

The Winooski Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY 2024



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

New Year, New Newsletter!

Neighbors, thanks so much for reading the Winooski Newsletter and engaging with all things city, school, and around the community. In our ongoing efforts to make the best use of your tax dollars and budget responsibly, we've opted to move forward with a shorter print version of *The Winooski Newsletter*.

The pages ahead still include important community information, now easier to digest. We hope that you continue to enjoy this service and find the new format helpful.

More information can always be accessed on our websites at wsdvt.org and winooski.vt.gov – feel free to reach out with questions about *The Winooski Newsletter*.

Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent
802-655-0485 | wchavarria@wsdvt.org

Elaine Wang, City Manager
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Respect and Dignity for All

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools

This past week, I had the pleasure of joining Board Vice President Kamal Dahal in his visit to Our Lady of Providence Center. I had a wonderful visit and met some remarkable human beings, primarily former teachers and administrators or public servants. Their knowledge, wisdom, and advice were refreshing, and Kamal and I were able to provide an in-person update about our schools. One of the themes that emerged in our conversation was the need for us as a community to always love every young person in our care and to treat everyone in such a way that they are reminded of their value as full human beings worthy of respect and dignity.

This principle matters in concrete ways in Winooski. We are the only district in the state where the majority of our students do not belong to the racial majority. In an ideal world, this would not matter because everyone would go about their lives never having to be reminded of this difference, but sadly, we live in one where our skin color can still mean danger or safety in real situations, not to mention unspoken and hidden biases that hold us back and compound over our lifetimes. As a person of color myself, I am familiar with the suggestion that we “exaggerate” or that our experiences of discrimination are only in our imagination. There is not much I can do to change the heart of someone who already thinks that, but there is much we can do for the children who face and will face an uphill battle just to exist. We can counter that world by doing the opposite, by providing them with excellent schooling, by allowing them to experience memorable joy, and by respecting them enough to teach them the truth about the cruelties of our history and the current world while enabling them to face the challenge with the right tools.

Although race is one of the most visible markers of difference, there are other elements that make our student body diverse. I want to encourage our staff and community not to be “colorblind” about these differences but rather recognize the richness in them. It is an act of justice to remind ourselves that our uniqueness is an asset, not a deficiency nor a mark of indignity. Sometimes, we are afraid to acknowledge these differences because we are accustomed to structures using them for abuse and oppression. But the future is better.

Happy Black History Month.

Winooski Middle School Students Aili and Ankita Win First Place in MLK-Inspired Art and Essay Competition

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

Several of our middle school art students recently showcased their creativity in the annual MLK-inspired art and essay competition organized by the VT Bar Association.

We are thrilled to announce that Aili and Ankita secured **FIRST PLACE** with their exceptional work! Their art and essays will be celebrated at the State House ceremony and displayed at the Vermont Supreme Court Building.

They wrote in their essay, “We believe that everyone is equal no matter their race or how they identify. So, let’s start with Vermont. Let’s repair the past and look to the future. Let’s make everyone feel they’re important and valued because everyone is.”



School Board Update

By Kamal Dahal, Vice-Chair, Board of School Trustees

As you receive this newsletter, we are immersed in the winter season. I trust that you are adequately prepared for the snow and cold that Vermont graciously bestows upon us annually during this time. Amidst the community’s engagement in various winter activities, the School Board, on the other hand, is occupied with the crucial task of presenting the budget to our community.

In the forthcoming weeks leading up to the voting date on March 5th, the school board will unveil the budget in multiple forums. As a preview, I am pleased to include essential budgetary information in this newsletter. Your attention to these details will undoubtedly contribute to an informed voting decision that will shape the future of our students.

The projected total local budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025 is \$32,970,907. Notably, the state has changed the funding formula this year, shifting from the traditional method of calculating equalized pupil numbers to a new approach known as weighted long-term membership. Due to these adjustments, this fiscal year’s estimated weighted long-term membership is 2160.

The revised formula is expected to bring certain budgetary advantages to Winooski this year. Assuming the forecasted Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) to be 1.01, the anticipated decrease in the equalized homestead tax rate is 34%. However, without considering the forecasted CLA, the expected decrease in the equalized homestead tax rate is approximately 3%. It’s important to note that this projection considers including crucial positions in our local budget, previously federally funded. This strategic decision is crucial to ensuring that our children receive essential resources while providing relief to the community. However, predicting the exact impact on each household’s tax amount is challenging, considering various factors such as varying levels of individual income and assessed property value. In our budget presentations, the board aims to display a chart illustrating the tax impacts with current and forecasted CLA for households with different ranges of assessed property values and households in different income categories.

This year’s budget reflects a significant expansion of Pre-Kindergarten services in Winooski. This includes establishing

two new classrooms and ensuring that all eligible 4-year-olds in the community have access to Pre-K education. Additionally, the budget considers incorporating most ESSER-funded investments already in the district, encompassing staff positions and contracted services, seamlessly integrating them into our local budget. This approach aims to prevent abrupt or excessive force reduction within a single year.

Our commitment extends to honoring previous pledges, such as the continued funding of equity and anti-racism initiatives in the district and the addition of a School Safety Coach. Furthermore, we recognize the necessity of meeting increased overall costs in the market, encompassing insurance expenses and negotiated salaries for staff.

In addition to these priorities, we are addressing key needs such as allocating one teacher to JFK to fulfill planning time obligations under the CBA, sustaining the Flexible Pathways Coordinator position at the high school, allocating an additional \$10,000 to each school for classroom budgets, and increasing the year-round availability of the multi-language liaison as required.

Furthermore, we are proactively increasing operational costs to tackle potential reductions in financial capacity anticipated in the coming years effectively. This comprehensive budgetary approach ensures a balanced allocation of resources to support educational excellence and community well-being.

Finally, dear residents, your well-informed participation plays a vital role in shaping the future of our school. As we are near the voting date on March 5th, I urge each of you to engage in this democratic process actively. Register to vote and fulfill your responsibility by voting for our budget question and voting to select your board members. Regardless of how you vote, your involvement guarantees representative governance and directly impacts the trajectory of our schools and community.

Let’s unite to ensure our voices resonate and contribute to the overall well-being of Winooski. Your vote is significant, and your informed choice will guide our path forward.



African American Experience

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

The Winooski High School African American Experience class wrapped up the semester with powerful final exam presentations. Their discussions were not only insightful but also shed light on the profound impact of historical segregation on our society. A huge shoutout to these bright minds for their thought-provoking insights!

Winooski School District Antiracism Steering Committee Update

By Christie Beveridge, Program and Communications Director, UP for Learning

On Monday, December 18th, youth and adults from the Winooski community gathered for the sixth meeting of the 2023-2024 Antiracism Steering Committee (ARSC). This team is tasked with implementing the six demands of the Winooski Students for Antiracism (WSA): to form a truth and reconciliation commission, hire and retain more faculty of color, establish a multilingual mentoring program, implement an ethnic studies curriculum, conduct an equity audit of the school, and host a yearly workshop for students where they can learn about their civil rights.



The meeting began with a pizza dinner and then an opening circle, when each member of the team shared their resolutions and intentions for the new year. The committee then broke into small groups to continue to make edits to the survey they had been creating, which posed questions about the ARSC and the

status of the antiracism demands. They plan to distribute the survey to Winooski middle and high school youth in late January. Another small group met to discuss and plan the work of the racial truth and reconciliation commission, and a third group met to discuss the committee's response to the shooting of three Palestinian college students in Burlington on November 25th. At the close

of the meeting, each group shared their progress and next steps.

As always, it was a spirited and productive meeting! We are thrilled about all of the exciting progress being made at Winooski School, particularly the funding of the new Multilingual Mentorship Coordinator position.

If you have any questions about the work of the ARSC or would like to be involved, please contact Christie Beveridge at christie@upforlearning.org.

JFK Elementary School Art Extravaganza: A Creature Celebration

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

At JFK Elementary School, students wrapped up their unit on creatures with a spectacular Creature Celebration.

To add a touch of magic to their creatures, the young artists took an unconventional approach by directly consulting their creations. The students asked their creatures what they desired to bring them to life truly. Glitter, feathers, clothes, and gems were among the popular requests.

The art room transformed into a bustling workshop as students eagerly added the finishing touches to their creatures, meticulously incorporating the requested elements.



The collaborative effort between the young artists and their fantastic creatures fostered a sense of pride and accomplishment, leaving a lasting impression on the students and their teacher, Ms. Renee.

As the glitter settled and the feathers gently rustled, the art room at JFK Elementary School stood as a testament to the boundless possibilities that unfold when creativity knows no bounds.



Preschool Skills Screening and Pre-registration

By Nicole Chalke, Early Childhood Special Educator

If your child is or will be 3 by September 1st, 2024 please complete a Preschool Pre-registration Form for ACT 166 Publicly Funded Pre-K or to inquire about a Winooski Preschool Program and attend our preschool skills screening day. If you have concerns about your child's development, our Winooski Early Childhood team will screen your child's development. This screening is play-based and free for 3 and 4-year-old children living in Winooski.

- **When:** Friday, March 15, 2024
- **Where:** In the preschool classroom at JFK Elementary School, room E121.
- **How:** Please contact our Early Childhood Special Educator, Nicole Chalke at nchalke@wsdvt.org or 802-383-6061 to schedule an appointment for you and your child to come into the program on March 15, 2024.

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

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

Winooski 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

DREAM Program Seeks JFK Students

By Suzanne Skaflestad, 21C Afterschool Director

We recently had an increase in the number of high school students interested in being mentors for the DREAM2 program, which meets here at the Winooski School District on Thursdays from 3-4pm.

We are looking for about eight new JFK students (currently in 2nd-4th grade) that are not currently enrolled in a 21C afterschool program that are interested in a mentoring experience with a high school student.

Our hope is that any JFK student that signs up can continue with the Thursday DREAM2 program into next school year.

Please contact Suzanne Skaflestad, sskaflestad@wsdvt.org or 802-383-6119 to enroll your student in the DREAM2 mentor program.

HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News



By Emily Gallina, RN, BSN

With winter in full swing, we are experiencing increased strep cases in the district. Please be mindful if your student is experiencing a sore throat, especially with a headache, stomachache, or fever. Reach out to your child's pediatrician if noting these symptoms to determine if they need to be assessed or tested further. If your child tests positive for strep, they may return to school 24 hours after their first dose of antibiotics. Additionally, it would be best if you changed out your child's toothbrush after 48 hours of antibiotic use. Please discourage sharing food/drinks during this time to decrease the spread. If your child does test positive, a courtesy call to the health office here at WSD would be much appreciated



Winooski Elementary School Breakfast
February 2024

Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Iced Breakfast Bun Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	2 Chocolate Chip Muffin Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
5 Blueberry Bread Slice Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	6 Cinnamon Granola Breakfast Round Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	7 Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	8 Iced Breakfast Bun Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	9 Chocolate Chip Muffin Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
12 Blueberry Bread Slice Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	13 Cinnamon Granola Breakfast Round Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	14 Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	15 Iced Breakfast Bun Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	16 Chocolate Chip Muffin Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
19 Blueberry Bread Slice Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	20 Cinnamon Granola Breakfast Round Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	21 Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	22 Iced Breakfast Bun Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	23 Chocolate Chip Muffin Asst. WG Cereal w/Animal Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
26 No School	27 No School	28 No School	29 No School	

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Meals Are Free To All Students

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

Please Click Links Below for Nutrition Information on Daily Options:

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

[Milk](#) [Condiments](#)

[Fresh, Dried Or Canned Fruit](#)

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



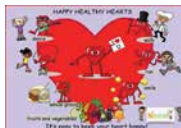




Please advise us if special meal accommodations are required for allergens or other special dietary needs.

Click Image Below for employment opportunities



Winooski Elementary School K-8 Lunch
February 2024

Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Homemade Shepherd's Pie Homemade Dinner Roll Hand Cut French Fries Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	2 Fluffy Pancakes Sweet & White Homefries Real Maple Syrup Twin Turkey Sausage Patty's Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety
5 Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets Roasted Potato Wedges Homemade Dinner Roll BBQ Sauce Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	6 Taco Bar w/ The Works & Ground Turkey Black Bean & Corn Salad Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	7 Chicken Teriyaki Rice Bowl Teriyaki Tofu Rice Bowl Roasted Broccoli Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	8 Creamy Macaroni & Cheese Maple Glazed Carrots Homemade Cornbread Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	9 Chicken Parm Sandwich Roasted Red Potatoes Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety
12 Dress Your Own Burger on a Bun Hand Cut French Fries Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	13 Buffalo Chicken Dip w/ Tortilla Chips Seasoned Black Beans Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	14 Hot Turkey & Cheese Pinwheels Maple Glazed Carrots Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	Taste Test Event - Carrots	16 Fisherman's Catch Fish Sandwich Fresh Creamy Coleslaw Oven Baked Potato Puffs Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety
19 Fluffy Pancakes Carrot Souffle Twin Turkey Sausage Patty's Lunch Scrambled Eggs Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	20 Chicken & Cheddar Quesadilla w/ Salsa Rice Pilaf Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	 21 Cheesy Breadsticks Roasted Broccoli Marinara Sauce Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	22 Homemade Baked Ziti Seasoned Green Beans Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety	23 Layered Chicken Bowl Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Variety
26 No School	27 No School	28 No School Birthday Celebration	29 No School	

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Meals Are Free To All Students

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

Please Click Links Below for Nutrition Information on Daily Options:

Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola, Deli Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich w/Cheese Stick
Fresh, Dried, or Canned Fruit, Skim White Milk, 1% White Milk, & Fat Free Chocolate Milk Offered With All

[Deli Options K 8](#)

[Express Options](#)

[Grab & Chef Salad or Yogurt Parfait w/Oat](#)

[Milk](#) [Condiments](#)

[Fresh, Dried Or Canned Fruit](#)

Please advise us if special meal accommodations are required for allergens or other special dietary needs.

Pay for meals on-line. Click Image Below



Harvest of the Month:
Carrots



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



Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Kristine Lott

Hello

Winooski. The Town Meeting Day election is on Tuesday, March 5, 2024! Thanks to everyone who has provided feedback during the budget process. Be sure to join us for the City and School Budget Presentation Community Dinner on **February 19**, then for the final presentation on March 4. For all things election, ballot, and budget, visit winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting. Here's a few notes about municipal ballot items:

City Budget - with high inflation over recent years, we're looking at a higher-than-average tax rate increase just to keep up with salaries and benefits, plus



some extra investment in capital projects and other programming to keep up with service demand as our city grows. If voters approve the budget, we'll move forward with these investments. If voters don't approve the budget, a different budget will be proposed and a special election will be held.

Local Representatives:

Vote for Mayor, two City Councilors, two Winooski School District Trustees, and a Champlain Water District Representative. Look out for local forums and reach out to candidates with questions!

Burlington-Winooski River Bridge Replacement Bond: There will likely

be a bond question on the ballot (not official/finalized at the time of writing this update) related to the Burlington/Winooski Bridge Replacement Project (burlingtonwinooski.vt.gov). The State has received grant funding to support this project, and request that Winooski and Burlington contribute a local match (currently estimated at \$3,000,000). If approved by voters, this amount gets paid back over time with tax dollars.

Don't forget, all legal residents, regardless of citizenship status, can vote on local City/School ballot items on Town Meeting Day. Learn how to register to vote and use our voting resources at winooski.vt.gov/vote.

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco

Happy 2024, Winooski! I am writing from the beautiful Golden Dome in Montpelier where we kicked-off the legislative session on January 3rd. In the first week of session we overturned the veto of the Bottle Bill, which will increase recycling and reduce litter by expanding the number of redeemable beverage containers.

We have also passed a bill to add "coercive controlling behavior" to the definition of abuse for the purpose of obtaining a relief from abuse order, and a bill to pilot two overdose prevention centers. I supported both bills and spoke on the floor about the connection between substance use and mental health issues, and why people struggling with them need compassionate neighbors, friends, and family to be nearby.

The legislature will remain focused on housing this session through legislation that modernizes Act 250. Efforts to improve public safety will include exploring mechanisms to address court



Winooski Representatives Taylor Small (left) and Daisy Berbeco (right)

backlogs, as well as ensuring justice-involved people with a serious mental health issue are in the appropriate setting. The Vermont Supreme Court leads a Commission on Mental Health and the Courts, which is exploring how to reform current practices around getting these folks timely, appropriate care when they are in the criminal justice system. I have been invited to join the Commission and will be updating you all on progress and our recommendations.

I am also the House Health Care budget liaison for the Committee on Appropriations. I've been digging deep in the Governor's recommended budget adjustments (BAA) to the FY23 budget. Having received the BAA later than usual from the Administration, we are working very hard to investigate the shifts in funds and millions in unspent allocations, which often suggests the legislative intent was unmet.

Many of you are hearing about property taxes right now. Winooski's increase will be on the lower end of the range of property tax rate hikes that are being driven in part by the new education funding formula. I encourage you to visit the City of Winooski website for more information on their budget process.

I have enjoyed hearing from so many of you over the past months. It is important that you raise your voice so I can continue to fully represent our great city — DBerbeco@leg.state.vt.us.



SAVE THE DATE:

Town Meeting Day Election

- **Tuesday, March 5, 2024**
- **7am – 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center**
- **Full details at winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting**

City Clerk's Office Reminders

- Open 8am – 4pm, Monday – Friday
winooski.vt.gov/clerk | 802-655-6410
- Winooski City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 4, 2024 in observance of President's Day.
- Dog licenses: dogs owned in the City of Winooski must be registered with the City Clerk on or before April 1st – with the new year upon us, now is the perfect time to complete your annual registration! To get started, stop by the City Clerk's Office or call/email with questions.
- Elections: 2024 is a big year for elections! Be sure you're ready for the Town Meeting Day, Presidential Primary, and General elections. Register at olvr.vermont.gov or make sure your information is up to date at mvp.vermont.gov. Learn more at winooski.vt.gov/vote.

Winter Parking Ban Reminder

In Downtown Winooski, there is a blanket winter parking ban from December 1 – March 31 where overnight street parking is not allowed from 2:30am - 6am.

For everywhere else in Winooski (December 1 – March 31), overnight winter parking bans are made during winter storms and for snow removal where street parking is not allowed from 11pm to 7am.

Please visit winooski.vt.gov/parking for full details.



Main Street Revitalization

The Main Street Revitalization Project is on track to start this spring. The project aims to improve the roadway along the Main Street corridor, starting at the New England Central Railroad bridge near the intersection with Maple Street and extending to the Winooski-Colchester town line near the Winooski School District. The project includes water, sewer, stormwater, and utility infrastructure improvements, roadway aesthetic upgrades, new traffic signals, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

The City of Winooski awarded the construction contract to Kubricky-Jointa Lime, LLC in December 2023 after implementing project cost reductions and securing additional funding. The Project Team will hold a public information meeting in March, prior to the start of construction. Details to follow.

For more project information and to sign up for project updates, visit winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet. Questions or comments? Contact the Public Information Team at 802-595-4399 / info@winooskimainstreet.com any time.



BURLINGTON WINOOSKI BRIDGE

The 95-year-old Burlington-Winooski Bridge is reaching the end of its service life and no longer meets the needs of the multi-modal community. Sign up for project updates, attend public meetings, ask questions, and provide feedback at burlingtonwinooski.vt.gov/bridge.vt.projects.vermont.gov.



Recreation Programs

winooskivt.gov/rec
recreation@winooskivt.gov
 802-777-1621

YOUTH

- Winter Adventures** | Grades 3 – 8 | Jan 3 - Feb 21
- Youth Drop-in Indoor Soccer** | U10/U8/U12 | Jan 13 - Feb 17
- Very Merry Theater** | Grades 5 – 9 | Jan 8 - Feb 19
- February Break Camp** | Feb 26 - Mar 1
 - Winter Activities | Grades K-5
 - Game Creation at Generator Makerspace | Ages 9-12
- VT Patriots Spring Soccer** | U6/U8/U10/U12 | Apr 29 – Jun 9

ADULTS

- **Yoga Vinyasa Flow** | Ages 18+ | Jan 8 - Feb 28



Recreation and Parks install an ice rink at Landry Park



Library Programs

Winooski Memorial Library
 32 Malletts Bay Ave | 802-655-6424
winooskivt.gov/library

Open Hours:

Tue & Wed: 10 - 6
 Thu & Fri 10 - 5
 Sat: 10 - 2

- 1:1 Tech Assistance | Ages 18+ | Feb 3, 10, 24
- Audubon Birding | Families & Youth | Sat Feb 10
- Dad Guild Playgroup | Families & Youth | Sat Feb 12
- English Conversation Group | Ages 18+ | Tues & Thurs
- Free Winter Produce Distribution | Feb 7
- Hot Cocoa Storytime | Ages 4+ | Feb 2
- Library Playgroup & Family Support | Tuesdays
- Pokémon Club | Ages 8+ | Wednesdays
- STEAM Ahead Saturdays | Ages 5+
- Weekly Storytime | Thursdays
- Winooski Reads Book Group | Ages 18+
- Youth Jewelry Club | Youth 8+ | Thursdays

Audiobooks, eBooks, & more

Did you know that library cardholders have access to free audiobooks, ebooks, film streaming, language learning, educational/professional development courses, and more? Visit our website at winooskivt.gov/library or stop by info.

Friends of the Winooski Memorial Library is recruiting new members! Interested in supporting the values and mission of the Library? Email Samantha Wayne to learn more: sami.kordonowy@gmail.com

Library of Things

Borrow snowshoes, museum passes, headlamps, birding backpacks, a telescope, walking poles, snow shovels, and other items to enjoy!



Senior Programs

Winooski Senior Center
123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425
winooski.vt.gov/seniorcenter

Open Hours:

Tues. & Wed.: 9am – 12pm
Thurs.: 9am – 2pm

TUESDAYS

Grab-N-Go Meals

- 10am - 12pm | 60+ | \$5 suggested donation
- Nutritious takeout meals in partnership with AgeWell
- Call to RSVP by 12pm the previous Thursday

WEDNESDAYS

Breakfast Café

- 9am - 11am | Priced by Donation | Call to RSVP
- Enjoy breakfast sandwiches, fruit, treats, and drinks

THURSDAYS

Sit Down Community Meals

- 12pm | 60+ | \$5 suggested donation | Call to RSVP
- Healthy sit-down lunches in partnership with AgeWell, socialize and play games!
- Call to RSVP by 12pm the previous Monday

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- **Meals on Wheels** - Please call AgeWell at 802 863 0360 to find out the eligibility requirements. Volunteer drivers are always needed.
- **Bone Builders** | Free | Mon & Wed | 2-3pm
- **AARP Tax-Aide** - Free tax preparation for seniors, call to make your appointment!
- **Valentine's Day Breakfast** | Feb 14 | 9-11am | \$5 suggested donation | Call to RSVP by Feb 8
- **Coffee Chat with Mayor Lott and Councilor Judge**
Feb 14 | 10-11am



Thrive After School

Thrive After School is a state-licensed, 3 STAR childcare/enrichment program. Through our partnership with the Winooski School District, we seek to build a community where children can explore, learn, and grow during their after school hours. This program is perfect for caring adults who support working families. Visit winooski.vt.gov/thrive for details and sign up today.

Schedule:

- September 2023 - June 2024
- Monday - Friday
- 3:00 – 5:30 pm at Winooski School District
(60 Normand Street)



Scan the QR code to learn more about and sign up for anything on these pages!
winooski.vt.gov/programs

Announcing Downtown Winooski's 2024 Event Schedule

By Melissa Corbin, Executive Director, Downtown Winooski

Our Board of Directors is excited to announce our lineup of events for 2024! This year we are showing our consistent support for local vendors by incorporating a market approach to all of our events. We have such a rich and diverse network of entrepreneurial spirits in our community, and we want to honor their craft and passion for locally produced goods.

Are you part of an organization that would like to provide educational materials or support services for members of our community who may need it? We have opened more space in Rotary Park this year for community partners to showcase the important work they do for our residents. Be in touch to get on the schedule at melissa@downtownwinooski.org.

Do you know a unique person, business or program that kids would enjoy at our events? One of the goals for the coming year is to use the entire space at Rotary Park and bring more activities for kids to engage. Our Board Chair, Laura Wade, is collecting ideas at laura@miserylovescovt.com.

- **Winooski Farmers Market** May 26th – October 20th
Sundays from 10am – 2pm
- **Winooski Wednesday Showcasing Juneteenth** June 19th
5pm-9pm
- **Winooski Wednesday Showcase TBD** July 10th 5pm – 9pm
- **Winooski Wednesdays Showcase TBD** August 14th 5pm – 9pm
- **Winooski Wednesdays Showcasing Pride** September 11th 5pm – 9pm
- **French Heritage Day** at Winooski Farmers Market June 30th 11am – 2pm



- **Halloween in Winooski** October 26th and 27th
- **Winooski Holiday Pop-Up** December 5th 5pm – 9pm

Stay up to date with programming plans on our website www.downtownwinooski.org/events

All events hosted by Downtown Winooski are free to our community to attend due to the generous support of our sponsors. Interested in ensuring free food to everyone in attendance? Do you see the value in supporting a trolley service between Winooski and Burlington? Honor your love for the performing arts and consider sponsoring musical acts at Winooski Wednesdays or our Farmers Market. Do you appreciate the complexity of a perfectly executed Tourtière and want to sponsor the prizes for the winners of the best meat pie contest at French Heritage Day? There are so many ways to support these community events to ensure they stay free to attend.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for our 2024 events at various levels of support: downtownwinooski.org/support-us/sponsor

Do you love giving back to your community by donating your time? We have volunteer opportunities every Sunday at our Farmers Market, as crossing guards for Winooski Wednesdays and Halloween and we welcome help with setup and breakdown at all events. Please contact melissa@downtownwinooski.org with your interest in volunteering.

Winooski Food Shelf

24 West Allen Street | winooskifoodshelf.org

Upcoming Winooski Food Shelf Dates:

- Saturday, February 10th: 9:30am–11am
- Wednesday, February 14th: 1pm–3pm
- Saturday, February 24th: 9:30am–11am
- Wednesday, February 28th: 1pm–3pm

New clients should bring proof of Winooski residency. A utility bill or lease with name and address is needed. Clients may come one Wednesday for pantry staples and two Saturdays for veggies, bread, meat and eggs. We no longer have diapers.

CCTV / Town Meeting TV

Stay informed and engaged in your community with Town Meeting TV's local election coverage ahead of Town Meeting Day! Join us for interactive forums featuring city council, school board, and mayoral candidates, as well as presentations on the proposed school district and city budgets. Have your questions answered live! Viewers can call 802-862-3966 during forums to pose questions for candidates and presenters. Tune in on Comcast 1087 or on YouTube.com/TownMeetingTV.

Visit www.cctv.org/2024 for the complete schedule, forum details, and more information. **Save the date for our live election results show on Tuesday, March 5th**, where we'll bring you the latest results straight from the city clerk's office as soon as they're tabulated. Your engagement is crucial in shaping the future of Winooski! Please reach out to outreach@cctv.org with any questions.



Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Kate Nugent, Executive Director

Community Dinner & Budget Presentation on February 19

Featuring Little Asturias cuisine from Northern Spain by chefs Julia Menéndez Jardón & Drew Diemar. They specialize in paella, fried corn tortos and other specialties from Spain's northern region of Asturias. They can be reached at juliamenendezjardon@gmail.com. Join the WPP and Little Asturias on February 19 for an evening of amazing, free food and a discussion with city leaders about the upcoming school and city budgets. RSVP via our newsletter. Take-home will be available.

WPP Becomes 3-4-50 Partner

The numbers 3-4-50 refer to 3 behaviors – no physical activity, poor diet, and tobacco use – that lead to 4 diseases – cancer, heart disease & stroke, type 2 diabetes, and lung disease – that lead to more than 50% of early death in Vermont. Organizations that become 3-4-50 partners sign a letter of commitment to act over the next year to reduce unhealthy behaviors that contribute to disease.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention signed a commitment letter stating that in the next 12 months it would:

- Promote free 802Quits resources
- Add smoke-free signs around the building
- Encourage physical activity breaks and active meetings
- Provide information about community resources for healthy eating, physical activity, and quit support
- Become a Bronze Level Breastfeeding Friendly Employer



Winooski Partnership
for Prevention

- Provide refrigerators, microwaves, and break areas
- Allow flexible time for exercise or wellness activities during the work day
- Implement healthy meeting policies
- Create a property-wide tobacco free policy and ensure employees comply

To become a 3-4-50 partner at your workplace, faith community, municipality or other type of organization, visit this website to learn more and apply: www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/3-4-50-prevent-chronic-disease

Above the Influence

Continues Thursdays at the school with Mukhtar Abdullahi, 3-4 PM. Gain leadership skills, a sense of community, fun snacks, and give back meaningfully to your community. Contact the WPP or Suzanne Skaffstadt for more information.

The Winooski Partnership for Prevention is a long-standing nonprofit focused on supporting the healthy development of youth and young adults through community organizing, data, and including all voices. To get more involved, contact the organization at info@winooskiprevention.org.

Howard Center Update

By Paul Detzer, Development and Communications Engagement Manager

Community Outreach

Howard Center's Community Outreach Program, in partnership with the Winooski Police Department, provides essential social services, mental health, and substance use support to individuals and families in Winooski. The program offers comprehensive resources, referrals, and stability support, engaging individuals directly or through referrals from various community sources. For more information, contact 802-488-7778.



Black History Month

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history, and to acknowledge the ongoing challenges and opportunities for racial justice

and equity. At Howard Center, we are committed to fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion for all members of our community, and we recognize that this work requires continuous learning and action.

Our Initiative to Provide Free Firearm Cable Locks

Access to firearms at home increases the risk of suicide. To help prevent such tragedies, Howard Center is offering free gunlocks which are available for pick-up at 208 Flynn Avenue in Burlington Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4pm. 802-488-6912.

Safe firearm storage is a critical preventive measure, and these gun locks are available for free while supplies last. For more Vermont gunlock distribution sites, visit: justice.gov/usao-vt/gunsafe-vt.

Need Help or Services?

If you need support or information, please contact our Access and Intake Main Number 802-488-6000; Monday-Thursday 8am-6pm, and Friday 8am-5pm. Our staff will help you to find supportive resources and services.





WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

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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
 Robert Millar, *President*, 802-238-0089, rmillar@wsdvt.org
 Steven Berbeco, 858-376-7269, sberbeco@wsdvt.org
 Kamal Dahal, *Vice President*, 802-310-2821, kdahal@wsdvt.org
 Isaiah Donaldson, *Secretary*, 802-999-8410, idonaldson@wsdvt.org
 Nicole Mace, 802-363-7777, nimace@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, trenner@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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