

# The Winooski Newsletter

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

DECEMBER 2025



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

## Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process

Each fiscal year, the City of Winooski estimates the costs and revenue that will occur in the next fiscal year. The budget is not just an accounting tool - because money is limited, choices need to be made about which activities best reflect community priorities and are affordable to residents. During the budget process, the City Manager and staff work together to create a budget that provides the same services currently offered to the community adjusted for increasing wages, prices, and growth in the City. Proposals are made by staff where programs could be increased or reduced. These proposals use limited funding to provide the greatest benefit related to priorities set by City Council. Council then decides what budget will be voted on by the community. During the annual Town Meeting Day election in March, the community votes on the total budget and the taxes.

As always, residents are strongly encouraged to get involved in the process. How do you want your tax dollars spent? You're invited - attend a budget meeting!

Note: the schedule below is subject to change - for full budget and meeting details, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/fy27](http://winooski.vt.gov/fy27).

- **December 1: Overall Budget Presentation & General Government Presentation** - Learn about the overall budget, administrative services, and City functions like the City Clerk's Office, elections, parking, and more.
- **December 8: Public Safety Presentation** - Learn about police, fire, and code enforcement.
- **January 5: Public Works and Capital Improvement Plan Presentation** - Learn about services like plowing, paving, and mowing, and how the City manages big-picture projects and assets like vehicles and facilities.
- **January 12: Community Services Presentation** - Learn about the Library, Senior Center, Recreation and Parks, Thrive Afterschool, the Pool, and more.
- **January 27: Final Budget Vote** - The City Council will vote on the final budget during a public hearing. After this meeting, the budget cannot be changed - please provide feedback!
- **TBA - City and School Budget Event:** Details TBA
- **March 2: Town Meeting Day Informational Presentation:** Meet at the Winooski School District Performing Arts Center (60 Normand Street) at 6pm for the final opportunity to learn about the City and School budgets.



Mayor Thomas Renner and Deputy Mayor Bryn Oakleaf stand with Angela Aldieri, Finance Director, during a community outreach event educating residents on how the city budget works.

- **March 3: Town Meeting Day Election:** 7am - 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center - vote for the City and School budgets, City Councilors, School Board Members, and any other ballot items.

### Examples of what the City budget pays for:

- Police and dispatch all day and all night
- Emergency fire response
- Educating residents & businesses on fire risks and other emergencies
- Running local, county, state, and federal elections
- Keep roads and sidewalks free of ice and snow in the winter
- Pave and maintain roads in the summer
- Mow and maintain parks and open spaces year-round
- Afterschool childcare programs
- Summer and vacation camps for kids
- Processing payment of tax, water, sewer, and other city bills
- Processing permits for building work, events, and more
- Recreation programs for all (Pool, Senior Center, Library, Community Center)
- County services such as the Green Mountain Transit bus



## From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools



Dear Winooski families and community,  
Up to one in four Winooski middle high school students were likely to say they had “gone hungry in the past 30 days because there was not enough food in their home” according to a 2025 survey by the Winooski Partnership for Prevention. There are so many societal shortcomings that result in young people not being

able to do what they should be doing: studying. Yet Vermont, like many states, continues to look the other way and wait for the schools to fill the gap. From health, to food, to safety, the public schools are constantly the final bearer of the burden while at the same time being attacked for needing money to sustain themselves.

But until real policies are in place that take the burden off of us, we will use our limited resources and do our best to meet our students’ needs so that they can be ready to learn.

We are partnering and joining with organizations that help us take care of some of these needs, at least to a degree, and

sometimes we engage in temporary campaigns to meet a higher level of need when this is reported by our teachers. For example, we reopened our Necessity Store to the wider community for November and December, so that families in need could receive items for free to complement their own efforts. We know that students will have long breaks and we anticipate some needing additional food.

If you know of someone who can benefit from this, please direct them to come and get supplies every Wednesday between 3 and 5 PM. If you are able to donate something, please do so at that same time.

If you have time to volunteer, you are welcome to join us for food distribution on those days or submit your name for other tasks, like purchasing and organizing items. If you like to cook, you are welcome to bring a hot dish to share. We only ask that you label the dish and list the ingredients in case of allergies or other dietary restrictions. Please send an email to [klivermore@wsdvt.org](mailto:klivermore@wsdvt.org) or [mdiop@wsdvt.org](mailto:mdiop@wsdvt.org) for volunteering.

Thank you for your support.

## School Board Update

By Elom Essiba, Board of School Trustees



As we move into December, the Winooski School Board is continuing the important work of developing next year’s budget. This process helps shape the programs, opportunities, and support available to all our students.

In November, we met jointly with the Winooski City Council to share updates on our respective budget processes. While the school and city budgets are separate, both play an essential role in building a strong, vibrant community. It was an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and ensure our work stays connected to the needs of Winooski residents.

Looking ahead to early 2026, the School Board will host a series of budget presentations and community conversations. We invite everyone to take part by attending our board meetings in person or virtually. Your voice and feedback make a real difference in shaping decisions that reflect Winooski’s shared values of equity, opportunity, and care for every student.

At our last meeting, the Board also approved a formal statement to the Vermont School District Redistricting Task Force.

The statement outlines our concerns about the proposed statewide consolidation plans, the potential impact on Winooski’s ability to maintain essential student programs, and the need for a more thoughtful and community-informed process. Residents who would like to read the complete statement can find it on the Winooski School District website.

Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year filled with connection, learning, and community spirit. Together, we’re building a future where every child in Winooski can thrive.

## Celebrating Our Outstanding Educators

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications



Gina Krol

We are proud to announce that **Gina Krol** and **Mary Carleton** were recently recognized as **UVM Outstanding Educators**, an honor that celebrates exceptional teachers across Vermont who inspire and empower their students every day.



Mary Carleton

This recognition reflects their deep commitment to fostering meaningful learning, supporting students’ growth, and strengthening our school community.

We are grateful for all that Gina and Mary bring to Winooski.

## Fourth Grade Goes to ECHO

By Kimberly Hirschberg

On October 15, JFK Elementary’s fourth graders took a trip to the ECHO Museum. Students in mixed-class groups explored the exhibits after reviewing the museum’s expectations. In the new “Into The Lake” exhibit, students were able to see fish in large, updated tanks that swim in the lake many of them spend their summers bathing in. When informed that these fish swim in Lake Champlain, one enthusiastic fourth grader said, “I know. I don’t like to think about that.” In Animation Land, our students were able to draw and animate their version of Champ, the lake monster. Fourth grade was split into two groups to view the 3D movie available at ECHO.



“Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure” and “Ocean Paradise” were very popular with our students. In “Sea Monsters,” we learned that even if a Dolichorhynchops (a prehistoric sea creature) is very cute, they are still part of the food chain!

After exploring the exhibits and the 3D movies, we got to socialize and hang out while we ate lunch before heading back to school.

Soon, fourth grade will move on to Module 2 of our EL Education literacy curriculum. The topic for Module 2 is “Deep Sea Discoveries”. We are hoping our field trip to ECHO has provided meaningful connections, background knowledge, and new vocabulary for when we venture into the deep sea in the next few weeks.

## Socktober: Warming Hearts and Feet in Our Winooski School Community

By Daviah Lawrence-Delnatus

As part of our school-wide community unit, students from kindergarten through fifth grade took on a special project this October — the Socktober Drive! Throughout the month, classes worked together to collect socks for members of our Pre-K–12 community who might need them, especially with the colder months on the way.

To spread the word, students created their own Socktober posters and proudly hung them around the school to encourage participation. Their creativity and enthusiasm helped build excitement and inspire others to contribute.

By the end of Socktober, our school community collected an amazing 321 pairs of socks! These socks will be given to Mr. Patrice in the school store, where they’ll be available for anyone who needs them.

This project connects to our essential questions about community:

- What is community?
- What are our roles and responsibilities as members of our classroom community?
- How has my sense of community changed over time?

Through Socktober, students showed that community means caring for one another and working together to make sure everyone has what they need. The success of this project is a wonderful reminder of the generosity and kindness that make our school community so special. I’m so proud of our students for their compassion and teamwork. Socktober is a perfect example of how we can make a difference when we come together as a community.



## Civics Classes Host Freedom of Speech & Press Panel at Winooski High School

Students in Ms. Caitlin and Mr. Andrews’ civics classes participated in Winooski High School’s Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press panel, exploring the importance of the First Amendment through discussion and dialogue.

Panelists included long-time Vermont journalist and St. Michael’s College adjunct professor Michael Donoghue, Alison Novak (Seven Days education reporter), Lia Ernst (Legal Director, ACLU of Vermont), and Jordan Souder (Policy Advocate, ACLU of Vermont).

After brief introductions about what drew them to their work and why it matters, students led the conversation with thoughtful questions about the value of free speech, threats to press freedom, and how individuals can help protect these fundamental rights.

This engaging in-class experience gave students a deeper understanding of civic responsibility and the essential role of journalism and advocacy in our democracy.



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



## Winooski Soccer Makes History — A Season to Remember

Winooski soccer achieved a historic season, marked by unprecedented accomplishments and unforgettable championship moments.

The Winooski Girls Soccer Team made school history with an incredible playoff run that inspired the entire community.

The Spartans became the first girls' team in Winooski history to earn a #2 playoff seed, host every playoff game, and advance to the Vermont State Finals. Anchored by a dedicated senior class, the team played with heart, unity, and an unshakable belief in one another. Their teamwork and determination blazed new trails for future Spartans and set a powerful example of what's possible through hard work and commitment.

Meanwhile, the Winooski Boys Soccer Team continued its legacy of excellence, capturing its fourth consecutive Vermont State Championship in dramatic fashion. The final game went to penalty kicks, where the Spartans showed their trademark composure and fight to secure another title.

Both teams exemplified Winooski's collective pride, reaching new heights and inspiring our school and community.

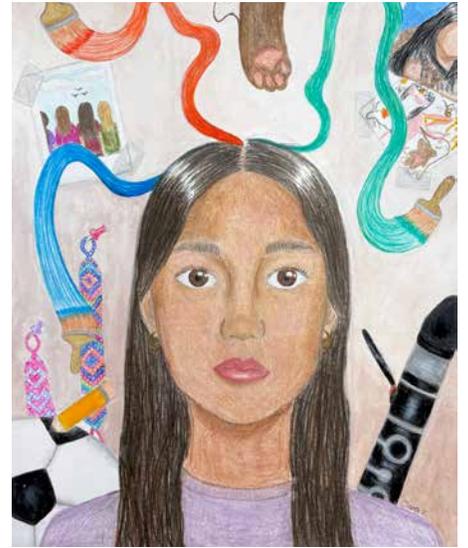
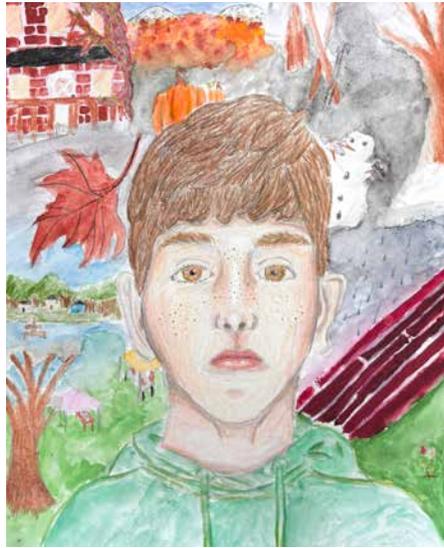


## Identity Through Art: Winooski Middle School Self-Portraits

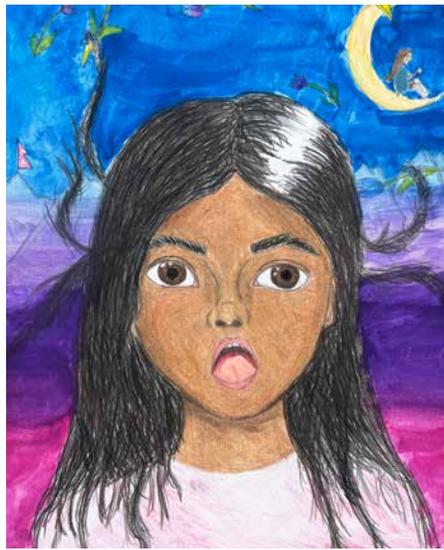
By Emily Jacobs

Our 7th and 8th grade artists worked hard this fall to complete incredible symbolic self-portraits. Each artwork features a detailed portrayal of the artist's physical self, as well as thoughtful symbolism about their identity, interests, goals and values -- all integrated in a surrealist way.

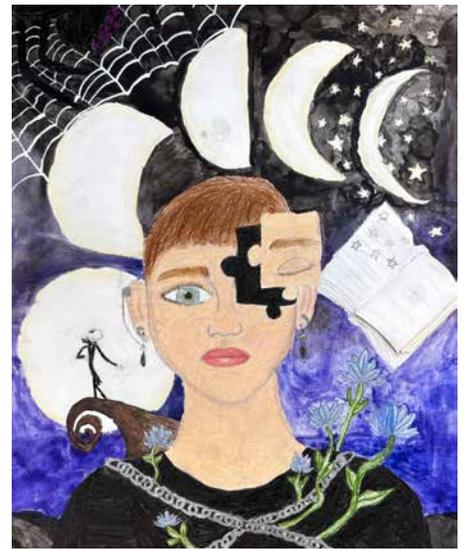
To inspire their artworks, our art classes examined surrealist artwork by Salvador Dali, and self-portraits by Frida Kahlo.



**Dominique Grade 8**



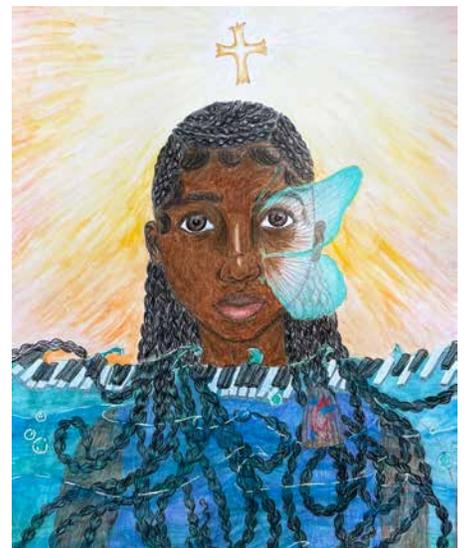
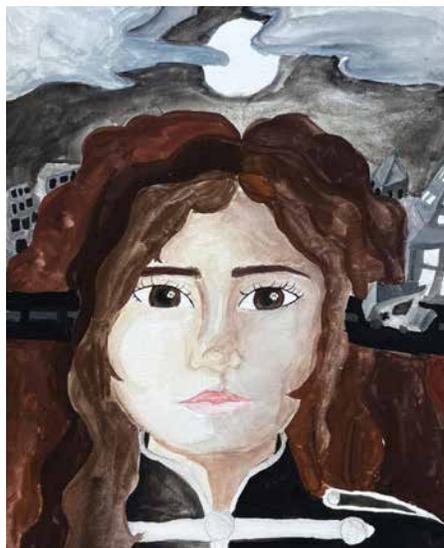
**Eunice Grade 7**



**Ray Grade 8**



**Samayh Grade 8**



**Zuena Grade 8**

**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 Entree</b><br/>Waffles &amp; Eggs<br/>Waffles &amp; Sausage Patties<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Homestyle Potatoes (Homefries)<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>                                       | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>2</b><br/>Buffalo Chicken Quesadilla<br/>Taco Cheese Quesadilla<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Calabacitas con Elote (Squash with Corn)<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p> | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>3</b><br/>Local Boyden Beef Hamburger on Whole Grain Bun<br/>Veggie Burger on Whole Grain Bun<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>BBQ Beans<br/>Roasted Potato<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p> | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>4</b><br/>Bang Bang Chicken Rice Bowl<br/>Chicken Fried Rice<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Honey Garlic Roasted Broccoli<br/>Daily Salad Bar<br/><b>Grains</b><br/>Brown Rice</p> | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>5</b><br/>Pasta with Meat Sauce<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Glazed Carrots<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>            |
| <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>8</b><br/>Chicken Poutine Bowl<br/>Chicken Ranch Wrap<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Lemon Garlic Sautéed Spinach<br/>Daily Salad Bar<br/><b>Grains</b><br/>Whole Grain Rolls</p> | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>9</b><br/>Nacho Bar<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Fiesta Corn<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>                                                                          | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>10</b><br/>Bahn Mi Sandwich<br/>BBQ Chicken Sandwich<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Seasoned Green Beans<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>                                                  | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>11</b><br/>Oven Fried Chicken<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Baked Beans<br/>Daily Salad Bar<br/><b>Grains</b><br/>Whole Grain Roll</p>                                            | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>12</b><br/>Macaroni &amp; Cheese<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Seasoned/Roasted Carrots<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p> |
| <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>15</b><br/>Roasted Chicken Ramen Bowl 2MMA 2 WG<br/>Chicken Lo Mein<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Orange Ginger Carrots<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>                                  | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>16</b><br/>Chicken Al Pastor Tacos<br/>Taco Bar<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Ranchero/Charr beans, Scratch<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>                            | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>17</b><br/>Turkey Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun<br/>Chipotle Chicken Sandwich<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Roasted Potato<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>                                  | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>18</b><br/>Popcorn Chicken and Gravy Bowl<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Sautéed Spinach<br/>Daily Salad Bar<br/><b>Grains</b><br/>Whole Grain Roll</p>                            | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>19</b><br/>Cheesy Baked Ziti<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Roasted Cauliflower<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>          |
| <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>22</b><br/>Grilled Cheese Sandwich<br/>Hot Honey Grilled Cheese w/ Sliced Apples<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Tomato Soup<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>                               | <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>23</b><br/>Nacho Bar<br/><b>Vegetables</b><br/>Fire Roasted Black Beans<br/>Daily Salad Bar</p>                                                            | <p><b>NO SCHOOL - MIDWINTER BREAK<br/>December 23 to January 4</b></p>                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                       |



# Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Thomas Renner

As we wrap up the year, I'm grateful for the continued engagement and care that our community brings to Winooski. Over the past month, the City Council has moved forward on several important initiatives that support our long-term goals around housing, infrastructure, and community well-being.

We recently **approved updates to the Housing Trust Fund programs, including improvements to the Home Improvement Program through a new partnership with the Champlain Housing Trust.** These changes will make it easier for residents to access resources for essential repairs, energy efficiency upgrades, and other critical home improvements.

We also welcomed new members to several of our boards and commissions - thank you to everyone who is stepping up to serve. Council also **adopted updates to our tree ordinance to align with state requirements and strengthen protections for shade trees throughout the city.**



Additionally, we began early conversations about a proposed ordinance change in response to the **Sugar House Hotel's interest in providing horse-drawn carriage rides through Casavant Park.** Community feedback will continue to guide that process as it moves into December.

As we enter the colder months, I want to **highlight the important work of the Winooski Food Shelf, which has seen a rising need.** They are especially in need of support—both financial donations and volunteers—to help serve families during the winter and holiday season. If you're able, I encourage you to contribute in any way you can. Learn more at [winooskifoodshelf.org](http://winooskifoodshelf.org).

Finally, **December brings several meaningful holidays** to many in our community—Christmas, Hanukkah, Yule, Bodhi Day, Kwanzaa, and others. However you celebrate, I hope the season brings warmth, connection, and rest. Thank you for all you do to make Winooski such a special place, and I look forward to the work we'll continue together in the new year.

## From Your Local Representative

By Representative Chloe Tomlinson

Hello Neighbors, as we look ahead to the 2026 legislative session, I want to share some of the key issues I'll be working on when we reconvene in Montpelier in January.

We'll be returning to several major priorities from last session, attending to routine items such as passing a state budget that reflects our values, and considering new ideas that have emerged from constituents and the evolving challenges facing our communities.



**Education Reform and Act 73:** One of the most significant issues we will address is the next phase of the education governance reform process. Under Act 73, the School District Redistricting Task Force has been developing up to three possible district maps for the legislature to consider. I have been closely following the Task Force's work and will continue to be in conversation with Winooski School District leaders, families, and community members. It was great to see and hear from many folks at the October public forum hosted by the Task Force at our school, and I share in the deep concern about Act 73 that many expressed.

**Transportation and Climate Justice:** As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I will continue pushing for a fair transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewable and

more affordable energy in our transportation sector. This includes securing stable, adequate funding for public transit; ensuring sustainable revenue sources for transportation; and improving access to electric vehicle charging, particularly for tenants and multi-unit housing residents.

**Housing and Tenant Protections:** Addressing the housing crisis remains one of my top priorities. I expect renewed discussion in the House General & Housing Committee around tenant protections,

and I will strongly support Just Cause Eviction legislation. If you have experiences, concerns, or testimony you would like to share regarding housing or tenant rights, please reach out - people power is essential to moving these issues forward in the State House.

**Defending Our Communities:** Finally, I am attentive to how federal policies and national shifts are impacting our community. I am committed to pursuing state-level protections that reduce harm and safeguard the rights, dignity, and safety of those most affected by discriminatory or destabilizing actions at the federal level.

If you have questions, ideas, or concerns, I would love to hear from you.

You can reach me anytime at [ctomlinson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:ctomlinson@leg.state.vt.us).



## City Hall Reminders

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

### Winter Parking Bans Begin December 1

Winter parking bans in Winooski begin on December 1 and end on March 31 each year. Please visit [winooskivt.gov/parking](http://winooskivt.gov/parking) for all important details. Learn more about the blanket ban in the downtown area, how to sign up for individual winter parking ban alerts, what to do if you are towed, and more.

### Winooski City Hall will be closed on the following holidays:

- Christmas Eve (1/2 Day): December 24, 2025
- Christmas Day: December 25, 2025
- New Year’s Eve (1/2 Day): Wednesday, December 31, 2025
- New Year’s Day: January 1, 2026

### Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses will be available on January 2, 2026! All dogs owned in the City of Winooski must be registered every year with the City Clerk on or before April 1st of each year per State law. To get started, please call us at 802 655 6410 or email [clerk@winooskivt.gov](mailto:clerk@winooskivt.gov).

### Register to Vote

Get ready for the local Town Meeting Day election on March 3, 2026. Visit [winooskivt.gov/vote](http://winooskivt.gov/vote) to learn how to register, or stop by the City Clerk’s Office any time.

## Check out our new Public Meetings page!

You’re invited - join any City Council, Board, Commission, or Committee meeting to provide feedback, ask questions, and get involved in the public process. Members of the public are encouraged to participate.

Visit [winooskivt.gov/meetings](http://winooskivt.gov/meetings) to learn more.



## Main Street Revitalization

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

**In November**, crews continued road construction on between Bellevue Street and Tigan Street, installing curbs, temporary sidewalks, and pavement markings in preparation for the winter shutdown. Most permanent pavement markings were completed between the railroad bridge near Maple Street and Stevens Street. Driveway aprons were paved in select areas between Maple Street and Bellevue Street. Installation of concrete sidewalks, brick pavers, and permeable pavers progressed steadily between Stevens Street and Bellevue Street. Crews also finished installing conduit, foundations, and control systems for streetlights between Stevens Street and Tigan Street. Wiring and pole installation extended north on Main Street up to Bellevue Street. The contractor completed installing conduit sleeves for future utility lines. Independent utility crews continued relocating overhead electrical and telecom lines underground. Topsoil, seed, and mulch were placed along select segments of Main Street.

**End of 2025 Construction Season:** The contractor is expected to finish construction activities during the first week of December, weather permitting. Final tasks will focus on cleaning up and preparing the site for winter. Once major work wraps up, Main Street will reopen to two-way traffic. A Traffic Alert will be sent to the project email list and posted on the website when this traffic pattern change takes place.

**Independent Utility Work:** Utility companies may continue relocating aerial telecommunications lines underground through the winter. They will manage their own traffic control as needed and will communicate directly with affected property owners about any short-term utility interruptions.

**The contractor and subcontractors are scheduled to return in spring 2026 to complete remaining work, with project completion expected by summer 2026.**

**Stay Informed:** Sign up for weekly email project updates at [winooskivt.gov/mainstreet](http://winooskivt.gov/mainstreet). Multilingual updates are available in 15 languages. Property Owner/Resident/Business.

The contractor will inform project abutters about utility or driveway interruptions in advance using door hangers or by knocking on doors. Questions: Our public information team is here to help: 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

[winooskivt.gov/recprograms](http://winooskivt.gov/recprograms)  
802-777-1621 | [recreation@winooskivt.gov](mailto:recreation@winooskivt.gov)

#### YOUTH

##### 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

##### Youth Skateboarding at Talent Skatepark

- Ages 8-14 | Mondays, January 5 – February 16

##### Introduction to Photography

- Ages 13-18 | Wednesdays, January 7 – February 18

#### ADULTS AND SENIORS

##### Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum

- Ages 18+ | Tuesday, December 16 at 5:15pm



Photo Courtesy Shelburne Museum



### Winooski Memorial Library

32 Malletts Bay Avenue | 802-655-6424 | [library@winooskivt.gov](mailto:library@winooskivt.gov)  
[winooskivt.gov/library](http://winooskivt.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, Dec 5 | 10:30am

**Food Challenge** | Ages 5+ | Friday, Dec 12 | 3:30pm

**Reading Dragons & Friends** | Ages 5+ | Friday, Dec 19 | 3:30pm

**DIY Snow Globes** | Ages 5+ | Tuesday, Dec 23 | 1:30pm

**Movie Time** | Ages 4+ | Friday, Dec 26 | 1:30pm

**Sugar Cookie Decorating** | Ages 3+ | Tuesday, Dec 30 | 1:30pm

**Noon Year's Eve** | Birth & up | Wednesday, Dec 31 | 11:15am

#### 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, Dec. 6 | 12 – 2pm

**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 Mayor Thomas Renner and City Councilor Aurora Hurd on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 10:30am.

**Winooski Writes:** Did you know the library hosts a monthly writing group for new and established writers looking to share their work? Open to all genres and for those in the community looking for a supportive network of other writers to bounce ideas and receive feedback. Call or email for specifics and further info!

## 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

- December 2 & 9 | 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 | No meals on December 24 & 31
- 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.
- Sessions on December 5 and December 12

#### SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**Holiday Party & Sing Along** | Thursday December 18 at 12pm  
| 60+ | \$5 suggested donation | RSVP by December 11 | Limited Seating

**Mobile Pet Food Shelf** | December 28 | 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

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

It was so great to see you all again at the Fall Farmers Market! There's one more chance to catch our awesome vendors this winter — see you at the Holiday Farmers Market on Sunday, December 21, from 10am – 2pm at the Winooski Senior Center. We're excited to host over a dozen local farmers and makers with fresh food and artisan goods! Thank you to everyone who donated to the turkey drive for the Winooski Food Shelf!. We are touched by all the people and businesses who donated to make sure your neighbors could have a full table this holiday season. As the holidays continue, the Food Shelf still needs your support. Visit them at [winooskifoodshelf.org](http://winooskifoodshelf.org) to find out how to donate.

December is the perfect time to look back at a wonderful year, and we couldn't be more grateful to this incredible community for having so much fun with us this year. Thanks to you, we:

- held 26 farmers markets supporting over 80 Vermont vendor
- had 4 awesome Block Parties in the park with incredible local performers, celebrating Juneteenth, Pride, and our sweet community
- threw a frighteningly-good Halloween bash with a record turnout and SO much incredible community support
- welcomed dozens of local vendors to beloved downtown businesses during the Holiday Pop-Up Shop
- supported Main St. businesses through another construction season with the Mosaic campaign
- revamped our website to include more resources and information for visitors, residents, and businesses — including a brand new directory of Winooski businesses (check it out at [downtownwinooski.org/directory](http://downtownwinooski.org/directory))

Want to help us carry this awesome work into 2026?

Visit [downtownwinooski.org/donate](http://downtownwinooski.org/donate) to learn more about what we accomplished together this year and make a tax-deductible donation to support our organization!

## Winooski Food Shelf

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

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



**winooski  
food shelf**  
sharing food & giving hope

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Wednesday, December 3  | 12 – 3pm |
| Saturday, December 6   | 9 – 11am |
| Wednesday, December 10 | 12 – 3pm |
| Saturday, December 20  | 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.

**Donate during the holidays!** In past years, we've been able to purchase low-cost turkeys from the Vermont Food Bank. This year, that is not an option. We and your neighbors need your help for the holidays. To donate a frozen turkey, please drop it off at the Winooski United Methodist Church, 24 West Allen Street during our holiday hours (listed at [winooskifoodshelf.org/how-to-volunteer-donate](http://winooskifoodshelf.org/how-to-volunteer-donate))

## Howard Center

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

As we approach this season of celebration, Howard Center offers support and resources for those who wish to celebrate sober. Several programs are available for individuals seeking services for substance use, including medications for opioid and alcohol use disorder, harm reduction services, individual and group counseling, and care coordination.

If you or a loved one need support, contact Howard Center's Access and Intake team at 802-488-6000; [howardcenter.org](http://howardcenter.org). For 24/7/365 crisis support, call First Call for Chittenden County: 802-488-7777 or 988 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 supports and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs.

Wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season.

**Celebrate Sober!**



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

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

**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 @WinooskiLearns

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