

The Winooski Newsletter

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

AUGUST 2025



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Gift Your Community Campaign

The City of Winooski launched its “Gift Your Community” campaign, encouraging residents and visitors to purchase gift certificates from Main Street businesses as a way to provide immediate financial support during ongoing construction. The initiative is part of the broader “Winooski Mosaic” campaign supporting local businesses through the Main Street Revitalization project.

During construction, Winooski businesses face unique challenges. Buying a gift certificate offers immediate support and future joy! Each business in our directory is a unique part of our city’s vibrant mosaic, from family-run shops to new American entrepreneurs, from everyday services to creative cuisine.

Gift certificates are perfect for birthday celebrations and anniversaries, teacher appreciation and graduation gifts, employee recognition and team building, holiday gifts that support local community, and “Just because” moments that matter. For full details, visit downtownwinooski.org/gift-certificates.



Take the Winooski EV Survey!

The City of Winooski is planning for the next 10 years of electric vehicle (EV) growth, and we want your ideas!

Please take 5 minutes to share your thoughts on where EV charging stations should go and how we can better support EV drivers in our community. All responses are anonymous – you may provide your email if you’d like to receive updates on this work.

Water Main Breaks

The City of Winooski reminds residents how we communicate about water main breaks and boil water notices.

- Water mains, underground pipes that deliver water to homes and businesses, can break due to age, pressure changes, or temperature shifts. When this happens, we may issue a boil water notice as a safety precaution if contamination is possible.
- For smaller, localized issues, we use door hangers to ensure timely, clear info reaches affected homes and businesses.
- Digital alerts are only sent when there’s citywide impact, major service or traffic disruption, or a public health risk.

To learn more about this process and what to expect if a water main breaks in your neighborhood, visit winooski.vt.gov/watermain.



From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria,
Superintendent of Schools



Dear Winooski Community,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our families back into our buildings this month. On Thursday, August 21, we will be opening our doors to everyone for a welcome-back BBQ and community gathering to celebrate the promise of a new school year. Please join us for burgers and conversation, even if you do not have children in the school district. The event will begin for families at 4:15pm and for the wider community at 5:30pm.

While we have made great strides in improving all aspects of the student experience over the past few years, we are confident that this will be an even better year. We have been hard at work preparing for a year of greater focus and alignment throughout all grades.

To prepare the conditions for our youth and children to thrive academically and personally, we spent the summer revisiting what it means to fulfill our school board's "Ends Statement." This statement declares that "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."

In our district, several key areas of focus guide our efforts to achieve this goal.

The first of our three main areas is our "Performance

Indicators" for academic proficiency. As a proficiency-based district, we go beyond traditional grades and teach students to see themselves on a journey of continuous improvement. We measure proficiency in at least twelve different areas, from foundational literacy to mathematics and the arts.

The second area is our "Graduate Expectations (GXs)," which are six transferable skills we want our students to begin developing in Pre-K and hone to their full potential by 12th grade. Our six GXs are Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, Culture and Community, Persistence, and Wellbeing.

Tying it all together, we pursue social, emotional, and ethical growth in several ways, including our framework for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which we call H.E.A.R.T.: Honest and Truthful, Engaged and Persistent, Appropriate and Considerate, Responsible and Accountable, and Timely. If you have children in our elementary school, you may have already heard of H.E.A.R.T., and it continues to inform our practices all the way through 12th grade!

Our faculty and staff do so much every day to help our Winooski children and youth become the best versions of themselves. These three guiding structures allow us to work with greater precision and effectiveness. Please reach out to your respective teacher or administrator to learn more about our work for the upcoming year.

Thank you for supporting your local public schools.

School Board Update

By Robert Millar, President, Board of School Trustees

As I write this update in mid-July, the days are hot and lazy and the coming school year seems far away, but by the time you read it the first day of school (August 27th!) will be just around the corner. July is typically a slow time for the Board and, as usual, we did not have a regular Board Meeting this month. However, events in the wider world that will greatly affect our District have certainly not taken a holiday!

On June 30th, for example, the Federal Administration announced it would withhold billions in education grant funding already previously appropriated by Congress. For Vermont, that means a sudden loss of \$26 million to the State Education Fund and locally could leave us scrambling to fill a nearly half a million dollar hole in our FY26 District budget. These are funds designated for some of our most vulnerable students, such as those experiencing poverty and English learners. Losing these funds could mean devastating cuts to critically important programs in our district. We are hopeful that the State's recent lawsuit will be successful and these funds will be released before

difficult decisions have to be made.

Meanwhile, as many of you are probably aware, the State Legislature passed its "Education Reform" bill at the end of June. Many aspects of this bill are not what we would have hoped for and could completely alter how education is delivered here in Winooski. While most of the changes envisioned in the bill are years away, one thing we are keeping an eye on this summer is the School Redistricting Task Force, which should have its first meeting soon. This committee is tasked with coming up with new school districts for the Legislature to consider next session. Since the bill calls for those districts to be a minimum of 4,000 students each, any configurations the Task Force comes up with will likely mean major changes for Winooski.

In August, the Board will be back to work in earnest, with both our regular meeting on August 13 and an all day retreat on August 25. So stay tuned and, as always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.



Unheard Stories: A Night to Remember

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

The 3rd Annual Unheard Stories was a powerful and moving celebration of student voice, creativity, and identity. This special evening showcased the richness of our diverse community through spoken word, fashion, and interpretive performance—all created and presented by our students.

The Unheard Stories team shared this heartfelt message: “To our incredible administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, translators, families, students, community members, and every staff member who showed up—thank you. Your presence wasn’t just noticed; it was felt. You made our students feel seen, valued, and celebrated. Because of you, they stood a little taller and shared their stories with pride, knowing they belong to a community that truly cares.”

Moments like this remind us of the impact we can have when we show up for our students—with heart, time, and energy. Thank you for walking this journey with us. Your support helps shape not only their confidence today, but the future they are building—story by story, voice by voice.



Exploring Vermont and Beyond: A Summer of Learning for Multilingual Students

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

Thanks to funding from Gear Up-VSAC, high school teachers Ms. Savage and Ms. Haiduck led a week-long summer program designed for our newest multilingual learners. The focus of the week was Vermont History and Science, blending academic work with hands-on experiences.

Each morning, students practiced reading and writing skills centered on the themes. In the afternoons, they brought their learning to life through engaging field trips, including a gondola ride at Stowe, a tour of the Vermont History Museum, a visit to a local farm, and a nature walk along the Colchester Causeway. One afternoon, Ms. Lennon joined the group to teach a practical lesson about money.

The highlight of the week was a trip across the lake to Ausable Chasm in New York, where students explored local geology and enjoyed a rafting adventure. It was a joyful and enriching week of learning, connection, and exploration.





WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.



Back-to-School is Around the Corner!

We hope you're enjoying a joyful and relaxing summer! While there are still a few more weeks to soak up the sunshine, we're already looking forward to welcoming our students and families back to school soon.

Here are some key dates to keep in mind as we prepare for the new school year:

- **Thursday, August 21:** Welcome Back BBQ
- **Wednesday, August 27:** First day of school for students in grades K–5, 6th & 9th grade Welcome Day from 8:15am-12:15 pm.
- **Thursday, August 28:** First day for all students in grades 6–12
- **Monday, September 1:** No school in observance of Labor Day
- **Tuesday, September 2:** First day for Pre-K students

As the school year approaches, you'll receive more information from us. We use multiple ways to keep families informed—email, text, voice messaging, social media (Facebook and Instagram), and electronic newsletters from the district, schools, and administrators. We also send mail directly to your home so you don't miss a thing.

And don't forget—the Winooski Newsletter is mailed and posted online by the first of every month. Be sure to check it regularly for important updates, celebrations, and upcoming events. We can't wait to see our students' smiling faces back in our classrooms and hallways soon. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!



Art Exhibit at Scout

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

Before school let out, our 7th and 8th graders hosted an incredible art opening at Scout in Winooski! The exhibit features self-portraits, abstract pieces, cubist creations, and surrealist works—each one a reflection of our students' creativity, effort, and voice. Huge thanks to Ms. Jacobs for her guidance and for inspiring the next generation of creators!

Stop by Scout to see the amazing work on display and celebrate the talent of our young artists.

Winooski Wanders Wrap Up the Year

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

Before break, the Winooski Wanders set out on their final adventures of the school year! With sunshine overhead and friends by their side, students enjoyed time outdoors and made lasting memories.

A big thank you to the Winooski PTO for treating our explorers to creemees and snacks—perfect fuel for a day of fun!





Burlington-Winooski Middle School Summer Program 2025

By Suzanne Skaflestad, 21C Director

This summer, 25 Winooski Middle School students participated in five weeks of full-day programming, held Monday through Friday from 8am to 3:30pm at Hunt Middle School. Despite budget cuts for FY26, the Burlington-Winooski MS Summer Program continued to offer high-quality summer learning and enrichment.

The program helps students maintain or accelerate academic progress while also supporting social-emotional development, physical activity, creativity, and fun. Students benefit from exposure to new learning experiences, caring mentors, skilled educators, healthy meals, and transportation. Activities focus on wellness, socialization, career exploration, and workforce skill development.

One highlight was a field trip to Colchester Pond, where students hiked 3.2 miles, practicing the Winooski School District’s Persistence GX.

The expectations for behavior and participation mirror those during the school year. Students are encouraged to demonstrate HEART values and learn responsibility, accountability, and decision-making—skills that help ease the transition into middle school, especially for rising 6th graders. These social skills are invaluable as students prepare for the fall.

When asked about their favorite moments, students shared:

- “Dance class. I enjoy dancing together with my friends.”
- “D&D.”
- “I enjoyed going to the Birds of Vermont Museum.”
- “Going to the Ethan Allen Tower.”
- “Playing basketball with my friends and being the MVP every single time!”

- “Playing soccer with my friends. It was fun.”
- “Walking around Colchester Pond.”
- “Playing soccer and going on field trips.”

Special thanks to Deb Shumski, WSD staff member, for her dedication and care, and to bus driver Hussein Bundid for his reliable transportation service for both Winooski and Burlington students. Your commitment is deeply appreciated!

ON SITE Dental Program Update

By Tracy Towers, RDH

Our ON SITE Dental Program continues to grow! Launched in January 2023 with 40 students, we had 227 students enrolled this past year.

Looking ahead to 2025-2026:

- **Form updates:** All currently enrolled students must update their dental forms via PowerSchool or submit hard copies in the health office.
- **Dental transportation:** The CHC Dental Transportation Program will be unavailable next year due to renovations. Parents will need to arrange transportation to dental offices.

Need a Dental Cleaning? Sign up for the ON SITE Dental Program today! If your child doesn’t have an established dental home, I’m happy to assist. Keep Smiling!



Getting Ready to Welcome Students: A Shoutout to Our Facilities Team

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

As the first day of school approaches, excitement is building across the Winooski School District. Behind the scenes, our incredible Facilities Team has been hard at work all summer, making sure every hallway, classroom, and outdoor space is ready to welcome students and staff for a fresh new year of learning.

From deep cleaning classrooms and common spaces to fresh coats of paint and carefully landscaped grounds, the team's efforts are visible in every corner of our schools. Whether it's scrubbing floors until they shine or ensuring that playgrounds and fields are in top shape, their dedication helps create an environment where students and educators can thrive.

Their attention to detail and pride in their work reflect the heart of our school community—caring for one another and preparing the best possible space for learning, growth, and connection.

We can't wait to have students and teachers back in the buildings. Thank you to our Facilities Team for making sure everything looks—and feels—just right. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we're so grateful for all that you do.

Winooski Students Make the Most of Summer

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

Summer break doesn't mean learning stops for Winooski students. This year, several of our high schoolers took part in hands-on, enriching programs that combined career exploration, skill-building, and community impact.

A number of students participated in the **Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) Food and Farm program**—a paid learning experience that focuses on sustainable agriculture, environmental science, and community service. Students worked outdoors on VYCC's farm, growing food, learning about food systems, and making meaningful contributions to their community.

One student attended the **Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) Technology and Design program**, a week-long, residential experience that blends game creation, graphic design, coding, and media creativity. It's a chance for students to explore the world of tech and design through hands-on challenges and collaboration with peers from across the state.

In addition, two Winooski students completed the **GIV Health and Medicine Institute**, where they explored careers in healthcare and biomedical science through lab work, discussions with medical professionals, and real-world case studies. It's an inspiring deep dive for students interested in supporting the health and well-being of others.

These are just a few of the many ways Winooski students are spending their summer—learning, growing, and stepping into their futures with purpose and curiosity. We're so proud of their commitment and drive!



Students Shine on Stage

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

Last month, students wrapped up an incredible week of theater camp at the Winooski School District, presented in partnership with the Very Merry Theatre and the Winooski Recreation and Parks. The camp culminated in a delightful performance of *Monarchs* before an enthusiastic audience of friends and family. The show was a true celebration of student creativity, collaboration, and talent. Bravo to all of our young performers for their hard work and inspiring energy on stage!



Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Kristine Lott | klott@winooskivt.gov | 802 766 1988

Hello, Winooski. Last month, we set the **fiscal year 2026 municipal tax rate**. To view the current City of Winooski and Winooski School District school tax rates, visit winooskivt.gov/taxrates. Now for the numbers: the current tax rate was approved for \$0.7836 (this is the penny amount you're paying, about 78¢ for every \$100 of assessed property value), which is an increase of 3.16% from last year. For example, the average home in Winooski, assessed at \$414,000, would pay about \$99 more in taxes for the year. While increases are tough, the good news is that thanks to some growth in the City's Grand List (the value of all taxable properties), the increase is lower than the initially estimated 3.99%.



(TDM), which helps reduce single-occupancy car trips (like offering transit passes for residents or employee bike programs). New developments in our gateway districts (Main Street, Malletts Bay Avenue, East Allen Street) that include 20+ homes or over 5K square feet of commercial space must now include features that make it easier for people to get around without a car (like bus stop access, bike parking, or shared transportation options).

I'm excited for these changes, as they support our Strategic Vision and Master Plan goals for increasing multi-modal transit options while addressing climate concerns.

In related news, the State of Vermont set the **education homestead tax rate** (the amount homeowners pay in property taxes to help fund their local schools, based on how much their school district spends per student) at \$1.2403 - which is 1.57% lower than last year thanks to additional funding from the State (Act 127 which updated the student funding formula).

In other good news, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has confirmed that before the Burlington/Winooski Bridge replacement construction starts in 2027, a **new traffic signal will be installed at Hood's Crossing** (East Allen, East Spring, and Hood Street intersection) to manage detour traffic, along with bike, pedestrian, and railroad crossing safety upgrades — all federally funded!

The City Council also recently adopted changes to our zoning rules that support **Transportation Demand Management**

The City will also review adding a new sidewalk on East Spring Street, costing \$300-500K, which will be considered in next year's City budget.

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Chloe Tomlinson



We wrapped up the 2025 legislative session in mid-June and will reconvene in January 2026. Here are a few highlights from this year's work.

HOUSING: To help address Vermont's housing crisis, we created the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP). This is a new statewide tax increment financing (TIF) tool, that, if fully utilized could support billions of dollars in housing-related investment over the next decade. While this is a big step forward, more work remains. Notably, the Governor vetoed our proposed overhaul of the emergency shelter program, leaving a serious gap in support for our unhoused neighbors.

EDUCATION: The legislature passed a major school funding reform (H.454), transitioning to a "foundation formula" where the state sets school spending. The initial steps include an off-session working group on redistricting, which our Senator, Martine Larocque Gulick, has been appointed to. That group will develop three options for new, larger school districts, and the legislature will vote on a final map in the 2026 session. Stay tuned on Front Porch Forum for updates and opportunities to get involved in that process. We also passed a bill banning personal electronic devices in schools.

HEALTHCARE: We made progress on addressing rising health care costs. Starting in fiscal year 2027, the Green Mountain Care Board will establish reference-based prices to cap what hospitals can charge for services. We also placed limits on outpatient prescription drug prices. Separately, we passed a medical debt relief bill allowing the state to clear up to \$100 million in medical debt for Vermonters.

Feel free to reach out for more details on any of these policies (ctomlinson@leg.state.vt.us). I'm also eager to hear your thoughts and ideas over the coming months. I'll be working during the off-session to draft several pieces of legislation and hope to work closely with constituents to tackle the issues that matter most to you.



Main Street Revitalization

winooskivt.gov/mainstreet

In July, Main Street between Spring Street and Lafountain Street was reconstructed up to the second course of pavement. New curbs, streetlight conduits, and pole bases have been installed. Crews prepared both sides of Main Street for upcoming sidewalk and tree planting work. Utility duct bank and conduit were installed between Spring Street and Burling Street, and all telecom vaults were placed throughout the project area. Stormwater pipes were installed from Bellevue Street to Normand Street.

This month, work will continue between Lafountain Street and Bellevue Street, including digging, drainage, gravel, grading, curb, and paving two layers of asphalt. Sidewalk construction will progress between Spring Street and Bellevue Street. Underground utility duct bank and conduit installation will continue between Burling Street and Tigan Street. The final section of stormwater pipe installation between Normand Street and Tigan Street is scheduled for completion. The schedule may change due to weather, field conditions, subcontractor availability, and other factors. Throughout construction, Main Street between Maple Street and Tigan Street is reduced to a single lane, allowing only northbound traffic. Southbound traffic is detoured to Tigan Street and Weaver Street. This traffic pattern will remain in place 24/7 for most of the construction season. Additional impacts include short-term side street closures, on-street parking restrictions, and temporary driveway access and utility interruptions for project abutters.

Stay informed with weekly project updates and traffic alerts at winooskivt.gov/mainstreet (multilingual updates are available 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
- **Questions/Concerns:** Our public information team is here to help - 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
winooskivt.gov/clerk | 802 655 6410

Quarterly tax and utility bills were mailed on or before July 15, 2025, and the first quarterly payment is due on August 15. To learn about payment options and details, please visit winooskivt.gov/pay or contact the City Clerk's Office: 802 655 6410 | clerk@winooskivt.gov. Having trouble paying your bills? Payment plans are available for you at any time. We are here to help - acting early gives you more options and can save you money! To learn more, call or email Angela Aldieri, Finance Director: 802 655 6410 | aaldieri@winooskivt.gov.

Save the date: be sure to stop by the Downtown Winooski Block Party on August 15 and the Winooski Farmer's Market on August 24 to learn about the City budget! See how your tax dollars are spent and get involved in the process.

Friendly reminder: see the news updates section at winooskivt.gov for a refresher on how water main breaks and boil water notices are distributed so you know what to expect if one happens in your neighborhood! Winooski has plenty of aging underground infrastructure doing a lot of heavy lifting behind the scenes.

Apply to a Winooski Board, Commission, or Committee!

Are you looking to get more connected to the community and shape our city? Residents with relevant experience, skills, interests, or a willingness to engage are encouraged to apply and participate in Winooski's public process! The City Council and staff welcome diverse voices, and if you've never served on a board, commission, or committee before, we'll do our best to support you! Visit the news updates section on our website to learn more and apply or visit winooskivt.gov/representatives.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Recreation Recreation and Parks

winooski.vt.gov/recprograms

802-777-1621 | recreation@winooski.vt.gov

The Myers Memorial Pool is OPEN! Visit winooski.vt.gov/pool to get your passes, learn about our programs, and view the schedule. To learn more and register for programs, visit winooski.vt.gov/recprograms.

YOUTH

Art Fusion Camp

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

Olympians Camp

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

Swim Lessons

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

Vermont Patriots Soccer

U6 | Saturdays, September 6 - October 25

U8-U12 | Weeks of August 26 - October 19

Fall program registration is open!

Sign up for Soccer, Very Merry Theatre, Field Hockey, Robotics, and more.

ADULTS

Winooski Bike Gang

Ages 18+ | Mondays and Wednesdays, April 16 - Sept 29

Winooski Running Club

Ages 18+ | Wednesdays, April 30 - September 1

Aqua Aerobics

Ages 18+ | Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 17 - August 14

Tennis in the Parks

Ages 18+ | Saturdays, July 12 - August 16

EVENTS FOR ALL

Volunteer Park Cleanup Days

Memorial Park | Friday, October 10

Casavant Nature Area | Friday, October 17

Gilbrook Nature Area | Friday, October 24



Winooski Memorial Library

32 Malletts Bay Avenue | 802-655-6424 | library@winooski.vt.gov
winooski.vt.gov/library

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

Drop-in programs:

YOUTH

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

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

Messy Art | 18mo & up | Saturdays | 10:30am

Stories in Landry Park | Birth & up | August 8 & 22 | 10:30am

Game Tournament | Ages 5+ | August 13 | 3:30pm

Food Art for Kids | Ages 5+ | August 6 & 20 | 3:30pm

Crafternoon | Ages 5+ | August 14 | 3:30pm

ADULTS

Free Bike Repair Clinic | All ages | August 6 | 11am

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

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

End of Summer Celebration - Thursday, August 21:
3:30 - 4:30pm: Join us as we celebrate the end of summer and our summer reading challenge! We'll have food, games, and entertainment, and will be raffling some great prizes for our reading participants!

Local Attraction Passes: Did you know the library offers passes for free or reduced admission to a number of local attractions? Available to Winooski Library cardholders on a first-served basis, passes include Vermont State Parks & Historic Sites, Shelburne Museum, ECHO, and the Birds of Vermont Museum, and have a loan period of three days. Stop by and start exploring!

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425
seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov
winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter

TUESDAYS

New American Community Connections

10am – 1pm | Games, Activities & Lunch

WEDNESDAYS

Breakfast Café

9am–11am | Priced by donation | Drop-in
Enjoy fresh breakfast sandwiches, fruit & drinks

Senior Community Connections

9am – 12pm | FREE | Drop-in
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

FRIDAYS

Singing for People with Memory Loss

10:30am – 11:30am | FREE

Senior Swim at the Myers Pool

Fridays June 20 – August 29
11:30am –12:30pm | FREE for all folks 55+

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Senior Citizen Day BBQ with Winooski PD

August 27 | 12pm | \$5 suggested donation | RSVP by August 20, Limited Seating

Natural Plant Dyeing Workshops

August 13 & 20 | 10am –12pm | Free, Call to Register | Space is limited

Mobile Pet Food Shelf

August 24 | 1 –3pm | Free | Pet food and items for those in need

Bone Builders Exercise

Free | Monday & Wednesday | 2–3pm

Meals on Wheels t

Please call AgeWell at 802 863 0360 for eligibility.
Volunteer drivers are always needed!



Thrive Afterschool

winooskivt.gov/thrive

Enrollment for Thrive Afterschool 2025-26 is open for all incoming kindergarten through 5th-grade children! Thrive is a state-licensed, childcare/enrichment program that runs from 3 - 5:30pm, Monday–Friday, from September 2, 2025 – June 5, 2026 (we are closed on school closures and early release days). We partner with the Winooski School District to build a community where children in grades K-5 explore, learn, and grow during their after-school hours. During Thrive, students engage with creative arts, STEM and Makerspace activities, cooperative and socio-emotional learning, outdoor play, and more.

- You may choose specific days of the week (\$19/day) or full-week enrollment (\$90/5 days)
- Thrive accepts Vermont Childcare Financial Assistance Program (State subsidy) to cover the costs of the program, and most Winooski families qualify for some support (copays may apply)
- Applications are encouraged for all families – visit dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap or contact Evelyn if you have questions or need support in applying for childcare subsidy
- We do have scholarships available for those in need who don't qualify for State subsidy
- Visit winooskivt.gov/thrive for more information and to register, or contact Thrive Program Director, Evelyn Monje: emonje@winooskivt.gov | 802 233 8188

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



winooskivt.gov/programs



Downtown Winooski

downtownwinooski.org

Support businesses on Main Street during the ‘Winooski Mosaic’ campaign! Visit downtownwinooski.org/mosaic and follow us on social media to learn more. With the tagline “Temporary Routes, Permanent Progress,” the initiative aims to maintain business patronage and community engagement during the Main Street Revitalization Project and includes everything from print and digital advertising, social media content, wayfinding signage, business highlights, and exciting programs for gift cards, receipt raffles, delivery options, and opportunities to share your experiences supporting businesses.

Coming up: Fiber Fair! It’s a fiber arts festival honoring Winooski’s roots as a mill town, and it’s rich textile art and farming community. Join WFM and the Heritage Winooski Mill Museum August 31, 10am - 2pm for a day full of fiber fun! We’ll have over a dozen special fiber-related vendors and guests, fun activities for visitors of all ages, and a sheep petting zoo! Visit downtownwinooski.org/fiber-fair for all the details. Thanks to the Heritage Winooski Mill Museum and City Properties for helping make this event possible.

Calling all kids: Want to try selling at the Farmers Market for a day? Apply for Youth Vendor Day, September 28th! Please note that all products of the Youth Vendor must be sold by, and grown or made by that youth. We do not allow reselling or yard sale style vending. There is no cost, please apply by September 5. We will have an info session for youth vendors to help you get ready for the market during the week of September 7th, date and time TBA. Apply at downtownwinooski.org/apply.

Did you know **Crop Cash PLUS** is back at the farmers market? Use your 3SquaresVT/SNAP/EBT benefits at the market and get up to \$30 extra to spend on groceries at the market every week! Visit the manager’s tent for more information.

Block Parties continue in the Winooski Rotary with our August edition coming up on Friday, August 15th from 5-8pm. Get takeout from your favorite Winooski restaurant and come to the park to enjoy live music from Pontoon, free activities, and your awesome neighbors! Gelato and drinks will be available for purchase onsite and there will be FREE garage parking during the event (street not included). We can’t wait to see you; visit downtownwinooski.org/block-parties for more details.

Winooski Food Shelf

winooskifoodshelf.org



winooski food shelf
sharing food & giving hope

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

Saturday, August 9	9:30 - 11am
Wednesday, August 13	1 - 3pm
Saturday, August 23	9:30 - 11am
Wednesday, August 27	1 - 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.

Howard Center

howardcenter.org



Howard Center’s

Community Outreach Team collaborates with Winooski

police to assist individuals in crisis. Officers may involve the team to respond alongside them or send the team independently for welfare checks. Calls often involve mental health challenges that may pose a danger to self or others. Serving Winooski and nearby communities, the team provides immediate support and connects individuals to follow-up care when needed. Kind and approachable, they are here for you—say hello when you see them and call 802 488 7778 to connect directly with the Outreach Team if you or someone you know needs help.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

winooskiprevention.org



This month, we’re spotlighting Above the Influence, a youth leadership program led by Mukhtar Abdullahi in partnership with the Winooski School District. In April, student leaders met with Ravi Venkataraman, Director of City Planning, to share ideas about creating more “third spaces” —

welcoming places for youth outside school and home. Their vision includes better-lit basketball courts, indoor soccer, African restaurants, food trucks, a gym for teens, movie theaters, and more. This work reminds us that youth and adults each have vital roles in building a healthy community. Let’s continue opening doors together. To get involved, contact info@winooskiprevention.org or 802 655 4565—we’d love to connect.



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BURLINGTON, VT
 PERMIT #361

The Winooski Newsletter

60 Normand Street
 Winooski, VT 05404

POSTAL PATRON
 *****ECRWSS**
 WINOOSKI, VT 05404



**Please recycle your copy of
 this newsletter when you
 are finished reading it!**

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
 Nicole Mace, *Vice President*, 802-363-7777, nimace@wsdvt.org
 Isaiah Donaldson, *Secretary*, 802-999-8410, idonaldson@wsdvt.org
 Emily Bowers, 802-383-6000, ebowers@wsdvt.org
 Elom Essiba, 802-324-9431, eessiba@wsdvt.org

CITY OF WINOOSKI
www.winooskivt.gov, 802-655-6410

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

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

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

City Clerk
 Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, jwillingham@winooskivt.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 @winooskivt