy Changes & Health Consequences

Another challenge we are watching and weighing in on is the changes to alcohol policies in Vermont and beyond. We are concerned about the potential impacts of making access to alcohol easier, especially without appropriate information about the health impacts, both short and long-term, especially with more use.

The amount of alcohol sold and promoted within a specific geographic boundary has specific effects on over-consumption, as well as youth use. The California-based watchdog group Alcohol Justice states in their recent letter to the California alcohol control agency,



“research demonstrated time and time again that overconcentration leads to an increase in alcohol-related harms.” Short-term impacts can include increases in violent behavior, physical injuries from stumbles and falls, and lowering of judgment leading to regrettable decisions, as well as traffic fatalities. Long-term impacts can include liver disease, impaired brain function, depression, anxiety, and 7 types of cancer, including breast cancer and colon.

And as with many issues, alcohol use affects racial and ethnic minorities at greater rates. Substance industries target these communities by locating in neighborhoods where there are greater populations of racial and ethnic minorities, and use marketing to claim they are on the side of underprivileged and marginalized groups. Meanwhile, they continue to profit from sales of substances that create barriers to health.

## North End Studios' Delicious Reopening

Like most businesses in Winooski, North End Studios closed their doors in mid-March and have been working on a plan to offer safe services to Winooski residents once the restrictions were lifted.

During these challenging times, we have needed to be creative with our services. We have begun offering Saturday night International Take-Out Dinners at North End Studios-Winooski at the O'Brien Center, 32 Malletts Bay Avenue. On Saturday, May 30, we offered delicious Indian food from Dosa Love. All hot meals were packaged and ready for pick-up outside the NES O'Brien Center with an assigned pick up time. It was a great success with almost 100 orders! Sincere thanks to Dosa Love for donating all the proceeds to North End Studios.



The next dinner is on Saturday, June 20 beginning at 4 pm with Mulu's popular Ethiopian/Eritrean food, and we will continue to offer take-out dinners from a wide variety of countries each Saturday throughout the summer. To find out what is being offered each week, you can go

to North End Studios Facebook page, or go to our website at [northendstudios.org](http://northendstudios.org). Tickets for these NES International Take-out Dinners can be purchased at [sevendaystickets.com](http://sevendaystickets.com), and you will be notified of a scheduled pickup time for your food.

North End Studios is planning some outdoor exercise and dance classes and some small group musical gatherings at the NES O'Brien Center. For a complete list of all NES offerings, go to our website at [northendstudios.org](http://northendstudios.org). You will also find a complete list of ways our organization is working to keep you and your family safe when you participate in our programming.

Call 802-863-6713 or email [info@northendstudios.org](mailto:info@northendstudios.org) to learn more.

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## Longtime Facilities OLOP Manager retires amid grateful nods to dedication

*Photos and text by Gail Callahan, Communications Manager*

When Jack O'Brien walked into Our Lady of Providence Residential Care Facility for an interview, he donned a tie and jacket.



*An affectionate message inscribed on Jack O'Brien's cake during his retirement party from Our Lady of Providence.*

After winning the job of Facilities' Director at the West Spring Street facility, he intended to stay there for a year or two. Those plans were derailed when O'Brien, who remained on staff for six years, fell in love not only with his job, but with OLOP residents.

That love was on full display May 29 when O'Brien formally retired from the facility he served so well. The celebration included testimonies from

OLOP Executive Director Mary Belanger concerning O'Brien's dedication and strong work ethic.

Residents and staff gathered outside of the chapel for the presentation. O'Brien expressed gratitude for the good will and praised the close-knit community.

A reception featuring cake and champagne followed and O'Brien received a plaque, honoring his work. As a tribute, the first-floor wing was re-named "O'Brien's Way" in his honor.

Chantel Berard, who has known O'Brien for years, is the new Facilities'

Director. She is pleased for O'Brien, but admits she has "big shoes to fill."

"I think retirement is well-deserved for Jack," Berard said. "He's a very hard-working man."

A Burlington resident, O'Brien and his wife plan on travelling in Europe in the weeks to come and he promised to stay in touch with OLOP residents and staff.



*Jack O'Brien (left) listens as Our Lady of Providence Executive Director Mary Belanger reads a tribute to the retiring OLOP Facilities' director.*



*Jack O'Brien cuts a ribbon during a dedication service, naming the first-floor wing "O'Brien's Way." The event took place during O'Brien's retirement party.*

# Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for July

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

We want to continue to thank all our volunteers, businesses and donors helping us provide food to Winooski residents! We could not do this without you. We continue to see large numbers of clients each week and are grateful we have the resources to serve their needs.

We want to be sure that anyone

experiencing financial difficulty during this pandemic feels welcome to come visit us. We are here to help. Shaws, Hannaford and Commodities markets provide wonderful fresh food on Saturdays. This month we are open every Saturday morning except the Fourth of July. You may come every Saturday we

are open, but only one Wednesday. Please wear your mask and come get some fresh air and some great food! Plenty of free parking on Follett, West Allen and Weaver Streets. Our volunteers look forward to serving you.

|                           |                     |   |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Saturday, July 4</b>   | Closed              |   |
| <b>Wednesday, July 8</b>  | 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  | Pantry staples, meat, eggs              |
| <b>Saturday, July 11</b>  | 9:30 am to 11:00 am | Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, deli items |
| <b>Saturday, July 18</b>  | 9:30 am to 11:00 am | Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, deli items |
| <b>Wednesday, July 22</b> | 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  | Pantry staples, meat, eggs              |
| <b>Saturday, July 25</b>  | 9:30 am to 11:00 am | Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, deli items |

**Food Shelf Policy:** Winooski residents may access the pantry staples one Wednesday each month. Folks may come every Saturday we are open to stock up on bread, pastry and some fresh fruit and veggies. Hannaford's and Winooski's own Commodities Market supply Saturday's food. New clients should bring proof of Winooski residency such as a utility bill. Any Winooski resident in need is welcome. We are here to help support you. For questions call 802-318-0460.

**Where to find us:** The Winooski Food Shelf is located in the United Methodist Church at the corner of West Allen and Follett Streets at 24 West Allen Street. There is a bus stop on that corner. 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.

**Donation Drop Off Locations:** The Winooski Senior Center is currently closed. Please visit our other donation drop off locations: Commodities Natural Market, 65 Winooski Falls Way, phone: 448-3340, or J & J's Corner Market, 12 Malletts Bay Ave., 654-8003. Thank you for caring about your neighbors!



**TOWN MEETING TV IS NOW ON COMCAST CHANNEL 1087**

Find Town Meeting TV on Comcast Channel 1087, BT channel 17/217/317 YouTube & [www.ch17.tv](http://www.ch17.tv)

## Support Winooski Businesses

Your continued support of Winooski's business community is so valuable! Please check out the 'Support Winooski Businesses' list for information about what businesses are open: [www.downtownwinooski.org](http://www.downtownwinooski.org). We are proud of the Winooski small business community for taking such good care of their employees and customers.



## Litany for Those Who Aren't Ready for Healing

By Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce (Professor and (the first female) Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity)

Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.  
Let us not rush to offer a band-aid, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.  
Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.  
Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration, or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss.  
Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, this father's child...someone's beloved son.  
Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.  
Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice.  
Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together.  
Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder. Instead...  
Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extrajudicially every 28 hours.  
Let us lament the loss of men, dead at the hands of a police officers who describe them as demons.  
Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.  
Let us call for the mourning men and the wailing women, those willing to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin.  
Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.  
Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage, and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.  
Let us decrease, so that our brothers and sisters who live on the underside of history may increase.  
Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground  
Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.  
God, in your mercy...  
Show me my own complicity in injustice.  
Convict me for my indifference.  
Forgive me when I have remained silent.  
Equip me with a zeal for righteousness.  
Never let me grow accustomed or acclimated to unrighteousness.  
*The above prayer was part of a series from Future Church entitled "To Speak the Truth In Love." You can view the series on line at: <https://www.futurechurch.org/>*

**"Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood." (and sisterhood)**

— Martin Luther King Jr., *I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed the World*

Remember, together we can make a difference. The Winooski Peace Initiative is looking for suggestions about how to celebrate The International Day of Peace. As we know, this may look different this year. If you have suggestions, please contact Sr. Pat McKittrick by email at [pat.mckittrick@uvmhealth.org](mailto:pat.mckittrick@uvmhealth.org).

## What Is Going On?

By Hal Colston, City Councilor and State Representative

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. routinely would send in the title of his sermon every Wednesday when he was away from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On April 3, 1968 Dr. King sent in his sermon title, "Why America May Go to Hell." He was murdered the next day. I have always wondered what his message would have been. Sadly, as I struggle to find hope as a black man in this racist country at this time, I wonder if we are in a prophetic moment in the United States' fragile history.

I truly believe that racism (systemic, structural, institutional) is the scalpel for capitalism. The lowest cost yields the highest profit. Black, brown and poor white people are exploited and oppressed for the benefit of the wealthy and powerful in our country. The System was put in place in 1619 when the first 20 enslaved Africans arrived on the shores of Virginia. Millions of enslaved Africans later became the economic engine for our country and the vestiges are alive and well today making our economy the strongest in the world. Then, all of our institutions were in 100% control by wealthy, white landowners, land stolen from the first people of this nation. Now, about 90% of our institutions are in control by privileged, white men.

If we are to survive this moment in our fragile history, I feel that my white brothers and sisters must take responsibility for this racist, capitalistic system. You may not have created it but you benefit from it, perhaps with complicity. Black and brown people are not alone suffering from racism because I feel it robs the humanity of the dominant culture. Capitalism allows people to be free because people are unfree. All of us are wounded by racism.

For years I have facilitated workshops about race, power and privilege in Vermont. Once I was asked what is the opposite of being racist? I said being fully human. How do we engage racism through our heart and not through our head is the question? How does the dominant culture come to terms with its own oppression? How do we become fully human? Police reform that will prevent the senseless killing of so many black and brown people is only the tip of the iceberg.



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**Congratulations Class of 2020!**

