

The Winooski Newsletter

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

MARCH 2025



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Winooski community,

It has been a busy, productive, and fun winter for the schools. Students are about to begin doing their yearly testing and the end-of-year season of field trips, capstone projects, and performances is about to pick up. One more thing that has been a little eventful has been the weather. The unpredictability of snow, ice, and related hazardous conditions has made it very hard for me and fellow superintendents in the area to make the call for snow days. Our students, particularly, had strong feelings about my decision not to cancel school in early February, and I responded with information that you could be interested in as well. The original message is edited for brevity:

"Please know that weather-related closure decisions are made extremely carefully. When a school is closed, we receive substantial pushback from families because it disrupts their plans, especially for parents and caregivers who have jobs that do not allow them the flexibility to leave and pick up their students or care for younger children during unplanned times. On the other hand, the safety of students and staff sometimes forces us to close the schools when it is likely that the conditions will be hazardous during travel time. This puts a superintendent in a difficult position; no matter the decision, someone will be upset. If we close, some may be upset if they believe there is no true emergency. If we stay open, students and staff will likely have concerns. I understand. So, my decision ultimately is made independent of this pushback and based purely on information from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric



Administration), our local crews, and collaboration with neighboring districts. Superintendents begin collaborating at 4am and monitor the weather before deciding. No matter the angle you see it, there is never a "right" decision. We just make it with the best information at our disposal."

On a separate but also safety-related update, our second and last options-based drill occurred on Wednesday, January 29. These drills are required by state law to take place twice a year. Winooski has created a compressive set of procedures for these drills that comply with the requirements while also being responsive to staff and student feedback. Although not required, additional training is currently being planned for staff (no students) to potentially go into more depth about the options in an active shooter emergency. This training, led by Officer Saja Almogalli, will potentially require a more intense approach to relaying information and lessons learned from actual incidents around the nation, but staff will be able to opt-out if they believe their mental health may be affected by the proposed exercises. More information will be provided to staff once the draft plan has been developed and approved by the Public Safety Committee.

Finally, signs have been placed around the district facilities to designate classrooms as "Private Learning Areas" and other areas within the premises as "Sensitive Zones," where only authorized teachers and staff are allowed to enter and work with students. This is an additional measure in preparation for the unlikely event of immigration enforcement inside our schools. While these signs do not prevent them from entering spaces, they make our expectations clear, visible, and unambiguous. This is one of the several precautions we are putting in place as part of a larger set of procedures based on our campaign to help all focus on their learning rather than be afraid.

Thank you, as always, for supporting our schools.

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten screening for Winooski residents will take place on **April 10th and 11th, 2025!**

If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025, they are eligible to start Kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year.

To sign up for kindergarten screening, call (802) 655-0411 or email lcasier@wsdvt.org. At least one parent or legal guardian must attend with their student.

Don't miss this important step in preparing your child for an exciting school year ahead!





From the Board

By Isaiah L. Donaldson, Board of School Trustees

It is now officially March 2025 and I am sending all the love and gratitude to ALL of Winooski, VT. This month we have Town Meeting Day on March 4, 2025. This is the day for all of us to go and VOTE for things regarding our lovely City of Winooski. I look forward to seeing all of you come through to cast your votes for all the different items on the ballot. For us at the school district our largest goal is to have our items passed by the majority of our City so we can continue to work hard and follow through on our promise to the students in the district who are the FUTURE. To quote what that promise is - "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. Our students are the future." Every time I read this statement it makes me SMILE. We all have a duty and promise to the future of our City to follow through with this. Each day we take one step closer and closer to achieving this for each and every single student.

This past month of February was Black History Month and our community truly came together to celebrate it well. All throughout the school all students have been working on

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MARCH 4, 2025



amazing projects, displays of art, captivating spoken word and so much more. Our Community as a whole displays such a deep array of humans across so many different backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, dialects, etc. The number one commonality we all share is that we are ALL human beings. Seeing our community members all around this City is so heart warming and my personal favorite trait on each and every person is their individual - 'Smile'. A smile goes on and on and truly is something that can shift any moment into the BEST one. My challenge to everyone is to utilize those roughly 13 facial muscles on a regular basis to SMILE. When you see family, friends, strangers, your favorite barista, truly anyone just flex those muscles and give a smile. We are all in this world of life together and as one and we all deserve a SMILE!

I am sending all the love and positive vibes to each and every one of you. I hope to see you all even for a moment so we can share a Smile. If in fact you do see me, please feel free to stop me and say hi, smile, chat, ask questions, etc. Connecting with others is a personal favorite of mine as I love humans and love that we are all SO different and that is what makes us all AMAZING! See you around!!

Health Office Update

By Emily Gallina

A few reminders from the health office as we head into spring!

Spring Sports:

- If you have a student-athlete planning to participate in spring sports, they must have had a sports physical within the last two years, and we must have a copy on file
- If your student-athlete has already played in a fall or winter sport, and we already have a copy on file, they are good to go. Please reach out to our athletic director or the nurses with any questions.

Kindergarten Registration:

One of our favorite days of the year is kindergarten registration! We love seeing all of the little ones and their families prepare for the next chapter of their lives. When you arrive at kindergarten registration, the health office will need the following information:

- Immunizations: copy of the complete set, incomplete set with date of next PCP appointment or religious exemption form



- Medical information: please plan on notifying the nurse if your child has a medical condition or will need to take prescription medications in the health office during the school day

Illness:

Lastly, we continue to see an uptick in illnesses throughout the school year. Monitor your child's symptoms and call your primary care physician's (PCP) office when needed. It's not too late to get the flu shot. Ask your child's PCP if it's right for them.

Coaches vs. Cancer Triple-Header: A Night of Basketball and Community

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications



Boys JV game

The gym buzzed with excitement, the stands filled with supporters, and the purpose was clear—using basketball to rally behind the fight against cancer. The Coaches vs. Cancer Triple-Header was more than a showcase of athletic talent; it was a night of resilience, remembrance, and unity.

The evening opened with an intense Boys' JV game. A last-second play forced overtime, igniting the crowd and setting the tone for the night.

Next, the Girl's Varsity team took the court with relentless energy, locking down on defense and executing with precision on offense. Their passion and determination were on full display.

The night's final game, Boys Varsity, carried a deeper significance. Stories of survivorship were shared, followed by a moment of silence honoring those affected by cancer. The game was played with heart and intensity, a testament to the event's greater purpose.



Boys Varsity game

From the first tip-off to the final buzzer, the Coaches vs. Cancer Triple-Header was about more than basketball—it was about hope, support, and the strength of a community coming together. Thank you to everyone who played, cheered, and contributed to making a difference.



Girls Varsity game

Senior Day!

Join us **Saturday, March 1st** in celebrating our Varsity Girls Basketball seniors—Winner, Ashlyn, and Bridgette—for their dedication, leadership, and hard work on and off the court!

Varsity tips off at 2:30 PM following the JV game at 1 PM.

Let's pack the house and show our Spartan pride!

Thank you for your commitment to the team and for making an impact as Spartans.



Pre-Kindergarten Notices

ACT 166 Publicly Funded Pre-Kindergarten for children between the ages of 3 and 5 who reside in the town of Winooski, Vermont

Preschool Skills Screening & Pre-registration Form

*New and returning families must complete a new pre-registration form EACH year to participate.

What is publicly funded pre-kindergarten education?

Publicly funded pre-kindergarten education is defined as:

Ten hours per week for 35 weeks in a community private early care and education programs. These pre-approved programs meet specific quality standards and provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences that are based on Vermont's Early Learning Standards. Children who reside in Winooski and are between the ages of three-five are eligible. Prekindergarten education is limited to the academic year (September – June).

Are these 10 hours/week pre-kindergarten programs tuition-free?

The pre-kindergarten program offered in public school is tuition-free. The pre-kindergarten program offered through a partner program will charge families for the care and education program the child needs beyond the 10 hours/week during the academic year. Your child's preschool must deduct these public funds from your annual tuition bill.

Is my child eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten?

If your child is 3 years old by September 1, 2025, and resides in Winooski, then your child is eligible to participate.

How much will the Winooski School District pay?

The Agency of Education established the statewide rate of \$3,982.00 per child for the 2024/2025 school year. This covers 10 hours per week of high-quality pre-kindergarten education for 35 weeks.

How do I apply?

1. Winooski residents must first be enrolled at a pre-qualified preschool program in order to receive Act 166 funding. You need to contact the program directly to enroll your child. To search pre-qualified preschool programs visit: *Bright Futures Information System*
2. Once enrolled in a pre-qualified preschool program, then complete the Winooski ACT 166 Pre-registration Form to let WSD know what program your child will be attending for the school year. *Returning families must update their PowerSchool forms EACH year.



3. Upload all documents to PowerSchool. A copy of the child's birth certificate and your proof of residency (a utility bill or mortgage/lease) will be needed to participate.

Please contact our Early Learning Office, Tina Carroll at tcarroll@wsdvt.org or 802-383-6138 with any questions.

Preschool Skills Screening & Pre-registration

If your child is or will be 3 by September 1st, 2025

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 21, 2025
- **Where:** In the preschool classroom at JFK Elementary School, room D185
- **How:** Please contact our Early Learning Office, Tina Carroll at tcarroll@wsdvt.org or 802-383-6138 to schedule an appointment for you and your child to come into the program on March 21, 2025.

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

Winooski Robotics Team Earns Judges' Choice Award at FIRST Technical Challenge!

By Jessica Handrik, Flexible Pathways & Work-based Learning Coordinator

Our high school robotics team competed in their first-ever meet at the Vermont Regional FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Technical Challenge, and they had an incredible showing! Not only did they tackle the competition with teamwork and resilience, but they also brought home the Judges' Choice Award!

"One thing that was really cool was winning the Judges' Choice Award," said Winooski High School junior and robotics team member Eliza Willis. "Our team did an amazing job—we worked together and shared roles, and we were able to adjust to challenges like when our robot broke."

Eliza also shared how much she learned from the experience: "The community at FIRST was so welcoming and encouraged teams to help each other. I certainly learned a lot when it came to parts for our robot and just how the challenge worked. Participating made me excited for next year and how our team can improve our robot."

Thank you to our two WHS-based coaches, Jessica Handrik, Flexible Pathways and Work-based Learning Coordinator and Science Teacher Dave McNally for their commitment and a huge thank you to Luis Duffaut Espinoza, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Biomedical Engineering at UVM and Lucy White, Process Engineer at GlobalFoundries for their mentorship and support!

"The local FIRSTinVT program administrators have really been championing our efforts to create a middle/highschool FIRST team, helping us to navigate the the team start up process and providing a grant that allowed us to register our team and purchase the resources we needed to participate in the Into the Deep 2024-25 FTC season," says Work-based Learning Coordinator Jessica Handrik. "Combined with the City of Winooski's successful effort to launch the FIRST Lego League this year (with support from Global Foundries and 21C and FIRSTinVT), students enrolled in the Winooski School District now have access throughout their education here to this important career readiness opportunity that goes beyond the building of the robot and is about youth leadership and collaboration. We experienced this community of collaboration at the February 8 meet and I can't wait to see where the students take this."

"I am so proud of the students for their hard work this season. They showcased their leadership by starting a robotics team at



Members of the Winooski MHS Team sporting their student-designed team shirts with co-coach Mr. McNally and mentors Lucy White (Global Foundries) and Luis Duffaut Espinoza (UVM).



Members of the Capital Robotics team from Montpelier greeting the Winooski team and offering support, exemplifying FIRST's "Gracious Professionalism" values.

Winooski and accomplished building their very first robot, which won an award at their first competition! We would not have had the resources to be successful without the support of the FIRST community, and I cannot wait to see what the team accomplishes next. The future of robotics looks bright at Winooski High School," said Lucy White, Robotics Team Coach for Winooski High School and Engineer at GlobalFoundries.

Thanks to the 21C After School Program for their support—21C funds support the Winooski teachers that help facilitate the robotics program. This is just the beginning for our team—onward and upward!

Lunch Entree BBQ Chicken Bahn Mi Sandwich Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Daily Salad Bar Roasted Mashed Potatoes Grains Whole Wheat Dinner Roll Rice Pilaf Homemade Granola Tortilla Chips	3	Lunch Entree Nacho Bar Greek Chicken Wrap Vegetarian Chef Salad Granola & Yogurt Parfait Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Hawaiian Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar Taco Bar: Seasoned Pinto Beans Grains Homemade Granola	4	Lunch Entree Grilled Cheese Sandwich Meatball Marinara Sub Chicken Caesar Salad Granola & Yogurt Parfait Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Spicy Slaw Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola	5	Lunch Entree Beef Shepherds Pie Vegetarian Shepherd's Pie Bahn Mi Sandwich Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Meatlovers Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Glazed Carrots Daily Salad Bar Grains 2 Whole Wheat Dinner Rolls Tortilla Chips Homemade Granola	6	Lunch Entree Jerk Chicken Drumstick Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Grilled Cheese Sandwich Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Chef Salad with Turkey Ham Roasted Vegetable Wrap Vegetables Steamed Broccoli Daily Salad Bar Grains Rice Pilaf Whole Grain Corn Bread Homemade Granola	7
Lunch Entree Beef Cheeseburger Gardenburger® Veggie Burger Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Turkey Cobb Salad Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Roasted Potato Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola	10	Lunch Entree Chipotle Chicken Bar: Turkey Taco Meat Loaded Baked Potato Southwest Crunch Salad Chicken Aioli Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Hawaiian Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Fresh Roasted Broccoli with Garlic Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar Grains Tortilla Chips 2 Whole Wheat Dinner Rolls Homemade Granola	11	Lunch Entree Curry Chicken Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Ham & Swiss Cheese Croissant Vegetarian Chef Salad Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Green Beans Daily Salad Bar Grains Brown Rice Homemade Granola	12	Lunch Entree Spaghetti with Meatballs Meatless Meatball Marinara w/ Spaghetti Chicken Caesar Salad Buffalo Ranch Chicken Sandwich (Scratch) Granola & Yogurt Parfait Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Meatlovers Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Calabacitas con Elote (Squash with Corn) Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola	13	Lunch Entree Hot Honey Glazed Chicken Thigh Roasted Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Chef Salad with Turkey Ham Hawaiian Chicken Wrap Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Vegetarian Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar Grains Rice Pilaf Homemade Granola	14
Lunch Entree BBQ Chicken Roasted Chicken Vegetarian Chef Salad Granola & Yogurt Parfait Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Steamed Corn Daily Salad Bar Grains Macaroni & Cheese Homemade Granola	17	Lunch Entree Chicken Quesadilla Taco Cheese Quesadilla Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Hawaiian Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Fire Roasted Black Beans Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola	18	Lunch Entree Hot Dog Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Wrap Granola & Yogurt Parfait Chef Salad with Chicken Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Chili Roasted Sweet Potatoes Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola	19	Lunch Entree Chickpea Masala Granola & Yogurt Parfait Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Cheese Pizza Chef Salad with Turkey Ham Chicken Salad Sandwich Pepperoni Pizza Meatlovers Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Kale Roasted Red Peppers Daily Salad Bar Grains Brown Rice Homemade Granola	20	Lunch Entree Oven Fried Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Hawaiian Chicken Wrap Granola & Yogurt Parfait Turkey Cobb Salad Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Garlic Roasted Green Beans Daily Salad Bar Grains Cilantro Lime Brown Rice Homemade Granola	21
Lunch Entree Huli Huli Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Southwest Crunch Salad Granola & Yogurt Parfait Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar Grains Tortilla Chips Homemade Granola Hawaiian Macaroni Salad	24	Lunch Entree Chicken Al Pastor Tacos Chicken Quesadilla Chef Salad with Turkey Ham Black Bean Soft Tacos Granola & Yogurt Parfait Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Hawaiian Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Creamy Pinto Beans Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola	25	Lunch Entree Beef Cheeseburger Gardenburger® Veggie Burger Creamy Buffalo Chicken Salad Wrap Garden Salad with Cheese & Egg Granola & Yogurt Parfait Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Roasted Potato Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola	26	Lunch Entree Piri Piri Chicken Greek Chicken Wrap Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Hawaiian Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Collard Greens Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola Jollof Rice	27	Lunch Entree Chicken Aioli Sandwich Pasta Bar Cheese Pizza Granola & Yogurt Parfait Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Wrap Chef Salad with Turkey Ham Pepperoni Pizza Meatlovers Pizza, Scratch Dough Vegetables Italian Herbed Sautéed Zucchini Broccoli Daily Salad Bar Grains Homemade Granola	28
Lunch Entree Grilled Cheese Sandwich Southwest Crunch Salad Turkey Ham & Cheese Hoagie Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Vegetable Pizza Vegetables Tomato Soup Carrot Slaw Daily Salad Bar Grains Tortilla Chips Homemade Granola	31								

Note: ALL MEALS ARE FREE for all students.

At every meal, assorted fruit is served, and low fat milk or fat free chocolate milk is available.

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Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Kristine Lott | klott@winooski.vt.gov / 802 766 1988

Hello, neighbors. If you're reading this before the Town Meeting Day election, **please vote on March 4th!** For all ballot, budget, and election information, visit winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting. All legal residents, regardless of citizenship status, can vote in this election. If you're reading this after Town Meeting Day, thank you for casting your vote on local issues and engaging in the public process. Big thanks to all the staff and volunteers who make this important Vermont tradition a success. Looking forward, there are several big construction projects on the horizon.

We'll continue the **Main Street Revitalization** project (winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet) this spring with underground utility work and streetscape improvements including an uphill bike lane, wider sidewalks, crosswalk improvements, tree planting, and more. Residents and visitors should keep an eye out on City channels in the coming months for an exciting marketing campaign in support of businesses on Main Street. We also encourage everyone to sign up for the weekly construction updates and traffic alerts ahead of the construction season.



Street resurfacing is planned for Bellevue and Dion and we'll continue the work on Reginald, Bernard, Gail, and Rogers Streets initiated last year.

The **Burlington/Winooski Bridge Replacement** project (burlingtonwinooski.vt.gov) is slated to begin in 2027 and the **Exit 16 Diverging Diamond Interchange** project (exit16.vt.gov) will resume this year in Colchester. Construction on the **hotel project** (commonly known as Winooski Falls East or Lot 7D) also resumes this year, adding a new parking garage and workforce housing to our downtown.

The **transfer of the O'Brien Community Center** to the Champlain Housing Trust will be complete and renovations to expand the community-focused services within will begin. Certainly an exciting time to live in Winooski!

* DO YOUR PART *
VOTE!
MARCH 4, 2025

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco

This past month the Vermont House has made progress on critical issues impacting our community, reinforcing our shared commitment to equity, affordability, and our well-being.

Affordable Housing & Community Stability:

The House recently passed the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) which prioritizes housing security by allocating \$8.6 million to expand affordable housing and shelter capacity. Additionally, \$2.8 million will pilot supportive housing for adults with developmental disabilities, and \$1.8 million will extend emergency winter housing for vulnerable Vermonters. Additionally, \$10 million has been allocated to stabilize mental health and substance use treatment providers, ensuring continued access to essential services.

Responding to the Governor's Proposal for Education:

The Governor has proposed a radical education governance overhaul, reducing Vermont's 52 supervisory unions to just five large districts, each governed by a part-time elected board. This plan aims to scale resources, expand specialized services, and promote tax equity. However, concerns have been raised about the impact on local school decision-making and inequities in school choice policies. We are carefully reviewing the details and encourage you to as well. Please tune in to Winooski school board meetings, and reach out to Rep. Tomlinson and I to weigh in on state decision making.



Representatives Chloe Tomlinson (left) and Daisy Berbeco (right)

Healthcare: My recent committee discussions have focused on hospital and healthcare system reform—fundamental steps in addressing our rising cost of education and of healthcare. We are investigating reference-based pricing which would align commercial insurance reimbursement rates with a percentage of Medicare to control costs. At the time of this writing (Feb 9) we are also taking up legislation (H.96) that would streamline regulatory reviews on health facilities before they make major purchases, new facilities or building modifications. This is another effort to address administrative burden that significantly builds the costs we ultimately pay as patients.

Community Safety & Well-being: Investments in courthouse security upgrades and continued emergency shelter funding reinforce Vermont's commitment to public safety. Additionally, legislative discussions continue around criminal justice reforms, including initiatives supporting incarcerated individuals' rehabilitation and reintegration to community. H.98, which proposes to establish an expedited confirmatory adoption process for parents who conceived a child through assisted reproduction and are parents under State law, will be coming to the House floor for a vote next week! As your representative, I remain dedicated to advocating for policies that make Winooski a more affordable, equitable, and thriving community. Please share your thoughts—I value your input in shaping our future.



Main Street Revitalization

winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet

Project Timeline: Crews are expected to return to the project area in mid-March weather-permitting to mobilize equipment and install temporary traffic control devices and signage. Construction is scheduled to resume in early April. Work will continue this year through early winter. This project is projected to be completed by the summer of 2026.

Work Hours: Primarily Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm

Exciting Improvements:

- Underground Work
 - Replace water and sewer systems (Normand Street to Winooski/Colchester town line)
 - Connect Lafountain Street to the new water main
 - Install stormwater pipes
 - Install underground electric and telecom utility infrastructure to relocate existing aerial utilities (includes conduit duct bank (Spring Street to Tigan Street) and telecom vaults and transformer pads
- Main Street Makeover
 - Reconstruct Main Street (railroad bridge near Maple Street to Winooski/Colchester town line)
 - Excavation, grading, granite curb installation, and paving up to the binder course (Spring Street to Winooski/Colchester town line)
 - Mill and pave top course of asphalt and driveways throughout project area
 - Install permanent pavement markings, including reconfigured on-street parking and northbound bike lane

Additional Enhancements

- New sidewalks, streetlighting, and roadway signs
- Landscaping with tree plantings
- Upgraded traffic signal equipment (Winooski Fire Station and Spring Street intersection)

Traffic and Parking Impacts During Construction

- 24/7 lane closure on Main Street (northbound traffic only)
- Southbound traffic detoured to Tigan Street and Weaver Street
- Intermittent side street closures at intersections with Main Street between railroad bridge and Tigan Street
- Temporary on-street parking restrictions

Keeping You Informed

Weekly Updates: The City of Winooski will share weekly Construction Updates on the project website winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet and directly to an email list. You can sign up on the website or by contacting the public information team. The website offers information in 15 languages.

Property Owner/Resident/Business Notifications: The contractor will inform project abutters about utility or driveway interruptions in advance using door hangers or by knocking on doors.

Contact Us: Our public information team is here to help with any questions or concerns. 802 595 4399 | info@winooskimainstreet.com

Damage Claims: If your personal property is damaged due to construction, there's a process in place to help. Contact the public information team for more details.



City Hall Reminders

Open 8am – 4pm, Monday – Friday
winooski.vt.gov/clerk | 802 655 6410

Dog Licenses:

Per state law, all dogs owned in the City of Winooski must be registered with the City Clerk on or before April 1, 2025. Please note, the State of Vermont has increased their fee by \$2:

- On or before April 1st: Altered: \$16.00/ Un-Altered: \$20
- On April 2nd and after: Altered: \$18.00 / Un-Altered: \$22

Winter parking bans began on December 1 and end on March 31. To learn about winter parking bans, please visit winooski.vt.gov/parking.

Keeping of Animals:

With the warmer months on the horizon, please remember that local laws and fees apply when keeping animals (such as chickens or bees) on your property in Winooski. An application to do so is needed and zoning/building permits may be required. To learn more or contact us with questions, visit winooski.vt.gov/clerk.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Recreation and Parks

802-777-1621 | recreation@winooskivt.gov

Summer camp and pool passes/programs are now open for registration! View all programs at winooskivt.gov/recprograms

YOUTH

Very Merry Theatre

Grades 1-7 | Mondays, January 6 – March 24

Youth Climbing

Ages 5-8 | Tuesdays, March 11 – April 15

Ages 9-13 | Wednesdays, March 12 – April 16

Cartooning and Comic Book Club

Ages 7-12 | Thursdays, March 6 - April 17

Vermont Patriots Soccer

U6 | Saturdays, May 3 - June 14

U8 - U12 | Weeks of April 28 - June 8

Tennis in the Parks

Grades 1-5 | Wednesdays, May 7 - June 11

Grades 1-5 | Mondays and Wednesdays, July 14 – 30

Budding Gardeners Camp

Grades K-5 | Monday - Friday, June 16 - 20

Very Merry Theatre Camp

Grades 1-6 | Monday - Friday, June 23 - 27

CHILL Skateboarding Camp

Ages 11-17 | Monday - Friday, July 7 – 11

Art Fusion Camp

Grades K-5 | Monday - Friday, August 11 - 15

Olympians Camp

Grades K-5 | Monday - Friday, August 18 - 22

Swim Lessons

Ages 0-13 | Monday - Saturday, June 14 - August 18

Winooski Waves Swim Team

Ages 5-18 | Monday, Wednesday, Friday, June 9 - August 4

ADULTS

Tennis in the Parks

Ages 18+ | Wednesdays, May 7 - June 11

Ages 18+ | Saturdays, July 12 - August 16



Winooski Memorial Library

32 Malletts Bay Avenue | 802-655-6424 | library@winooskivt.gov

winooskivt.gov/library

Tuesday to Friday: 10am - 5pm | Saturday: 10am - 2pm

Drop-in programs:

YOUTH

Library Playgroup | Birth & up | Tuesdays | 10:30am

Pokémon Club | Ages 8+ | Wednesdays | 3:30pm

Weekly Storytime | Birth & up | Thursdays | 10:30am

Lego Club | Ages 4+ | Thursdays | 3:30pm

STEAM | Ages 5+ | Saturdays | 10am

Pop-Up Jenga Tournament | Ages 5+ | Tuesday, March 4 | 3:30pm

Pop-Up Sweet Treat Sushi | Ages 8+ | Wednesday, March 5 | 3:30pm

Cozy Craft Time | Ages 5+ | Friday March 7 | 3:30pm

Audubon VT | Ages 8+ | Saturday March 8 | 10am

Lego Time | Ages 4+ | Tuesday, Mar 11 & 25 | 3:30pm

Tiny Art Acrylic Painting | Ages 10+ | Friday, Mar 21 | 3:30p

ADULTS

Monthly Book Group | Ages 18+ | Last Tuesday of each month

Monthly Writing Group | Ages 18+ | Call or email for specifics

1:1 Tech Assistance | Ages 18+ | Saturday, March. 1, 8, & 29 | 11am

Free Veggie Distribution

Join us on Wednesday, March 12th from 3:30 – 5:30pm for our monthly veggie distribution in partnership with The Intervale Center. Bring your own bag; first served basis.

Cozy Craft Time for Kids: - Cozy up at the Winooski Library on the first Friday of each month this winter! Youth will enjoy hot cocoa over a simple craft. This month's activity is scheduled for Friday, March 7 at 3:30pm and features paper sculpture making!



Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425

seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov

winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9am – 12pm

TUESDAYS

Singing for People with Memory Loss

10:30am – 11:30am | Free | Starts March 18

WEDNESDAYS

Breakfast Café

9am–11am | Priced by donation | Drop-in

Enjoy fresh breakfast sandwiches, fruit & drinks

Senior Community Connections

9am – 12pm | FREE | Drop-in

Come and play games, puzzles, craft, sew, and more!

Sit Down Community Meals

12pm | 60+ | \$5 suggested donation

Call to RSVP by 12pm the previous Wednesday.

Healthy sit-down lunches from AgeWell

THURSDAYS

New American Community Connections

10am – 1pm | Games, Activities & Lunch

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Yogi's Birthday "Pawty" | Wednesday March 5 | 12pm

Bring Pet Food as a suggested donation, RSVP by February 26

St. Patrick's Day Lunch | Wednesday March 12 | 12pm

60+ | \$5 suggested donation | Call to RSVP by March 5

Coffee Chat with The Heritage Mill Museum | Wednesday,

March 19 | 10am

Learn about upcoming weaving classes.

AARP Tax-Aide FREE | Mondays & Fridays February 7-April 7

Call 802 655 6425 for an appointment. AARP will return your call.

Bone Builders Exercise | FREE | Monday & Wednesday | 2–3pm

Meals on Wheels Please call AgeWell at 802 863 0360 for

eligibility. Volunteers are always needed!



Thrive Afterschool

winooskivt.gov/thrive

Thrive Summer 2025: Hey there campers – are you ready for the best summer ever? We've got tons of fun activities planned for you! Registration for Thrive Summer opened on February 1, 2025, and we encourage families to sign up soon. We'll be exploring nature, celebrating different cultures, and enjoying STEAM activities, and trips to the Myers Memorial Pool all summer long. Join your friends and neighbors to make some lifetime memories!

Grades K- 5 (must have completed Kindergarten)

Monday – Friday

8:30am - 5pm at the Winooski School District

Summer Camp Dates and Themes:

- June 23 – 27 – Outdoor Explorers Week
- June 30 – July 3 (partial week) – Bouncing off the Walls!
- July 7 – 11 – Crazy Critters Week
- July 14 – 18 – Thrive on Wheels Week
- July 21 – 25 – Music Week
- July 28 – August 1 – Water Week

State scholarships have expanded and offer some level of support for most Winooski families to pay for Thrive. Applications are encouraged – visit dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap for more info or email thrive@winooskivt.gov for help.

Thrive Afterschool is accepting new students in early 2025, and as a state-licensed program, most families are eligible for help with program costs. For more info and to sign up, visit winooskivt.gov/thrive.

**Sign up for
Community Services
Programs & Events!**



winooskivt.gov/programs

DOWNTOWN WINOOSKI AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Downtown Winooski

Check out the lineup for Downtown Winooski Events in 2025!

- **Farmers Market Season:** Sundays May 18 - October 26 | 10am – 2pm
- **Juneteenth:** Friday June 20 in Rotary Park
- **French Heritage Day:** Sunday June 29 at the Farmers Market
- **Best Pooch in the Noosk:** Sunday July 27 at the Farmers Market
- **Pride:** Saturday August 30 in Rotary Park
- **Fiber Fair:** Sunday August 31 at the Farmers Market
- **Youth Vendor Day:** Sunday September 28 at the Farmers Market
- **Halloween in Winooski:** Saturday October 25th & Sunday October 26th (Halloween focused Farmers Market + Rotary Display)



- **Holiday Pop-Up Sale:** Thursday December 4 in the Business District
- **Sunday Service - DJ Dance Parties** in Rotary Park after Sunday Farmers Market



Winooski Food Shelf

winooskifoodshelf.org

Winooski residents may access the food shelf one (1) Wednesday and both Saturdays.



Saturday, March 8	9:30am – 11am
Wednesday, March 12	1pm – 3pm
Saturday, March 22	9:30am – 11am
Wednesday, March 26	1pm – 3pm

Where to find us: We are located at 24 West Allen Street inside the green United Methodist Church. Our phone is 802-655-7371.

Volunteers needed: Please reach out to us at our e-mail: winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com. We need volunteers to pack produce boxes and pantry staples. **We especially need help the third Wednesday of each month at 9am** to help bring inside and shelve the food dropped off by the Vermont Foodbank truck.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Kate Nugent, Executive Director



Welcome spring with a renewed commitment to your health. 802 Quits can help you quit or reduce Zyn, vapes, and other forms of nicotine - and you could earn up to \$250 for enrolling. Get free medication and support by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW or 802quits.org. Quitting works. You got this.

Howard Center

howardcenter.org



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Howard Center provides a range of services to support individuals with developmental disabilities in living, working, and thriving in the community. One of these programs, Project Hire, has helped connect individuals with meaningful employment opportunities for 43 years, fostering independence and inclusion. Since then, Project Hire has grown from a small program supporting a few people in the first year to supporting 230+ people annually. Learn more: howardcenter.org.

Town Meeting TV

cctv.org



Tune in to Town Meeting TV's Election Night Results Show on March 4th at 7pm! Get live updates on how your neighbors voted on local ballot items, plus results from elections in Burlington, South Burlington, Williston, and Essex. The show will feature real-time results, interviews with elected officials, political commentary, and more. Can't watch live? Visit results.townmeeting.tv for a full compilation of local election results. For more details, head to cctv.org/TMD2025.



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
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60 Normand Street
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WINOOSKI, VT 05404



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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
Kamal Dahal, *Vice President*, 802-310-2821, kdahal@wsdvt.org
Isaiah Donaldson, *Secretary*, 802-999-8410, idonaldson@wsdvt.org
Elom Essiba, 802-324-9431, eessiba@wsdvt.org
Nicole Mace, 802-363-7777, nimace@wsdvt.org

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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA We are @WinooskiLearns

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA We are @winooski.vt