

The Winooski Newsletter

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

APRIL 2026



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

O'Brien Community Center Renovation, Library Relocation

By Ray Coffey, Community Services Director

The transfer of day-to-day management of the **O'Brien Community Center** from the City of Winooski to the Champlain Housing Trust was successfully completed in 2024. The City and Champlain Housing Trust have agreed to a redevelopment plan for the O'Brien Community Center, located at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue, including significant environmental remediation, construction, and renovation, resulting in a new and improved community center for the residents and visitors of Winooski to enjoy for years to come. To begin this process, the Winooski Memorial Library and the Community Services Department offices will temporarily relocate to the vacant space at 65 Winooski Falls Way (formerly leased by Commodities Market). For full details about this process, please visit winooskivt.gov/news.

The Winooski Memorial Library will have its last day of operation at the O'Brien Community Center, located at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue, on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Beginning May 3, 2026, the library will be closed for the remainder of May while they prepare for the temporary move to 65 Winooski Falls Way. During this closure, all in-person services and programs will be paused. However, online services will remain available 24/7 for Winooski Library cardholders. Printing services will still be available at the City Clerk's Office at Winooski City Hall from Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm. **The library plans to reopen between June 1 and June 15, 2026** (date to be announced) at 65 Winooski Falls Way. Once reopened, hours will be Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm, with the library closed on Sundays and Mondays. A 24/7 book drop will be located outside the entrance. Community members can view programs, events, and services at winooskivt.gov/library. Those



who live in the neighborhood but do not yet have a library card can sign up online at the same website or stop by the library once it reopens. Assistance will also be available by phone at 802 540 1719 or by email at library@winooskivt.gov. **Parking around the temporary location at 65 Winooski Falls Way will not include free parking**, as the move is temporary. For quick visits, several 15-minute courtesy spaces are located in the area. Paid parking is available for \$1 per hour on Winooski Falls Way, Cascade Way, and Abenaki Way, as well as in

the Winooski Parking Garage at 20 Cascade Way, with payment available at kiosks or through the ParkMobile app. Construction is estimated to begin in the fall of 2026. This schedule is subject to change. If community members wish to support the redevelopment of the O'Brien Community Center, they can make a gift online at getahome.org/donate-obrien.



“The Winooski Memorial Library is a welcoming place where people of all ages discover new ways of learning, access essential resources, build life skills, and connect with one another. Membership grows as word spreads about programs like March Meowness, knitting, and more - making it clear that Winooski needs more library. As a cornerstone of community well-being, the library plays an essential role in bringing people of all ages together. Our local leaders successfully advocated to expand and strengthen this critical community asset so it can continue meeting the needs of everyone who relies on it. This next phase will bring a temporary transition while the work moves forward, so things may look a little different for a while -

but it's all in service of building an even stronger library for Winooski. I hope to see everyone soon at the new temporary location!” — Representative Daisy Berbeco



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.



From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria,
Superintendent of Schools

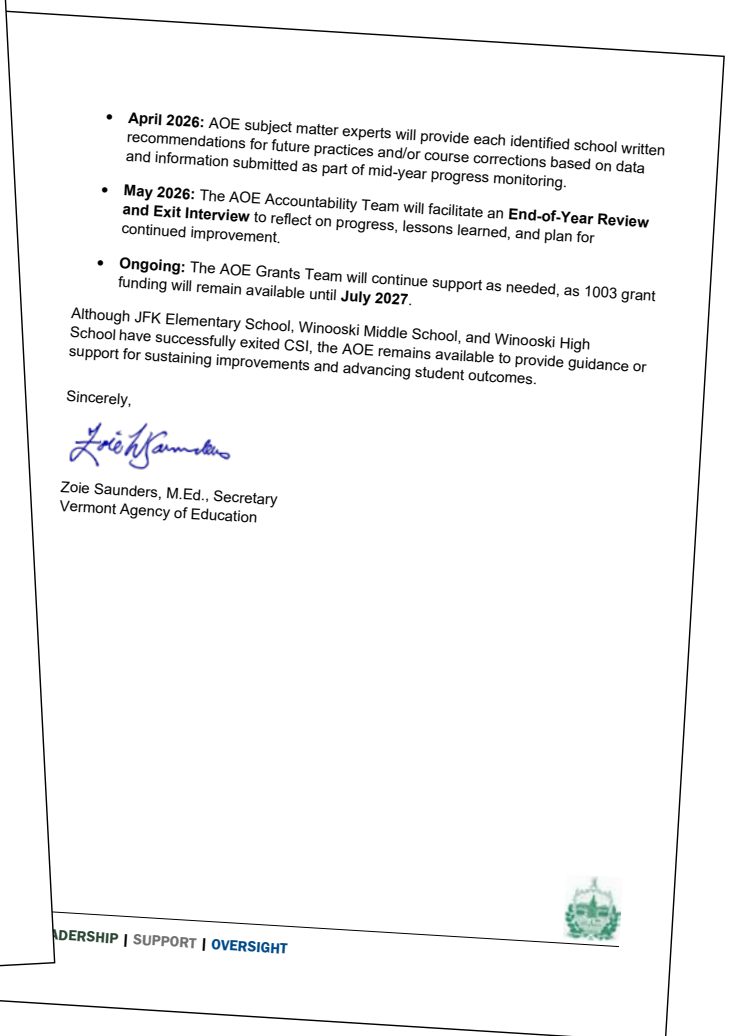
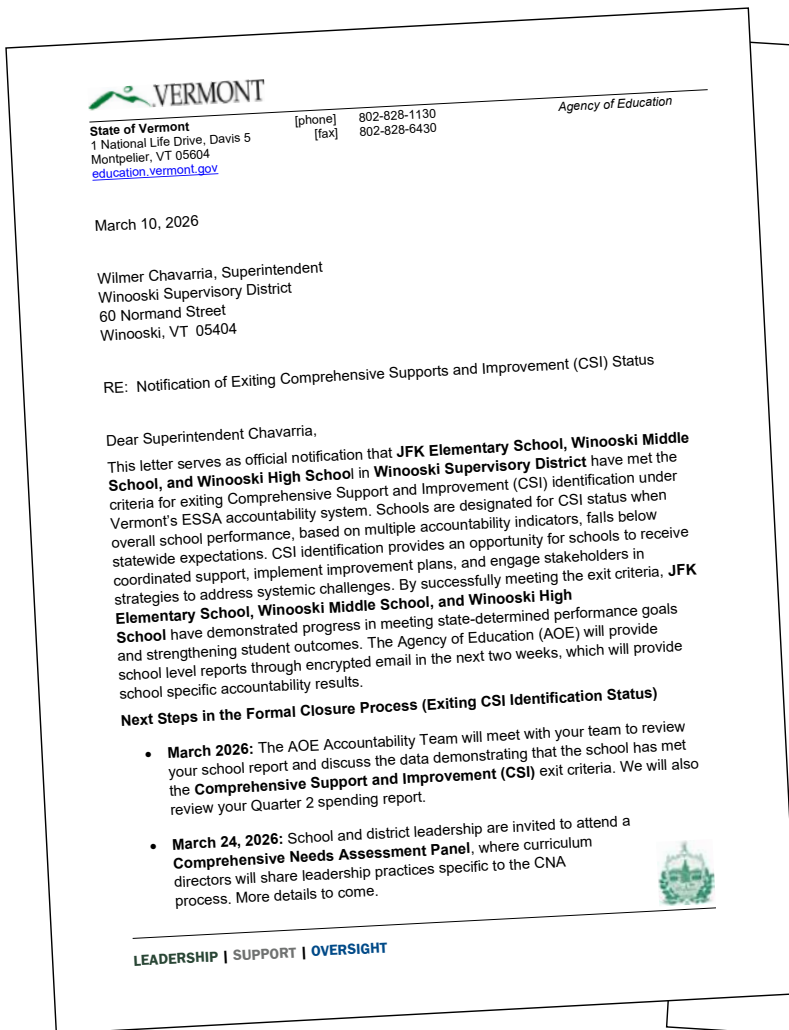
This fall, Winooski received encouraging results from the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (VTCAP), showing growth across grades and subjects over the past three years.

The progress reflects the steady, daily work of our educators and staff supporting students and helping them grow over time.

Recently, the Vermont Agency of Education also recognized this progress. Winooski schools are no longer designated by the

state as in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement, a status the district had held for many years. While standardized tests capture only part of the story of student growth and belonging in our schools, the results affirm the important work happening in classrooms every day.

Below is a letter from Vermont Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders recognizing this milestone and the progress made by Winooski students and educators.



Kindergarten Screening

If your child will be 5 by September 1st, 2026 and your child does not currently attend the JFK Preschool Program you will need to register them for kindergarten screening.

When: Friday, April 10, 2026

Where: JFK Elementary School

How to register: Please contact Linda Casier at 802-655-4011 or email lcasier@wsdvt.org.

School Board Update

By Katie Livermore, Board of School Trustees

I feel incredibly grateful for so much as I write this. First of all, I want to give a huge shoutout to everyone who voted on Town Meeting Day- thank you so much for the overwhelming support for our schools you expressed through your approval of the school budget. I, for one, am very grateful to live in a community that so deeply values our young people and their education, and I do not take that for granted.

This past budget season was my first one as Board member, and I am grateful to fellow Board members Robert Millar, Nicole Mace, Elom Essiba, and Emily Bowers for the hard work and dedication they put in over the past few months developing this budget, and for patiently helping me get up to speed.

Thank you to every community member who was involved throughout the process- we really do value your feedback! A special thank you to our Budget Buddies, who volunteered a lot of time and provided many helpful insights.

Thank you also to our incredible District Staff - specifically Superintendent Wilmer Chavarria, Director of Finance & Operations Sarah Haven, and District Office Manager Erik Johnson. Their care,

expertise and hard work throughout the budget season makes a challenging process much smoother.

Your ongoing support of our schools is having a measurable impact. As you can see in our Superintendent's update, our District was recently notified that all of our schools are meeting statewide expectations and are therefore being removed from the Agency of Education's "comprehensive support and improvement" list. This is significant because these statewide expectations are not designed to account for the different starting points of English language learners, students experiencing poverty, or various other student groups compared to their peers. Although we had data to show our District has been effective at closing the gap, because Winooski serves a unique student population compared to the rest of the state, we were still previously falling below the state's threshold. Congratulations to Superintendent Chavarria on being the first superintendent in recent history to achieve this, and thank you to our incredible teachers and staff who are doing the day-to-day work to make this possible! If you would like to

see more data on this, there is more comprehensive information in the March Superintendent's Report to the Board, available on the Board website.

Finally, a Board-specific update. Each year after Town Meeting Day we have a reorganization meeting. At our most recent meeting, the Board chose Nicole Mace to take over as Board President, and former President Robert Millar to serve in the role as Vice President. Robert expressed a desire to take a small step back from the significant time commitment and responsibilities of the President role due to family and work obligations. I want to publicly thank Robert for his service to our District as President these past few years. He put in countless hours developing agendas, answering questions, attending extra meetings, leading new Board member orientation, and many other roles. Thank you, Robert! We are a more effective Board because of you. Thank you also to Nicole for being willing to step into the role of President! Nicole is extremely experienced and dedicated to this work, and we are in good hands under her leadership.

Staff Wellness Day

Our recent Staff Wellness Day was a celebration of connection, creativity, and well-being in all its forms.

We started the day together with a shared breakfast and later gathered again for lunch — simple but meaningful time to pause and enjoy one another's company. Throughout the day, staff chose from a wide range of workshops designed to support both physical and mental wellness.

Some got moving with soccer, volleyball, and basketball, while others embraced adventure with a backcountry skiing experience at Bolton — skinning up the mountain

and skiing down together for a true "hearty" challenge. For those seeking a slower pace, options included yoga, quiet reading, and mindfulness activities.

Creative sessions featured bread making, blending herbal teas, nail painting, and even karaoke — filling the building with music and laughter.

A special thank you to Patrice, our district wellness coordinator, for thoughtfully planning and coordinating the day. We are also incredibly grateful to our workshop facilitators — our own staff members — who generously shared their time, talents, and passions with colleagues.

Staff Wellness Day was a powerful reminder that when we take care of ourselves and each other, we strengthen our entire school community.



Visual Art Grades 7 / 8

For their final project of their semester in art class, students created artwork featuring wildlife species of Vermont. These wildly talented young artists focused on capturing thoughtful details and realistic textures, as well as the connections between animals and the world around them.



DM, gr 8, Bluebird and Leatherleaf



CK, gr 8, The Bear and the Bees



AM, gr 8, Eastern Bluebird



EW, gr 8, Woodland Circle



NP, gr 7, A Mother's Love

KC Artist Statement:

For this piece, I wanted to show the connection between one of the smallest and biggest creatures in Vermont. The black bear and the bumble bee are connected by the red buffalo berries that the bee pollinates, and that the black bear eats. For this piece, I used Prismacolor colored pencils. I hope that when people see this, they are reminded that the whole forest is connected, no matter the sizes of or differences between the animals.

Translating the Written Word into Visual Art

These grade 9-12 artworks showcase where students have served as translators between the literary and visual arts.

Tasked with analyzing the words present in music, poetry, or a quote, these artists have aimed to capture the emotional essence of their chosen texts.

Each piece reflects an exploration of aspects of the Creativity GX process (generating ideas, experimentation, and awareness of process), bringing the written word to life.



Community Comes Together for Sixth Annual Iftar

Our district community gathered recently for the 6th Annual Community Iftar, a tradition that continues to grow each year. What began as a small gathering has become a beloved event in Winooski, bringing together 350–400 students, families, and community members each year to share a meal and celebrate community during Ramadan.



One of the most special parts of this evening is that it is largely student-led. Students helped plan the event, welcomed guests, and shared what the celebration means to them. During the program, students spoke about the significance of Ramadan in their lives, reflected on community and gratitude, and even shared poetry.



The meal itself reflected the generosity and spirit of Winooski. Some food was purchased or donated by local restaurants, while much of the meal was lovingly prepared by our students and their families, creating a truly community-centered feast.

Open to everyone in Winooski, the Community Iftar has become a staple event that students look forward to planning each year. It's a powerful reminder of the diversity, generosity, and connection that make our community so special.



Thank you to our Partners

By Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver

Our Winooski Wanderers, an outdoor adventure club, is really in full swing. We aim to make the outdoors accessible to our Winooski students who may not typically get outside. This year, we have been on hikes (big and small), rock climbing, and cross-country skiing. We are gearing up for our first backpacking trip this Spring. We are incredibly grateful to our partners:

- Catamount Trail Association, which helped get our students on skis.
- Petra Climbing, which helped get our students climbing for the first time
- Cochran's Ski Area, which got our students downhill skiing for the first time
- Vermont Glove, who donated over 20 pairs of gloves and mittens
- Darn Tough, who donated plenty of socks to keep our toes warm
- Ministry of Culture, who donated hats and warm gear for our crew
- Untapped, who donated their products to fuel our adventures.

If you would like to learn more, get involved, or support our adventures, please reach out to Caitlin at cmacleod-bluver@wsdvt.org or Chris at cflaherty@wsdvt.org

A Permanent Place for Prayer, Youth, and Community in Winooski

By Mukhtar Abdullahi, Board Member, Islamic Community Center of Vermont and Multilingual Liaison, Winooski School District

For 15 years, the Islamic Community Center of Vermont (ICCVT) has served Muslim families across our region while operating out of rented spaces. During that time, our community has grown, our children have grown up here, and Vermont has become home.

Today, we are grateful to share that ICCVT is under contract to purchase a permanent facility that will serve as a mosque and community hub for generations to come.

This new space will provide room for prayer, youth programs, educational gatherings, and community connection. It will offer a safe and welcoming environment for young people, a place of companionship for elders, and a gathering space that reflects the shared values of care, respect, and service that strengthen

Winooski and our state.

To complete the purchase, we are working to raise \$300,000 within 40 days to cover the down payment and closing costs. ICCVT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

We invite our neighbors to be part of this important milestone. To learn more or to make a donation, please visit www.vticc.org or search online for the “Islamic Community Center of Vermont Building Fund.”

With gratitude for the support and kindness that define our Vermont community, we look forward to building a permanent home that will serve and welcome many for years to come.



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>Spaghetti with Meatballs 1 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Italian Herbed Sautéed Zucchini Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>Bang Bang Chicken & Rice Bowl 2 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Honey Garlic Roasted Broccoli Whole Grain Graham Cracker Vegetarian Fried Rice</p>	<p>Cheese Pizza 3 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>
<p>Grilled Cheese Sandwich 6 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Tomato Soup</p>	<p>Waffles & Sausage Patties 7 Grab & Go Lunch Kit: Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Homefries Breakfast Syrup</p>	<p>Cheesy Baked Pasta 8 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Meatball Marinara Sub Daily Salad Bar Italian Herbed Sautéed Zucchini</p>	<p>Chicken Patty Sandwich 9 Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Fresh Roasted Broccoli with Garlic 1/4 c Savory Baked Beans Bar: Whole Wheat Dinner Roll</p>	<p>Cheese Pizza 10 Creamy Buffalo Chicken Salad Wrap Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Chicken Patty Sandwich Spinach Side Salad Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p>Chicken Tenders 13 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Cheese Pizza Daily Salad Bar Baked Beans Whole Grain Rolls</p>	<p>Beef Hamburger 14 Grab & Go Lunch Kit: Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) BBQ Chicken Tenders Daily Salad Bar Roasted Potato</p>	<p>Macaroni & Cheese 15 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Chicken Patty Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Seasoned/Roasted Carrots</p>	<p>General Tsao's Chicken 16 Grab & Go Lunch Kit: Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Stir Fried Broccoli Brown Rice (1 WG) VT</p>	<p>Cheese Pizza 17 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Seasoned Green Beans</p>
<p>Chicken Shawarma 20 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Roasted Cauliflower</p>	<p>Pulled Chicken & Cheese Nachos 21 Grab & Go Lunch Kit: Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Ranchero Beans</p>	<p>Spaghetti with Meatballs 22 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Fresh Roasted Broccoli with Garlic</p>	<p>Butter Chicken 23 Grab & Go Lunch Kit: Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Curried Potatoes & Peas Rice Pilaf</p>	<p>Cheese Pizza 24 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Glazed Carrots</p>
<p>Waffles & Sausage Patties 27 Grab & Go Lunch Kit: Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Homefries Whole Grain Graham Cracker Breakfast Syrup</p>	<p>Pulled Chicken & Cheese Nachos 28 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Fire Roasted Black Beans Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>Chicken & Vegetable Dumplings 29 Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Orange Ginger Carrots Asian Noodles Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>Chicken Patty Sandwich 30 Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fun Lunch: Yogurt, String Cheese, Granola (VT) Daily Salad Bar Garlic Roasted Green Beans Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	



Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Thomas Renner

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone who came out on Town Meeting Day and made their voices heard. Participating in local democracy is one of the things that makes our community so special. A big thank you as well to the volunteers and poll workers who helped make the day run smoothly. We truly couldn't do it without you. Winooski residents overwhelmingly supported the city budget and all the bond articles. Thank you for your trust and your support. The projects you approved are incredibly important to our city, and the budget reflects many months of work, collaboration, and community input - all with the goal of continuing to move Winooski forward. These are meaningful investments in our city that will benefit our community for years to come. **I also want to thank everyone who came out to Downtown Winooski's Casino Night.** It was wonderful to see neighbors gathering together, having fun, and supporting our local downtown! Events like that are a great reminder of how strong our sense of community is. **At our first meeting with the newly seated council, we set our**



meeting schedule for the upcoming year. If you'd like to see when council meetings will take place, you can find the full schedule at winooski.vt.gov/council. As we move forward into the year, I've been thinking a lot about how important it is for communities like ours to look out for one another. **Now more than ever, it's important that we come together, support our neighbors, and make sure people know they are not alone.** Winooski has always been a place where people care about each other, and continuing to strengthen those connections will always make our city stronger. Along those lines, I want to share a resource that many people may find helpful. The Vermont Asylum Assistance Project maintains a library of information and resources that may be useful to many in our community. I encourage you to take a look and share it with anyone who might benefit: vaap.vt.org. As always, I'm incredibly grateful to live in such a thoughtful, engaged community. Thank you for continuing to show up for Winooski and for each other.

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco



The week of March 10, many of us watched something unsettling unfold just a few miles away. **A federal immigration enforcement action in South Burlington led to an all-day standoff, protests, and several detentions.** Moments like this show how quickly questions about rights, due process, and government power shift from abstract debates to something

deeply personal. Regardless of where you fall on immigration policy, events like that force us to think about how we show up for each other when wellbeing, rights, and dignity feel threatened. **In Winooski, we answer that question every day.** When a local business struggles to keep its doors open, the community rallies. Many of our small businesses have spent years giving back—hosting fundraisers, opening their doors so residents can meet political candidates, or providing space to organize around issues we care about. When those businesses need support, people show up, because in Winooski those relationships run both ways. We saw that same spirit recently at Winooski's community iftar. Hundreds of families and friends gathered, many attending for the first time. It was a reminder that diversity is not just something we talk about here—it's something we actively support and celebrate together. That culture of showing up for one another matters more than ever right now. The systems that govern us—protecting our rights and wellbeing—are only as strong as the values behind them. **At the State House this year, much of our work has focused**

on making sure Vermont's systems protect people's rights and dignity. Bills like S.208, S.209, and S.227 aim to ensure that when government authority intersects with someone's life, due process, transparency, and fairness are centered. We are also working to make sure core systems like health care serve people when they need them. Across the country, private equity firms are increasingly purchasing hospitals and medical practices, often prioritizing short-term financial returns over health outcomes. My committee has taken steps to help ensure decisions about health care delivery remain rooted in communities rather than outside investors. Legislation like H.585 also aims to improve transparency, affordability, and access in our health insurance system. Another key focus is strengthening Vermont's mental health system. When someone experiences a mental health crisis, they can end up stuck in emergency departments for days before receiving appropriate care. I introduced legislation to reduce these bottlenecks so people can return home with support or move to higher levels of care more quickly. We are also focusing on youth mental health. My bill H.817 supports peer-to-peer programs in schools so young people can connect with resources earlier. H.816 explores guardrails around artificial intelligence in mental health care so technology strengthens—rather than replaces—the human relationships at the center of wellness. Underlying this work is a simple belief: public systems must protect rights, dignity, and wellbeing. Our strongest policies reflect the same values we see every day in Winooski—neighbors showing up for one another and building community across cultures and traditions.

City Hall Reminders

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”)

The City of Winooski acknowledges that the current operations of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (commonly known as “ICE”) have created great concern in the community. One of our strongest assets is our diversity; the incredible community of refugees, immigrants, and new Americans who live here, alongside our historical communities and those who have moved here from other parts of Vermont and the U.S., are all part of the mosaic that makes Winooski an exemplary place to live, work, and enjoy everyday life. The staff, City Council, and Winooski School District stand proudly together in solidarity with all our neighbors during this difficult and uncertain time. In difficult, uncertain, and evolving times, it can be helpful to communicate what we know and don’t know, and what we are doing, not doing, and exploring.

- What do Winooski officials know about ICE activities?
- What are Winooski officials doing about the situation?
- I live/work/go to school in Winooski – what can I do?
- What are my rights?
- What resources are there?

All these questions are addressed in a notice on our website winooski.vt.gov/news to learn more. Questions? Contact Elaine Wang, City Manager: 802 655 6410 | ewang@winooski.vt.gov

2026 Dog Licenses

All dogs owned in the City of Winooski must be registered with the City Clerk on or before April 1 of each year, per State and City laws. To get started, stop by the City Clerk’s Office at Winooski City Hall on 27 West Allen Street (Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4 PM) or call/email with questions: 802 655 6410 | clerk@winooski.vt.gov.

Please provide a copy of the current rabies certificate when registering.

Fees:

On or before April 1 - Altered: \$16 / Unaltered: \$20

On April 2 or after - Altered: \$18 / Unaltered: \$22

Please note:

- All dog licenses must be renewed every year
- Licensing helps ensure that dogs are properly vaccinated against rabies
- Registering dogs and providing tags helps return lost dogs to their owners
- Unlicensed lost dogs are commonly transported to animal shelters - avoid impounding and boarding fees!



Main Street Revitalization Project Update

winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet

Crews are scheduled to return to the Main Street project area during the week of April 6, weather permitting. They plan

to mobilize equipment and materials and install or uncover temporary traffic control signs and message boards as needed. Construction activities are scheduled to begin the following week on April 13. Throughout April, the contractor will focus on sidewalk construction. Crews will start on the east side of Main Street between Burling Street and Tigan Street by removing the temporary pavement and preparing the area for new concrete. Once that work is finished, they will repeat the same process on the west side. Pouring the concrete sidewalks will also begin on the east side and then move to the west. A subcontractor will return in mid-April to continue installing streetlights before the concrete sidewalk work begins. By the end of April, crews plan to install the traffic signal foundations at the Spring Street intersection. Work will mainly take place Monday through Friday, from 7am to 7pm. Independent utility companies will continue relocating telecom lines underground between Spring Street and the Winooski/Colchester town line. These companies will manage their own traffic control, and property owners will receive direct notifications about any brief service interruptions. **Looking Ahead to the Final 2026 Construction Season:** The final construction season will include final paving and permanent line striping from Stevens Street to the Winooski/Colchester town line, as well as upgraded traffic and pedestrian signals at the Winooski Fire Department and at the Spring Street intersection. Crews will also complete sidewalk construction, install brick and permeable pavers, add new streetlights, and plant trees and landscaping from Stevens Street to the Winooski/Colchester town line. **Traffic Impacts: The contractor does not plan to implement a 24/7 lane closure on Main Street and detour route to Tigan Street and Weaver Street this season.** Instead, construction activities will be completed under shoulder and parking lane closures, travel lane closures, lane shifts, alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers, and short-term side street closures with temporary detours. Traffic delays are likely, so drivers are encouraged to allow extra travel time when traveling through the project area, use other forms of transportation (carpooling, ridesharing, transit, biking, or walking), or consider alternative routes. **Stay Informed:** Sign up for project email updates at www.winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet. Questions or concerns? Contact our public information team: 802 595 4399 | info@winooskimainstreet.com.





Recreation and Parks

802 540 1476 | recreation@winooskivt.gov
winooskivt.gov/recprograms

Myers Memorial Pool

Season passes and swim lessons are open for registration!
 Visit winooskivt.gov/pool to sign up today.

Drop-in Gym Activities

Ages 6-12 | Saturdays, March 14 – April 11

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

Winooski Waves Swim Team

Ages 4-18 | Monday, Wednesday, Friday June 8 – August 3

Outdoor Adventurers Camp

Grades K-5 | June 15 – 18

Chess Wizards Camp

Grades K-5 | June 22 – 26

Chill Skateboarding Camp

Ages 11-17 | July 6 – 10

Very Merry Theatre Camp

Grades 1-5 | July 13 – 17

Dream Team Sports Camp

Grades K-5 | August 10 -14

Creative Spark Camp

Grades K-5 | August 17 – 21



Winooski Memorial Library

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

Please see the cover of this newsletter to learn more about the O'Brien Center renovation!

The Winooski Memorial Library will have its last day of operation at the O'Brien Community Center, located at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue, on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Beginning May 3, 2026, the library will be closed for the remainder of May while we prepare for the temporary move to 65 Winooski Falls Way. During this closure, all in-person services and programs will be paused. However, online services will remain available 24/7 for Winooski Library cardholders. Printing services will still be available at the City Clerk's Office at Winooski City Hall from Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM.

The library plans to reopen between June 1 and June 15, 2026 (date to be announced) at the temporary location on 65 Winooski Falls Way. Once reopened, hours will be Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm, with the library closed on Sundays and Mondays. A 24/7 book drop will be located outside the entrance. Community members can view programs, events, and services at winooskivt.gov/library.

Those who live in the neighborhood but do not yet have a library card can sign up online at the same website or stop by the library once it reopens. Assistance will also be available by phone at 802-540-1719 or by email at library@winooskivt.gov.

Parking around the temporary location at 65 Winooski Falls Way will not include free parking, as the move is temporary. For quick visits, several 15-minute courtesy spaces are located in the area. Paid parking is available for \$1 per hour on Winooski Falls Way, Cascade Way, and Abenaki Way, as well as in the Winooski Parking Garage at 20 Cascade Way, with payment available at kiosks or through the ParkMobile app.

Construction is estimated to begin in the fall of 2026. This schedule is subject to change. If community members wish to support the redevelopment of the O'Brien Community Center, they can make a gift online at getahome.org/donate-obrien.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425

winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter

seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov

TUESDAYS

Singing Group - Session ends May 19

10:30am – 11:30am | FREE | Drop-in

Music can help sustain cognition and quality of life!

- WEDNESDAYS

Breakfast Café

9am–11am | Priced by donation | Drop-in

Enjoy fresh breakfast foods, 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

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

AARP Tax Aide | Mondays & Fridays, ends April 10

Free Tax Preparation for anyone – call 802-655-6425

Mobile Pet Food Shelf | Sunday April 26 | 1 – 3pm | Free pet food and items for those in need

Bone Builders Exercise | Free | Monday & Wednesday | 2- 3pm

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 has more fun options with availability coming up! Families can enroll online at winooskivt.gov/thriveprograms or with a paper application that must be returned to Program Director, Evelyn Monje.

Early Release Days | May 7, May 8, and May 22

From 11am - 5:30pm, Thrive will offer childcare enriched with play and movement.

April Vacation Camp: Goin' Green | April 20 – 24

To celebrate Earth Day, Thrive will be “Goin’ Green” and spending lots of time outside, starting seeds, and having a blast! From 8:30am - 5:30pm, Thrive will make the most of this vacation week.

Summer Camps | June & July 2026

Thrive will be offering 7 weeks of fun and excitement during Thrive Summer! We always take a dip at the pool, spend time having fun in the sun, and make lots of new friends! Sign up at winooskivt.gov/summer.

Visit winooskivt.gov/thrive to learn more and register for any of our programs. For more information, contact Evelyn Monje, Thrive Program Director: emonje@winooskivt.gov | 802-233-8188.

Sign up for
Community Services
Programs & Events!



winooskivt.gov/programs



Downtown Winooski

downtownwinooski.org

Happy Spring! Thank you to everyone who enjoyed Winooski’s Winter Wonderland — from having fun on the ice skating rink, to supporting local businesses and enjoying their Wednesday deals. And a special thanks to those who came out for Casino Night. We had such a great time with you and are endlessly grateful for the funds raised to support our work this year.

While applications are closed for the general Farmers Market season, they will be opening this month for our special event days! Visit *downtownwinooski.org/apply* and sign up to be notified when applications open. Our special event days will be:

- May 31 - Winooski Service Carnival
- June 28 - French Heritage Day
- July 26 - Best Pooch in the Noosk
- August 30 - Fiber Fair
- September 27 - Youth Vendor Day
- October 25 – Halloween

We’re looking forward to another summer of fun in Winooski!

Winooski Food Shelf

winooskifoodshelf.org

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



Wednesday, April 8	1 – 3pm
Saturday, April 11	9 – 11am
Wednesday, April 22	1 – 3pm
Saturday, April 25	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*. 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

Howard Center’s Military and Veteran Program

The program offers active-duty service members, veterans, and their families confidential, trauma-informed mental health care, including counseling, care management, and help accessing community resources.



ALL veterans, regardless of discharge status, are welcome. Howard Center has clinicians who understand the unique challenges faced by those who have served, including PTSD, transition stress, and substance use.

- For information: Access and Intake; 802 488 6000
- For 24/7/365 crisis support: First Call for Chittenden County: 802-488-7777 or 9-8-8
- For immediate walk-in care for adults, visit Mental Health Urgent Care; 1 South Prospect Street, 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.

HomeShare Vermont

homesharevermont.org

We had the great fortune of having a table at the recent Community Winter Supper at the Winooski School District and came away feeling the pride you have for your wonderful city. The place was percolating with enthusiasm and we were able to share what homesharing is all about with many of you!



In short, we match people with room in their homes (hosts) with those seeking an affordable place to live (guests), for rent and/or help. Currently, we have three homeshare matches in Winooski and three hosts who we’re working with to find a match. One of these matches was even featured in a story that appeared on *Homes.com*.

We know there are more folks in Winooski who could benefit from homesharing. If you’d like to know more about what we do, please visit our website at *HomeShareVermont.org* or give us a call at 802-863-5625.



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
 Nicole Mace, *President*, 802-363-7777, nimace@wsdvt.org
 Robert Millar, *Vice President*, 802-238-0089, rmillar@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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA We are @WinooskiLearns

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

Mayor
 Thomas Renner, trenner@winooskivt.gov

City Councilors
 Deputy Mayor Bryn Oakleaf: boakleaf@winooskivt.gov
 Councilor Elsie Goodrich: egoodrich@winooskivt.gov
 Councilor Eli Ogilvie: eogilvie@winooskivt.gov
 Councilor Al Turkos: aturkos@winooskivt.gov

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