

# The Winooski Newsletter

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

APRIL 2025



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

## A Recipe for Safer Roads: Winooski's Salty Solution

By Paul Sarne, Winooski Director of Communications

With Winooski's winter parking ban lifted for the season and plowing efforts easing up, residents may be interested in a major change to how the city keeps its roads snow and ice-free.

Last year, voters approved the City budget which covered the switch from a traditional road salting system to a brand-new brine-making solution. Unlike traditional rock salt, which takes time to activate and can bounce off roads, brine - a liquid mixture of salt and water - sticks to surfaces and begins working immediately to prevent ice from forming. This proactive approach reduces overall salt use, minimizes environmental impact, and enhances road safety.

The city's initial investment (\$68,000) covered a smaller brine maker (\$48,000) and outfitted two of Winooski's newest trucks with distribution systems (\$20,000). With an annual road salt budget of approximately \$80,000 for 900 tons of salt, the city anticipates a 20% reduction in salt use, offering a projected 4.25-year return on investment.



*Jon Rauscher, Director of Public Works, stands with Jason Benjamin, Crew Leader / Equipment Operator III, in front of the new brine making equipment.*

Winooski's Department of Public Works has trained staff dedicated to this approach and reports that, while long-term savings data is still being gathered, the system is performing well so far.

The brine system is also a welcomed approach as it prevents excess road salt from entering storm drains and keeping it out of the Winooski River and Lake Champlain!



*Large Truck Distribution*

*Below: Jason's Customized Sidewalk System*



## O'Brien Community Center Update

By Paul Sarne, Winooski Director of Communications

As previously announced, the transfer of O'Brien Community Center to the Champlain Housing Trust is moving along. An exciting opportunity to renovate the building is underway, with a focus on expanding the library, health center, dental office, and community spaces. A short delay was caused by environmental cleanup, but work is going well - the renovation team is finalizing designs and planning a phased construction schedule. More fundraising is needed and underway, and



we continue to monitor the everchanging federal funding landscape. While the design of the building spaces and designs

are complete, community members interested in getting engaged in the process can provide feedback about the aesthetic features of the library (such as furniture, art, etc.).

As of March, the plan is to start renovating the library this fall! Residents and visitors interested in renting space at the O'Brien Center should call or email the Champlain Housing Trust to ask about availability, which is subject to change: Arbai Muhina | [Arbai.Muhina@champlainhousingtrust.org](mailto:Arbai.Muhina@champlainhousingtrust.org) | 802 881 9599



## From the Superintendent

*By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Winooski community,

Thank you once again for your steadfast support of our schools, this time manifested through the decisive approval of our school budget. The process was long and difficult at times, but we are glad to have the ability to offer the best education possible for the children of Winooski.



Another significant event over the past month has been the strong energy in the community surrounding the adoption of the Sanctuary Schools Policy. On March 12, Winooski became the first district in the state to officially adopt the designation via board action. Since it was first announced in January, community involvement has been strong, and I am thankful to the board for listening. I am also thankful for their careful deliberation and responsible consideration of the dangers of adopting such a policy. In a fast-developing national context, the risks are plenty, and the stakes are high.

Our new policy does many things. It assigns a district employee to oversee the collection and dissemination of information to immigrant families; establishes the school district as an information hub; requires the district to partner with advocacy and immigrant support organizations, or to at least provide these organizations with access; requires the district to distribute “Know Your Rights” information to students and families in various ways, including special events and classroom

dissemination; prevents the district from inquiring and recording students’ immigration status; restricts school employees from willingly collaborating with immigration enforcement officers; prevents employees from sharing student and family information without superintendent approval; prevents immigration officers from entering schools without a judicial warrant; prohibits the district from entering into agreements of cooperation with law enforcement agencies for immigration purposes; establishes a response team of volunteers to support students and families facing a crisis; among other things.

However, our policy does not provide immunity from enforcement of federal immigration actions when faced with specific circumstances, such as the presentation of a valid judicial warrant specifying a location and individual within our premises or a subpoena for specific student information. This is very important for our community to understand. Much like a “sanctuary city” designation doesn’t mean ICE cannot make arrests within the city boundaries; our sanctuary designation can only go so far. The procedures issued to our staff specify cases where the individual employee’s safety must be prioritized, such as when access to spaces or information by force is the decision the given immigration officials have made. While it is highly unlikely that we will confront extreme and dangerous situations, the volatility of the law and its interpretation by the executive compels us to over prepare.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

---

## Mandala Community Weaving Unveiled at WSD

*By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications*

The Winooski School District, the Heritage Winooski Mill Museum, Downtown Winooski, and the City of Winooski recently came together to celebrate the unveiling of the Mandala Community Weaving in its new permanent home at WSD.

This special project, led by the Heritage Winooski Mill Museum in partnership with 21C After School, highlights Winooski’s rich textile history and the power of community collaboration. Students learned traditional fiber arts techniques, creating colorful woven patterns and self-portrait clothespin dolls that now encircle the Mandala.

At the unveiling, Mayor Lott and Superintendent Chavarria shared remarks on the importance of partnerships in bringing meaningful projects like this to life. Ms. Renee and her students attended, with many excitedly searching for their clothespin dolls in the final piece.

This project is a wonderful example of how the City of Winooski, the School District, and the Heritage Winooski Mill Museum work together to celebrate our shared history and diverse community. Thank you to all who participated and supported this beautiful collaboration!



## School Board Update

By Robert Millar, President, Board of School Trustees

I want to start this update with a big round of thank yous!

First, thank you to all the voters who came out on Town Meeting Day last month for your overwhelming support of Winooski's schools! It was a pleasure to connect with so many of you outside the polls throughout the day despite the blustery weather. I'm so proud of our little City for consistently showing up for our schools and community!

Second, thank you to my fellow Board Members—Kamal Dahal, Isaiah Donaldson, Elom Essiba, and Nicole Mace—who put in an incredible amount of work over several months to craft a budget that appropriately balanced the needs of our students and fiscal responsibility. I'm so proud of you all!

I'm equally proud of and thankful for all the staff and teachers who do the real day-to-day work at our schools. A special thank you, as always, to Superintendent Wilmer Chavarria, Director of Finance & Operations Sarah Haven, and District Office Manager Krista Parisi, who we work with most directly during the budget process. And, of course, a big thank you to our Budget Buddies and every member of the public who got involved in the budget process this year!

With Town Meeting Day behind us, we returned to work with our reorganization meeting on March 12th. At that meeting, I was re-elected as President (Chair), and Nicole Mace was elected as our new Vice President, as we said goodbye last month to our previous VP, Kamal Dahal, who did not run for reelection this year. Isaiah Donaldson will once again serve as Secretary. We also reaffirmed our commitment to Policy Governance and that our regular Board Meetings will continue to be on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the District Library.

We also welcomed our newest Member, Emily Bowers, who

was elected on Town Meeting Day.

Emily is jumping right in the middle of so much work in progress, but she is clearly ready for the challenge! We are all excited to work with her and help her get up to speed on everything that's going on in the District and how we do our work as a Board. Emily will replace Kamal on our Finance Committee.

But it wasn't just reorganization items at our March meeting; we got right back into our policy review work. In the coming year, we will have a special focus on our Policy Governance related policies, some of which have not been reviewed in some time. As with all our policies, these must be reviewed regularly to ensure they are up-to-date and aligned with our goals. We will also try to ensure board learning is included in every meeting. In March, we focused on our Ends Statement and the indicators of compliance we've identified that are related to that. This is the data we've decided best shows us whether we are in compliance with our Ends Statement and therefore succeeding as a Board and as a District.

As usual, we also had lots of reports and updates from the Administration, which included presentations on our students' participation in local technical education programs and about a new BIPOC Mentor program that has grown out of the work of the Antiracism Steering Committee. These meetings are always packed with important work!

If any of that sounds interesting, remember that all our regular meetings are recorded and available online at [www.mediafactory.org/winooski-schools](http://www.mediafactory.org/winooski-schools). And, of course, if you ever have any questions about our work, don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to hearing from you.

---

## 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](mailto: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!

---

## Winooski School District Legal Notification

Per the Vermont State Board of Education the Special Education Office of the Winooski School District hereby gives notification of the destruction of Special Education records of many students who graduated or attended the Winooski Schools during the following school years: 2019-2020.

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

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



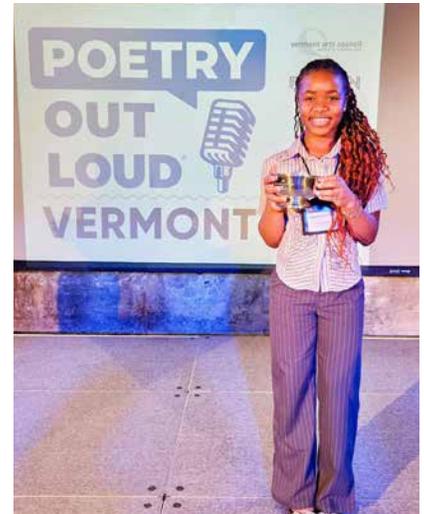
**STUDENT RECOGNITION:**

**Winooski Students Shine on Stage and in Advocacy**

*By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications*

Winooski High School students continue to make their voices heard—both in the arts and advocacy.

Junior Mapenzi Selemani showcased her talent in the Poetry Out Loud state finals at the Flynn Center in Burlington and won!. Competing against top student poets from across Vermont, Mapenzi’s performance demonstrated poise, passion, and the power of the spoken word. She will represent Vermont at Nationals in Washington DC in May.



*Junior Mapenzi Selemani poses with her Vermont State Champion trophy.*

Meanwhile, senior Alexis Blend took her advocacy to the Vermont State House. As part of her Culture and Community Capstone project, Alexis, alongside Winooski High School teacher Annie Schneider, testified before the House Education Committee on the value of special education and the critical need for its funding. Their visit was hosted by Winooski Representative Chloe Tomlinson, providing a platform to highlight the importance of equitable educational opportunities for all students.



*Alexis Blend at the Vermont State House.*

We are incredibly proud of Mapenzi, Alexis, and Ms. Schneider for representing Winooski with talent, leadership, and advocacy!



**JFK Elementary Music Room Happenings**

*By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications*

JFK Elementary’s music classes wrapped up their latest units with hands-on activities, games, and creative play across all grade levels! Our young musicians developed essential skills in note literacy, rhythm, and instrument recognition—all while having fun.

As part of the note literacy unit, students used blocks and a giant Twister board to explore different types of musical notes and the number of beats they receive. This dynamic approach transformed music theory into an interactive experience, reinforcing key concepts through movement and play.

Another highlight was instrument matching with Magnatiles. Students connected corresponding instruments while studying their unique sounds, strengthening both visual and auditory recognition. Meanwhile, Legos became a tool for rhythm building, allowing students to construct and experiment with their own musical patterns.

The excitement continued with “Battleship”—music style! Instead of sinking ships, students competed by using their knowledge of the musical staff, calling out the names of lines and spaces to “hit” their opponent’s notes.

Through creativity, energy, and enthusiasm, JFK Elementary’s music classes prove that learning music isn’t just about reading notes—it’s about experiencing the joy of making music in a fun, engaging, and memorable way for all students, no matter their grade level!



## Celebrating Our Basketball Teams and Seniors



The Winooski High School basketball season has come to an exciting close, with our athletes leaving it all on the

court. **The Boys Varsity Basketball Team** advanced to their fourth straight state semi-finals, demonstrating incredible skill, determination, and teamwork. Thank you, senior Chris Buker, for your leadership and contributions to the team!

**The Girls Varsity Basketball Team** made their mark by hosting a home playoff game in front of a packed and energetic crowd. Thank you to seniors Winner Mampuya, Ashlyn Parris, and Bridgette Rogers for their dedication and commitment to the team.

Congratulations to all our players on a fantastic season—we are proud of your hard work and achievements!



*Winooski High School Boys Basketball team at the State semifinals.*



*Winooski High School Girl's Basketball team at their last home game.*

## Dental Program

*By Tracy Towers, RDH*

We are still enrolling students who want to sign up for our on-site dental program. Tracy Towers RDH provides Dental Services (cleanings, fluoride, and sealants) at school during the school day.

This service does NOT take the place of your child seeing their dentist for a check-up and X-rays. We will communicate with your child's dentist for any services done on-site.

Beginning next school year, EVERY student currently signed up for our program must update their consent form. This form is available on the PowerSchool portal.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Tracy Towers [ttowers@wsdvt.org](mailto:ttowers@wsdvt.org).

Keep Smiling!

## Join the PTO

The Winooski PTO raises money and puts on events to support the students and staff of the entire Winooski school district. Come to the next meeting on Tuesday, March 18 at 6:00 pm in the school cafeteria or email us at [pto@wsdschools.org](mailto:pto@wsdschools.org) if you would like to help:

- Organize the fall craft fair
- Support middle and high school sports
- Provide baked goods for concerts and special events
- Run concessions at school dances
- Organize and run staff appreciation events



### Box Tops for Education

Please consider scanning your grocery receipts using the Box Tops for Education app to raise up to \$500 for the school. Your credit should go to John F Kennedy Elementary School in Winooski - the funds raised will be used to support grades K-12 through the PTO.



**ALL MEALS  
ARE FREE for  
all students.**

	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>1</b> Ground Turkey Tacos Hawaiian Chicken Wrap Chef Salad with Turkey <b>Vegetables</b> Fiesta Corn Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>2</b> Hot Dog Grilled Cheese Sandwich Mixed Green Salad with Cheese Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>3</b> Sweet &amp; Sour Chicken Teriyaki Tofu Cheese and Turkey Pepperoni Pizza <b>Vegetables</b> Honey Ginger Green Beans Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Fried Rice</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>4</b> Cheesy Baked Ziti Chicken Ranch Wrap Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Lemon Pepper Broccoli Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>7</b> Huli Huli Chicken Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Hawaiian Mac Salad</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>8</b> BYO Burrito Bowl Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Fire Roasted Black Beans Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>9</b> Chicken Parm Sandwich Grilled Cheese Sandwich Turkey &amp; Cheese Melt <b>Vegetables</b> Buttered Parsley Potatoes Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>10</b> Teriyaki Chicken Teriyaki Tofu Roasted Chicken Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Green Beans Veggie Stir-Fry with Ginger Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Asian Noodles Brown Rice</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>11</b> Chicken Tenders Cheese Pizza Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Chef Salad with Turkey <b>Vegetables</b> Chili Roasted Sweet Potatoes Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>14</b> BBQ Chicken Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Vegetarian Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar Roasted Mashed Potatoes <b>Grains</b> Whole Wheat Dinner Roll</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>15</b> Nacho Bar Greek Chicken Wrap Vegetarian Chef Salad <b>Vegetables</b> Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar Taco Bar: Seasoned Pinto Beans</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>16</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Meatball Marinara Sub Chicken Caesar Salad Turkey Sandwich <b>Vegetables</b> Daily Salad Bar Tomato Soup</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>17</b> Beef Shepherds Pie Vegetarian Shepherd's Pie Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Glazed Carrots Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Whole Wheat Dinner Roll</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>18</b> Jerk Chicken Drumstick Cheese Pizza Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Steamed Broccoli Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Rice Pilaf Whole Grain Corn Bread</p>
<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>21</b> Beef Cheeseburger Turkey Ham &amp; Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Roasted Potato Lettuce &amp; Tomato Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>22</b> Loaded Baked Potato Chipotle Chicken Soft Tacos Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Fresh Roasted Broccoli with Garlic Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Whole Wheat Dinner Roll</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>23</b> Curry Chicken Curry Chick'n Cheese Pizza Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Green Beans Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Brown Rice</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>24</b> Spaghetti with Meatballs Meatless Meatball Marinara w/ Spaghetti Chicken Caesar Salad Buffalo Ranch Chicken Sandwich (Scratch) <b>Vegetables</b> Calabacitas con Elote (Squash with Corn) Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>25</b> Hot Honey Glazed Chicken Thigh Honey Glazed Chick'n Roasted Chicken Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Vegetarian Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Rice Pilaf</p>
<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>28</b> BBQ Chicken Roasted Chicken Vegetarian Chef Salad <b>Vegetables</b> Steamed Corn Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Mac &amp; Cheese</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>29</b> Chicken Quesadilla Taco Cheese Quesadilla Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Fire Roasted Black Beans Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>30</b> Hot Dog Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Wrap <b>Vegetables</b> Chili Roasted Sweet Potatoes Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>At every meal, assorted fruit is served, and low fat milk or fat free chocolate milk is available.</b></p>	



# Letter from the Mayor

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

Hello, neighbors. March brought us another successful **Town Meeting Day election**. Many thanks to our City Clerk’s Office, election workers, and volunteers for your great work in managing this beloved Vermont tradition, and congratulations to Councilors Oakleaf and Judge, and school Trustee Robert Millar on their re-elections, and Emily Bowers on her election to the school board. Please join me in thanking these folks for their dedicated service! I’d also like to thank the restaurants that provide food to our volunteers including Morning Light Bakery, Mountain Valley, Dumb Luck Pub, Juniors, and Sarom’s Café. We appreciate our amazing local businesses! The City and School budgets passed with high support. Everything on the ballot passed with over 70% approval. In the only contested race on the ballot, the 2-year school board seat, the winner won by only 5 votes. This is a testament to the impact your vote can have in local elections.

With the passage of the City budget, we’ll maintain existing services including our **important public safety partnership**



**with the Howard Center Community Outreach Team.** We’ll explore options to add overnight bunks at the Winooski Fire Department, which could **expand our hiring pool and address the staffing challenges** we’ve been experiencing for some time. We’ll also continue our **capital plan which includes annual paving work** on upper Dion and Bellvue next year, and the continuation of paving, curbing, and sidewalk repairs on Reginald, Rogers, Bernard, and Gail Streets. With the passage of Article 4, the **Just Cause Eviction charter change** will be reaffirmed for our State Legislature’s consideration. If the legislature approves this charter change, it will come back to the

City to consider how to implement a new ordinance.

**As we look toward the future,** we’ll continue our work on Main Street Revitalization, the hotel and housing project downtown, and the O’Brien Community Center improvements. And we’ll continue to navigate the **impacts of federal executive orders.** This is a challenging time for many in Winooski, and the City remains committed to being a welcoming and inclusive community.

## From Your Local Representative

By Representative Chloe Tomlinson

We are midway through the 2025 legislative session, and by the time you’re reading this we will have completed the “crossover” period where bills need to make it from the House to the Senate (or vice versa) in order to have a chance to be signed into law this session.

**Transportation:** I serve on the House Transportation Committee, where one of my top concerns is our public transit system. To help mitigate the impact of the federal funding cliff that is hitting public transit agencies post-COVID, Green Mountain Transit’s state funding has been increased by 14% from last year. While this level of funding would not prevent all service cuts, it could prevent the more impactful ones. In order to set ourselves up to more robustly support public transit (and other key areas of our transportation program), we need to address the issue of declining revenue in our Transportation Fund. One avenue is implementing a Mileage-Based User Fee (MBUF) for electric vehicle drivers. Despite the setback of having dedicated federal funds for this effort frozen by the Trump Administration, we are working on finding avenues to use state funding to implement the MBUF. **Climate:** There have been several bills introduced that propose various rollbacks of our State’s climate policy. However, I am hopeful that we can stay on our current path here in Vermont, particularly in this moment



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

where we are seeing federal climate change policy dismantled. **Housing:** The House General & Housing Committee worked for the first half of the session on a committee bill that aims to lower barriers for development and invest in affordable housing to ease our housing crisis. They may take up tenant rights issues in the second half of the session to follow up on the Landlord/Tenant Study Committee that met over the summer.

There was a strong showing of support here in Winooski on Town Meeting Day for Just Cause Eviction and we will be introducing legislation to enact this charter change. **Education:** The Scott Administration released a bill outlining their education transformation plan (H. 454). Among many other sweeping changes to our education delivery and funding system, the proposal consolidates our 119 school districts down to 5. One concern with the governance

changes proposed is that these larger districts would eliminate the option for non-citizen residents to vote on school items at Town Meeting Day (which was previously made possible through our All-Resident Voting charter change). The House Education Committee is now working on a draft of their own proposal, which I am following closely.

If you want to share any ideas, questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out! My email is [ctomlinson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:ctomlinson@leg.state.vt.us).

# Main Street Revitalization

[winooskivt.gov/mainstreet](http://winooskivt.gov/mainstreet)

Crews returned to the project area in late March to bring in construction equipment and materials and set up traffic control signs. Weather permitting, construction will start again in early April. The focus will be on finishing upgrading the sewer and water systems on Main Street between Normand Street and the Winooski/Colchester town line near Checkerbay Carwash. Another crew will install sidewalks on the east side of Main Street between Mansion Street and Spring Street. Construction will involve lane shifts, lane closures, and short-term side street closures with temporary detour routes. Flaggers and uniformed officers will direct traffic at each work zone. Additional impacts include on-street parking restrictions and short-term utility and driveway interruptions.

In late April, the project team will reduce Main Street to one lane, allowing only northbound traffic. Southbound traffic will be detoured from Main Street onto Tigan Street and Weaver Street. A Traffic Alert will be sent to the email stakeholder list and posted on the project website before this happens. The lane closure on Main Street will be in place for most of the 2025 construction season. There will also be temporary side street closures, on-street parking restrictions, and driveway interruptions on Main Street within the project area.

This year, the project will finish replacing the water and sewer systems and installing stormwater pipes and underground utilities. Main Street will be reconstructed from the railroad bridge near Maple Street to the town line, including excavation, grading, curb installation, paving, and line striping. New sidewalks, streetlighting, signs, landscaping, and upgraded traffic signals will also be installed. Construction will take place primarily Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm, from April through



early winter. The project is expected to be completed by summer 2026.

**There are several ways to stay updated about the project:**

- The City of Winooski will share weekly updates about the construction schedule and impacts on the project website [www.winooskivt.gov/mainstreet](http://www.winooskivt.gov/mainstreet) and to an email list. You can sign up on the website or contact the public information team. The website has information in 15 languages.
- The contractor will let property owners, residents, and businesses know about utility or driveway interruptions ahead of time using door hangers or by knocking on doors.

Contact the public information team with questions or concerns: 802 595 4399 | [info@winooskimainstreet.com](mailto:info@winooskimainstreet.com)

If your personal property is damaged due to construction, contact the public information team to start a damage claim.



## City Hall Reminders

Open 8am – 4pm, Monday – Friday  
[winooskivt.gov/clerk](http://winooskivt.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

**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 [winooskivt.gov/clerk](http://winooskivt.gov/clerk).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



### Recreation and Parks

802-777-1621 | [recreation@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:recreation@winooski.vt.gov)

Summer camp and pool passes/programs are now open for registration! View all programs at [winooski.vt.gov/recprograms](http://winooski.vt.gov/recprograms)

#### YOUTH

##### 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@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:library@winooski.vt.gov)  
[winooski.vt.gov/library](http://winooski.vt.gov/library)

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

#### YOUTH

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

**Baby & Toddler Storytime** | Ages 0-2 | Thursdays | 10:30am

**Preschool Storytime** | Ages 3-5 | \*Fridays (Begins April 25) | 10:30am

**Lego Time** | Ages 4+ | Tuesday, Apr 8 & 22 | 3:30pm

**STEAM Ahead** | Ages 5+ | Saturdays | 10.30am

**Birding for Kids** | Ages 8+ | Saturday, April 12 | 10:30am

**Lego Time** | Ages 4+ | Tuesday, Apr 8 & 22 | 3:30pm

**Tiny Art: Polymer Clay Creations** | Ages 10+ | Fri, Apr 18 | 3:30pm

**Vacation Pop-Up: Uno Tourney** | Ages 7+ | Wed., April 23 | 3:30pm

**Vacation Pop-Up: Dragon Party** | Ages 4+ | Thur, April 24 | 3:30pm

**Vacation Pop-Up: Bad Art** | Ages 4+ | Friday, April 25 | 3:30pm

#### 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, April 5 & 12 | 11am

**Celebrate National Poetry Month:** Join us throughout April as we celebrate National Poetry Month and kickoff our annual “Winooski Poetry Project”, a participatory program that invites community members to leave us their best word, sentence, verse, feeling, or observation using our roving Smith-Corona Super Sterling typewriter! Look for us “popping up” throughout the month at various locations across the city: at your favorite cafe or restaurant, the Winooski Senior Center, and of course, here at the library!

**Preschool Storytime:** Join us for stories, songs, crafts, and playtime every Friday! Open to children ages 3-5 with an adult caregiver, no registration required. Begins April 25.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



### Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425

seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov

[winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter](http://winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter)

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

#### TUESDAYS

##### Singing for People with Memory Loss

10:30am – 11:30am | Free | Ends May 20

#### 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

##### Backstrap Weaving Workshops | Wednesdays April 2 – May 28

10am – 12pm | FREE | Call to Register | Space is limited

##### Senior Medicare Patrol Talk & Lunch | Wednesday April 30

12pm | 60+ | FREE | Call to RSVP by April 24

##### 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](http://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](http://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap) for more info or email [thrive@winooskivt.gov](mailto:thrive@winooskivt.gov) for help.

Thrive Afterschool is accepting new students for the remainder of the school year 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](http://winooskivt.gov/thrive).

Sign up for  
Community Services  
Programs & Events!



[winooskivt.gov/programs](http://winooskivt.gov/programs)

# DOWNTOWN WINOOSKI AND SERVICE PROVIDERS



## Winooski Food Shelf

[winooskifoodshelf.org](http://winooskifoodshelf.org)

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



Wednesday, April 9	1pm – 3pm
Saturday, April 12	9:30am – 11am
Wednesday, April 23	1pm – 3pm
Saturday, April 26	9:30am – 11am

**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](mailto: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



Mud season is a great time to get ready for more time outdoors. One thing you might be thinking about is getting your body moving again. VT Helplink can help connect you to services to get substance use under control so that you can get out there and be active again. Visit [vthelplink.org](http://vthelplink.org) for more info on alcohol use disorder, cannabis use disorder, nicotine use disorder, or other drug use issues and where to find treatment and support.



## 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
- 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

## Howard Center

[howardcenter.org](http://howardcenter.org)



**Welcoming Space for Mental Health Support: Mental Health Urgent Care**

1 South Prospect Street, Burlington | 802 488 6482  
Open Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm

Mental Health Urgent Care (MHUC) provides a therapeutic alternative to emergency department visits for adults experiencing a self-defined mental health crisis. After a guest is greeted and welcomed into the space, the next step is often a conversation about what's going on in the guest's life and what brought them to MHUC. Once the team at MHUC has an idea of what a guest needs, they can often provide immediate help and assistance connecting with longer term-supports. View in-depth program highlight: [howardcenter.org/programs/mhuc](http://howardcenter.org/programs/mhuc)



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

**Superintendent of Schools**  
 Wilmer Chavarria, [wchavarria@wsdvt.org](mailto:wchavarria@wsdvt.org)  
 802-383-6000

**John F. Kennedy Elementary School**  
 Principal: Sara Raabe  
 802-655-0411  
[sraabe@wsdvt.org](mailto:sraabe@wsdvt.org)

**Winooski Middle and High School**  
 Co-Principals: Kate Grodin and Jean Berthiaume  
 802-655-3530  
[kgrodin@wsdvt.org](mailto:kgrodin@wsdvt.org)  
[jberthiaume@wsdvt.org](mailto:jberthiaume@wsdvt.org)

**Board of School Trustees**  
 Robert Millar, *President*, 802-238-0089, [rmillar@wsdvt.org](mailto:rmillar@wsdvt.org)  
 Nicole Mace, *Vice President*, 802-363-7777, [nimace@wsdvt.org](mailto:nimace@wsdvt.org)  
 Isaiah Donaldson, *Secretary*, 802-999-8410, [idonaldson@wsdvt.org](mailto:idonaldson@wsdvt.org)  
 Emily Bowers, 802-383-6000, [ebowers@wsdvt.org](mailto:ebowers@wsdvt.org)  
 Elom Essiba, 802-324-9431, [eessiba@wsdvt.org](mailto:eessiba@wsdvt.org)

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA** We are @WinooskiLearns

**CITY OF WINOOSKI**  
**[www.winooski.vt.gov](http://www.winooski.vt.gov), 802-655-6410**

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

**City Manager**  
 Elaine Wang, 802-655-6410, [ewang@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:ewang@winooski.vt.gov)

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

**City Clerk**  
 Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, [jwillingham@winooski.vt.gov](mailto: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 @winooski