

# The Winooski Newsletter

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

JANUARY 2026



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

## From the Superintendent

*By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Winooski families and community,

Welcome to 2026. As the days begin to get longer again, I am reminded of something my mother often mentioned growing up in my faith tradition: we are sent into the world to be light, especially when it is dark. There is no need for light when everything is bright. But a single spark in darkness, dim as it may be, can awaken hope.

As I reflect on the year that just ended, I must accept that it was hard personally and professionally. There are times when I think about how things could be easier if we were a more “conventional” community by Vermont’s standards or if we did not have to constantly witness the frequent dehumanization of our people. I know that many will not feel the effects of the rhetoric and actions or will not understand why some of us are “making a big deal” of it. Or maybe not everyone will feel pain



at the same time. I have personally accepted this tension and chosen to live with the truth that we will always be criticized as long as we do not choose to ignore the suffering of others, especially the people our schools serve.

As we go into the year 2026, my wish is that every member of our city and schools remembers that our futures are interconnected, and that at times it is best to decenter ourselves in the midst of turbulence. De-centering means asking ourselves, “how can I help?”

I am proud of our students when I see them engaging in dialogue based on this principle. Over the last twelve months, I have seen them show up for each other and take risks that most adults would not take. I draw my inspiration from them, and I will forever be so proud to represent them. That is how we will be light in darkness.

Have a peaceful and joyous 2026.

## School Board Update

*By Robert Millar, Board of School Trustees President*

This December has been one of the more difficult months I have experienced in all my years in Winooski, and in all of the different roles I have served in in our City. There’s no denying that. And it comes at the end of a long year that has been, at best, extremely tumultuous – for our City, for our State and Country, and for the world at large.

But by the time you read this update, it will be January, the beginning of a whole new year. It won’t be very obvious, yet, but the days will be getting longer. New Years, much like the Policy Governance framework we follow as a Board, is about looking to the future, not dwelling on the past. And the future can be as bright as we are all willing and able to make it.

How do we get through when times seem tough, though? When each day seems to bring some new upset and upheaval to our lives and to the lives of our friends and neighbors? Last August, I gave a speech to teachers and staff in which I talked about two things that help me personally stay grounded in hard times and I’d like to share them with you, as well. Those things are rest and community.

It may seem obvious to say, but rest is incredibly important to all of us as human beings. Unfortunately, it’s also harder and harder to come by in our modern world. We are constantly

inundated by information all the time, so much of it negative, by all of our electronic devices. We are bound to schedules that don’t match the natural rhythms of our bodies or the world around us. In some ways, rest has become almost a revolutionary act unto itself. But it is so very necessary for our health. If we don’t find ways to rest, even in the face of so much noise and chaos from the world around us, our bodies tend to find ways to force us to rest. And that is never good.

The other thing that helps me stay grounded is community. Community can be as big and boisterous as a sports game, a play or musical, or any other large gathering. Preferably with food involved! It can also be as small and soft as a quiet conversation over coffee or tea. One thing it most certainly is not, is scrolling endlessly online, refreshing our social media feeds over and over. The modern world has us more connected than ever, but, in many ways, further apart than we’ve ever been. True community is another fundamental human need and I encourage everyone to find it wherever you can. Community reminds us that we aren’t alone, that we have support, and that we are all in this together.

For me and the School Board right now, community also means working to build the best budget we can for the coming

*(continued on page 2)*



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

school year, a budget that both serves our students well and is as affordable as possible for taxpayers. Our work is made harder by all the uncertainty at the Federal and State level, uncertainty that shows no sign of being resolved anytime soon. But, as always, your local School Board will continue to do the best we can for you, our friends and neighbors. We hope you can join us at one of our budget meetings on January 7th or 14th, or share your feedback with us in other ways. We want you to be a part of the process. We are, after all, all in this together.



### Thank You for Supporting the WSD Necessity Store

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our community members, alumni, staff, and families for your generous donations and volunteer support. Your kindness allowed us to reopen and expand the Necessity Store during a time of nutritional uncertainty and ahead of the school breaks.

Because of you, we were able to provide free food, essential supplies, and hot meals to community members in need.

Thank you again for showing what makes Winooski so special.



### Preschool Skills Screening and Registration Event

If your child is or will be 3 by September 1st, 2026 we encourage you to complete the registration process in PowerSchool and attend our Preschool Skills Screening & Registration event. Completed registrations are required to participate in ACT 166 Publicly Funded Pre-K or to inquire about attending the Winooski Early Childhood Program. If you have concerns about your child's development, our Winooski Early Childhood team will screen your child's development. This screening is play-based and free for 3 and 4-year-old children living in Winooski.

**When:** Friday, February 20, 2026.

**Where:** In the preschool classroom D185 at JFK Elementary School.

**How to register:** Please contact our Early Learning Office, Tina Carroll at [tcarroll@wsdvt.org](mailto:tcarroll@wsdvt.org) or 802-383-6138 to schedule an appointment for you and your child to come to the Preschool Skills Screening & Registration event on February 20, 2026.

For more information about preschool, opportunities visit our WSD website under *Pre-Kindergarten*

### Upcoming Winooski School District Schedule:

- **Monday, January 19:** No School (Martin Luther King Day)
- **Monday, February 23–Tuesday, March 3:** No School (Late Winter Break)
- **Friday, March 20:** No School (Eid)
- **Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27:** Early Release, Middle High School Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **Monday, April 20–Friday, April 24:** (Spring Break)
- **Thursday, May 7 and Friday, May 8:** Early Release, JFK Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **Friday, May 22:** Early Release
- **Monday, May 25:** No School (Memorial Day)

### With Gratitude

On behalf of the Winooski School District, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to Jeffrey Brosseau and the Knights of Columbus for their continued generosity year after year. Your thoughtful donation of coats has made a tremendous impact on our students and families. Many of our young people who are in need benefit directly from your kindness, and your support helps ensure that they stay warm, comfortable, and ready to learn throughout the winter months.



We are truly grateful for your unwavering commitment to our community. Thank you for standing with us and for always lifting up our students in meaningful ways.

### Vita-Learn Honors Drew Blanchard with Prestigious Educational Technology Award

Vita-Learn (Vermont Information Technology Association for the Advancement of Learning) has announced Drew Blanchard as the recipient of the 2025 ISTE Making IT Happen Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to advancing educational technology in Vermont.



With more than 25 years in education, Drew has been a leader in helping teachers integrate technology to enhance learning and create flexible, student-centered experiences. The award celebrates his leadership, innovation, and ongoing efforts to empower educators and students through technology.



### 1st Graders Share Their “Magnificent Things” With Families

Our 1st grade students recently completed their Magnificent Things project, a hands-on learning experience focused on responsibility, initiative, collaboration, and perseverance. Working in small groups, students identified classroom needs and created helpful tools such as an “In Box,” “Lost and Found,” and “Listening Tools.” To celebrate their work, families visited the classrooms to hear student presentations. Students explained what they created, shared the steps they took, and answered thoughtful questions from their families. It was a joyful celebration of creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork!

### SAVE THE DATE: Winooski Career Café

Join us for the second annual Winooski Career Café on **March 26, 2026**, a community networking event and open house that brings students, families, and local organizations



Participants at the 2024 Career Café

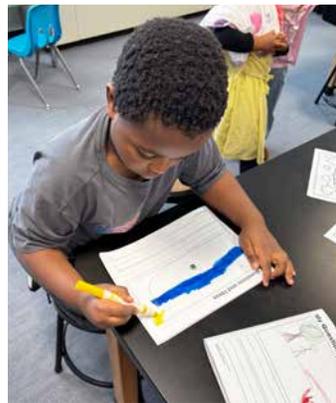
together to explore career pathways and build stronger community connections. More details coming soon! If you are a local business or community member interested in getting involved, we would love to partner with you. We’re actively seeking more Winooski-based organizations to help students explore the career opportunities right here in our city. Community members can also support our FIRST Robotics Team, which builds STEM skills and leadership and collaboration—valuable for any future career.



## Science Comes Alive at JFK: Learning Through Fun and Discovery

By Angela Moulton, K-5 Science and Health Teacher

Science is going STRONG at JFK. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm, energy, and joy of learning in our new space. In a short time, students are demonstrating the ability to communicate effectively, work in groups, and engage in dialogue about the real-world problems we are studying. In one fifth-grade class, when I called for cleanup, multiple voices asked, “Can we just have two more minutes?” They are hungry for science.



Kindergarten and first-grade students are learning about the properties of wood, paper, and fabric to design a shelter to keep their food from getting warm. They have discovered that fabric comes from both plants and animals.

Second- and third-grade students are discovering the properties of solid matter. They learned how to describe the world around them with words like ‘flexible,’ ‘rigid,’ ‘transparent,’ and ‘round.’ They are using this knowledge to build towers that can withstand wind.

Fourth and Fifth grades are learning about mixtures and solutions to solve the real-world problem of runoff into our lakes and ponds. They are working in teams to remove the salt from water by evaporation. They are figuring out how to share materials and discuss the experimental process so they can get results.



## Facing Our Monsters: Middle School Culminating Event

Our 7th and 8th grade students recently completed their *Facing Our Monsters* project and hosted a culminating event to share their work with families and the school community.



As part of this interdisciplinary unit, students worked in ELA to write narratives featuring monsters that symbolically represented personal fears or challenges. In integrated Theater and Art lessons, students conceptualized how their monsters would look, move, and sound, and used their science knowledge to consider the creatures’ behavioral and physical adaptations.

These ideas came to life in Visual Arts and Theater, where students created 2D illustrations, 3D sculptures, and Shadow Theater performances showcasing their monsters in action.

The culminating event highlighted the imagination, storytelling, and creativity of our middle school learners, and we are incredibly proud of what they accomplished.

## ADVANCING LITERACY AND JUSTICE: Caitlin MacLeod Bluver Presents at Conference for Social Studies

Caitlin MacLeod Bluver presented at the National Conference for Social Studies, where she shared how honored she was to hold space for our students and to advocate for the culturally relevant, responsive literacy instruction they deserve in every classroom.

Her session, *Literacy is Liberation: Strategies to Teach Struggling Readers and Work Toward Justice*, highlighted current science-of-reading research and its implications for strengthening literacy practices in secondary social studies.



## Work-Based Learning: Building Career Pathways in Winooski

By Jessica Handrik, Flexible Pathways and Work-Based Learning Coordinator

The Work-based Learning program continues to be a driving force in helping Winooski High School students discover, explore, and prepare for meaningful careers. Last year, we highlighted how our Work-based Learning Coordinator was “cultivating pathways of engagement” both within the school and throughout the community. Since then, these opportunities have only grown stronger.

Winooski students are now consistently showing up—and standing out—at major career readiness events across the region, including Manufacturing Day at GlobalFoundries, Career Day at BETA, Women Can Do!, the Women in Cyber Summit, and the EdRise Education Conference. Our FIRST Robotics team also plays a powerful role, helping students build technical, teamwork, and leadership skills that make them strong candidates for competitive college and apprenticeship programs.

The Work-based Learning Program closes access gaps by meeting students where they are, offering career exploration field trips on weekends to mitigate the impact on the school day, and removing transportation barriers. These include Girls Who Code at UVM and Governor’s Institutes One-Day Adventures. As the school’s GIV Ambassador, I work closely with the GIV team to increase access and acceptance into this key opportunity in Vermont to experience college life and explore career interests. The goal is to create opportunities for students to gain experiences they can add to their resumes and college essays, and to call on when discussing their future with advisors, counselors, and other trusted adults. A student who has taken advantage of both of these opportunities, 10 grader Sam says, “ This program sets a lot of students up for success and it gets them ready to make a choice for which they career they will go to and I feel like this program and this role that you take is very important because for me it has opened many doors, including learning how to code. This program gives students the experience to do what they are determined to do. Like, let’s say I am determined to be a nurse. There is the health program we went to, and I feel like it really opens doors to those opportunities and lets students experience things, even as a 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grader.

A key metric in Work-based Learning is the new relationship with HUSKY, which so far has yielded an apprenticeship for a graduating senior.

Quote from Husky: As recruiter Devon McGarry states, “We are proud of this collaboration and happy to see it starting to have an impact on the Winooski community.” Hope to see it continue to grow!



*Winooski High School students meet with city leaders during a behind-the-scenes visit to City Hall, including tours of the police and fire departments and conversations about career pathways in local government.*

This year, we’ve also increased our job shadows, including a thriving relationship with the Radiology Department at UVM, thanks to Doug Sutton, manager. Says 10th grader Shagan: “This experience really taught me about the workplace environment in these sectors of radiology. A crucial moment for me was in Diagnostic Radiology. Seeing the calm but fast-paced environments really encouraged me to pursue my career in the medical field.”

Locally, Winooski-based partnerships remain a top priority. Guided by the recent Equity Report’s findings—which highlighted the need for more Winooski residents to hold key jobs in the city—the Coordinator is working to expand high-quality, local career exploration and employment pathways. Here are a few highlights:

- **-Black Sacred Soul** – Hosted a student intern last year and is currently accepting applications for a new internship opportunity.
- **City Hall Engagements** – Students participate in small-group discussions with the City Manager and city staff. The first session took place before Thanksgiving, with three more scheduled this year.
- **Dwellness** – Offering informational interviews and potential entry-level employment pathways.
- **Physician’s Computer Company (PCC)** - Offering summer internships, launched in summer 2025. This past summer, Arij interned with the Marketing team, where she completed a full marketing research project on how pediatricians use social media. She created and distributed a survey and flyer at PCC’s Users’ Conference—reaching nearly 300 pediatricians—and concluded her internship by presenting her findings to the entire company. Her work provided valuable insights that will help PCC continue supporting pediatricians in their mission to care for children.
- **VHV** - Hosting tours and holding informational sessions at the school about apprenticeship opportunities
- **Preci** - Hosting an internship supported by a Work-based Learning Training Plan
- **Vermont Construction Company** - hosting a course this spring
- **CCV** - while a state-side institution, actively engaging with the CPEP program and with our Winooski location ensures that we have access to opportunities like a special spring course just for seniors with BETA as the community partner.

**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> Grilled Cheese Sandwich <b>Vegetables</b> Tomato Soup Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>6</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 Entree</b> Chicken Patty Sandwich Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich on a WG Bun <b>Vegetables</b> Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>No School</b> <b>1</b> <b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>8</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>No School</b> <b>Lunch Entree</b> Spaghetti with Meatballs <b>Vegetables</b> Lemony Broccoli Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Waffles &amp; Eggs Waffles &amp; Sausage Patties <b>Vegetables</b> Homestyle Potatoes (Homefries) Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>13</b> Buffalo Chicken Quesadilla Taco Cheese Quesadilla <b>Vegetables</b> Calabacitas con Elote (Squash with Corn) Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>14</b> Local Boyden Beef Hamburger on Whole Grain Bun Veggie Burger on Whole Grain Bun <b>Vegetables</b> BBQ Beans Roasted Potato Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>15</b> Bang Bang Chicken &amp; Rice Bowl Chicken Fried Rice <b>Vegetables</b> Honey Garlic Roasted Broccoli Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Brown Rice</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>16</b> Pasta with Meat Sauce <b>Vegetables</b> Glazed Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>19</b> Chicken Poutine Bowl Chicken Ranch Wrap <b>Vegetables</b> Lemon Garlic Sauteed Spinach Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Whole Grain Rolls</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>20</b> Nacho Bar <b>Vegetables</b> Fiesta Corn Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>21</b> Bahn Mi Sandwich BBQ Chicken Sandwich <b>Vegetables</b> Seasoned Green Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>22</b> Oven Fried Chicken <b>Vegetables</b> Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Whole Grain Roll</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>23</b> Macaroni &amp; Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>26</b> Roasted Chicken Ramen Bowl 2MMA 2 WG Chicken Lo Mein <b>Vegetables</b> Orange Ginger Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Chicken Al Pastor Tacos Taco Bar <b>Vegetables</b> Ranchero/Charro beans, Scratch Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>28</b> Turkey Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun Chipotle Chicken Sandwich <b>Vegetables</b> Roasted Potato Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>29</b> Popcorn Chicken and Gravy Bowl <b>Vegetables</b> Sauteed Spinach Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Whole Grain Roll</p>	<p><b>Lunch Entree</b> <b>30</b> Cheesy Baked Ziti <b>Vegetables</b> Roasted Cauliflower Daily Salad Bar</p>



# Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Thomas Renner

**Budget season is in full swing here in Winooski**, and the City Council has begun our review of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. I strongly encourage everyone to stay engaged throughout this process! Your input truly guides our decision-making. You can follow along with the full budget schedule, presentations, and materials at [winooskivt.gov/fy27](http://winooskivt.gov/fy27). The budgeting process is a constant balancing act of needs from each department, wants from residents and the need to tackle a long list of unfulfilled wants and needs in our city. As Council has sat through some of the budget presentations so far, this year is no different in the complexity of the balancing act that is needed to keep our city running.

**I also want to take a moment to share important news from Councilor Aurora Hurd**, who has announced they will not be seeking reelection this March. Councilor Hurd has been



a thoughtful, compassionate leader over the past four years. dedicated to inclusion, accessibility, and the long-term wellbeing of our community. Their voice and perspective will be deeply missed on the Council, and on behalf of the City, I want to extend our sincere thanks for all they have contributed. We wish them the very best as they focus on their health and career, and we look forward to their continued involvement in new ways.

**I hope you all had a restorative December and enjoyed the many holidays that bring light and meaning to this season.** As we continue into the heart of

winter, may we each find moments of calm, connection, and peace in these long, dark nights. Thank you for your continued engagement and care for our city. I look forward to the work ahead as we move into the new year together.

## Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process

**The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget process continues!** How do you want your tax dollars spent? As always, residents are strongly encouraged to get involved in the process.

To view the proposed budget and full schedule of public meetings, visit [winooskivt.gov/fy27](http://winooskivt.gov/fy27).

**In December**, the City Council and community received the Overall Budget Presentation & General Government Presentation (administrative services, and City functions like the City Clerk's Office, elections, parking, etc.), as well as the Public Safety Presentation (police, fire, and code enforcement).

You can view the recorded meetings and presentations at [winooskivt.gov/fy27](http://winooskivt.gov/fy27).

### COMING UP:

**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 26: 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!

**TBD (February):** City/School Community Event.



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 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.

**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.



## Main Street Revitalization Project Update

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

Main Street Revitalization Project finished its 2<sup>nd</sup> construction season in December. Work is paused for the winter and will start again in spring 2026. Independent utility companies will keep working this winter to move electrical and telecommunication lines underground.

This season was a big step forward: all underground work is complete, and road construction made great progress:

- Crews finished replacing the water and sewer pipes, stormwater systems, and added new underground utility infrastructure.
- Between the railroad bridge near Maple Street and Stevens Street, the road is fully reconstructed with three layers of pavement, permanent striping and markings, curbs, sidewalks, brick pavers, streetlights, landscaping, and trees.
- Initial traffic signal work also began at near the Winooski Fire Department and the Spring Street intersection.
- Between Stevens and Tigan streets, crews put down two layers of pavement, new curbs, and segments of new sidewalks, brick pavers, and landscaping.

With underground work finished and visible improvements taking shape, Main Street is on its way to becoming a safer, more vibrant place for the residents and visitors of Winooski.

**Stay Informed:** A Project Update will be shared before construction starts again in spring 2026. Sign up for email updates at [winooskivt.gov/mainstreet](http://winooskivt.gov/mainstreet). A new update is available in 15 languages on the project website.

### Questions or concerns?

Contact our public information team: 802 595 4399 or [info@winooskimainstreet.com](mailto:info@winooskimainstreet.com)

## City Hall Reminders

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



## Running for Local Office on Town Meeting Day

Interested in running for local office? The following terms are up for election on Town Meeting Day (Tuesday, March 3, 2026):

### Winooski City Council

- Mayor (1-year unexpired term, 2027)
- City Councilor (2-year term, 2028)
- City Councilor (2-year term, 2028)
- City Councilor (1-year unexpired term, 2027)

### Winooski School District School Board

- Treasurer (3-year term, 2029)
- Trustee (3-year term, 2029)
- Trustee (2-year term, 2028)
- Trustee (1-year unexpired term, 2027)

Residents must file a Consent of Candidate form and petition with a minimum of 30 signatures (more are encouraged) by 5pm on Monday, January 26, 2026. Forms can also be obtained at the City Clerk's Office, or online at [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov). File your form and petition at the City Clerk's Office (27 W Allen Street, M–F, 8am–4pm). Reminder: any legal resident, regardless of citizenship status, can run for local office and vote on city/school ballot items. Candidates - please visit [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov) to view our lawn sign policy. Questions? Call or email the City Clerk's Office: 802 655 6410 | [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.

**Winter Parking Bans Began 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:

- New Year's Day: January 1, 2026
- MLK Day: January 19, 2026

**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).

## 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

##### February Break Camp

Grades K-5 | Monday–Friday, February 23–27

##### Cartooning and Comic Book Club

Ages 8-13 | Mondays, March 9–April 13

##### Youth Climbing

Ages 5-8 | Tuesdays, March 10–April 14

Ages 9-13 | Thursdays, March 12–April 16

##### Very Merry Theatre

Ages 6-13 | Wednesdays, March 4–April 15

**Community Recycling Challenge**

- Collect cleaned out plastic bags and other plastic wrapping such as produce, bread, dry cleaning, ice, and cereal bags
- Bring collected plastics to a drop-off location (O'Brien Community Center, City Hall, Senior Center) and put plastics in drop-off boxes
- All collected clean plastics are logged into the challenge
- Once the community has recycled a total of 1000lbs, the city earns a FREE bench to be placed in one of our parks!



### 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–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

**Puzzle Party** | All ages welcome | Friday, January 2 | 1:30pm

**Community Helper Storytime** | Ages 2-5 | Fri., January 9 | 10:30am

**Food Challenge** | Ages 5+ | Friday, January 16 | 3:30pm

**Reading Dragons & Friends** | Ages 5+ | Friday, January 23 | 3:30pm

#### ADULTS

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

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

**1:1 Tech Assistance** | Ages 18+ | Saturday, January 24 | 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 the City of Winooski's Department of Public Works on Friday, January 9th at 10:30am.

**Free Veggie & Produce Distribution:** Thursday, January 15 from 3:30–5:30pm. The library has partnered with the Intervale Center to provide FREE produce to our community members! Stop by the lobby of the O'Brien Community Center for our winter distribution event! Please bring your own reusable grocery bags. Seasonal items available on a first-served basis

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



### Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425

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

[seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov)

#### TUESDAYS

##### New American Community Connections

January 6, January 13 | 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

RSVP by 12pm the previous Wednesday |

Healthy sit-down Meals from Age Well

#### FRIDAYS

##### Singing Group | 10:30–11:30am | Free | Drop-in

Music can help sustain cognition and quality of life

Sessions at Senior Center: January 9, January 30

Sessions at O'Brien Community Center: February 6, February 27

#### SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

##### Elvis Birthday Party | January 7

12pm | 60+ | \$5 suggested donation

##### Mobile Pet Food Shelf | January 25

1–3pm | FREE Pet food and items for those in need

##### Bone Builders Exercise | Free | Monday & Wednesday | 2–3pm

##### Meals on Wheels

Please call Age Well at 802 865 0360 for eligibility - volunteer drivers are always needed!



### Thrive Afterschool

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

The 2025/2026 Thrive Afterschool year continues with excellence! Spaces for the September 2, 2025–June 5, 2026 Afterschool program are still available for all incoming kindergarten through 5th grade children.

Our state-licensed, childcare/enrichment program runs at the Winooski School District from 3pm–5:30pm, Monday–Friday (closed on school closure and early release days). Children in grades K-5 explore, learn, and grow during their afterschool hours by engaging with creative arts, STEM and hands-on activities, cooperative and socio-emotional learning, outdoor play, and more.

Kids can attend specific days of the week (\$19/day) or enjoy full-week enrollment (\$90/5 days). Vermont Childcare Financial Assistance Program (State subsidy) is available to cover costs – 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 us if you need help. Scholarships are available for those who don't qualify.

Visit [winooskivt.gov/thrive](http://winooskivt.gov/thrive) or more information and to register, or contact Evelyn Monje, Thrive Program Director: [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)

Happy New Year! Thank you for an amazing 2025. If you haven't had a chance, visit [downtownwinooski.org/donate](http://downtownwinooski.org/donate) to take a look at all we accomplished together last year and support our work going into 2026! It was great to see so many of you at the winter farmers market this season! We hope you enjoyed seeing your farmers a few more times before the end of the year. Interested in joining WFM next season? Keep an eye on our website! Applications are launching this month at [downtownwinooski.org/apply](http://downtownwinooski.org/apply). Farmers and food producers are especially encouraged to apply. Winooski is turning into a winter wonderland every Wednesday this January and February. With deals all around town, you won't want to miss out — it's Winooski Winter Wonderland Wednesdays! Winter can be tough on small businesses as tourists take flight and Vermonters hunker down. We want to encourage you to get out and about this season and enjoy all that Winooski has to offer. Don't miss exclusive deals from your favorite businesses every Wednesday. Visit [downtownwinooski.org/winter-wonderland](http://downtownwinooski.org/winter-wonderland) for all the details.

## Winooski Partnership for Prevention

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

**The Closing of the Hemp Loophole:** In the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress legalized the sale and production of hemp. Hemp is the same plant as Cannabis (also called Marijuana) with less THC, specifically 0.3 percent or less, on a dry weight basis. Though hemp was legalized in order to support economic development of its use in textile and CBD products, the same law created a loophole that incentivized lab-manufactured high-potency, highly intoxicating products that ended up in stores across the country and have hurt youth and adults. These products include delta-8 THC and others, are cheap, often available in Vermont and other states and marketed to youth. By closing this loophole and returning the cultivation and manufacturing of hemp to

## Winooski Food Shelf

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



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

Saturday, January 10	9–11am
Wednesday, January 14	12–3pm
Saturday, January 24	9–11am
Wednesday, January 28	12–3pm

**Where to find us:** We are located at 24 West Allen Street inside the green United Methodist Church. Our phone is 802-655-7371.

**Volunteers needed:** Please reach out to us at our e-mail, [winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com](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)

### Mental Health Urgent Care

**(MHUC):** If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, MHUC provides walk-in care at 1 South Prospect Street in Burlington, Monday–Friday from 9am–5pm. In addition to mental health support, peer support, suicide care, and related medical care are also available. Services are free. Call 802-488-MHUC (6482) or visit [howardcenter.org/MHUC](http://howardcenter.org/MHUC) to learn more. If you need general information about Howard Center's services or resources, please contact our Access and Intake main number at 802-488-6000; Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5pm. Howard Center helps people and communities thrive by providing supports and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs.



its originally intended purpose, we will be able to continue to regulate and maintain the integrity of the legal Cannabis markets in states that have them, such as Vermont. In addition, the law removes the potential for future lab-created, high-potency products to escape regulatory oversight: it regulates the effect of the products instead of their chemical composition. The FDA will be required to make rules on the chemical components and packaging limits now, with the full law going into effect in November 2026. **Resources: Quit the Hit** - A resource for teens to help them quit using vapes: [quitthehitnow.com](http://quitthehitnow.com). MyLife MyQuit is revamped! Now a totally anonymous app for teens: [vt.mylifemyquit.org](http://vt.mylifemyquit.org). 802Quits is still the place to get free nicotine replacement: [802quits.org](http://802quits.org).



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

**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

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