

The Winooski Newsletter

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

AUGUST 2026



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Upcoming Elections

Statewide Primary Election

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026

**7:00am - 7:00pm at the Winooski Senior Center
(123 Barlow Street)**

- Only U.S. citizens can vote in the Statewide Primary Election
- View the official Warning and Sample ballots at winooskivt.gov or stop by the City Clerk's Office

Early (Absentee) Voting

- Request a ballot online at vote.vermont.gov, or
- Pick one up at Winooski City Hall (Monday – Friday, 8am–4pm), or
- Request a ballot by mail: contact the City Clerk's Office
- Requests for ballots by mail must be made by August 6, 2026 – there is no guarantee it will make it to you on time (above options are recommended)
- Check the status of your absentee ballot at vote.vermont.gov

Submit your completed ballot:

- In-person at Winooski City Hall: No later than 4pm on August 10
- At the Winooski Senior Center: 7am–7pm on August 11



Please register as
soon as possible to
make the process easy!

Contact the City Clerk's office
for assistance: 802-655-6410,
clerk@winooskivt.gov



VERMONT
Register to vote at
vote.vermont.gov

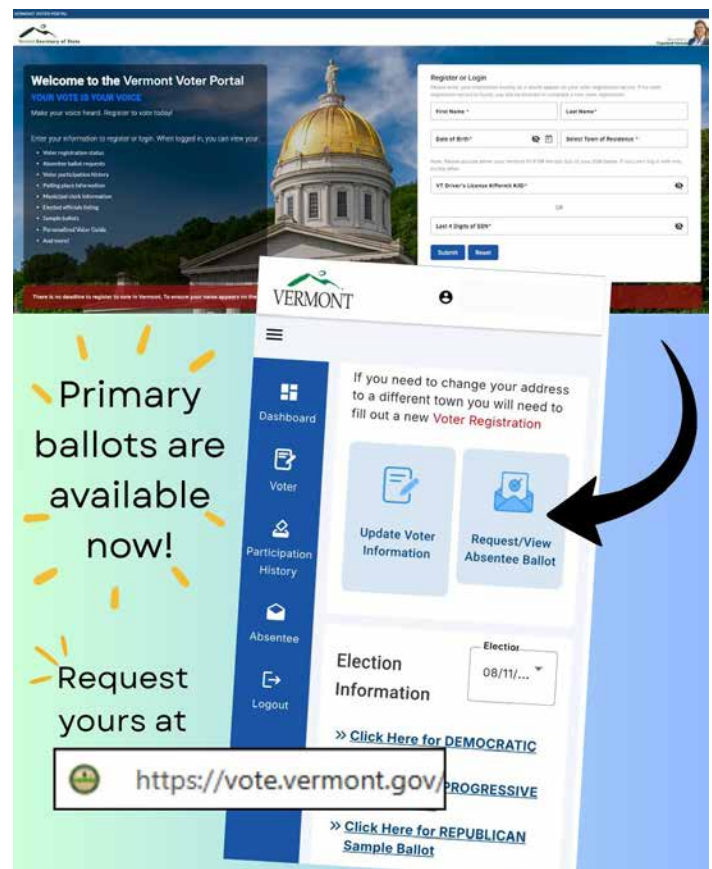
General Election

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

**7am - 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center
(123 Barlow Street)**

- Only U.S. citizens can vote in the General Election
- Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters in late September. This is your ballot!
- Return the voted ballot at Winooski City Hall by 4pm on November 2.
- If you can't make this deadline, simply bring your voted ballot to the Winooski Senior Center between 7am and 7pm during the day of the election on November 3.

There is no deadline to register to vote in Vermont. To ensure your name appears on the checklist, register online by the Friday before the election. **You can also register in person up to, and including, the day of an election.**





WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools



This year, school districts in the region will start school earlier than usual. **We will welcome our students back on Wednesday, August 26th,** but first, we hope to see as many of

you as possible at our **“Welcome Back BBQ” the Thursday before, August 20th, at 5pm.** We look forward to this event because it is the first time we get to see our students and families together after the summer, and it reminds us of the beautiful community we all share. Consider stopping by to enjoy some burgers or hot dogs with us, even if you don’t have children in our schools. Everyone is welcome.

Before students arrive, teachers, staff, and administrators will be very busy during the month of August making sure everything is ready. Many of our

employees do not get a “summer break,” and some work gets even harder because there are projects we cannot complete while the facilities are occupied. So, I commend everyone who has shown up and done the work that schools have to complete, even when most people don’t realize it.

On August 13th, we will welcome our new teachers and staff. While the Winooski School District does not usually have much attrition among licensed teachers (we lose very few, if any), many support staff positions experience turnover depending on the role. We used to have a single orientation for both licensed and non-licensed staff, but we will now provide a separate orientation for each group. This will help us better tailor the day toward the specific needs of each role.

Since the next newsletter is not until a month from now, I want to take this opportunity to remind you that a

new state law requires that Winooski and neighboring districts join to form a Cooperative Education Services Agency (CESA). The first meeting with representatives from each neighboring district took place on July 28th. If you would like to know more about decisions made in these meetings, please visit our website. We will be providing you with updates as we receive them.

This may be confusing, but the same law also requires the formation of a separate group soon, specifically for merger exploration. This group is different from the CESAs, and in our case, it only includes Winooski, Burlington, and South Burlington. We will be appointing a representative to this group during our meeting this month and will keep you posted about how the conversation develops.

See you at the BBQ on the 20th!

School Board Update

By Nicole Mace, President, Board of School Trustees

Introduction to WSD’s New Student School Board Members

Barakit Gyi

Hello to the community of Winooski! My name is Barakit Gyi and I am an incoming sophomore and one of your newly elected student board member representatives. I am a student athlete and am also a member of many different groups at Winooski High School including the Anti-Racism Steering Committee, Above the Influence program, Peace Jam, and more.

Living in Vermont, a majority white state, is hard as a student of color. Attending school in Winooski changes this dynamic in many ways, not only because Winooski is the most diverse school district in Vermont, but also

because Winooski has a very family-like community.

Students are living through a very difficult period and Winooski has been in the spotlight many times. Tough moments bring up a lot of different opinions and perspectives on what can be done differently. At times students have a hard time finding the courage to bring up changes they want to see at the school.

This is why I feel having student members on the board is so important. It is a way for student voices to be heard in our school knowing that they will be shared and not put aside. As a representative for students, my goal is to incorporate as many opinions from everyone as possible into decisions that the board must make that will affect students. I am excited for the opportunity to represent my peers. Thank you!

Gabby Dzessou

Hello my name is Gabby, I am a black African American, and I am going to be a junior next school year. I am a part of the ARSC, the Above the Influence club, Peace Jam, and the Unheard Stories Project. I love reading and I enjoy swimming in the summer. I value individualism, empathy and people’s mentality.

My favorite thing about myself is my personality and the way that I always seek out different types of conversations. I like fairness and everybody getting their needs met. I’m not the greatest at being timely, or speaking up when I don’t understand something. But those are all things I’m working on.

I chose to run for the school board because this community is very

(continued on page 3)

SCHOOL BOARD *(cont. from page 2)*

connected yet a lot of the students don't engage with our school board. Some students wonder where the money goes and why certain things aren't being fixed or bought, and those are all things the school board controls. The separation between the students and the school board doesn't allow us to strengthen our school community, and it doesn't ensure that everybody is getting their needs met.

That's why I want to help bridge that gap by showing the students what the school board does and try to get students more engaged throughout the budget process. This will hopefully strengthen our school community, and make students understand that they have a voice in the discussions that are happening within the school board.

Mark Your Calendars: Back-to-School Dates

The start of a new school year is just around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome students and families back to Winooski School District!

Important Dates:

- Thursday, August 20 – Back-to-School BBQ
- Wednesday, August 26 – First day of school for JFK Elementary students and Orientation for Grade 6 and Grade 9 students
- Thursday, August 27 – First full day of school for all Middle School and High School students
- Friday, September 4 – No school
- Monday, September 7 – No school in observance of Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 8 – First day of Pre-K



We look forward to kicking off another exciting year of learning, growth, and community. Watch your email, check your regular mail, and follow Winooski School District on social media for additional back-to-school information throughout the summer.

Winooski Wanderers Awarded National Equity Grant

The Winooski Wanderers, Winooski High School's outdoor adventure club, has been awarded a \$5,000 National Education Association Foundation Envision Equity Grant. The funding will help expand opportunities for students to explore the outdoors while promoting mental health, wellness, environmental stewardship, and a lifelong love of adventure.

"We are excited for this opportunity to expand programming and get more students outdoors," said Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver, Winooski High School teacher and founding member of the Wanderers.

Since its founding, the Winooski Wanderers has provided students with opportunities to experience hiking, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, indoor rock climbing, and even an overnight backpacking trip on Vermont's Long Trail. The new grant will allow the club to purchase additional equipment, making outdoor activities more accessible to students, while also supporting partnerships that create new experiences and adventures.

"Winooski Wanderers has changed



my whole perspective of high school," said Shagan Yadav, a rising junior and founding club member. "The outing club has given me something to look forward to and a way to decrease my stress from school. It would be an understatement to say that the opportunity has helped me."

Looking ahead, the club plans to expand its skiing and hiking programs, organize a canoe trip this fall, and introduce mountain biking opportunities in spring 2027.

"Now we have all the right ingredients—students are engaged, community partnerships are lined up, and we have the resources to make it all happen," said Chris Flaherty, teacher and Wanderers advisor.

The Wanderers' success is made possible through partnerships with

organizations including the Saint Michael's Adventure Sports Center, Green Mountain Club, Darn Tough, Bivo, Vermont Glove, Outdoor Gear Exchange, UnTapped, Ministry of Culture, and Bolton Valley.

In addition to receiving the grant, the Winooski Wanderers recently adopted the Nebraska Notch Trail in partnership with the Green Mountain Club. Club members will help maintain the trail and organize volunteer workdays, including a student-focused day this fall and a community workday next spring.

Through these opportunities, the Winooski Wanderers continue to connect students with the outdoors while building confidence, resilience, leadership skills, and a deeper connection to Vermont's natural spaces.



Celebrating a Year of Achievement, Creativity, and Excellence

Throughout the 2025-26 school year, Winooski Middle and High School students continued to impress our community with their talent, determination, creativity, and commitment to excellence. From music and art to culinary competitions, healthcare sciences, and academic writing, students represented Winooski with pride on local and statewide stages.

In music, Winooski's own Basement Boys—Ethan, Issahia, and Omar—performed and competed at the Sonic Futures Battle of the Bands, showcasing their musicianship and creativity. Omar also earned statewide recognition for the second consecutive year when he was selected to perform as a percussionist in the Vermont All State Modern Band Ensemble, one of Vermont's most prestigious student music opportunities. He received the highest audition score among all percussionists selected for the festival.

Students also found success in career and technical competitions. Olivia earned a Bronze Medal in Pathophysiology at the HOSA Future Health Professionals Spring Conference held at the University of Vermont, demonstrating exceptional knowledge and skill in health sciences.

In culinary arts, Winooski's Middle School Junior Iron Chef

team delighted judges and audiences alike, earning the Crowd Pleaser Award for their imaginative creation, "Cafeteria Gone Wild – Corn Dogs."

Academic excellence was on display as Alice was selected as a finalist in Senator Bernie Sanders' State of the Union Essay Contest, a statewide competition that challenges students to engage thoughtfully with issues facing the nation.



Student artists also earned statewide recognition.

Clara placed second in the Vermont Student Wildlife Art Expo, competing against artists in grades 7–12 from across Vermont. In total, six students from Winooski's middle and high school art programs were recognized, with their work selected for the Top 50 exhibition at the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

These accomplishments represent only a small sample of the many ways Winooski students challenged

themselves, pursued their passions, and supported one another throughout the year. We congratulate all of our students and thank the educators, families, and community members who help make these opportunities possible. We look forward to seeing what our students achieve next year.

Gather, Celebrate, and Belong at the Winooski Friendship Festival

Winooski's newest community tradition is coming this Labor Day weekend.



The City of Winooski, Winooski School District, and Downtown Winooski are excited to host the inaugural **Winooski Friendship Festival** on **Sunday, August 30**, from 2-9pm at the Winooski School District campus, 60 Normand Street.

This free, family-friendly event is designed to celebrate the people, cultures, and stories that make Winooski such a vibrant and welcoming community. Residents and visitors of all ages are invited to spend the day connecting with neighbors, enjoying local food, experiencing live performances, and participating in activities that bring people together.

Festival highlights include family games and activities, bounce houses, mini golf, roller skating, train rides, face painting, a community vendor and resource fair, a soccer tournament, and a community painting project. Attendees can also enjoy live performances by KeruBo and her jazz ensemble, the Unheard Stories project, and a Nepali dance troupe.

One of the festival's signature events will be the Rice Cook-Off Competition, where local restaurants and home chefs will showcase dishes inspired by one of the world's most universally shared ingredients. The competition celebrates the many cultures represented in Winooski and the ways food can bring people together.

The festival will also feature the unveiling of a community mural created through a collaboration between Winooski students, residents, and Vermont artist and educator Jen Berger. The mural reflects themes of belonging, identity, and community and will serve as a lasting symbol of the connections that make Winooski special.

"The Friendship Festival is about creating opportunities for people to come together, build relationships, and celebrate the diversity that makes Winooski such a special place," said Melissa Corbin, Executive Director of Downtown Winooski. "Whether you've lived here your entire life or just recently arrived, we want everyone to feel welcomed, connected, and part of our community."

Ruth Steinmetz, Chair of the Friendship Festival, said the event reflects the spirit of Winooski itself: "This festival reflects what makes Winooski extraordinary—a community where people from many backgrounds come together, learn from one another, and create a stronger sense of belonging," Steinmetz said. "We are excited to create a space where families, students, businesses, artists, and neighbors can celebrate together."

The Winooski Friendship Festival is part of a larger community-building initiative supported through the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Welcoming Communities program and the Vermont Community Foundation's Social Cohesion Grant.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Winooski Friendship Festival | Sunday, August 30 2026

- 2pm: Mural unveiling in the entrance hallway
- 2.30pm: Concert in the Auditorium
- 4-9pm: Soccer games, vendor market, and other outdoor activities at the fields. In case of rain, outdoor activities will move to the gym.
- Winooski School District, 60 Normand Street, Winooski



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

SCHOOL MATTERS — K TO 12

The Unheard Stories Amplified Student Voices

One of the most memorable student-led events of the year was *The Unheard Stories*, a powerful performance that brought together film, poetry, music, dance, storytelling, and fashion to explore identity, culture, belonging, and the many experiences that make up our community.

Presented through two performances, students shared original works including *The Woman You Don't See*, *The Bridge Between Two Worlds*, *Stay With Me*, *The Great Silence*, *What Stresses Us Out?*, *Enough*, *We Will Never Be Enough*, *His Story*, and *The World I Want to Live In*. The evening also featured student-produced films, dance performances, a cultural fashion show, and inspiring messages from alumni.

Centered on the theme of celebrating diversity and creating a world where everyone belongs, *The Unheard Stories* provided students with an opportunity to express themselves, share their perspectives, and connect with the broader community. Through creativity, courage, and collaboration, students demonstrated the power of storytelling to build understanding and strengthen the bonds that make Winooski a vibrant and welcoming place to live, learn, and grow.





Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Thomas Renner

Happy August! I hope you've all been enjoying everything that

summer has to offer, finding ways to stay cool, spending time with family and friends, and taking advantage of our wonderful parks and the Myers Memorial Pool. Summer always seems to fly by, and I hope you've had the opportunity to enjoy the many things that make this season in Winooski so special. One of the projects currently underway that I think many residents will find especially interesting is the Planning Commission's work on the **Building Typologies Project**. The goal of this effort is to help shape the future of housing in Winooski by creating clearer design standards for residential neighborhoods while supporting the development of more affordable, family-sized homes. The project is also focused on encouraging walkable, connected neighborhoods near transit while preserving what makes Winooski unique. Visit the "Planning Commission" section of the City's agenda center to learn more at winooskivt.gov/agendacenter. **Housing continues to be an important topic for our community**, and recently the City Council reviewed Winooski's regulations for non-owner-occupied short-term rentals. After reviewing recommendations from City staff and the Housing Commission, along with current data on the program, the Council voted to maintain the existing cap of 50 non-owner-occupied short-term rental licenses. The decision reflects that the number of licensed short-term rentals has remained below the cap, demand has stabilized, and the upcoming opening of the hotel in Winooski may further reduce pressure on the short-term rental market. Council will continue reviewing the cap each year to ensure it supports both our housing goals and the needs of the community. **The City continues work on updating our Comprehensive Plan**, which serves as Winooski's long-term vision for the future. State law requires municipalities to update these plans every eight



years, and our current plan, adopted in 2019, is due for renewal by 2027. This plan will help guide decisions about housing, transportation, economic development, parks, sustainability, and many other aspects of our community for years to come. Community input is essential to this process, and I encourage everyone to attend the upcoming open house on Thursday, August 27, from 5 – 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center.

Whether you've lived here your whole life or just recently joined our community, your perspective is valuable and will help shape Winooski's future. As August comes to a close, I also hope you'll join us for one of Winooski's favorite traditions—the Fiber Fair on Saturday, August 30, from 10 – 2pm at 20 Winooski Falls Way. This wonderful event celebrates Winooski's history as a mill town while highlighting Vermont's vibrant fiber arts and farming communities. It's a great opportunity to learn about local history, browse vendors, meet local organizations, and enjoy hands-on activities for all ages. Finally, I want to encourage everyone who is eligible to participate in this month's Primary Election. Elections are one of the most important ways we shape the future of our communities, and this year voters will help choose who represents our voices in Montpelier, in Washington, D.C., and in several other important public offices.

Early voting is available at City Hall through August 10, and polls will be open on Election Day, August 11, from 7am to 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center. While Winooski allows resident voting for Town Meeting Day elections, only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in this Primary Election. If you haven't already registered, you can still register to vote in person on Election Day, even if you have not previously registered through the Secretary of State.

Thank you for continuing to make Winooski such a welcoming, engaged, and caring community. I look forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Chloe Tomlinson



As a member of the House Transportation Committee, much of my day-to-day work this session focused on two major bills: **the annual Transportation Bill and the miscellaneous motor vehicle bill**. Both have direct impacts here in Winooski and across Vermont, shaping how we invest in roads, public transit, local infrastructure, and transportation policy. **The**

Transportation Bill, H.944, sets the statewide transportation budget and includes several policy changes. This year's bill was shaped by the limitations of our declining Transportation Fund. It included a decrease in permanent positions and many careful choices about where limited resources would go. One important investment was increased funding for town highway

aid, which is distributed to towns across Vermont by formula. Because municipal budgets affect local property taxes, getting more transportation dollars to cities and towns is one small but meaningful way to ease pressure on local taxpayers, support basic maintenance, and help communities avoid the higher costs that come with deferred repairs. The bill also takes steps to make electric vehicle ownership more accessible and reliable in Vermont. It requires real-time information on charger availability and pricing for newly installed or reconditioned chargers after September, continues funding for Drive Electric Vermont's consumer education and outreach work, and prevents common interest communities with 12 or more units from imposing unreasonable restrictions on EV charger installation. I hope a future legislature will extend similar protections to tenants. **Public transportation remains a major concern.** While this year's transportation budget includes nearly 10%

(continued on page 8)

FROM YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE (cont. from page 7)

growth in public transportation program funding, much of that increase comes from capital dollars through competitive federal grants. We are still falling behind what is needed to maintain and improve service. Green Mountain Transit continues to face difficult route and service adjustments, and SSTA services that are essential for older Vermonters and people with disabilities have been restricted mostly to “must have” trip categories. We are also watching closely to see what comes out of the federal surface transportation bill, which will significantly affect future funding. One of the biggest long-term issues is how we pay for transportation as vehicles become more fuel-efficient and gas tax revenues decline. Vermont has begun moving toward a mileage-based user fee for EV drivers, and future legislatures will need to keep working on this funding gap. **The miscellaneous motor vehicle bill, S.326**, included many smaller changes, including updates related to life jackets during colder months, fees for trucks that get stuck in the Notch, and pay for towers removing vehicles from public property. One important step forward was creating an online registry of vehicles for which an abandoned vehicle certificate has been requested, giving owners another way to find out what is happening with their vehicle. You can find bill text and updates at legislature.vermont.gov, and I’m always happy to help unpack a bill or talk through what it may mean for our community.

City Hall Reminders

Property tax and utility payments are due August 15.

Payments will be accepted on time on Tuesday, August 18, since City Hall is closed on Monday, August 17, for Bennington Battle Day. Postmarks are not accepted as on-time payments. Make your payments online at winooski.vt.gov/pay or in person at Winooski City Hall. Payment plans, direct debit, and paperless billing are available – contact Angela Aldieri, Finance Director, to learn more: 802-655-6410 | aaldieri@winooski.vt.gov.



Comprehensive Plan Open House Series:

The City of Winooski must readopt a municipal plan (a high-level plan that guides the City’s future) by March 2027. The current plan, known as the Master Plan, is getting updated and will be called the “Comprehensive Plan”. Community feedback is needed to guide the plan! Open House events are happening throughout the summer, where you can weigh in on the plan. **Coming up: Safe, Healthy, Connected People Open House** - Thursday, August 27, 2026, 5–7pm at the Winooski

Senior Center (123 Barlow Street). Give feedback on how the City can improve its livability in terms of parks, community programming, public health, and public safety. Review the objectives of the safe, healthy, and connected people section of the 2019 Master Plan and the 2020 Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Light refreshments provided.



Main Street Revitalization Project

winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet

The Main Street Revitalization Project enters its final stretch with crews making steady progress on paving, traffic signals, streetscape features, and landscaping throughout July! Crews completed the remaining concrete sidewalk and curb work, along with paving driveways near the Tigan Street intersection. Once the overhead utility wires and poles were removed, the contractor also finalized installation of the new traffic signals at the Winooski Fire Station and the Main Street/Spring Street intersection. Crews placed the final layer of asphalt between Stevens Street and the town line, including adjoining side streets, followed by permanent line striping and pavement markings. Throughout the month, crews continued installing brick and permeable pavers and completing landscaping improvements. **The Main Street Revitalization Project is expected to reach substantial completion in August**, bringing years of planning, design, and construction to the finish line. Over the coming weeks, crews will focus on the final details, including any remaining traffic signal work, line striping, sidewalk, curb and paver installation, driveway apron work, landscaping, and general site cleanup. The project will also undergo a final inspection, and the contractor will address any remaining punch list items before project completion. **Traffic Impacts:** While major construction activities are nearing completion, drivers should continue to expect traffic pattern changes during weekday work hours (7am to 7pm). Periodic shoulder and parking lane closures, travel lane closures, lane shifts, short-term side street closures with detours, and alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers may be necessary as crews complete final project work. **Stay Informed:** You can sign up for project email updates at winooski.vt.gov/mainstreet. Questions/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 is open! Season Passes and Swim Lessons are open for registration. Visit winooskivt.gov/pool to sign up today.

YOUTH

Junior Lifeguarding

- Ages 11-15 | Monday–Thursday, August 3–6

Rec Summer Camps (Completed grades K-5)

- Dream Team Sports Camp | August 10–14
- Creative Spark Camp | August 17–21

Very Merry Theatre Camp

- Grades 1-5 | July 13–17

Vermont Patriots Soccer

- U6 | Saturdays, September 8–October 24
- U8-U12 | Monday–Thursday, August 31–October 18

Field Hockey

- Ages 5–11 | Tuesdays, September 1–October 20

Sailing

- Ages 8-11 | Fridays, September 11–October 9

ADULT

Aqua Aerobics

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

EVENTS FOR ALL

Volunteer Trail Cleanup Days

- Gilbrook Nature Area | Thursday, August 13, 8:30–11am
- Casavant Nature Area | Tuesday, August 25, 4–6:30pm



Winooski Memorial Library

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

Tuesday–Friday: 10am–5pm, Saturday 10am–2pm

Closed: Sunday and Monday

We've Moved! The Library has moved to our new, temporary location at **65 Winooski Falls Way** (formerly leased by Commodities Market) while the O'Brien Community Center is being renovated.

YOUTH

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

Teen Art Club | Ages 11+ | Tuesdays | 2:00pm

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

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

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

Food Challenge: Boba Tea | Thursday, August 13 | Teen Session (Ages 11+): 2:00pm | Youth Session (Ages 5+): 3:30pm

ADULT

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

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

Gyotaku at Crafternoon | Wednesday, August 5, 3:30–4:30pm

Join Lake Champlain Basin Program for a special Crafternoon session to learn about Gyotaku, also known as Japanese Fish printing. Gyotaku is a well-practiced art form and way of documenting notable characteristics of different fish species. Using rubber versions of largemouth bass, yellow perch and bluegill, you can make your own prints of fish found in our local waterways.

Bike Repair Clinic | Wednesday, August 5, 11:30am–1:30pm

Join us for free bike repairs and safety checks with Old Spokes Home and their Mobile Repair Unit. We'll be set up on the grassy area near the Mill on Winooski Falls Way. This program is open to all ages, no registration required.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425 | seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov
winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter

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

THURSDAYS

Fun and Games

- August 6, August 20 | 9:30–11:30am | Free | Drop-in
- Play all our great games - Wii games, ping pong, Jazzminton, and more!

FRIDAYS

Singing Group

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

Senior Pool Open Swim Time for all 55+

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

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

National Senior Citizen Day BBQ Lunch

- August 19 | 12pm | 55+ | Free | RSVP by August 5
- Limited seating

Mobile Pet Food Shelf | August 23 | 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 Afterschool

thrive@winooskivt.gov | 802-233-8188
winooskivt.gov/thrive

Enrollment for Thrive Afterschool 2026-27 is open for all incoming kindergarten through 5th grade children!

Thrive is a state-licensed, childcare/enrichment program that runs from 3 - 5:30pm, Monday – Friday, from September 8, 2026 – June 4, 2027 (we are closed on school closure and early release days). We partner with Winooski School District to build a community where children in grades K-5 explore, learn, and grow during their afterschool hours. During Thrive, students engage with creative arts, STEM and Makerspace activities, cooperative and social-emotional learning, outdoor play, and more.

You may choose specific days of the week (\$19/day) or full-week enrollment (\$90/5 days). Thrive accepts Vermont Childcare Financial Assistance Program (State subsidy) to cover the costs of the program, and most Winooski families qualify for some support (copays may apply). Applications are encouraged for all families – visit dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap or contact Thrive if you have questions or need support in applying for childcare subsidy. We do have scholarships available for those in need who don't qualify for State subsidy.

Visit winooskivt.gov/thrive or more information and to register, or contact the Thrive Program Director: thrive@winooskivt.gov | 802-233-8188.

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



winooskivt.gov/programs



Downtown Winooski

downtownwinooski.org

August brings not only more produce to the Winooski Farmers' Market (WFM), but also the annual **Fiber Fair!** Join us on August 30th from 10am–2pm at the WFM for an amazing day of fiber arts and history, sheep petting, hands-on activities and demonstrations, and the market you know and love.

For all the details on vendors, activities, and more, visit downtownwinooski.org/fiber-fair.

The **Friendship Festival** will take place at the Winooski School District on August 30th, from 2–9pm, and you don't want to miss it.

Outside the market, we're taking it easy this month to prepare for a jam-packed September. We've got the **Pride Block Party** on September 16th and **Youth Vendor Day** at WFM on September 27th. Visit our website to learn more about these incredible events.

Howard Center

howardcenter.org

Suicide is a critical public health issue. Vermont's rate of suicide is higher than the US rate—it's estimated that up to 135 people are impacted for every suicide death Help is available. Natural supports—friends, family, and primary care and mental health professionals can all provide support. Learn more about the resources and services Howard Center offers, including free firearm locks, at howardcenter.org/community-education/suicide-prevention. If someone you know has suicidal thoughts, one of the most important things you can tell them is, "The world needs you here, even if you don't know why yet." Howard Center helps people and communities thrive by providing supports and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs. 802-488-6000 | howardcenter.org.



Winooski Food Shelf

winooskifoodshelf.org

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



Saturday, August 8	9-11am
Wednesday, August 12	12-3pm
Saturday, August 22	9-11am
Wednesday, August 26	12-3pm

Where to find us: We are located at 24 West Allen Street inside the green United Methodist Church. Our phone is 802-655-7371. **Volunteers needed:** Please reach out to us at our e-mail, winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com. 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.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

winooskiprevention.org

The Winooski Partnership for Prevention is planning for a busy summer hoping to see many of you out and about! Look for us out cleaning, at events, helping other local efforts, and as always, providing support to our community. Above the Influence ended the year with a fun trip to Bolton where the group took part in some outdoor challenges and learned a bit in the process. Many thanks to these students and to Mukhtar for making this possible.



We're looking forward to a great year next year, as well, and so proud of the seniors in this group for their hard work and dedication and can't wait to see what they do next.

A resource that we think folks might find helpful that we recently learned about is made available via *Talk They Hear You* and is called "Screen4Success." You can access this resource at screen4success.org. Anyone over the age of 12 can use this tool to check in about their mental health, substance use, and or general wellbeing and it will help you locate resources near you.



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT www.wsdvt.org

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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
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Board of School Trustees

Nicole Mace, *President*, 802-363-7777, nimace@wsdvt.org
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Emily Bowers, *Secretary*, 802-383-6000, ebowers@wsdvt.org
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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

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