

The Winooski Newsletter

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

OCTOBER 2025



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Support Businesses on Main Street – Buy a Gift Certificate!

Every gift tells a story—make yours a story of community, connection, and hope. Just like a mosaic brings together unique pieces to create something beautiful, Winooski’s diverse businesses each add their own vibrant color to our community. While our Main Street undergoes its exciting transformation, the heart of Winooski beats stronger than ever in our local businesses. When you choose a Winooski Main Street gift certificate, you’re giving twice: once to someone you care about, and once to a local business that needs your support now more than ever. While construction may keep you away today, your gift certificate purchase ensures your favorite places will be waiting for you on our beautiful new Main Street tomorrow. Why Gift Certificates Matter to Our Mosaic: During construction, our local businesses face unique challenges. Your gift certificate purchase provides immediate support while creating future experiences for the people you care about. Each business in our directory represents a unique piece of Winooski’s diverse mosaic—from family-owned establishments to entrepreneurs, from traditional services to innovative dining experiences. Perfect for any occasion:

- Birthday celebrations and anniversaries
- Teacher appreciation and graduation gifts
- Employee recognition and team building
- Holiday gifts that support local community
- “Just because” moments that matter

Visit downtownwinooski.org/mosaic to see the Main Street Gift Certificate Directory!



WINOOSKI MOSAIC
“GIFT YOUR COMMUNITY”
CAMPAIGN



Inclusionary Zoning Update

During the September 2nd City Council meeting, a public hearing was held to consider amendments to Winooski’s land use regulations. The proposed changes focused on “Inclusionary Zoning,” a policy that will now require new housing projects built in Winooski with 20 or more units to include a portion of perpetually affordable homes. Depending on the specifications of the project, the percentage of affordable units in the development will usually range between 10-20%. These requirements apply to both rental developments and homes built for sale, ensuring that future growth in Winooski creates opportunities for households across a range of incomes.

With no public comment received, the City Council unanimously voted to adopt the changes. These changes will apply to any upcoming housing developments that meet the size threshold and represent an important step in supporting long-term affordability and inclusivity in our community!



From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools



Dear Winooski Families and Community,

This October we celebrate several important holidays for our residents, including Dashain, Yom Kippur, and Independence Day for many Latin American communities. Growing up in Nicaragua, I always looked forward to this time of the year, and I love that we get to keep some of that spirit here in our new home (my last name ironically means “new house,” which has felt like

much of my life’s reality so far). I share the same hope as most of Winooski that no matter the tumultuous time we are going through, the power of celebrating each other and with each other can forever be what makes this country good.

On a related note, I want to express how thankful I am for the care and support all residents show for our young people, even if they aren’t your own family. I often receive emails and messages from people offering help or simply asking, “What can I do?” Depending on your ability, availability, or preferences, there

may be times when you can help us. Some things can make a difference and make our teachers’ and staff’s load a little lighter, like joining the PTO, being a “budget buddy” for our board members, supporting our students in the Antiracism Steering Committee, asking us for a vest and stop sign to help with traffic during dismissal, or just liking our photos on Instagram! Everything counts.

The way people show up for each other in this community reverberates beyond our city limits. My office has received generous one-time donations from anonymous donors to help feed and care for our youth with the most need. We sometimes also receive named gifts, like from our generous friends at Hydro-Québec, who visited us last week to provide supplies for our preschoolers and committed a large gift to help us sustain our necessity store for this year given that the external funding we have relied on has been significantly reduced.

All of this, combined with our constant efforts to make the most of our existing local funding, makes it so that the quality of our educational program and the level of additional support for students and families can remain as high as possible.

School Board Update

By Emily Bowers, Board of School Trustees

I am extending a heartfelt thank you to Isaiah Donaldson for his incredible service to the Winooski School Board. Isaiah recently stepped down from the Board, and we are grateful for his steadfast commitment to our students, staff, and community. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

As I write this, the first days of school are officially behind us, the school year is in full swing, and the Board is in the beginning of planning and budgeting mode. Our first step in the budgeting process is for each Board member to pick a budget buddy - someone from the community who will join us in the budget planning. Once we have our buddies, the budget process can begin. As we have mentioned previously, there have been changes in grant funding, as well as changes that come from the Education Reform Bill. We have been staying up to date on all things related to both of these topics and will take that information with us into our budgeting sessions. I am lucky to be going into my first budget creation with an incredible and knowledgeable team! As always, we will keep everyone updated on where we are with the process, both in meetings and in our newsletters.

Our next Board meeting will be on October 8th. We hope to see you there! In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Board. See you next month, Winooski.

Winooski School District Child Find Notice

By Katherine Blair, Director of Support Services

The Winooski School District is required by federal law to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities. The process of locating, identifying, and evaluating children with disabilities is known as Child Find. The Winooski School District conducts a Kindergarten Screening every spring, but parents may call to make an appointment to discuss their concerns at any time. As the school district of residence, we have the responsibility to identify and provide services to any child with special needs who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.

If you have, or know of any resident, who has a child with a disability under the age of 21, including children enrolled in a private school located in Winooski by parent choice or are being home-schooled, we would like to hear from you. Sometimes parents/guardians are unaware that special education services are available to their children.

Please contact the Director of Support Services, Katherine Blair at (802)383-6085 or kblair@wsdvt.org

Meeting Announcement

The Winooski School District invites you to attend a meeting to discuss the following:

Meeting Topic:

Parentally-Placed Students in Non-public Schools (including Home Study) and Proportionate Share Requirements

Audience:

Parents who have children enrolled in a non-public school (St. Francis Xavier) and/or in a home study program

When:

Thursday, October 9th, at 9am

How to Join:

Please contact Katherine Blair at kblair@wsdvt.org or 802-829-5120 with your name and email address for the Google Meet link for this meeting. You can also attend this meeting in person at: 60 Normand Street, Winooski, VT 05404 in the support services conference room.

Summary:

The IDEA requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide special education services to eligible students who are enrolled by their parents in non-profit non-public schools for the purpose of delivering an elementary and/or secondary education. Each LEA must use a proportionate share of their IDEA funds to provide special education services to non-profit non-public schools and home-schooled students with disabilities. For the purposes of proportionate share requirement, Vermont defines non-public schools as: independent (secular, and non-secular) schools, as well as home study programs.

The meeting will be facilitated by the Office of Support Services. Katherine Blair will meet at 9 am via Google Meet and in person on 10/09/25 to review this process and answer any questions you may have.

Hydro-Québec Brings Smiles to Pre-K Students

Our Pre-K students received a special surprise thanks to the generosity of Hydro-Québec. The company donated backpacks, books, bubbles, water bottles, and play dough—supplies and fun items that will brighten the start of the school year.

The students' excitement was clear as they explored their new goodies, with plenty of smiles and laughter filling the classroom.

We are especially grateful to Serge Abergel, Chief Operating Officer of Hydro-Québec, who joined Superintendent Wilmer Chavarria in personally handing out the donations.

Thank you, Hydro-Québec, for investing in our students and helping make learning joyful from the very beginning!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Who am I?

By Prisca Niyorukundo



At school, it's Prisca quiet and small,
A name that barely fits at all.
They say it wrong, they say it fast,
It doesn't feel like me, not meant to last.

At home, it's Piri loud and free,
A name that sings in Kirundi.
It dances in the kitchen air,
With food and music everywhere.

Smells like plantains, crispy and sweet,
Tastes like mandazi, soft and fried.
Garlic, onions, spice, and heat,
Chapati stacked with pride beside.

Feels like kitenge tied with grace,
Sounds like drumming under trees.
Like beaded earrings near my face,
Like gospel songs on dusty knees.

Looks like colors bright and loud,
Like dancing feet in a lively crowd.
I remember Mom calling me "Piri" out loud,
Her love like rice stirred soft and proud.

At school, I speak in English tone,
But inside, Kirundi feels like home.
My words at school feel dry and thin,
But at home, they bloom from deep within.

They asked, "Do you have water there?"
Like I come from dust, not love or care.
They didn't see the rivers wide,
The land and pride that live inside.

I feel like two people every day
One walks proud, one fades away.
Prisca or Piri, both belong,
Two names, one heart, forever strong.

We're proud to share Prisca's powerful words with our community. Keep an eye on future city newsletters—we'll feature more creative student work throughout the school year.



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

High School Students Enjoy a Day of Adventure and Connection

Winooski High School students spent the day exploring, bonding, and making memories during class field trips filled with fun and adventure.



- Freshmen headed to Leddy Park, where they enjoyed a day by the beach, went ice skating, made friendship bracelets, and played sports with friends.
- Sophomores took on a hike up Mount Philo, soaking in the beautiful views at the summit and enjoying some friendly competition with a game of cornhole.



- Juniors spent the day at the Bolton Adventure Center, challenging themselves on the high ropes course, low ropes course, and participating in team-building games.

- Seniors embraced the outdoors with a peaceful canoeing trip down the Lamoille River, enjoying time together during their final year's special outing.



It was a day full of laughter, teamwork, and connection — a chance for students to relax, recharge, and strengthen friendships as they continue through the school year.



Winooski Superintendent Wilmer Chavarria Leads Pride Vermont Parade as 2025 Grand Marshal

We're proud to celebrate Superintendent Wilmer Chavarria, who served as the Grand Marshal of the Pride Vermont Parade! Each year, the Pride Center of Vermont selects Grand Marshals whose leadership, visibility, and impact uplift and inspire the community. Wilmer proudly represented Winooski

as they led the parade and joined in the celebration. It was also wonderful to see so many Winooski staff and students along the parade route showing their support! Congratulations, Wilmer, on this incredible and well-deserved honor!



WHS Advisory Challenge Kicks Off with Field Games

Winooski High School kicked off this year's Advisory Challenge with an afternoon of field games filled with energy, teamwork, and school spirit! Students spent the day outside enjoying the beautiful weather while competing alongside their advisories in a variety of fun events, including ping pong ball relays, jump rope, 3-legged races, kickball, and hula hoop baskets.

The Advisory Challenge is designed to build community, encourage collaboration, and create friendly competition between advisories throughout the school year. This exciting kick-off event set the tone for what's to come, and students were all smiles as they cheered each other on.

With such a strong start, we can't wait to see how the advisories continue to compete and support one another as the year unfolds!



Health Office Updates: A Busy Start to the Year!

The Health Office is off to a busy and productive start this school year! We'd like to share some important updates and reminders to help keep our school community healthy and informed.

FLU SHOT CLINICS COMING SOON

We're excited to partner again with UVM Primary Pediatrics to offer optional flu shots for students right at school. Dates: **Thursday, October 10** and **Thursday, October 31**. Preschoolers welcome: Families may bring preschool students to either clinic. Consent forms and information sheets will be emailed and available at the School-Based Health Center. Please submit completed consent forms to the center in advance. In addition, CHC Burlington will host a Staff & Community Flu Shot Clinic on **Friday, October 17**, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. This clinic aligns with early student dismissal and Middle and High School Parent/Teacher Conferences. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to ensure enough vaccines. Please return consent forms to the health office or let your Multilingual Liaison know you plan to attend.

VIRAL ILLNESSES ON THE RISE

We are currently seeing a number of viral illnesses in our school community. As a reminder, please keep your child home if they have:

- A fever of 100°F or higher,
- Active vomiting, or
- Two or more loose stools.

Students must remain home for at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved, and they should not need over-the-counter medications to feel well enough to return.

POWERSCHOOL REMINDERS

Please take a moment to ensure that your contact information is up to date in PowerSchool, and review your child's health information and authorization forms. As a reminder, we cannot administer any over-the-counter medications to students under the age of 18 without parental consent on file.

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH AND DENTAL PROGRAMS

We're happy to share that our School-Based Health Center and Dental Program are already up and running for the year. If you're interested in learning more about these services or want to enroll your child, feel free to contact the Health Office.

WELCOME, NURSE DARCY!

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our new school nurse, Darcy Mazlish. Nurse Darcy brings several years of school nursing experience and a deep commitment to student health and wellness. We're thrilled to have her as part of our team and school community!

Thank you for helping us keep our students healthy and ready to learn. If you have any questions or need support, don't hesitate to reach out to the Health Office.

**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>Lunch Entree 1 Korean Meatball Rice Bowl Spaghetti with Meatballs Vegetables Garlic Roasted Green Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 2 BBQ Chicken Chicken Noodle Soup Vegetables Rosemary Roasted Potatoes, Scratch Daily Salad Bar Grains Rice Pilaf Whole Grain Roll</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 3 Chicken Alfredo over Whole Grain Spaghetti Vegetables Fresh Roasted Broccoli with Garlic Daily Salad Bar</p>	
<p>Lunch Entree 6 Chicken Poutine Bowl Chicken Noodle Soup Vegetables Daily Salad Bar Grains Whole Grain Rolls</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 7 Nacho Bar Cuban Pulled Pork Sandwich Vegetables Fire Roasted Black Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 8 Hot Dog Chicken Shawarma Vegetables Garlic Roasted Green Beans Daily Salad Bar Condiments Tzatziki Sauce</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 9 General Tsao's Chicken Chinese Chicken Salad Vegetables Stir Fried Broccoli Daily Salad Bar Grains Brown Rice</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 10 Cheesy Baked Pasta Vegetables Herb Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p>Lunch Entree 13 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetables Tomato Soup Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 14 Korean BBQ Chicken Street Tacos Taco Bar Vegetables Fajita Style Peppers & Onions 1/2c O Spicy Slaw Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 15 Chicken Patty Sandwich Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich on a WG Bun Vegetables Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 16 Butter Chicken, Scratch 2 MMA Chickpea Masala Baked Potato Bar Vegetables Curried Potatoes & Peas, Scratch Daily Salad Bar Grains Brown Rice</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 17 Spaghetti with Meatballs Vegetables Lemony Broccoli Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p>Lunch Entree Waffles & Eggs Waffles & Sausage Patties Vegetables Homestyle Potatoes (Homefries) Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 21 Buffalo Chicken Quesadilla Taco Cheese Quesadilla Vegetables Calabacitas con Elote (Squash with Corn) Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 22 Local Boyden Beef Hamburger on Whole Grain Bun Gardenburger® Veggie Burger Vegetables BBQ Beans Roasted Potato Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 23 Bang Bang Chicken Rice Bowl Chicken Fried Rice Vegetables Honey Garlic Roasted Broccoli Daily Salad Bar Grains Brown Rice</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 24 Pasta with Meat Sauce Vegetables Glazed Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p>Lunch Entree 27 Chicken Poutine Bowl Chicken Ranch Wrap Vegetables Lemon Garlic Sauteed Spinach Daily Salad Bar Grains Whole Grain Rolls</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 28 Nacho Bar Vegetables Fiesta Corn Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 29 Bahn Mi Sandwich BBQ Chicken Sandwich Vegetables Seasoned Green Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 30 Oven Fried Chicken Vegetables Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar Grains Whole Grain Roll</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 31 Macaroni & Cheese Vegetables Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>



Letter from the Mayor

By Interim Mayor Thomas Renner

I'm thrilled to share my first monthly update with you as Interim Mayor! Since joining the City Council in 2022, I've been proud to be part of the progress we've made under Mayor Lott's leadership, and I'm eager to keep that momentum going. We wish her all the best - here are some updates on what's going on in Winooski.

Armory building at 255 Lafountain Street: The Champlain Housing Trust has proposed a two-phase development on that site to create affordable housing, including 24 rental apartments and six shared-equity homes. The project is designed for large families and emphasizes neighborhood compatibility while addressing critical housing needs.

In other housing news, the City recently adopted amendments to our land use regulations known as "**Inclusionary Zoning**", which requires new housing projects of 20+ units to include some amount of affordable housing. These regulations will apply to projects with rental units and also projects with homes built for sale. These efforts support our community goals for a mix of quality housing that maintains and enhances Winooski's unique



sense of place and supports the needs of the entire community.

I encourage you to **watch former Mayor Lott's last episode of "In the World of Winooski"** to learn more about how zoning impacts housing and about the many changes we've made in recent years. Visit cctv.org/watch-tv/series/world-winooski to learn more.

Also, residents and visitors should know that the City continues to work to **transfer the ownership of the O'Brien Community Center to the Champlain Housing Trust (CHT)**. CHT has begun managing the building and space rentals, which is

going very well! Fundraising for the project is underway, with construction slated for next year to rehab and improve the building. I'm so excited to see the opportunities that will result from this partnership in keeping this vital community space a meaningful and vibrant location for our residents.

These are just a few exciting things going on right now, and I look forward to sharing more in the coming months as we keep making progress towards our community's strategic vision and values.

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Chloe Tomlinson



Hello Neighbors,
I've heard from many community members with **concerns about the federal administration's plans to disenfranchise transgender and nonbinary Americans**. I am committed to fighting for our community's rights and safety. I know that trans and nonbinary folks here in Winooski and across Vermont have already felt the impact of discriminatory federal policies -

including in the passport renewal process.

I also heard concerns that the administration might take similar actions around REAL IDs to limit our ability to self-attest our gender markers on driver's licenses and IDs. This past legislative session, we took action to get ahead of possible federal changes by passing a new law that allows Vermonters to renew their driver's licenses or IDs early. Renewing now locks in your gender marker for the next 4 years, ensuring continued recognition under Vermont's self-attestation policy. To complete

the early renewal process, you need to visit any DMV branch in person (locations can be found at dmv.vermont.gov/locations). You can either make an appointment or walk in. The process should take about 15 minutes, and your new ID will be mailed to you within 7-10 business days. There's more information directly from the DMV here: dmv.vermont.gov/press-release/early-license-renewals. The cost of early renewal is prorated - you will receive payment credit based on the number of full years remaining on your existing credential, rounded down to the next whole year. Please spread the word to anyone who might benefit from this new process - and if you run into challenges, let me know. I am in contact with the DMV about this new policy and can help smooth out issues.

Finally, thank you to the community members who raised their voices and helped push this legislation forward. I am always eager to hear your ideas and concerns as we prepare for next year's legislative session. Together, we can keep shaping policies that make a real difference in our daily lives.

Main Street Revitalization

winooskivt.gov/mainstreet

In September, road reconstruction was completed between Lafountain Street and Bellevue Street – work included excavation, drainage, gravel, grading, curb installation, and paving of two layers of asphalt. Sidewalks and driveway aprons were poured on East and West Spring Streets, as well as between Spring and Stevens Streets. 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 Exit 16 Diverging Diamond Interchange Project began underground traffic signal work at the intersection of Main Street and Tigan Street.* The also contractor completed the installation of most underground utility vaults, duct banks, and conduits throughout the project limits, as well as the installation of stormwater pipes throughout the project limits. Trees were planted between Maple Street and Stevens Street.

In October, road reconstruction is expected to begin between Bellevue Street and Tigan Street, including excavation, drainage, gravel, grading, curb installation, and paving of two layers of asphalt. Crews are scheduled to pave driveways and the top course of asphalt from the railroad bridge near Maple Street through Stevens Street. Installation of permanent and temporary pavement markings and line striping is anticipated to take place on from the railroad bridge through the Colchester/Winooski town line. Brick paver installation is expected to be completed between Spring and Stevens Streets. Sidewalk construction is planned to progress from Stevens Street to Bellevue Street and may continue north past Bellevue Street. Crews are expected to test and activate the new traffic signals at the Winooski Fire Department and at the Spring Street intersection, while removing existing signal equipment. Streetlight conduit installation is anticipated to continue between Burling Street and Tigan Street, including lighting foundations and fixtures on the east side of the roadway. *The Exit 16 Diverging Diamond Interchange Project is expected to continue traffic signal work at the Main Street and Tigan Street intersection.*



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: For weekly project updates, sign up 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 or concerns? Our public information team is here to help – call or email: 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

The next quarterly tax and utility bills will be due on November 17, 2025. Please note that the tax bill is sent out once a year. To learn about payment options and details, please visit winooskivt.gov/pay or contact the Clerk's Office. Winooski City Hall will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2025, in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day. 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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Recreation and Parks

winooski.vt.gov/recprograms

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

YOUTH

Field Hockey

Grades K-5 | Mondays, September 8 – October 27

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

Vermont Patriots Soccer

U6 | Saturdays, September 6 – October 25
U8-U12 | Weeks of August 26 – October 19
Volunteer coaches are needed!

Very Merry Theatre

Grades 1-6 | Wednesdays, September 3 – October 22
Grades 5-9 | Wednesdays, October 29 – December 17

EVENTS FOR ALL

Volunteer Park Cleanup Days

Memorial Park | Friday, October 10
Casavant Nature Area | Friday, October 17
Gilbrook Nature Area | Friday, November 7

Halloween in Winooski 2025 | October 25 & 26 | Details at downtownwinooski.org/halloween



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

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, October 3 | 3:30pm

Food Challenge | Ages 5+ | Friday, October 10 | 3:30pm

Candy Catapults | Ages 5+ | Thursday October 16 | 3:30pm

K-Pop Demon Hunters Party | Ages 5+ | Friday, October 17 | 3:30pm

Reading Dragons & Friends | Ages 5+ | Friday, October 24 | 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. This series begins on Friday, October 3rd at 10:30am with a visit from the Winooski Fire Department.

Friends of the Winooski Library: Support our small yet mighty library, make new friends in your community, and help spread the word about this incredible and essential public service—the Friends of the Winooski Library are relaunching this fall and all we need is you! Please reach out to Nate Eddy at neddy@winooski.vt.gov for more info about how to join.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Winooski Senior Center

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

TUESDAYS

New American Community Connections

October 7 and 14 | 10am–1pm | 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, 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
No program on October 8 and 22

FRIDAYS

Singing Group | 10:30 - 11:30am | Free | Drop-in
Music can help sustain cognition and quality of life for people with memory loss

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- Medicare Fraud Talk** | October 15 | 12pm
Free lunch and presentation | RSVP by October 8
- Pumpkin Carving Breakfast Party** | October 22 | 9am – 12pm | drop-in for community members | free
- Mobile Pet Food Shelf** | October 26 | 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

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 AND SERVICE PROVIDERS



Downtown Winooski

downtownwinooski.org

Happy October! October in Winooski can only mean one thing... Halloween. We cannot wait to celebrate **Halloween in Winooski** with everyone on Saturday, October 25, from 4-9pm in Rotary Park. As always, a thousand Jack-O-Lanterns will fill the park all weekend, with the pumpkins lighting up at dusk for a spooky, magical evening. Saturday's celebration will feature kids' activities and business trick-or-treating from 4-6pm. We'll have DJs bringing the party, a photo booth, and other exciting activities, so come in costume and get ready for a blast! We know folks will be celebrating Halloween all week, so we're extending the fun! Come back through Rotary Park on Friday, October 31st, starting at 6:30pm for a Halloween Double Feature movie night! We'll have popcorn and hot cider for sale, with proceeds going to help cover the cost of our Halloween events. Bring a blanket to sit on and one to snuggle up under! 'Doors' at 6pm. **Looking to get involved?** In the week leading up to the event, we'll have plenty of pumpkins for carving at the Winooski Senior Center — visit downtownwinooski.org/halloween for carving times and ways to volunteer. Don't have time to give? **Support the event by adopting a pumpkin!** Adopting a pumpkin makes a huge difference and is the reason we can make this awesome Halloween celebration happen. Adopt today at downtownwinooski.org/donate. **The Winooski Summer Farmers Market** wraps up this month, with our final market of the summer season on Sunday, October 26th. Coming fresh off the Saturday night Halloween celebration, we'll be extending the festivities to the market the next morning. Join us on the 26th for spooky guest vendors, festive activities, and a wonderful send-off to summer. Costumes encouraged! Then, mark your calendars for this year's winter market season. Some of your favorite vendors will be there for a Fall market on Sunday, November 23rd, and a holiday market on Sunday, December 21st at the Winooski Senior Center. These will be the only two winter market dates this year, so be sure not to miss them. **The Winooski Holiday Pop-Up Shop** is also appearing, all around the Rotary on Thursday, December 4th, from 5-9pm. Tour downtown Winooski while shopping small from local vendors with a wide array of carefully crafted holiday gifts. Vendor applications are now open, so visit downtownwinooski.org/holiday-pop-up to learn more and apply.

Winooski Food Shelf

winooskifoodshelf.org



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

Wednesday, October 8	1:00 – 3:00pm
Saturday, October 11	9:30 – 11:00am
Wednesday, October 22	1:00 – 3:00pm
Saturday, October 25	9:30 – 11:00am

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

World Mental Health Day, October 10, spotlights accessing mental health care when needed Howard Center's mental health programs offer support for the whole community. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact our Access and Intake team at 802 488 6000; Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm, or visit howardcenter.org. For 24/7 crisis support, call First Call for Chittenden County at 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 Street in Burlington, Monday – Friday, 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

The "Above the Influence" has begun at the Winooski School District! This club/afterschool activity offers students the opportunity to practice leadership skills and partner with community organizations to support healthy youth development. Youth are also working with our Substance Use Prevention Educator Mukhtar Abdullahi, to draw attention to the health impacts of substance use on athletic performance. Students will present during soccer games on Oct. 19 (Winooski) and in Burlington (Oct. 29). FYI – a new State law will go into effect that outlines how "vape" manufacturers must help pay for the disposal of vapes. Taxpayers currently pay between \$3 and \$5 per disposal due to hazardous metals, materials, and chemicals. CSWD does offer recycling options. WPP is excited to welcome two UVM seniors who are partnering with us for their Capstone projects! Want to learn more or get involved? Email info@winooskiprevention.org today! Need help to quit smoking? Visit 802quits.org which supports teens and adults who need help.



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.winooski.vt.gov, 802-655-6410

Interim Mayor
Thomas Renner, 802-922-3265, trenner@winooski.vt.gov

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

City Councilors
Aurora Hurd, 802-734-7082, ahurd@winooski.vt.gov
Charles Judge, 802-655-6410, cjudge@winooski.vt.gov
Bryn Oakleaf, 802-448-2966, boakleaf@winooski.vt.gov

City Clerk
Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, jwillingham@winooski.vt.gov

Winooski Police
Emergency: Call 9-1-1
Non-emergency: 802-655-0221

Winooski Fire Department
Emergency: Call 9-1-1
Non-emergency: 802-655-6420

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA We are @WinooskiLearns

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA We are @winooski