

The Winooski Newsletter

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

JUNE 2026



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Introducing Ladder 1

By Paul Sarne, Communications Director

The Winooski Fire Department proudly received the brand-new, highly anticipated Ladder 1 Fire Truck. To learn more about this critical piece of life saving equipment, we spoke with John Spittle, Fire Marshal/Battalion Chief about the exciting news.

Q: When does Ladder 1 go into service?

John: When staff training is completed, we expect Ladder 1 to be in full service by the end of May. Current drivers usually see about four to six hours of drive time, with an additional four operational training hours for the aerial (ladder) and water functions. New drivers get around eight hours of drive time, six operational.

Q: What kinds of service calls will Ladder 1 respond to?

John: This is Winooski's first ladder truck ever and will be first out on most calls for service. In the fire service, this is known as "first due out." We'll be responding to everything from structure fires to rescue calls and everything in between.

Q: What makes this fire truck different from the others in Winooski's service?

John: There's lots of cross-functionality between many of our vehicles, but Ladder 1 has thirty extra feet of reach (total of 100ft) which allows us to reach most of the buildings in Winooski, and in our neighboring communities when on mutual aid calls. One of the key differences is age - new equipment like this will provide many years of dependable service; the vehicle it replaced was more than 26 years old. It also includes all new radios, headsets, improved controls, automatic leveling, reduced set-up foot print, and other tech that allows us to do our jobs quickly and

safely - plus it's customized to seat five of our firefighters and carry other specialized firefighting equipment frequently utilized to mitigate emergencies. The design of the apparatus accounts for minimum staffing levels and will offer quick and safe deployment of resources.

Q: How does a City purchase a new firetruck?

John: The process started with the residents, who approved a special bond vote back in 2022. Once the financing was in place, we worked to develop a specification tailored to Winooski and our needs. Upon award of a competitive bid process, the local dealer Descorcie Emergency Products of Saint Albans worked closely with us to complete final design. From there, the ladder was manufactured by E-One Fire Trucks, and delivery took place in early May, 2026. We're so grateful to everyone involved in getting it here and hope the community takes great pride in this accomplishment. This new apparatus is well suited to meet the city's needs for many years to come.

Q: Speaking of community, how can people check out Ladder 1?

John: Ladder 1 will be in the Main Street Community Parade on June 6, and we hope to bring it

to as many community events as possible. We love being invited to those types of things, including neighborhood block parties. Let us know and we'll try to be there. And, if you join the fire service, you can drive it yourself! We're always looking for new people to join the fire service, and with the build out of our overnight facility on the horizon, there's never been a better time to start your career at the Winooski Fire Department.





From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools



As we head into the final week and a half of the 2025–26 school year, there is an atmosphere of celebration, and reflection across the Winooski School District. June

is always a special time in our schools, as we recognize the accomplishments, growth, and resilience of our students while preparing to celebrate important transitions and milestones.

Our students and staff are looking forward to several end-of-year celebrations that highlight community, joy, and student learning. Middle school students will gather for their all-school celebration at Camp Abnaki, while JFK Elementary students will hold their own all-school celebration to close out another successful year together. These moments are opportunities for students to connect, reflect, and celebrate the friendships and experiences that helped shape this school year.

At the high school level, students will soon present their capstone projects at the June Expo, showcasing months or years of learning, growth, and passion. One especially meaningful component of the Expo is Senior Speech Night, where graduating seniors share personal stories, reflections, and lessons they will carry into the future. These presentations remind us of the courage, perseverance,

and talent within our student body and the importance of creating spaces where student voice is honored and celebrated.

We are also excited to celebrate important transitions for our students, including the 5th- and 8th-grade moving-up ceremonies. These milestones represent not only academic achievement, but also the relationships, experiences, and personal growth students have developed throughout their time in our schools. The year will culminate with Winooski High School Graduation, one of the most meaningful traditions in our district. Graduation is a celebration of our students, their families, and the entire community that helped support them along the way. Dates and additional details for all upcoming events can be found throughout this newsletter.

As we celebrate the close of the school year, we are glad to share important progress in elevating student voice within district leadership. This spring, eight students stepped forward and ran for the opportunity to serve as student representatives to the Winooski School Board. High school students voted to select four finalists. These finalists were then interviewed by the School Board at the May meeting. After the interviews, the Board selected two students to serve as representatives.

The creation of student board representative positions reflects the Winooski School District's commitment

to authentic student engagement and shared leadership. Under this new structure, two students will participate in regularly scheduled board meetings, subject to Vermont law regarding binding motions. Student representatives will serve two-year terms, participate in training, receive mentorship from current board members, and have the opportunity to cast advisory votes on motions before the board. In recognition of the importance of this leadership role, student representatives will also receive academic credit and a stipend, subject to budgetary capacity.

This initiative represents an important step toward ensuring that student perspectives are not only heard but meaningfully incorporated into district decision-making. We are incredibly proud of the students who demonstrated the courage and leadership to step into this process and help shape the future of our schools.

As another school year comes to a close, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our students, staff, families, and community partners for making Winooski such a special place to learn and grow. Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and belief in our students. We look forward to celebrating these final moments together and finishing the year strong as one Winooski community.

School Board Update

By Robert Millar, Vice President, Board of School Trustees

It's hard to believe, but the end of the 2025-26 School Year is just around the corner! Throughout the District, final projects are being finished up, last assignments completed, and future schedules are being put together. The 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony will be on June 9th, the final student day is June 10th, and High School Graduation is Saturday, June 13th. Then it's on to the

future!

On the Board, we are always looking ahead, and in recent months, that has meant working on a new policy to add two student members to the Board. Historically, there have been student members, but not since the COVID pandemic. When discussions have arisen about restarting the practice, Board Members have been very clear that we

want to do things right. So this year, we created a committee with students, Board Members, and administrators to craft a strong policy that meets everyone's needs. This policy passed a first reading at our April meeting, and the Board asked Superintendent Chavarria to move quickly to create procedures and a process so that student members could be chosen

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SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE *(continued from page 2)*

in time for next year.

The selection process the Superintendent outlined will ensure we have student members who are engaged with their peers, thoughtful and collaborative, and committed to doing the work. Students will first go through an election process in which all MHS students will have the opportunity to vote; then the top four vote-getters will be interviewed by the Board, who will choose the final two members. This year, ELEVEN students stepped up to participate in the first election, which was held on May 12th! At our most recent Board meeting on May 13th, the Board interviewed all four finalists and chose sophomore Gabby and freshman Barakit

to join us on the Board starting in August. Congratulations to our new Board Members and to all the students who participated in the process! You should all be very proud.

At our May Board meeting, we also received updates about the ongoing education reform efforts in the Legislature. As of this writing, a bill has passed the House, but is likely to be significantly changed by the Senate. The best advice I can offer right now is to stay tuned and stay engaged with our local Legislators as the process continues. After these updates, the Board passed a resolution asking the Legislature to require that all “independent” schools that receive public tuition dollars meet

the same Education Quality Standards as public schools. This was offered as an amendment to the House’s education reform bill at one point but has not yet passed.

Also at our May meeting, we received an update about the Normand St property planning process. The architects the District hired have recently suggested that it might make more sense to tear down the existing house and build a new structure, and the Superintendent wanted to be sure we were aware of these discussions. No final decisions have been made, and the architectural planning process continues. We also received all our usual updates and reports, which you can find at www.wsdvt.org/school-board if you’d like to learn more.

Important End-of-Year Dates & Events at WSD

As the school year comes to a close, we have several exciting events and important dates to mark on your calendar. Please take a moment to review the schedule and ensure your student is ready to celebrate a fantastic year of learning and growth!

Senior Speech Night

- When: **Wednesday, June 3**, 6pm
- Where: WSD Library, Black Box Theatre, PAC, HS Classrooms
- What: 26 seniors from Winooski High School will deliver TED-style talks reflecting on what they have learned, what they leave behind, and what they will carry forward. A community reception featuring recipes created by the Food and Culture class will follow in the cafeteria from 7–8pm

JFK All-School End-of-Year Celebration

- When: **Thursday, June 4** (Rain date: Friday, June 5th)
- What: This annual tradition brings the whole school together for fun activities, games, and community spirit!
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** To make sure your student is ready for a day of fun, please send them to school with: a bathing suit, a towel, a sun hat, sunscreen and bug spray applied before school, comfortable shoes, weather-appropriate clothing. Need

to borrow a bathing suit? Please let your student’s liaison or classroom teacher know as soon as possible so we can make sure the right size is available.

High School Sports Awards Night

- When: **Monday, June 8**, 6-8pm
- Where: Performing Arts Center (PAC)
- What: Come celebrate the dedication and accomplishments of our student-athletes across all seasons!

8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

- When: **Tuesday, June 9** (doors open at 5:30pm)
- Where: Performing Arts Center (PAC)
- What: This special event honors our 8th graders as they prepare to transition to high school. Middle School Dance to follow from 6:45–8:30pm



5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

- When: **Tuesday, June 9**, 1:30pm
- Where: WSD Cafeteria
- What: This special event honors our 5th graders as they prepare to transition to middle school.

Last Day of School

- When: **Wednesday, June 10**, early release at 11am

High School Graduation

- When: **Saturday, June 13** at 1pm
- Where: WSD Gym
- What: Join us in celebrating the Class of 2026 as they graduate and move on to new adventures!

We look forward to ending the year strong with these special events and hope to see you there!

From the Health Office

By Liz & Darcy, School Nurses

It has been a true joy to serve the needs of your students this year. To date the health office has logged approx 9,800 student visits district wide, along with 775 vision and hearing screenings. We have triaged hundreds of phone calls and sent many students to the dentist via SSTA. Our partnership with UVM's Physical Therapy Department continues to grow as we offer physical therapy appointments for students through the Health Office. Our School Based Health Center (SBHC) continued to serve several hundred students throughout the year with 3 days a week of onsite operations and televideo appointments. Our amazing dental hygienist, Tracy, worked on site several days a week providing cleanings, screenings, sealants, fluoride treatments to students, and any urgent dental needs.

The Health Office could not do all of it without the collaboration and support of numerous community members. We would like to extend a deep and heartfelt thank you to the following professionals and businesses: Shannon Fountain, WSD Health Office Assistant, Dr. Heather Link, SBHC Provider and WSD Medical Liaison; Libby McDonald, NP-SBHC Provider; Sherry Larose, PA SBHC Provider, Tracy Towers, Dental Hygienist 802 Smiles; Reuben Escorpizo, PT, DPT - UVM Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science; Hillary Keating, PT-DPT- UVM Department of Physical Therapy; WSD Multilingual Liaisons; WSD Teachers and Support Staff; WSD Maintenance Staff; WSD Administration; DLO Saja Almogalli;

Brianna Owen, the University of Vermont DHHDB Educational Services Program; Kaitlyn Kodzis, VDH Stat School Nurse Consultant; Jessica Leclair, VDH representative; Chittenden County Lead Nurses; UVM School of Nursing; WSD PTO; Howard Center School Based Clinicians and other staff; SSTA; Community Health Centers of Burlington - Medical and Dental; Vermont Department of Health; UVM Primary Pediatrics; UVM Pediatric Endocrinology, UVM Pediatric Nephrology; UVM Pediatric Neurology; UVM Pediatric Urology; UVM Pediatric Hematology/Oncology; UVM Pediatric Orthopedics; St. Mike's Rescue; WSD Medical Emergency Response Team; and other local pediatric and family practices.

A few reminders for the end of the year and as we look forward to next school year:

Medications:

JFK students: We kindly request that parent(s) or a designated adult pick up their children's prescription medication(s) by 11am on June 10th

MSSH students: MSSH students are allowed to pick up their own epi pens and/or inhalers. All prescription tablet medications must be picked up by a parent or their adult designee by 11am on June 10th

All Students: Any prescribed medications left after this selected date and time will be disposed of at the Winooski Police Department.

Immunizations:

If your child is going to be in kindergarten then they will need an updated copy of immunization records. Please make sure they have had 5 doses of DTP/Dtap, 4 doses of IPV, 3 doses of Hepatitis B, 2 doses of MMR and 2 doses of Varicella. If they don't then please call your child's primary doctor to schedule an appointment for them.

If your child is entering the 7th grade, please make sure they have had their 2nd dose of Varicella and a tdap booster.

Do you exempt your child from immunizations? If yes, please make sure to stop by the health office before 11am on June 10th to fill out an exemption form for next school year. Otherwise, they are available on the Vermont Department of Health's website. Remember without updated immunizations, a renewed exemption form or a doctor's note stating their next appointment they may not be able to start school in the fall!

Forms can be sent to the health office fax which is 802.383.6017 or they can be emailed to eparris@wsdvt.org

Medical Conditions:

Does your child have asthma and/or allergies? If so, then please get the asthma/allergy action plan completed over the summer and have an inhaler, spacer and/or epi pen ready to bring in on the first day of school. The forms can also be faxed to 802-383-6017.

We have enjoyed serving the health needs of your kids this year and wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy summer.

5th Grade STEM in Action!

By Laura Niedecker, Teacher, Grade 5

The JFK Elementary 5th grade students participated in our annual STARBASE field trip at the South Burlington Air National Guard Base, where they explored hands-on STEM learning through a variety of engaging activities. During their time on base, students learned about Newton's Three Laws of Motion, built and launched rockets, programmed robots to complete

coding challenges, explored endothermic and exothermic reactions, investigated physical versus chemical changes, and experienced flight simulation activities.

On May 11, students had the opportunity to launch the rockets they designed and built — and they had an absolute blast watching them soar across the field.





Winooski Students Shine at Vermont Student Wildlife Art Expo

Several talented Winooski students were featured in the prestigious statewide Vermont Student Wildlife Art Expo in Richmond, showcasing artwork inspired by Vermont's natural world.

A huge congratulations to Clara, who earned 2nd place out of 50 entrants in grades 7–12 for her stunning colored pencil piece highlighting the connection between Vermont wildlife and ecosystems. In her artist statement, she wrote: "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 artwork, 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."

Congratulations as well to Jenny, Zuena, Dominique, Samayh, and Nishma, whose artwork was also selected for exhibition in this impressive statewide competition. We are proud of our students for sharing their creativity, artistic skill, and appreciation for Vermont's wildlife and environment.

JFK Students Raise Nearly \$1,000 Through Kids Heart Challenge

By Dennis Barcomb and Kyle Blindow, JFK PE Teachers



Students at JFK Elementary raised nearly \$1,000 for the American Heart Association to support life-saving work for people with heart conditions. Throughout the challenge, students connected with family and friends while using online resources from the association to learn about making heart-healthy choices every day. The program encouraged students to think about healthy habits both at school and at home. To celebrate their hard work and healthy choices, students took part in a large Heart Healthy Celebration in the gymnasium. Kindergarten through fifth grade students rotated through a variety of fun activities, including jump rope, basketball, balance beams, frisbee tossing, soccer, scooters, and more.

High school students from physical education classes also volunteered to help run the stations, with many elementary students excited to see older siblings participating alongside them. The event brought students together across grade levels and highlighted the strong sense of community within Winooski schools.

Overall, the Kids Heart Challenge was a meaningful and energetic event that promoted healthy living while supporting an important cause.

Journey Students Transform Hallways Into a Collective Voice

Middle School Journey students recently unveiled their Spring 2026 mural project, a vibrant collaborative installation inspired by contemporary artists who use words, scripts, typography, and public art to tell stories and inspire change.

Students studied the work of artists including Nepali "calligrafitti" artist Sneha Shrestha (Imagine), muralist Steven Powers (Espo), activist calligraphy artist Hunter Saxony, Sudanese artist Osman Waqialla, designers Tre Seals and Lakwena Maciver, and the whimsical mural work of Martha Rich. Drawing inspiration from these artists, students created colorful cut-out characters and word bubbles filled with messages that reflect their personalities, beliefs, humor, identities, and hopes.

Working individually and in groups, students brainstormed ideas, practiced lettering styles, and used acrylic paint and Posca paint pens to bring their visions to life. The finished mural combines playful phrases, activist statements, encouraging messages, and multilingual artwork into a collective portrait of the Journey student community.

Artwork throughout the mural includes references and phrases from multiple cultures and languages, including Swahili, Arabic, Japanese, Spanish, French, and Devanagari script.

Students described their artistic choices as ranging from "being silly and fun" to "sending a joyful, positive message" and expressing personal beliefs and reflections.

The mural now transforms the space into a colorful celebration of student voice, creativity, and connection.



SCHOOL MENU • JUNE

<p>1 Cheesy Baked Ziti Ham & Cheese Sandwich 2MMA 2WG Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>2 Pulled Chicken & Cheese Nachos Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Fire Roasted Black Beans Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>3 Chicken & Vegetable Dumplings Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Orange Ginger Carrots Asian Noodles Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>4 Chicken Patty Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Garlic Roasted Green Beans Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>5 Cheese Pizza BBQ Chicken Cheese Pizza Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>
<p>8 Chicken & Waffle Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Homefries Daily Salad Bar Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>9 Chicken Pot Pie Bowl Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>10 Macaroni & Cheese Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Steamed Broccoli Whole Grain Graham Cracker</p>	<p>ALL MEALS ARE FREE for ALL students.</p> <p>At every meal, assorted fruit is served, and low fat milk or fat free chocolate milk is available.</p>	



Omar Turnage Earned Top Honors at Vermont All State Music Festival

Winooski High School student Omar Turnage participated in the Vermont All State Music Festival as part of the Modern Band Ensemble, joining talented student musicians from across the state for this prestigious annual event.

Auditions were held in January and were open to students statewide, with only a small number selected. We are proud to share that Omar was chosen for the second year in a row to perform as a percussionist in the All State Modern Band. Even more impressively, he earned the highest audition score among all percussionists.

He attended the festival alongside his music teacher, Mikayla Kelemen, who helped manage the Modern Band ensemble throughout the event. The festival concluded with a concert at Missisquoi Valley Union Middle and High School.

Congratulations to Omar on this outstanding achievement and for representing Winooski with such talent and dedication!

Students Lead Community Voter Information Night

Three high school students turned classroom learning into community action by organizing a voter information night and voter registration drive for families and community members. As part of their civics class culminating project, they shared the importance of civic engagement, created space for meaningful conversations, and helped connect community members with voter registration resources.

Jenny Willingham, City Clerk from City of Winooski, was there to help families register to vote and thanks to a grant from Vermont Humanities, we shared a meal from Le Bon Gout and Curry and Cocktails.

We are proud of these students for using their voices, leadership, and learning to make a meaningful impact in our community.



2026 FREE Summer Meals for Winooski Students

Sarah Haven, Director of Finance & Operations

The Winooski School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. As always, students participating in summer programming offered through the Winooski School District or the City of Winooski will have access to breakfast, lunch, or both, depending on the program's hours.

Students who are not registered in programming are also eligible for meals. Starting on Monday, June 22nd, students may come to the Myers Memorial Pool for lunch only. Meals at the pool will be available at 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. This meal service will run through August 14th.

Every child in Winooski, aged 0-18, is eligible for FREE summer meals. Summer meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027), found online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf> and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to the USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: 202-690-7442 or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov



Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Thomas Renner

Hello neighbors,

Happy Pride Month! **June has arrived, bringing with it the full energy of summer in Winooski.** As someone who deeply loves the summer months, I always look forward to the warmth, the longer sunlit evenings, and the many opportunities this season provides for connection, recreation, and community. After the colder months, it is a joy to see our city come alive once again. I encourage each of you to take full advantage of everything Winooski has to offer – from swim lessons and programs at the Myers Memorial Pool, enjoying our public parks and natural areas, to enjoying the full slate of events that Downtown Winooski provides. Be sure to check out winooski.vt.gov and downtownwinooski.org to see everything we've got planned, and while you're at it, get connected by following official City and Downtown social media accounts, as well as City Councilors. To get the summer started, we've got a very special **Main Street Community Parade planned for June 6th.** Everyone is invited - businesses, City officials, project partners, and community members will march down Main Street to celebrate our community and to show our support for businesses during the final year of the Main Street Revitalization project. The parade begins at noon at the Winooski School District, travels down Main Street, and ends at Maple Street. Stop by the Winooski Senior Center right after for the community lunch!



Hope to see you there. Also, this is the time of year where City Councilors and City Staff start receiving an increase in resident inquiries about **leash laws.** Winooski is a wonderful place to enjoy with our canine companions, and being a responsible pet owner helps ensure our city remains safe, welcoming, and respectful for everyone. Not everyone feels safe around dogs! Last month, the City sent out our annual reminder regarding this topic and I recommend giving it a read. Please remember that citywide leash laws apply - the only off-leash area in Winooski is at the West Allen Street Dog Park. Looking back over the spring, the City Council held a special meeting to discuss ways to **improve the process around our boards, commissions, and committees and the evolving needs of our community.** These groups play a critical role in shaping city policy, supporting thoughtful growth, and ensuring resident voices remain central to our work. There are many seats expiring on June 30, if you haven't applied yet, we encourage you to do so today! Visit winooski.vt.gov/news to learn more. If you're interested, or even simply curious, feel free to reach out to the City Council – we're happy to answer any questions you may have. **Finally, I want to sincerely thank each of you for continuing to make Winooski such a remarkable place to serve.** Whether through volunteering, attending meetings, supporting local businesses, supporting the food shelf, or simply being a good neighbor, your contributions strengthen our entire community.

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco



As the legislative session ends, I've been contemplating the distance that can emerge between my wonky policy conversations in Montpelier and our daily realities in Winooski. **I hear regularly from people struggling with housing, health care and the general feeling that financial stability has become impossible even for people working incredibly hard.** One of the responsibilities of elected officials is to stay acutely aware of the impact of the decisions we make and for me, to stay person-centered. Over the years I've experienced Winooski through different economic realities, as part of a dual-income household in a home I owned and today as a renter and working single mom. That experience has shown me how differently our systems function depending on where we stand within them. In Winooski, where 65% of us are renters and most families are balancing work, caregiving and wildly rising costs, nuances matter when shaping policy. This biennium a lot of my work focused on affordability and access, especially within health care. I was proud to report on the House floor **legislation focused on prescription drug affordability and transparency** that instantly reduced insurance premiums by 4% and kept \$30M in our pockets-not drug companies. Moving

into the role of Vice Chair on the House Health Care Committee, I worked on **sweeping health care transformation efforts through Act 68** and helped elevate the conversation around universal primary care. My committee hosted a public hearing to have Vermont's experiences and concerns reflected more directly in the legislative process-and more than a handful of attendees were from Winooski! **Youth mental health was still a major focus of my work this year.** Winooski students provided some of the most compelling testimony about the importance of peer relationships, mental health literacy and early support. Their voices directly informed work on H.817 and H.816, legislation focused on youth mental health in schools and the growing role artificial intelligence plays in mental health care. Beyond affordability and health care I also **supported legislation to protect access to our public institutions and beloved community spaces like the library.** Bills including S.208, S.209, and S.227 addressed issues connected to fairness, civil rights and justice, and ensuring you all can safely use spaces like schools, libraries and health clinics without fear or intimidation. One thing this session reinforced for me is that being effective in this seat requires more than being good at policy. It requires connecting to more deeply appreciate the nuances of your lives. This has been a tough one for many and your communication on priorities was essential. I am honored each day for the opportunity to represent Winooski.



City Hall Reminders

2026 Elections: The next election is the Statewide Primary on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. The ballots will be available in the first week of July. Register to vote or request an absentee ballot at vote.vermont.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office: clerk@winooskivt.gov | 802 655 6410. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. The ballots for the General Election will be sent to all active voters. For details on voting and elections: winooskivt.gov/vote.

Leash Law Reminder: Winooski is a wonderful community to enjoy with your canine companions! Just a friendly reminder: our four-legged neighbors need extra care and attention when out and about and keeping them leashed is essential for everyone's safety. The only off-leash area in Winooski is at the West Allen Street Dog Park. Leash laws protect all community members and their dogs from unwanted interactions or unexpected attacks. Leashing your dog is respectful to your neighbor's personal preferences and cultural differences – remember, not everyone is comfortable around animals. Violating Winooski's leash laws can lead to fines and actions taken by the Department of Public Safety. Also, 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. If you need to report an incident to the Animal Control Warden, please contact the Winooski Police Department: 802 655 0221. It's not fun, but it's required that you clean up after your dog - always bring dog waste bags.

City Hall will be closed in observance of Juneteenth on Friday, June 19, 2026.

Please note that the Sugar House Hotel and its contractor will install a temporary, fenced-in construction staging at the lower Casavant Nature Area. The staging area will remain in place until work is completed, from late August to mid-September 2026. Work includes: removal of gravel road access, improved access to the public park via boardwalk, and wetland restoration. Park visitors are asked to use caution when traveling through the area. Entering the staging area is prohibited. Friendly reminder: dogs walked through the Casavant Nature Area must remain on a leash at all times. The municipal dog park in Winooski is located on West Allen Street.



**MAIN STREET
COMMUNITY
PARADE
JUNE 6, 2026**



Main Street Revitalization Project

winooskivt.gov/mainstreet

In May, the reconstruction of the Tigan Street intersection was completed, and sidewalk/brick paver work continued. Traffic signal installation progressed at the Fire Department/Spring Street intersection. Crews installed curbing and median roadway islands between Lafountain and Tigan, and also finalized streetlight installation throughout the project area.

In June, asphalt paving between Spring and Tigan is expected (including side street intersections) as well as final line striping and pavement markings. Remaining traffic signal work at the Fire Department/Spring Street intersection is anticipated, as well as completing sidewalk, brick paver, and curb installation work. Landscaping and site restoration activities are planned, including tree planting between Stevens and Tigan.

Construction activities are expected to conclude this summer! Traffic Impacts: Paving the final asphalt layer between Spring and the Winooski/Colchester town line (including side street intersections) may require a 24/7 lane closure with a detour via Tigan and Weaver Streets for about one week. Details will be provided in the weekly email updates. Construction will primarily occur under shoulder, parking lane, and travel lane closures/shifts with alternating one-way traffic control (flaggers) and occasional short-term side street closures/detours. Traffic delays are expected. Drivers are encouraged to allow extra travel time, consider alternative routes, or use other transportation options such as carpooling, transit, biking, or walking.

Don't miss out on the **Main Street Community Parade – 12pm on Saturday, June 6!** Everyone is invited - the Main Street Community Parade is designed to highlight community support for businesses and to encourage residents and visitors to continue shopping on Main Street during the final year of the Main Street Revitalization project. The parade starts at the Winooski School District at 12 PM, goes down Main Street, and ends on Maple Street. Be sure to swing by the Winooski Senior Center right after for the community lunch. Visit downtownwinooski.org/mosaic for details.

Stay Informed: You can sign up for project email updates at www.winooskivt.gov/mainstreet. Questions or concerns? Contact our public information team: 802 595 4399 | info@winooskimainstreet.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Recreation and Parks

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

The Myers Memorial Pool opens on Sunday, June 7, 2026!
Season Passes and Swim Lessons are open for registration. Visit winooskivt.gov/pool to sign up today.

YOUTH

USTA Tennis in the Parks

- Grades 1-9 | Mondays and Wednesdays July 6 - 22

Winooski Waves Swim Team

- Ages 4-18 | Monday, Wednesday, Friday June 10 - August 3

Swim Lessons

- All ages / varying levels | Weeks of June 13 – August 6

Junior Lifeguarding

- Ages 11-15 | Saturdays, June 20–July 25
- Ages 11-15 | Monday–Thursday, August 3–6

Rec Summer Camps Completed grades K-5

- Outdoor Adventures Camp | June 15–18
- Dream Team Sports Camp | August 10 -14
- Creative Spark Camp | August 17–21

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

ADULT

Aqua Aerobics

Ages 18+ | Tuesdays & Thursdays | June 16 – August 13



Winooski Memorial Library

65 Winooski Falls Way | 802-655-6424 | library@winooskivt.gov
winooskivt.gov/library

CLOSED THROUGH EARLY JUNE

We've Moved!

The Library is expected to reopen at our new, temporary location at 65 Winooski Falls Way (formerly leased by Commodities Market) between June 1 – 15, 2026.

- Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 10am - 5pm Saturday 10am - 2pm
- Closed: Sunday and Monday
- View all programs, events, and services: winooskivt.gov/library
- The 24/7 book drop-off will be located outside the entrance
- Live in the neighborhood, but don't have a library card? Sign up at winooskivt.gov/library or stop by
- Call or email for assistance: 802 540 1719 | library@winooskivt.gov
- Parking: paid street, paid Winooski Parking Garage, several 15-minute free courtesy spaces

You can expect the same experience of services, programming, and resources - we can't wait to welcome you back to our new space!



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425

winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter

seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov

TUESDAYS

Cultural Connections – June 2 and 9

- 10am – 2pm | Free | Drop-in
- Activities, Exercise and Lunch

WEDNESDAYS

Breakfast Café

- 9am–11am | Priced by Donation | Drop-in
- Enjoy fresh breakfast foods, fruit & drinks

Senior Community Connections

- 9am–12pm | Free | Drop-in
- Come and 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 (starts June 19)

- 10:30am – 11:30am | Free | Drop-in
- Music can help sustain cognition and quality of life

Senior Pool Open Swim (starts June 26)

- 11:30am – 12:30am | Free | Myers Pool
- Enjoy cold treats & drinks with your neighbors

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Pride & Joy Community Art Event | Tuesday, June 2

- 5 – 8pm | Free | Drop In

Mobile Pet Food Shelf | Sunday, June 28

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

Bone Builders Exercise | Monday & Wednesday |

- 2 - 3pm | Free

Meals on Wheels | Call Age Well at 802 865 0360



Thrive Thrive Afterschool

winooskivt.gov/thrive

The 2025/2026 Thrive Afterschool year continues with excellence! Spaces for the 2026-27 Afterschool program will be posted and available soon. Thrive is currently wrapping up our Afterschool year and is gearing up for an incredible Summer. Families can enroll online at winooskivt.gov/thriveprograms or with a paper application that must be returned to Program Director, Evelyn Monje.

Summer Camps

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!

- Artistry Adventure Week: June 22 – 26
- ‘Cheffing Up’ Week (3-day week): June 29 – July 1
- Olympians Week: July 6 – 10
- Thrives’ Got Talent Week: July 13 – 17
- Splish Splash Week: July 20 – 24
- Storytelling Spellbinders Week: July 27 – 31
- Legendary Week: August 3 – 7

All Thrive Programs are subsidy eligible. Visit winooskivt.gov/thrive or more information and to register, or contact Evelyn Monje, Thrive Program Director: emonje@winooskivt.gov | 802 233 8188.

**Sign up for
Community Services
Programs & Events!**



winooskivt.gov/programs

DOWNTOWN WINOOSKI AND SERVICE PROVIDERS



Downtown Winooski

downtownwinooski.org

Thank you for an amazing start to our events season - summer officially arrives this month and we are keeping the fun going with more awesome events at Downtown Winooski.

We're so excited for the Main Street Community Parade on June 6th! The Community Parade is designed to highlight community support for businesses and to encourage residents and visitors to continue shopping on Main Street during the final year of the Main Street Revitalization project. Everyone is invited - let's celebrate our community and to show our support for Main Street businesses.

The Winooski Farmers Market continues all month long. Bring the whole fam for POP Club on June 14, where kids can do a fun nutrition education activity and get \$2 to spend on produce at the market. On June 28th, the annual French Heritage Day celebration will return, celebrating French and Québécois history and culture. We invite local history buffs and friends of all backgrounds to join us for music, cuisine, education, and activities. The waiter race will return with prizes for both the kids and adult race, so start practicing your balance!

Downtown Block Parties are starting up again this month with Winooski's Juneteenth celebration on June 17th. Celebrate Black joy, liberation, culture, and community with us. The celebration will feature music by Ernest James Zydeco, food, fun activities, and local community guests. We're so excited to celebrate this important day with you!

For more event details, visit downtownwinooski.org.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

winooskiprevention.org

Congratulations Winooski grads - what an accomplishment! What are your summer plans? Did you know that having a summer routine can be protective against substance use disorders? This is a great time to plan out what your routine will be. A job? Swimming at the Myers Pool every day? Walking or rolling on the Winooski Riverwalk every weekend? So many possibilities! It's also a great time to focus on improving your health - it's never too late to make a change: 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.

Families: sign up for the next on-demand showing of *Screenagers: Under the Influence* today. You can watch the film between June 5-19. Learn more winooskiprevention.org/events.

Winooski Food Shelf

winooskifoodshelf.org

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



Wednesday June 10	12-3pm
Saturday, June 13	9-11am
Wednesday, June 24	12-3pm
Saturday, June 27	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

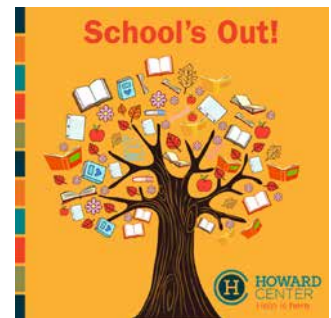
School's Out: Balancing Learning and Leisure

School's out, and parents can help kids keep the skills they learned during the year with simple summer activities.

- **Plan a trip.** Kids can read maps, measure distances, and keep a travel journal.
- **Cook together.** Following recipes and measuring ingredients reinforces reading and math.
- **Start a garden.** Children can read about plants, measure spacing, and even run a small farm stand with extra veggies.
- **Take a hike.** Bring a journal so kids can note animals, plants, weather, and distance.

And always allow time for play - the real work of childhood.

Howard Center helps people and communities thrive by providing support and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs. For more information, call 802-488-6000 or visit howardcenter.org.



Center for Media and Democracy

cctv.org

YOU'RE INVITED!
Join CCTV on **June 12th** from 5-7pm for an evening of mingling

CCTV Center for Media & Democracy
TOWN MEETING TV • CCTV PRODUCTIONS • VERMONT LANGUAGE JUSTICE PROJECT

and getting to know supporters while celebrating Center for Media & Democracy's 42nd anniversary. Enjoy light snacks while getting to know community members, as well as learn more about the kind of work CCTV does for the community. Hosted at Red Wagon Plants, this event is free for all but donations towards our organization are welcome and appreciated. We can't wait to see you there - you can RSVP to this event at cctv.org/42years.



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

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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

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 @WinooskiLearns

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