

The Winooski Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY 2026



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget & Town Meeting Day Election

By Elaine Wang, City Manager

What can you expect from the City budget you'll be voting on March 3, 2026?

As I am writing this, the City Council has spent several public meetings hearing from City staff on my proposed budget. As you are reading this, they will have decided on the budget you will see on the Town Meeting Day election ballot. Information on that budget is available at winooski.vt.gov/fy27.

Some likely features of their budget:

- Affected by costs going up for the City for labor and materials
- Much of the budget is for staff wages and benefits
- Contribution to external organizations that support the community increasing, including to Downtown Winooski and Green Mountain Transit
- May include strategic new staff

Council may ask you to vote for three bonds on the ballot. A bond vote is when residents decide whether Winooski should borrow money to pay for public projects and repay it over time through taxes. The total amount (around \$2 million) is lower than bonds voters have approved in the last ten years. The bonds I proposed to Council were:

- **East Spring sidewalk extension (\$500k, General Fund):** Continues the City's sidewalk plan. A yes vote now means the project cost to the City less, because it will be managed by the State with their Hood's Crossing signal project.
- **Police Department building improvements (\$900k, General Fund):** This building hasn't changed much since the Police moved into it in 1975. The floor tile contains asbestos; the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system has issues; and the layout doesn't function well. This project will resolve those issues.
- **Parking garage elevator replacement (\$580k, Parking Fund):** This elevator has had chronic issues due to water getting into the pit. This project will retrofit the system.

Questions about the budget can be emailed to budget@winooski.vt.gov.

The **Town Meeting Day Election** will take place on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026** from 7am-7pm at the Winooski Senior Center. To register to vote, and for all ballot, budget, and election information, visit winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting. For Winooski School District information, visit wsdvt.org/school-board/budget. **REMINDER:** all legal residents, regardless of citizenship status, may vote on City/School items during the Town Meeting Day election.

What's on the ballot?

- City and School budgets
- City Council and School Board seats
- Tentative City bond votes: police building renovation, new parking garage elevator, new sidewalk on East Spring street
- Much more! View the ballot summary and full details at winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting

Community Winter Supper

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
5 - 7 PM @ Winooski Schools
60 Normand Street

Join your neighbors for an incredible opportunity to build community! Enjoy free restaurant catering, connect with local leaders, City and School staff, engage in activities, learn about City and School programs, and have a great time. This event is free & open to all - residents, students, families, and community members are encouraged to participate.

winooski.vt.gov/supper

Scan the QR code for full details!



From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Winooski Community,
Thank you to everyone who took part in this year’s budget process. The Board’s proposed budget reflects careful planning and results in a projected 1% decrease in education property taxes for Winooski homeowners, despite a 4.6% increase in overall spending. This outcome is largely due to an increase in our weighted student count, which helped offset rising costs. While this provides some short-term stability, we remain focused on responsible planning as future budget years are expected to be more challenging.



As Vermont moves forward with Act 73, our Early Learning Department has remained closely engaged to understand both the intent and potential impact of these changes. It remains essential that we preserve access to prekindergarten for 3-year-olds while exploring expanded opportunities for 4-year-olds

within a mixed-delivery model, consistent with statewide recommendations. As education transformation continues, the state’s funding system must also reflect the true cost of high-quality early learning, inclusion, and family engagement so that young learners and families are not left behind.

One of the great strengths of Winooski is how connected our schools are to one another. This winter, that connection has been on full display—from middle and high school students cheering each other on during the winter sports season, to middle school chorus students performing alongside high school musicians during Expo Week in January. At JFK, our 7th and 8th graders meet weekly with their 2nd grade reading buddies, stepping into mentorship roles and modeling a love of learning. These moments, along with shared events like the middle and high school concert on February 12, remind us that learning in Winooski is a shared journey—one where students grow not only academically, but together.

Thank you for your continued support,

School Board Update

By Nicole Mace, School Board Trustee

On January 14, the Winooski Board of Trustees adopted a final budget amount to present to the voters for approval on Town Meeting Day. While there have been a lot of scary headlines the past few months about projected property tax increases statewide, I am happy to report that the Board’s proposed budget, which is 4.6% higher than last year’s budget, is projected to **decrease** Winooski homeowners’ education property taxes by 1%.

Community members may question how Winooski’s education property taxes could be going down, when our budget is increasing. A big reason for that is we saw an increase in our weighted student count, which is the actual number of students enrolled in the district, weighted for factors like English language proficiency, poverty, and grade level. Our weighted student count increased by 7% this year, which offset the increase in expenses and led to a projected decrease in the tax rate, from \$1.24 to \$1.23.

The Board’s budget includes some compromises and new investments. In order to comply with state class size guidelines, the Superintendent and his leadership team explored opportunities to reassign staff and take advantage of staff attrition. The budget does reduce the number of positions in the district by 10, but we anticipate that almost all of those reductions will be individuals who either retire or move on to other positions voluntarily. Importantly, the reductions will not impact the District’s ability to deliver strong academic and support programs.

On the investment side, this budget allows us to expand our preK program from 4 to 5 days a week. We are seeing the benefits of our investment in preK in our students’ readiness for kindergarten. This expansion will also allow for preK schedules that are aligned with our K-12 students, which has the bonus of access to unified arts courses for our preK students and reduced transportation costs for the district. We also increased our annual allocation for capital expenses by \$75,000, which is necessary in order to avoid deferred maintenance costs for our buildings. The full presentation with more details on the Board’s Budget is available on the website at this link: <https://www.wsdvt.org/school-board/budget/>.

In addition to the budget, the Board also approved ballot language that would authorize the district to purchase property on Normand St. This purchase will allow the district to launch new programming that will both better serve students, and save the district money.

Let me explain. Federal law requires school districts to serve all of their resident students in the least restrictive educational environment. Students who require a more restrictive environment have exceptional needs that cannot be met without significant specialized instruction and environmental adaptations in order to ensure their safety and the safety of school staff. Due to the intensive behavioral and mental health needs of these students and the very specialized programming that they require it is very difficult to meet the needs of these students in the public school setting.

(continued on page 3)

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE *(continued from page 2)*

As a result, these students are often served in schools outside of the district at considerable expense to the District. In addition to the exorbitant costs of these programs, most providers serving the districts in Chittenden County are already at capacity and have wait lists, which leaves our students receiving limited and less effective services.

Our administrative team has identified a unique opportunity to purchase property adjacent to the school campus that will allow us to build our own program that will be more cost effective and keep our students in their community, connected to their school, and better positioned to transition back into the main campus environment when they are ready to do so.

The district is proposing to use up to \$380,000 in last year’s surplus to purchase the property. This purchase will not impact your property tax rates but is expected to reduce our costs in future years.

This is a lot of information, and I bet you have questions! The good news is that school board members are eager to talk with you and answer any questions you have. Keep an eye out for announcements on Front Porch Forum for coffee time at Specs and Scout with school board members. The Board will also be hosting a dinner at the school with the Winooski City Council on February 3rd. I will be at the MHS Band and Chorus concert on February 12th, and we are reaching out to other community groups to identify more opportunities to speak with folks who have questions. Please reach out to us if you would like us to come speak with your organization or neighbors. We welcome opportunities to earn your support for this budget and property purchase over the next few weeks.

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

Preschool Skills Screening & 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 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.

Fairies and Monsters: Hopes for 2026 in K–5 Student Artwork

During the first week of school in 2026, K–5 students explored hopes, dreams, and challenges through art, inspired by local artist Emily Anderson of *Bluebird Fairies*. Emily creates fairies to represent hopes and dreams—and “demons,” which we called *monsters*, to represent the things that can get in the way.

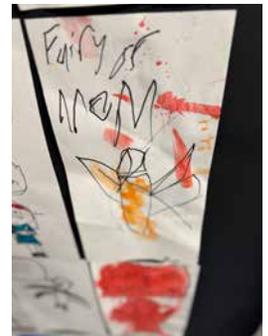
Together, students reflected on the year ahead and imagined fairies that symbolized their hopes, including:

- More time with family
- Better sleep
- Fewer mosquitoes
- More time to play
- New creative ideas

Students also talked openly about challenges that can weigh them down or make them feel stuck. Their monsters represented obstacles such as:

- Trouble falling asleep
- Perfectionism

Through drawing and reflection, students learned that naming challenges can be a powerful first step toward moving through them. Their thoughtful and expressive artwork is currently on display at JFK Elementary School.



PHOTOS: MIDDLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENT



Community Support Makes a Difference

Our school community felt the warmth of generosity just before winter break thanks to a thoughtful show of support from White Men for Racial Justice, in partnership with North Country Community Credit Union. The group organized and funded a staff breakfast on Tuesday, December 23, and generously donated \$2,000 in food gift cards to support students and families in need. We are grateful for this meaningful act of care and partnership that continues to strengthen the Winooski community.



WMS Student Art on Display at Scout & Co.

Before break, Winooski Middle School students proudly showcased their artwork at Scout & Co. Coffee Shop in downtown Winooski. The exhibit featured nearly 30 student self-portraits and symbolic “monster” artworks, each accompanied by a thoughtful artist statement. Students put tremendous care into both their visual work and their writing, resulting in a powerful, high-level collection that reflects creativity, self-expression, and reflection.

Thank you to the families and community members who joined us for the opening reception and helped celebrate our students’ hard work. A special shout-out to Emily Jacobs, WMS art teacher, for teaching, supporting, and guiding students throughout this process and helping them produce such meaningful, impressive work.

Heritage Language Morning Meetings: Building Community Through Language

By Erin Hurley

Over the past several months, something special has been happening on Tuesday mornings at JFK. Through our Heritage Language Morning Meetings (HLMM), students have been gathering to connect, talk, laugh, and learn together in the languages spoken at home by their families.



Now underway with 14 meetings held so far, HLMM has welcomed over 100 students Pre-K–5 across our four most spoken heritage languages: Nepali, Somali, Kiswahili, and Spanish. These meetings are designed to create a joyful and affirming space where students can build community, explore their identities, and celebrate their culture, all through the power of their home language.

Each meeting is led by our incredible multilingual liaisons, whose leadership and relationships with students and families make this work possible: Tul Niroula leads Nepali HLMM, Ana Saam leads Spanish, Baudouin Mulolo Mandaba leads Kiswahili and Mukhtar Abdullahi leads Somali. The liaisons are supported by ML teachers Erin Hurley, Elizabeth Wood, and Christie Moulton, who help facilitate and connect this work to the broader school community.

Students have shared how meaningful it is to use their heritage language at school—not just when they need support, but as something to be celebrated. For students, these meetings offer a sense of belonging and pride, along with opportunities to share stories, traditions, and experiences that matter to them.

Heritage Language Morning Meetings are part of a larger district commitment from the Family Engagement Team’s Heritage Language Sub-committee to honor multilingualism, strengthen family engagement, and support long-term goals such as having more students achieve the Seal of Biliteracy. As a pilot program, HLMM continues to grow and evolve based on student, teacher and family feedback.

We are grateful to the students who show up each month, the families who encourage them, and the staff who make this space possible. Together, we are lifting up the many languages and cultures that make our district vibrant and strong.

Career Exploration Panel Highlights Health & Medicine Pathways

Winooski High School recently hosted a Career Exploration Panel Series event focused on Health & Medicine Professions, a collaborative effort between the Flexible Pathways Work-Based Learning Coordinator, the Mentorships Coordinator, and the Mentorship Student Advisory Panel.

The panel featured:

- **Joseph Abdullah**, Winooski HS Class of 2025 and nursing student at the University of Vermont
- **Jesus Mendoza**, medical student resident at UVMHC/ Larner College of Medicine
- **Jamie Potts**, Phlebotomist at UVM Medical Center
- **Anthony Williams, M.D.**, Family Physician at UVMHC/ Larner College of Medicine

The event was facilitated by a Winooski High School Senior who is an aspiring medical professional, alongside Jessica Handrik, Flexible Pathways & Work-Based Learning Coordinator.



The audience included all 10th and 11th grade students, as well as interested 12th graders. Students led the discussion by asking thoughtful questions about career choices, educational experiences, extracurricular involvement, building community, and strategies for success after high school.

The panel provided students with valuable, firsthand perspectives on careers in health and medicine and encouraged them to reflect on their own interests, goals, and next steps.

Binti Aweis Honored with John Lewis Youth Leadership Award

Binti Aweis, Winooski High School Class of 2025, was selected as a recipient of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) John Lewis Youth Leadership Award. Organized by NASS, the award honored the legacy of Congressman John Lewis and was presented to individuals under the age of 25 who demonstrated leadership abilities, a commitment to social justice, and a desire to improve the quality of life in their communities.

Binti was honored at the Statehouse, recognizing her dedication to service and leadership. We were incredibly proud of this outstanding accomplishment.



Reading Buddies

Our 7th and 8th graders met their reading buddies in 2nd grade! One of the great strengths of our district is that our middle school and JFK students share the same campus, making cross-grade collaboration easy and meaningful. It was wonderful to see middle school students stepping into mentorship roles—reading together, building connections, and modeling a love of learning for their younger peers.



Nomfusi Live in Winooski – Free Community Performance

Join us on **Sunday, February 15 at 4:00pm** (doors open at 3:30pm) at the **Winooski High School Performing Arts Center** for a special **FREE** performance by **Nomfusi**, one of South Africa's most sought-after performers worldwide.

Blending the soul of Mama Afrika with the fire of Motown and soul, Nomfusi delivers an electrifying, intimate performance you won't want to miss. This event is presented in partnership with **the Flynn and the Winooski School District** and is open to the entire community.

**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 2 Macaroni & Cheese Chef Salad with Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 3 Nacho Bar Chef Salad with Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Fire Roasted Black Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 4 Penne with Meat Sauce Chef Salad with Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Daily Salad Bar Green Beans</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 5 Chicken Pot Pie Chef Salad with Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Daily Salad Bar Green Peas</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 6 Chicken Shawarma Cheese Pizza Chef Salad with Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Vegetables Spinach Side Salad Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p>Lunch Entree 9 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chef Salad with Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 10 Ground Beef Tacos Chef Salad with Chicken Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Fire Roasted Black</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 11 Chicken Parmesan & Marinara over Pasta (Made with Halal Chicken) Chef Salad with Chicken Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 12 Chicken Tenders Chef Salad with Chicken Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Roasted Potato</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 13 General Tsao's Chicken Cheese Pizza Chef Salad with Chicken Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Vegetables Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p>Lunch Entree 16 Waffles & Eggs Chef Salad with Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Homefries Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 17 Chicken & Vegetable Dumplings Chef Salad with Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Daily Salad Bar Honey Ginger Green Beans Grains Pineapple Vegetarian Fried Rice</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 18 Cheesy Baked Ziti Chef Salad with Chicken Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Side Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 19 Beef Cheeseburger Chef Salad with Chicken Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Cheese Pizza Vegetables Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>Lunch Entree 20 Oven Fried Chicken Cheese Pizza Chef Salad with Chicken Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Blueberry Yogurt Parfait with Granola and Graham Crackers Vegetables Daily Salad Bar Glazed Carrots</p>
<p>NO SCHOOL LATE WINTER BREAK 23</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL LATE WINTER BREAK 24</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL LATE WINTER BREAK 25</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL LATE WINTER BREAK 26</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL LATE WINTER BREAK 27</p>



Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Thomas Renner

I hope you all are doing well and taking care of yourselves. January was a busy month for City Council, with a strong focus on planning for the year ahead. **Council continued its review of the FY27 City budget**, hearing from Public Works and Community Services about the core services residents rely on every day—from plowing, paving, and infrastructure maintenance to our library, senior programs, parks, recreation, and youth services. These conversations help ensure we are making thoughtful investments that support safety, accessibility, and quality of life across Winooski. I encourage residents to learn more about the proposed budget and follow the process at winooskivt.gov/fy27, where you'll find budget materials, presentations, and opportunities to engage.

As a reminder to residents this winter, Winooski's winter parking bans are in effect from December 1 through March 31. In Downtown Winooski, overnight street parking is not allowed from 2:30–6:00 AM regardless of weather. Citywide, overnight parking is prohibited from 11 PM – 7 AM during snowstorms



and snow removal when alerts are issued. Residents are encouraged to sign up for alerts at nixle.com, text “Winooski” to 888-777, or call 802 540 1475 for landline notifications. February includes Valentine’s Day, a time often associated with love, and it also comes just before Town Meeting Day, when we will vote on budgets that support the services and programs our community relies on. **This month, I encourage residents to reflect on how we show care for Winooski—by staying engaged, supporting one another, and helping ensure our shared resources reflect our collective**

values. Loving our community means participating in it and looking out for our neighbors.

In that vein, I encourage residents to consider serving on one of the City’s commissions. The commissions are actively recruiting new members, and this is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the work of the City. You can learn more by visiting winooskivt.gov/representatives. Thank you, as always, for staying engaged and for helping make Winooski a strong, caring community. Hope to see you on the ice rink!

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco



As we move into the legislative session, the coming months will bring some of the most consequential decisions of the year—especially in **education, health care, human services, and the judiciary.**

Daily issues we face in Winooski are all deeply connected and the choices we make in Montpelier shape affordability, access, and opportunity for solutions—for years to come.

Education will remain front and center. There are hard conversations ahead about education. Rising costs, declining enrollment and inequities between districts are driving us to confront how we fund and structure public education. It’s important that Winooski is not burdened by decisions made without local context so expect continued debate and a real need for transparency and accountability of the state. **Health care reform will also take major legislative bandwidth.**

Whether as patients, providers, or employers, we are all feeling the strain of a health care system that is broken and entirely unaffordable. This session we’ll be addressing cost containment, insurance dynamics, and access to mental health and primary care. My focus will remain on protecting access to reproductive and gender affirming care, pushing for regulatory reforms that move us closer to universal care, and serving up more accountability and transparency measures for the entities with the biggest bottom lines in Vermont. **Human services are under pressure—and need structural solutions.** From

child welfare and disability services to substance use treatment and housing supports, our human services system is stretched thin. Providers face workforce shortages and funding instability, while families are navigating long waits and disconnected care. I will be looking at how we can oversee these dynamics to ensure care is safe, reliable and coordinated—especially for children and families who rely on them the most. **Judiciary and public safety issues will demand attention as well.** Access to justice, and the intersection of the justice system with mental health and substance use remain pressing challenges. We have legislation aimed at improving court efficiency, protecting due process, and reducing the ways our justice system becomes the default response to unmet health and social needs. This work is complex and necessary but I am going to focus on very practical solutions. I’ll also continue to ask hard questions and center your experiences in these conversations. **In recent months, I’ve had the opportunity to work with many of you in your professional roles,** and I’ve been struck by how many Winooski residents are helping lead positive change across our state—from expanding licensure for internationally trained physicians, to shaping the Rural Health Transformation Plan, representing union workers, and even stewarding the state treasury. Winooski is full of change-makers at a moment when Vermont truly needs them. Thank you all for your service. To see bills I’ve introduced or that I’ve co-sponsored please go to <https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/single/2026/37391>.



Main Street Revitalization Project Update

winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet

Construction is paused for the winter and will resume in spring 2026! This winter, utility companies will continue relocating electrical and telecommunication lines underground. They will manage their own traffic control and notify affected property owners directly about any short term utility interruptions. Once this work is completed, the existing utility poles will be removed.

The contractor will return in the spring of 2026 to complete the remaining project work. Major construction is expected to finish by the summer of 2026, with full contract completion set for fall 2026. Work planned for the final construction season in 2026 includes:

- Paving and installing line striping
- Upgrading traffic and pedestrian signals
- Constructing sidewalks, installing brick pavers and streetlights, planting trees, and completing landscaping
- Early spring: streetlight installation
- Paving is anticipated to resume in May

Stay Informed: a project update will be shared before construction resumes in spring 2026. Sign up for email updates at winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet. Project information is available in 15 languages on the website. Questions or concerns? Contact our public information team: 802 595 4399 | info@winooskimainstreet.com.

FYI: the Exit 16 Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) Project will install new traffic signals within the project area, at the Main Street and Tigan Street intersection, as part of its Phase 2 construction. For updates on this Vermont Agency of Transportation project, visit exit16ddi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov and sign up for email notifications.



City Hall Reminders

Open 8am–4pm, Monday–Friday
winooski.vt.gov/clerk | 802 655 6410

How to Access an Interpreter in Government Buildings in Winooski: The City of Winooski has partnered with the Vermont Language Justice Project to create informational videos - you can request a phone interpreter at Winooski City Hall, the Winooski Police Department, the Winooski Memorial Library, the Winooski Senior Center, and the Community Services Office! A staff person can help you use the “I Speak” sign to request an interpreter over the phone.

Scan the QR code to watch a video to learn more (provided in English, Arabic, ASL, Burmese, Dari, French, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Maay Maay, Mandarin, Nepali, Pashto, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, Kiswahili, and Vietnamese).

Winooski City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026, for President’s Day.

Tax and Utility Payments are due on February 15, 2026. Because the due date lands on a Sunday, and City Hall is closed on Monday, February 16, payments will be accepted before 8 AM on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Recreation and Parks

winooskivt.gov/recprograms

802 540 1476 | recreation@winooskivt.gov

YOUTH

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

Vermont Patriots Youth Soccer

U6 Clinic | Saturdays, May 2 – June 13

U8-U12 | Weeks of April 27 – June 7

Outdoor Adventurers Camp

Grades K-5 | June 15 – 18

Chess Wizards Camp

Grades K-5 | June 22 – 26

Very Merry Theatre Camp

Grades 1-6 | July 13 – 17

Dream Team Sports Camp

Grades K-5 | August 10 -14

Creative Spark Camp

Grades K-5 | August 17 – 21

Summer camp registration and Myers Memorial Pool season passes will open February 1!



Winooski Memorial Library

32 Malletts Bay Avenue | 802-655-6424 | library@winooskivt.gov

winooskivt.gov/library

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

Drop-in programs:

YOUTH

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

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

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

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

Community Helper Storytime | Ages 2-5 | Fri., Feb. 6 | 10:30am

Open Art Hour | All Ages | Fri., Feb. 6 | 3:30pm

Birding for Kids with Audubon | All Ages | Sat., Feb. 7 | 10:30am

Food Challenge | Ages 5+ | Friday, Feb. 13 | 3:30pm

Reading Dragons & Friends | Ages 5+ | Friday, Feb. 20 | 3:30 pm

Pokémon Day Party | Ages 4+ | Friday, Feb. 27 | 3:30pm

ADULTS

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

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

Free Veggie Distro | Thursday, Feb. 19 | 3:30 – 5:30 PM

Community Helper Storytime: Join the Winooski Library for a monthly storytime dedicated to the helpers who make our community a better place. Each month features special guests who introduce young learners to their work and read a book with us. Our next visit on February 6th will be with Taryn Barrett, Owner and Principal Architect at Duncan Wisniewski, who is designing the new Library project!

On the Move: As we inch ever closer to starting construction on a new library space, we are targeting a move in March to a temporary library space located at 65 Winooski Falls Way. During this time, the library will be closed for about a month as we settle into our new location. Stay tuned for further updates and looking forward to welcoming the community again through our (new) doors in April!

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425

winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter

seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov

TUESDAYS

New American Community Connections

February 3 and 10 | 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+ | \$7 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 O'Brien Community Center: February 6 - 27

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Valentine's Day Party | Wednesday February 11

12 PM | 60+ | \$7 suggested donation | RSVP by February 4

AARP Tax Aide | Mondays & Fridays February 6 – April 10

Free Tax Preparation for anyone – call 802 655 6425

Mobile Pet Food Shelf | February 22

1 – 3 PM | Free pet food and items for those in need

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

PM

Meals on Wheels | Call Age Well at 802 865 0360



Thrive Afterschool

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! Additionally, Thrive will be opening enrollment for Summer Camp programming on February 1, 2026!

Themes:

- **Artistry Adventure:** June 22 – 26
- **Cheffing Up:** June 29 – July 2
- **Olympians:** July 6 – 10
- **Thrive's Got Talent:** July 13 – 17
- **Splish Splash:** July 20 – 24
- **Storytelling Spellbinders:** July 27 – 31
- **Legendary:** August 3 - 7

Families can enroll online at winooskivt.gov/programs or with a paper application that must be returned to Evelyn Monje, Thrive Program Director. Questions? Call or email: 802 233 8188 | emonje@winooskivt.gov

Sign up for
Community Services
Programs & Events!



winooskivt.gov/programs

Downtown Winooski

downtownwinooski.org

Happy February! We hope you're enjoying **Winooski's Winter Wonderland**. Did you know you can find deals around town every Wednesday all the way through March? Visit downtownwinooski.org/winter-wonderland for the full list of discounts and be sure to support local this winter season!

While you're out and about, we hope you'll enjoy the ice-skating rink in Rotary Park, provided by Winooski Recreation and Parks. Please be sure to skate at your own risk, share the space, read the posted signs for rules and info, be safe, and have a great time!



While February is a quiet time for us, we're busy behind the scenes getting ready for our inaugural **Casino Night** fundraiser at Waterworks Food+Drink on March 7th! Join us for a night of fun and games as we raise money for another year of programming. Sales from this ticketed event will support our events and operations. Enjoy casino games, local prize packs, a DJ, and a cash bar. Space is limited, so be sure to get your tickets at downtownwinooski.org/casino-night. Thank you to 106.3 NBZ-FM, Waterworks Food + Drink, and Winooski Organics for helping us make it happen, as well as all the businesses donating awesome prizes!

We're also getting ready for this summer, and applications are now open for the **Winooski Farmers Market** summer 2026 season! Visit downtownwinooski.org/apply to submit your application. Please be sure to read the posted rules and regulations before applying to be sure it's the right market for you. We love to see applications from Winooski-based businesses, and we'd especially love to hear from farmers and specialty food product producers. Help us feed Winooski! Reach out to farmersmarket@downtownwinooski.org with any questions.

St. Francis Xavier School

sfxvt.org

New Roots, Elder Wisdom Connections

A gathering of the generations to build bridges between the new youth (Grades 6th – 12th) and rooted senior members of Winooski to share their experiences, stories, enjoy free food, and participate in engaging activities. This event aims to foster meaningful connections, develop relationships, and build community ties within Winooski. All are Welcome!

- **Sunday, February 15, 2026** from 3–5pm at the Winooski Senior Center (123 Barlow Street)
- RSVP: 802 655 2290 | sfxchurch@vermontcatholic.org
- Transportation to the event is available, please request when you RSVP.

Winooski Food Shelf

winooskifoodshelf.org



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

Wednesday, February 11	12 – 3 PM
Saturday, February 14,	9 – 11
Wednesday, February 25	12 – 3 PM
Saturday, February 28	9 – 11 AM

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.

Town Meeting TV

cctv.org

Town Meeting TV's 2026 election coverage is underway! Get to know the



candidates and what's on your ballot before you vote on March 3. Tune in for Winooski budget and ballot item presentations, plus City Council and Mayoral candidate forums. Watch on Comcast 1087 and YouTube.com/TownMeetingTV. Community members are welcome to attend forums in-person and are encouraged to call 802-862-3966 during live broadcasts to ask questions. Forums are held at the Town Meeting TV studio located at 294 N Winooski Ave in Burlington. Visit cctv.org/tmd2026 for the full forum schedule and more information.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

winooskiprevention.org

We love Winooski! In honor of a month often associated with love, we want to hear what you love about Winooski! Did you know that having a strong connection to the community and where you live can be protective against substance use disorders? There are lots of things in Winooski that promote health - sidewalks, street trees, parks, a library, teachers and other adults who care, but we want to hear what YOU love most (bonus if it's something that helps you be healthy). Tell us what you love about Winooski and we'll put quotes together on our social media. Email Marielle at mmatthews@winooskiprevention.org with your thoughts and make sure to follow us on social media! A few more things we LOVE are free treatment and recovery support. All these services are ready to love you back: 802quits.org for quitting smoking or vaping; vthelplink.org for alcohol, cannabis, and other drug use treatment; vt.MyLifeMyQuit.org for teens looking for help quitting vaping nicotine or cannabis products.



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
 Emily Bowers, *Secretary*, 802-383-6000, ebowers@wsdvt.org
 Elom Essiba, 802-324-9431, eessiba@wsdvt.org
 Katie Livermore, 802-383-6000, klivermore@wsdvt.org

CITY OF WINOOSKI
www.winooskivt.gov, 802-655-6410

Mayor
 Thomas Renner, 802-922-3265, trenner@winooskivt.gov

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

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

City Clerk
 Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, 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