

# The Winooski Newsletter

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

NOVEMBER 2025



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

## From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Winooski families and community,

I hope that you're enjoying the fall weather and taking advantage of the season's unique perks, like enjoying the last of the summer's delicious vegetables or taking part in the activities around town. I always enjoy seeing what teachers are up to in the classroom every season, and the fall never fails to impress. Students are now more used to routines, and our beginning-of-the-year benchmark assessment results are available. Teachers know students better than they did in August, and everyone feels like they've finally found their rhythm. Structure, predictable routines, and clarity of expectations can go a long way in providing children and youth a sense of stability.

While we can establish some structures, they may not always be predictable—such is the case with our emergency drills. Schools are required to participate in drills at least once a month, and sometimes multiple times. These include drills such as fire/ egress, relocation, bus evacuation, and “Options-Based” drills. They are all equally important, and we teach students to take every one seriously. So far, our drills have been successfully carried out alongside our local agencies. The total time it has taken for our educational complex to be cleared in the past few drills has been very good. You may have also received messages



about our last Run-Hide-Fight drill, which is also required by law. We have worked diligently over the past two years to make this as smooth as possible and to minimize the potentially traumatic factors surrounding these types of drills. The last one showed a high degree of preparedness on the part of our teachers, staff, students, and administrators.

But you have a part to play too. During one of our drills, a visitor parked in our lot became upset that we had closed all exits and entries while the drill was active. We do this because students gather at exterior muster points, and traffic would present a high danger for them. Everyone, including visitors, must abide by our safety rules during a drill. The upset visitor attempted to drive over the grass and nearly struck one of our staff members assigned to supervise the exit. Everyone was safe in the end, but it was a reminder that no matter how prepared our students and staff are for an emergency, if the public does not do its part, we will still face dangers. I would appreciate your patience if you are on campus during a drill. The safety of our students matters to us more than anything.

The good news is that this was a rare occurrence, and the vast majority of our families and community members are extremely respectful of our expectations and understand when a necessary delay may inconvenience them. Thank you for doing your part.

## School Board Update

By Katie Livermore, Board of School Trustees



I'm Katie Livermore, the newest member of the Winooski School Board. Due to a vacancy, I was appointed by the Board to serve in an interim capacity until Town Meeting Day next March.

I applied because supporting our teachers and investing in our students is foundational to a thriving community, and I am passionate about doing my part to ensure this continues in Winooski.

It has already been an honor and joy to work alongside such an excellent and dedicated Board and Superintendent!

As always, the Board continues to review current policies

and pass new ones as needed. I am writing this update during “Banned Books Week”, an annual awareness campaign highlighting the harms of censorship, making it a fitting moment to discuss one of the three policies we passed at our last meeting. Policy D8 “exists to ensure that the District provides access to a diverse library collection that supports students in the curriculum, their personal research, and recreational reading, and that sustains students’ First Amendment Rights to access information and to read freely.” I wish we lived in a world where free and open access to information was a given within public education, but since we do not, I am grateful to live in a district that is proactive about ensuring this for our students! The full text of this policy is available on the District’s website.

*(continued on page 2)*



### SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE *(continued from page 1)*

As you are likely aware, budget season is upon us! During our most recent board meeting, we received our first budget context presentation, which included the WSD budget and enrollment trends, and data on a breakdown of our current spending. At our next meeting on November 12th, we will receive our second context presentation. If you would like to know more, the full presentation, as well as recordings of the meetings, are available on the District website under the School Board section.

On December 1st, we will receive data from the state that will allow us to start making specific decisions about next year's budget. After that point, our meeting frequency will increase to almost weekly, leading up to our proposed budget adoption on January 12th.

As a reminder, all of our budget decisions are grounded in how we can best achieve our ENDS statement - "All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive,

and successful lives and engage with their local and global community."

Our work over the next couple of months will be to create a budget that strikes a balance between providing adequate resources for the staff and students at Winooski, while keeping property taxes at an affordable level for you, the greater Winooski community!

Keeping you informed about what the School Board is doing is incredibly important to us. We understand that life can be busy, making it unrealistic to attend an additional meeting. At our next meeting on November 12th, we will spend some time brainstorming how we can participate in upcoming Winooski community events to explain more about the budget and answer your questions in person – so keep an eye out for us in the coming weeks!

## A Message from the Winooski Middle/High School Counselors

*By WMHS School Counselors Adam Hurwitz, Amy Loomis, and Amanda Spencer*

Hello Winooski families,

First, we would like to share our appreciation for your partnership in your children's education. We recognize the many responsibilities you all balance, and we feel grateful for the conversations and collaboration that help us better meet the needs of our students.

The role of a School Counselor may not be clear to everyone, so we wanted to take this opportunity to explain how we can assist. School Counselors support every student in the building, and we do so by:

- Coordinating academic support and helping students develop approaches for improving their academic progress.
- Discussing social issues or interpersonal conflict and considering how to improve empathy, self-advocacy, and communication skills.
- Identifying long-term goals and connecting day-to-day decision making with the pursuit of those personal and familial aspirations.
- Understanding the many pathways to graduation and how to prepare for colleges or careers post-graduation.
- Accessing opportunities to deepen learning and explore interests.
- Addressing short, medium, and long-term mental health needs either through short-term counseling or referrals to other supports (therapists, community agencies, etc.)

We have been hard at work over the last several years improving our structures for supporting students in being



"college and career ready" so they can "lead healthy, productive and successful lives". This includes more deliberate and early exposure to postsecondary opportunities. We aim to ensure that every student has a clear plan when they graduate, whether that is to continue their education, enter the workforce, or both. In the Class of 2025, 65% of students enrolled in a college or university, and almost every student graduated with a plan for next steps.

We feel lucky to be part of this wonderful learning community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or to schedule a meeting.

# We Welcome Your Input for JFK’s New Statement of Purpose!

*By Sarah Forbes, ML Teacher, Family Engagement Team Representative & JFK Leadership Team Member*

At JFK, as part of our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Leadership Team, we worked at the BEST Institute at Killington this past summer, focusing on Revitalizing and Strengthening our Layer/Tier 1 Systems. One of the fundamental principles of PBIS is “Staff, student, and family voice, choice, and ownership are valued and honored. Staff, student, and family participation, input, and feedback are invited, encouraged, and welcomed.”

As part of that principle, schools create a shared Statement of Purpose. A Statement of Purpose serves as a way to articulate and keep present for our learning community what matters most to us in the work we do and why we exist and strive towards excellence in our work. It can be a valuable resource when we analyze data on our progress, make informed decisions about where to invest resources, and navigate dilemmas as a community. It can remind us of what we want to accomplish

together and how we commit to supporting each other. During Pre-Service, Staff and teachers at JFK reflected on questions about our school’s purpose, our hopes and dreams for our students and our school, and our shared values.

We are currently asking students similar questions in classrooms during our morning meetings and restorative justice circles. We invite families to participate in this survey, which will help us develop a new Statement of Purpose for JFK that reflects our shared hopes and dreams for our students and school. Over the next several weeks, we will be collecting feedback and then work as a Leadership Team to synthesize all of these ideas into a draft Statement of Purpose for the community to consider.

We look forward to hearing from you and revealing a product for review later this year.

Here is the QR Code to the survey in multiple languages. Thank you for taking the time to read and contribute!

### QR Code to Survey in Multiple Languages

<p>English</p> 	<p>Española</p> 	<p>Somali</p> 
<p>French</p> 	<p>Kiswahili</p> 	<p>Nepali नेपाली</p> 
<p>Arabic العربية</p> 	<p>Burmese မြန်မာ</p> 	<p>Portuguese</p> 
<p>Kinyarwanda</p> 		



## Happy 90th Birthday Grammie Louise!

By Nan Johnson, 1st Grade Teacher



First grade had a big celebration on Friday, October 10, for Louise Kelley, known as Grammie to many throughout Winooski! Grammie turned 90 years old, and every first grader made sure that she felt the love. Louise started at JFK in 2000, working in Jody Weimer's 4th-grade classroom.

Since then, she has worked in a variety of grades and positions. When she retired, she joined the

Foster Grandparent Program. For the last several years, she has been in Regan Charron's first-grade classroom. As a Foster Grandparent, Louise helped kids with reading, writing, math, and handwriting, and provided emotional support throughout the day.

The Foster Grandparent Program has ended, but Louise is still here! Instead of slowing down, she now supports all of first grade. At 90 years old, Louise still comes in at 7:15 and stays until 3:00. She makes multiple trips to the copy center, supply closet, office, etc, throughout the day. She plays games, reads books, supports math, and helps with writing and most of all love for Grammie!



## Third Grade Happenings

By Mrs. Carleton

We've had quite an exciting start to third grade! We've spent the first six weeks getting to know each other and building our learning communities in various ways, including read-alouds, games, art, and community circles.



In Math, we're working on representing and solving multiplication problems through the context of scaled picture and bar graphs, as well as equal-group situations. While working toward our learning goals, we always think of how we work as a math community. We think about what lifts us up as learners and what holds us back. We have class discussions about how we can use our Habits as mathematicians to support ourselves and each other in our learning. Examples of Habits we've been working on include private reasoning time, using math as the authority, multiple pathways, explaining our thinking, using models and representations, making mistakes, and checking for understanding. Habits are the core of our thinking as mathematicians.

In Literacy, we've launched Unit 1: Overcoming Learning Challenges Near and Far. Students have observed picture and text samples from different books we will use together throughout the theme. They took notes on what they noticed and wondered, looking for patterns and clues to guess the topic. Our first story, *Waiting for the Biblioburro*, takes place in Colombia. Students took notes about the main parts of the story in order to tell the "gist," a skill we will continue to practice throughout the unit. For Literacy, we've also discussed the five parts of ALL Block (Additional Language and Literacy Block). We have agreed on and practiced our small group discussion process. We used a poster walk to have conversations about what we will do during each component of ALL Block



## Year of the Book Kickoff and Family Literacy Night

We welcomed poet Ted Scheu—“That Poetry Guy”—to JFK Elementary for a fun and inspiring celebration of reading and writing! Ted read his poems, shared stories, and even teamed up with Mr. Peter, whose poem (written when he was just 10!) is featured in one of Ted’s books. The two read it together for an unforgettable moment! After the visit, every student got to choose two books to keep, kicking off a wonderful Year of the Book—which continued later with our joyful Family Literacy Night, filled with yummy food from Curry and Cocktails, glittery crafts, dancing, and stories that brought our community together through the love of reading.

A huge thank-you to the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF) for making this all possible. CLiF’s Year of the Book program provides literacy programs, support, and new children’s books to help build a culture of literacy in schools across Vermont and New Hampshire. We’re so grateful for their partnership and support in inspiring our young readers!

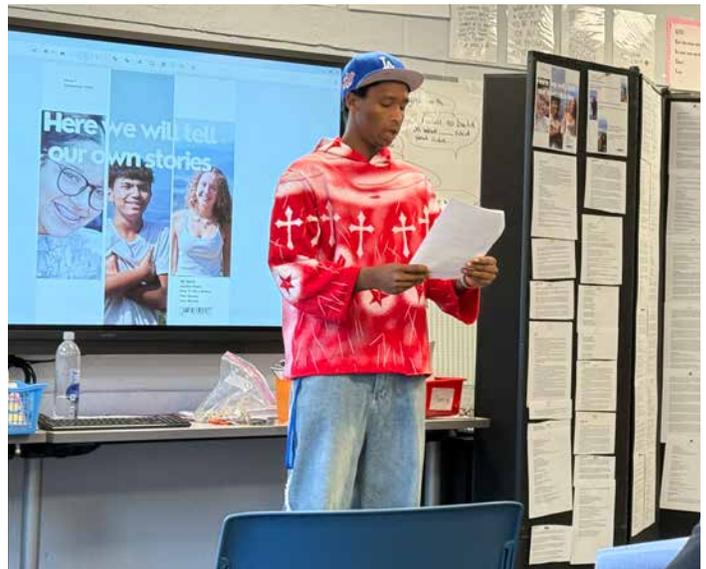


## 6th Grade Circus Performance

The 6th grade’s autumn expedition culminated in an impressive hour-long circus performance in front of JFK Elementary School and Middle High School students, teachers, staff, and families. Under the direction of artist-in-residence Josh Shack from Circus Smirkus, students spent three weeks of dedicated learning, practice, and persistence.

This long-standing Winooski Middle School tradition showcases not only performance skills but also collaboration and creativity. The circus emphasizes teamwork over competition, helping students set and achieve goals together. Their enthusiasm carried into their studies, as they integrated the circus theme across art, music, science, history, math, and language.

A big thank you to Josh and bravo to all our performers for an amazing show! And a special shout-out to our 8th-grade photographers for capturing the magic.



## WHS Publication Party

Students in Ms. Caitlin’s American Literature class shared their powerful narratives during their Publication Party, reading in front of staff, families, and peers. Their collection, *Here We Will Tell Our Own Stories*, features pieces such as *My Name*, *Honest Poem*, *How to Eat a Guava*, and *Two Names, Two Worlds*.

**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.

<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>3</b> <b>Entree</b> Roasted Chicken Ramen Bowl 2MMA 2 WG Chicken Lo Mein <b>Vegetables</b> Orange Ginger Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>4</b> <b>Entree</b> Chicken Al Pastor Tacos Taco Bar <b>Vegetables</b> Ranchero/Charro beans, Scratch Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>Entree</b> Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun Chipotle Chicken Sandwich <b>Vegetables</b> Roasted Potato Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>6</b> <b>Entree</b> Popcorn Chicken and Gravy Bowl <b>Vegetables</b> Sauteed Spinach Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Whole Grain Roll</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>7</b> <b>Entree</b> Cheesy Baked Ziti <b>Vegetables</b> Roasted Cauliflower Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>10</b> <b>Entree</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Hot Honey Grilled Cheese w/ Sliced Apples <b>Vegetables</b> Tomato Soup Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>Entree</b> Nacho Bar <b>Vegetables</b> Fire Roasted Black Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>12</b> <b>Entree</b> Korean Meatball Rice Bowl Spaghetti with Meatballs <b>Vegetables</b> Garlic Roasted Green Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>13</b> <b>Entree</b> BBQ Chicken Chicken Noodle Soup <b>Vegetables</b> Rosemary Roasted Potatoes, Scratch Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Rice Pilaf Whole Grain Roll</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>14</b> <b>Entree</b> Chicken Alfredo over Whole Grain Spaghetti <b>Vegetables</b> Fresh Roasted Broccoli with Garlic Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>17</b> <b>Entree</b> Chicken Poutine Bowl Chicken Noodle Soup <b>Vegetables</b> Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Whole Grain Rolls</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>18</b> <b>Entree</b> Nacho Bar Cuban Pulled Pork Sandwich <b>Vegetables</b> Fire Roasted Black Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>19</b> <b>Entree</b> Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun Chicken Shawarma <b>Vegetables</b> Garlic Roasted Green Beans Daily Salad Bar <b>Condiments</b> Tzatziki Sauce</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>20</b> <b>Entree</b> General Tsao's Chicken Chinese Chicken Salad <b>Vegetables</b> Stir Fried Broccoli Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Brown Rice</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>21</b> <b>Entree</b> Cheesy Baked Pasta <b>Vegetables</b> Herb Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>Entree</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich <b>Vegetables</b> Tomato Soup Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>25</b> <b>Entree</b> Korean BBQ Chicken Street Tacos Taco Bar <b>Vegetables</b> Fajita Style Peppers &amp; Onions 1/2c O Spicy Slaw Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>Entree</b> Chicken Patty Sandwich Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich on a WG Bun <b>Vegetables</b> Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>27</b> <b>Entree</b> Butter Chicken Chickpea Masala Baked Potato Bar <b>Vegetables</b> Curried Potatoes &amp; Peas, Scratch Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Brown Rice</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <b>28</b> <b>Entree</b> Spaghetti with Meatballs <b>Vegetables</b> Lemony Broccoli Daily Salad Bar</p>



## Letter from the Mayor

By Interim Mayor Thomas Renner

I want to start my update by extending a heartfelt congratulations to Deputy Mayor Bryn Oakleaf on her appointment as Deputy Mayor! Bryn has been a dedicated and thoughtful member of our City Council and Liaison to the Municipal Infrastructure Commission, and I'm looking forward to continuing to collaborate with her in this new leadership role. I also want to warmly welcome Elsie Goodrich to the City Council. Elsie has served our community for many years, including as a member of the Development Review Board, and brings a deep understanding of Winooski's values and priorities to her new position. I'd also like to take a moment to thank Councilor Charles Judge for his dedicated service to Winooski. Charles' commitment to our city and his steady voice on the Council have made a real difference. We wish him all the best as he focuses his time and energy on his career, and we're



deeply appreciative of the time and care he's given to our community. Looking ahead, we're beginning preparations for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget process and the 2026 Town Meeting Day election. This is an important opportunity for residents to help shape the future of our city. Please keep an eye out for an announcement in November with more information about the budget process, public meetings, and local election details. I strongly encourage everyone to get involved: attend the meetings, ask questions, and share your thoughts on how you'd like your tax dollars to be invested. Your feedback ensures that the budget reflects the needs and priorities of

our entire community. As always, thank you for your continued engagement and support. Winooski's strength comes from the people who care deeply about our city, and I look forward to the work ahead as we build on that collective spirit together.

## From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco

As fall settles in and we look ahead to another busy legislative session, I want to take a moment to thank Winooski residents for your ongoing conversations, ideas, and trust. Whether it's a quick chat at the farmers market, an email about ICE, or a late-night message from a nurse after a long shift—you've helped shape



the work I bring to Montpelier. Every story you share reminds me why this job matters: we are co-creating a place where families can afford to live, work, and learn, with a health care system that truly meets people's needs.

This past session, my committee passed Act 68, a major step toward transforming Vermont's health care system. The law establishes the Health

Care Delivery Advisory Committee, which will guide our state through long-overdue structural changes—improving outcomes, stabilizing providers, and making care more affordable.

Act 68 sets clear goals: enhancing population health, strengthening coordination across the system, investing in primary and home health care, and ensuring that hospitals, insurers, and long-term care providers remain sustainable. It also directs the state to establish affordability benchmarks and use standardized metrics to hold our system accountable for results.

These changes build on legislation we passed to strengthen oversight of hospital budgets and insurance company sustainability, while halting 340B drug price gouging—all of which had driven up premiums.

At the federal level, a new opportunity is emerging through

the Rural Health Transformation Fund (RHTF) created by H.R. 1. This \$50 billion program, launching in 2026, will reward bold, community-driven ideas that expand access and improve quality of care in rural areas. Vermont's application is being developed now, drawing on statewide collaboration and input led by the Agency of Human Services. I'm optimistic that we will see an award that can support the innovative, community-based care we need.

Looking ahead, I'm using the many conversations I've had this summer and fall to inform the next phase of work. Emergency room nurses have described patients "falling through the cracks"—people waiting for psychiatric care that doesn't exist. Police and community leaders have voiced frustration about a system not built for cross-sector coordination. Judges have shared their desire to expand early-diversion programs and to include more people with lived experience in our court processes. Through lifting up the most promising outcomes from across Vermont and beyond—we keep striving to balance community wellness and safety for all.

We also can't forget our youth. Vermont's young people are navigating extraordinary mental-health challenges, and their needs must be front and center in our education and health policy discussions. In the coming session, I'll be introducing a youth mental-health screening bill and a counseling oversight bill to ensure that emerging tools—especially those involving AI—support, rather than replace, human connection.

Together, these efforts mark a turning point. Vermont's path forward isn't just about managing costs—it's about building a system that truly meets people where they are, with care, dignity, and accountability.

## City Hall Reminders

Open 8am – 4pm, Monday – Friday  
[winooskivt.gov/clerk](http://winooskivt.gov/clerk) | 802 655 6410

Property tax and utility payments are due on November 15. Since November 15 falls on a Saturday, payments will be accepted until 4pm on Monday, November 17. Payments made later than 4pm on November 17 will be considered late, and postmarks are not accepted as on-time payments. Learn more and make your payments at [winooskivt.gov/pay](http://winooskivt.gov/pay), or contact/visit the City Clerk's Office for assistance.

Budget season starts soon! Keep your eye out on the City's website and next month's Winooski Newsletter for details about the Fiscal Year 2027 budget and the 2026 Town Meeting Day Election. Start the process early by registering to vote – visit [winooskivt.gov/vote](http://winooskivt.gov/vote) for details.

Reminder: all legal residents, regardless of citizenship status, can vote on city and school items on Town Meeting Day and run for local office. If you are interested in running as a candidate for the available seats of Mayor, City Councilors, School Trustee, and School Treasurer, petitions and paperwork must be filed with the City Clerk no later than January 26, 2026, by 5pm.

City Hall will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, for Veterans Day, as well as Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28, for Thanksgiving.



## Inclusion and Belonging Commission Update:

The Inclusion and Belonging Commission is an advisory group of community volunteers that supports the City's equitable policies and best practices for inclusion. For example, they discuss things like the Winooski Working Communities Challenge Grant, making progress on the recommendations of the City/School equity audit, and community engagement opportunities like the Winooski Together Equity Action Community Meeting. The Commission held regular meetings in August and October, in addition to a special meeting in September. Recent topics of discussion included electric vehicle charging station locations throughout the city, and a review of the City's recently implemented Language Access Procedure. Development of the Commission's work plan also began for the upcoming year. The next Commission meeting will be in December. We meet every even numbered month, allowing members to serve as ambassadors to the City's other commissions during odd months, thereby ensuring that inclusion and belonging are incorporated at all levels. We encourage community members to join our meetings and provide public comment at the beginning of each session! Learn more at [winooskivt.gov/inclusion](http://winooskivt.gov/inclusion).

## Main Street Revitalization

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

In October, crews continued work between Bellevue Street and Tigan Street, including excavation, drainage installation, gravel placement, grading, curb work, and paving two asphalt layers. Temporary pavement markings were added along this segment ahead of the winter project shutdown. Sidewalk preparation progressed between Stevens Street and Bellevue Street. Final paving, permanent markings, and signage were completed between the railroad bridge near Maple Street and Stevens Street. Select driveway aprons were paved between Maple Street and Stevens Street. Crews continued installing new traffic signals at the Winooski Fire Department and at the Spring Street intersection. Streetlight conduit installation progressed between Spring Street and Burling Street. The contractor completed the installation of underground utility vaults, duct banks, and conduits. Independent utility crews began relocating aerial electrical and telecom lines underground. Trees were planted, and topsoil, seed, and mulch were placed along select segments of Main Street



In November, installation of curb, sidewalk, and permeable pavers is planned on Main Street north of Bellevue Street. Crews are expected to complete the installation, test, and activate the new traffic signals at the Winooski Fire Department and the Spring Street intersection, followed by the removal of the old equipment. Streetlight conduit installation will continue north of Burling Street. Relocation of aerial electrical and telecommunications lines underground will continue. Topsoil, seed, and mulch placement will continue north along the Main Street corridor. 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 the majority of this 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: Weekly project updates - sign up at [winooskivt.gov/mainstreet](http://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 – contact the Public Information Team: 802 595 4399 | [info@winooskimainstreet.com](mailto: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.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



### Recreation and Parks

[winooski.vt.gov/recprograms](http://winooski.vt.gov/recprograms)

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

#### YOUTH

##### FIRST Robotics Challenge Team

Grades 4-7 | Mondays, September 8 – December 15  
Saturday Competitions

##### Youth Climbing

Ages 5-8 | Tuesdays, October 28 – December 9  
Ages 9-13 | Thursdays, October 30 – December 11

##### Very Merry Theatre

Grades 5-9 | Wednesdays, October 29 – December 17

##### Youth Basketball League

Grades K-2 Co-Ed | Saturdays, January 3 – February 14  
Grades 3-4 Girls | Weeks of January 5 – February 14  
Grades 3-4 Boys | Weeks of January 5 – February 14  
Grades 5-6 Girls | Weeks of January 5 – February 14  
Grades 5-6 Boys | Weeks of January 5 – February 14

#### EVENTS FOR ALL

##### Volunteer Park Cleanup Day

Gilbrook Nature Area | Friday, November 7

### 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 [winooski.vt.gov/representatives](http://winooski.vt.gov/representatives).



### 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

#### Drop-in programs:

#### YOUTH

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

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

**Crafternoon** | Ages 5+ | Wednesdays | 3:30pm

**STEAM Ahead** | Ages 4+ | Saturdays | 10:30am

**Community Helper Storytime** | Ages 2-5 | Friday, Nov 7 | 10:30am

**Audubon VT** | All ages | Saturday, Nov. 8 | 10:30am

**Dog Man Party** | Ages 5+ | Thursday, Nov. 13 | 3:30pm

**Food Challenge** | Ages 5+ | Friday, Nov 14 | 3:30pm

**Reading Dragons & Friends** | Ages 5+ | Friday, Nov 21 | 3:30pm

#### ADULTS

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

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

**Community Helper Storytime** Join the Winooski Library for a new monthly storytime dedicated to the helpers who make our community a better place! Each month will feature special guests who will introduce young learners to their work and read a book with us. Our next visit will be with local chef Elom Essiba from Le Bon Goût on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 10:30am

**Community Book Talk - The Light Pirate:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 6 – 7:30pm. Join us for a book discussion of this year's Vermont Reads selection, *The Light Pirate*, written by Lily Brooks-Dalton. This event will be facilitated by Winooski resident Peter Burns and all are welcome to attend. A limited number of free copies of the title are available now for pickup at the library.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



### Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425  
seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov  
[winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter](http://winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter)

#### TUESDAYS

##### New American Community Connections

November 14 & 18 | 10am–1pm | Activities & Lunch

#### WEDNESDAYS

No programs on November 26!

#### 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, crafts 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 Group** | 10:30 - 11:30am | Free | Drop-in  
Music can help sustain cognition and quality of life.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**Thanksgiving Luncheon** | November 19 | 12pm | 60+ | \$5 suggested donation | RSVP by November 12 | Limited Seating  
**Mobile Pet Food Shelf** | November 23 | 1–3pm | Free pet food and items for those in need

#### Bone Builders Exercise

Free | Monday & Wednesday | 2–3pm

#### Meals on Wheels

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



### Thrive Afterschool

[winooskivt.gov/thrive](http://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](http://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](http://winooskivt.gov/thrive) for more information and to register, or contact Thrive Program Director, Evelyn Monje: [emonje@winooskivt.gov](mailto:emonje@winooskivt.gov) | 802 233 8188

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



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

# DOWNTOWN WINOOSKI AND SERVICE PROVIDERS



## Downtown Winooski

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

The summer/fall event season is officially coming to a close. From 4 rockin' block parties to 24 amazing farmers markets to the frightfully fun week of Halloween in Winooski, we've had such an amazing time with you all! Thank you to each and every person who made it all happen — sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and attendees. We couldn't do it without you. Luckily, the fun isn't over quite yet. We've got a short but so, so sweet winter market season for you. There will only be two opportunities to catch your favorite vendors in Winooski until May, so don't miss it. The Fall Market will be happening on Sunday, November 23, 2025, from 10am – 2pm at the Winooski Senior Center at 123 Barlow St. Right off the bus line, plenty of free parking and over a dozen vendors offering produce (yes, even in winter!), meat, breads, wellness products, fine art, and more. Later, we'll welcome everyone back for the Holiday Market on December 21, 2025. Have EBT? Get up to \$20 of your benefits TRIPLED at the market. Speaking of holiday markets, make sure to save the date for the Winooski Holiday Pop-Up Shop on Thurs, December 4th at a variety of downtown businesses from 5 - 9pm. With dozens of vendors right around the Rotary, it's the perfect opportunity to get a jumpstart on holiday shopping. The passport raffle will be happening again, so be sure to pick up a passport at participating venues the week before or night of, and get it stamped at each spot during the event to be entered into a raffle for amazing goodies.

## Town Meeting

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

As the year comes to a close, we're celebrating 35 years of Town Meeting TV's service to the Winooski community! Our mission is to make local government accessible and transparent by connecting residents with the people and decisions that shape your city. In 2025, we covered more than 40 Winooski programs, from City Council meetings to community events, and we'd love to capture even more next year. If you know of upcoming events, festivals, rallies, or panels you'd like recorded, let us know! You can reach us with program requests by emailing [maketv@cctv.org](mailto:maketv@cctv.org) or calling 802 862 3966.



## Winooski Food Shelf

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



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

Saturday, November 1	9 – 11am
Wednesday, November 5	12 – 3pm
Wednesday, November 12	12 – 3pm
Saturday, November 15	9 – 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.

## Howard Center

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



Howard Center is pleased to introduce its Military and Veteran Program. The program offers active-duty service members, veterans, and their families confidential, trauma-informed mental health care, including counseling, care management, and help accessing community resources. ALL veterans, regardless of discharge status, are welcome. For information, call our Access and Intake team at 802 488 6000, or visit [howardcenter.org](http://howardcenter.org). For 24/7/365 crisis support, call Howard Center's First Call for Chittenden County: 802-488-7777 or 9-8-8 or for immediate walk-in care for adults 18 or older, visit Mental Health Urgent Care at 1 S. Prospect St. in Burlington, M-F, 9am – 5pm. Howard Center helps people and communities thrive by providing support and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs.

## Winooski Partnership for Prevention

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

The Winooski Partnership for Prevention visited the Winooski Farmer's Market in October - an estimated 50 people stopped by our table to pick up swag, resources, and tools. Shout out to Downtown Winooski for making this outreach possible and positive! Check out these resources to help reduce or eliminate alcohol use: Celebrate "Sober October" with NPR - [npr.org/newsletter/zero-alcohol](http://npr.org/newsletter/zero-alcohol); and the National Institutes of Health's website at [rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov](http://rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov). Above the Influence recently presented at a youth soccer game about the benefits of staying healthy and avoiding substance use. Congrats to the student leaders and peers for their dedication and athletic goals! Reach out any time: 802 655 4565 | [winooskiprevention.org](http://winooskiprevention.org).



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

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**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)  
Emily Bowers, *Secretary*, 802-383-6000, [ebowers@wsdvt.org](mailto:ebowers@wsdvt.org)  
Elom Essiba, 802-324-9431, [eessiba@wsdvt.org](mailto:eessiba@wsdvt.org)  
Katie Livermore, 802-383-6000, [klivermore@wsdvt.org](mailto:klivermore@wsdvt.org)

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

**Interim Mayor**  
Thomas Renner, 802-922-3265, [trenner@winooskivt.gov](mailto:trenner@winooskivt.gov)

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

**City Councilors**  
Aurora Hurd, 802-734-7082, [ahurd@winooskivt.gov](mailto:ahurd@winooskivt.gov)  
Charles Judge, 802-655-6410, [cjudge@winooskivt.gov](mailto:cjudge@winooskivt.gov)  
Bryn Oakleaf, 802-448-2966, [boakleaf@winooskivt.gov](mailto:boakleaf@winooskivt.gov)

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

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