The Winooski Newsletter

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

NOVEMBER 2026

WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools



As we enter November, Winooski School District is building on the work that began at the start of the school year: establishing clear expectations, understanding where students are in their learning, and helping every student take an active role in their growth. These priorities guide us as we begin the annual budget process and consider the resources needed to support our students and staff.

High expectations for everyone

Two years ago, Winooski School District strengthened its teacher evaluation system to better reflect what effective teaching and learning look like in our schools. The process emphasizes not only strong instruction, but also the relationships, advocacy, and sense of community that help students succeed.

Great teaching means creating learning environments where students feel a sense of belonging and where their cultures, identities, and individual needs are recognized. It means providing appropriate challenges and support, making learning goals clear, encouraging students to ask questions and engage in thoughtful discussion, and building classroom communities where everyone contributes and cares for one another. In our analysis of the previous year data, we found that Winooski teachers perform well in indicators related to student behavior, responsiveness, flexibility, and innovation, while showing opportunity for growth in areas like clarity in expectations. In a process of continuous improvement, this data will be vital in helping us focus forward.

Understanding where students are in their learning

The beginning of each school year provides an important opportunity to understand students' strengths and identify areas where additional support may be needed. This fall, teachers and support staff across the district conducted assessments in reading and mathematics, along with screenings that help educators better understand students' social-emotional development.

These tools provide a starting point for instruction, not simply a score or label. By understanding what students already know and where they may need help, educators can adjust instruction, provide targeted support, and plan learning experiences that move students forward.

Assessment is most valuable when it informs what happens next in the classroom. Our goal is to ensure that students receive the right combination of challenge, encouragement, and support to continue growing.

Putting students at the center of their learning

This fall, Winooski High School expanded student-led conferences to include all students in grades 9–12, building on a practice already established in grades 6–8.

Student-led conferences give young people an opportunity to share evidence of their learning, reflect on their progress, and discuss goals with their teachers and caregivers. As students move through middle and high school, they take increasing responsibility for explaining what they have learned, identifying areas for improvement, and considering their next steps.

These conversations help students develop skills that extend beyond the classroom, including communication, organization, critical thinking, and self-advocacy. They also strengthen the partnership among students, families, and educators that is essential to long-term success.

Looking ahead to budget season

As we begin the district's budget discussions, these priorities provide an important framework for the decisions ahead. A school budget is ultimately a reflection of our commitments: the learning experiences we want students to have, the support they need to thrive, and the conditions that allow educators to do their best work.

The coming months will require thoughtful consideration of both our educational goals and the resources available to achieve them. As that process unfolds, we remain focused on a shared purpose: creating the conditions for every Winooski student to learn, grow, and prepare for the future.

Thank you to our educators, staff, families, and community members for the many ways you contribute to this work.

SAVE THE DATE:

Winooski School Board Meeting

Wednesday November 10th at 6:00 pm in the WSD library

WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

School Board Update

By Robert Millar, Board of School Trustees



It's Fall in Vermont, which is, without a doubt, my favorite time of the year. The crisp, cool air; the vibrant, brightly colored leaves; apple picking, cider, donuts; and, of course, Halloween, my favorite holiday. What's not to love?

For the Board, Fall also marks the beginning of yet another budget season. With just one full month of the current school year behind us, it's time to start building the budget for next year, so that it can be presented to the voters in March. We don't take this work lightly—as I'm fond of saying, a budget is a moral document—which is why we spend so much time working to get it right each year.

This time around, though, we are doing something a little differently. As many of you are probably aware, as part of our budget process each year we recruit "Budget Buddies" from throughout the community to join us at the table as we build the budget. These community members help us ensure we are as tuned in to the will of the voters and the City-at-large as we possibly can be, and we take their feedback and questions very seriously.

But this year we will be asking a little bit more of our Buddies. We have invited them to stick with us for a full year and help us not just with developing our budget, but with ongoing discussions about potential school district mergers. One of the results of recent "Education Transformation" legislation (Act 170) is that Winooski, Burlington, and South Burlington have been tasked with putting together a committee to study a potential merger of our districts. There will be opportunities for some public input in this process, but as a Board, we felt we wanted something more. So, as they do with the budget, our Buddies will help us to ensure we are getting as much public feedback as possible, while also helping us communicate back to the community throughout the process.

At our October Board meeting, we spent the majority of our time getting to know our Buddies and receiving presentations on both the merger committee process and the budget creation process, including some preliminary information about expected budget pressures for next year. You can view these presentations, like all of our agendas, minutes, and videos of our meetings, by visiting www.wsdvt.org/school-board. The District has also created a page with general information about Act 170 at www.wsdvt.org/project/educationtransformation. As always, please reach out with any questions or feedback! And stay tuned for some specific ways we'll be asking you to get involved and make your voice heard in the coming months.

One final note. Since this newsletter should be reaching mailboxes at the beginning of November, I'd be remiss not to remind all voters to get your ballots in by November 3rd, and remember to vote on both sides of the ballot! Questions about voting in Vermont? You can find just about all the info you could need at *vote.vermont.gov.*

Community Read: Students Lead the Conversation

A summer reading assignment became an opportunity for Winooski High School students to lead a conversation with members of their community.

This summer, Ms. Caitlin asked all 10th grade students to read *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez and invited staff and community members to read the novel as well.

The result was a Community Read Discussion, with students facilitating book club groups for their classmates, school staff and community members. Rather than simply talking about the book, students used the shared text as a starting point for deeper conversations about the themes in the novel and their own experiences.

Discussion topics included belonging in school; the "perfect" daughter and



gender expectations; family dynamics and generational trauma; grief, identity and mental health; and heritage.

Students and adults shared personal stories and drew connections between their own experiences and the experiences of characters in the book.

The adults participating included Winooski Mayor Thomas Renner, School Board members, Superintendent Wilmer Chavarria, school staff and counselors, and Kirsten Wilson, Youth Services Coordinator at Winooski Memorial Library.

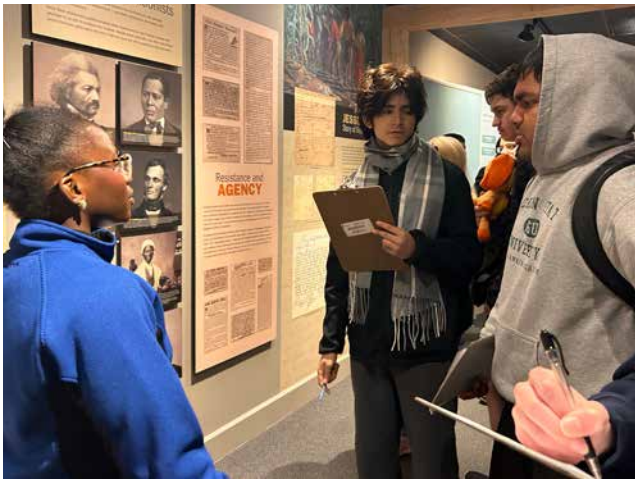
Having the discussion during Hispanic Heritage Month added another meaningful dimension to the gathering, creating an opportunity to talk about heritage, culture, identity and the experiences represented in the novel.

Most importantly, the students led the way. They facilitated the conversations, asked questions and created space for both their peers and adults to share and listen.

Rokeby Reflection

By Prajal Tamang

At the end of Ms. Caitlin's first Civics unit, "Interrogating American Ideals," students visited the Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, one of the most documented sites on the Underground Railroad. Below is a reflection from junior Prajal Tamang.



Going to the Rokeby Museum was a lot more powerful than I expected. These weren't recreations or exhibits behind glass. They were real homes, and walking through them felt different from reading about history in a textbook or classroom. I kept thinking that I might be standing or sitting in the same spot where Frederick Douglass or Jesse once stood. That made the history feel real and powerful, not like something that happened to people I could only picture through words or black-and-white images.

One of the biggest things I took away was how many myths our guide, Jon, cleared up. There's a popular story that people escaping slavery hid in a secret room at Rokeby. But when I stood in that room, it was obvious that wasn't true. The windows were big, the room was big, and nobody was hiding. The people there were working and earning the same pay as white workers. It surprised me that a story so many people believe could be so different from what actually happened.

The museum's "True or Myth" boxes made this even clearer. One challenged the idea that people hung quilts with secret patterns to send coded messages to those escaping slavery. It turned out to be a myth. Many teachers got the boxes wrong, and some said they had taught these stories to their students. That showed me how easily myths can spread, even through people who are trying to teach history.

The part that stuck with me most was Jesse's story. Jesse was a freedom seeker who escaped from North Carolina and found refuge at Rokeby, where he lived and worked. He saved $150 toward buying his freedom, but his enslaver demanded $300. Rowland T. Robinson, the man helping Jesse, refused to lend him the additional $150 because he believed buying a person was wrong. What amazes me is that Jesse didn't have to do any of that. He could have just stayed quiet, but he didn't. I also think it's powerful that Robinson refused to go along with a system that treated people as property. Paying the full price would have meant accepting that a person could be owned and sold, that freedom is not what's given at birth, and he refused to go along with that.

Visiting Rokeby made me appreciate the work of uncovering the lives of ordinary people who could easily have been forgotten. It helped me see the Underground Railroad in a much more honest way.

Winooski Soccer Celebrates Its Senior Athletes

Winooski High School is proud to recognize its senior soccer players for their contributions on and off the field. Many of these athletes have been part of the program for all four years of high school, growing as players, teammates, and leaders along the way.

This season, the girls team honored seniors Bora, Ketila, Joyce, Moo July, and Esther, while the boys team recognized Oliver, Siyat, Mo, Stephan, and Jafari. Their dedication and commitment have helped shape the Winooski soccer community.

That community extends beyond each team. The girls regularly come out to support the boys at their games, and the boys return the favor by cheering on the girls. This mutual support reflects the camaraderie and school spirit that make Winooski soccer special.

Last year, both teams advanced to the state championship games, an achievement that speaks to the talent, hard work, and determination of Winooski's student-athletes.

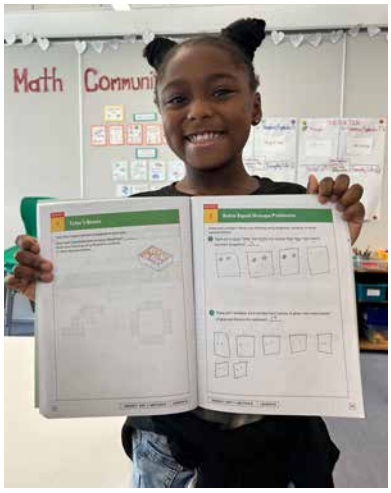
Congratulations to our seniors, and thank you for the memories, leadership, and Spartan pride you've brought to the program.





Third Grade Is Building Strong Learners and Learning Communities

By Mrs Carlton



We've had quite an exciting start to third grade at JFK! We've spent the first six weeks getting to know each other and building our learning communities in various ways, including read-alouds, games, art, and community circles.

In Math, we're working on representing and solving multiplication problems through the context of scaled picture and bar graphs, as well as equal-group situations. While working toward our learning goals, we always think of how we work as a math community. We think about what lifts us up as learners and what holds us back. We have class discussions about how we can use our Habits as mathematicians to support ourselves and each other in our learning. Examples of Habits we've been working on include private reasoning time, using math as the authority, multiple pathways, explaining our thinking, using models and representations, making mistakes, and checking for understanding. Habits are the core of our thinking as mathematicians.

In Literacy, we've launched Unit 1: The Power of Reading. Students have observed picture and text samples from different books we will use together throughout the theme. They took notes on what they noticed and wondered, looking for patterns and clues to guess the topic. We have read Waiting for the Biblioburro, which takes place in Colombia and tells the story of a travelling library. Also, we have read Tomas and the Library Lady, which tells the story of a family that travels from Texas to Iowa and how a young boy gains access to books. Students had collaborative discussions to recount the Story and determine the Central Message. For Literacy, we also have an ALL Block (Additional Language and Literacy Block). In this block, we are learning academic routines to develop reading and writing skills, increasing literacy stamina, and building student confidence to work with greater independence.

Students in third grade have so much to be proud of already this school year, and we are excited for the year of growth ahead.

Meeting Announcement

The Winooski School District invites you to attend a meeting to discuss the following:

Meeting Topic: Parentally-Placed Students in Non-public Schools (including Home Study) and Proportionate Share Requirements

Audience: Parents who have children enrolled in a non-public school (St. Francis Xavier) and/or in a home study program

When: Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 1:00 pm

How to Join: Please contact Katherine Blair at kblair@wsdvt.org or 802-829-5120 with your name and email address for the Google Meet link for this meeting. You can also attend this meeting in person at: 60 Normand Street, Winooski, VT 05404 in the support services conference room.

Summary: The IDEA requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide special education services to eligible students who are enrolled by their parents in non-profit non-public schools for the purpose of delivering an elementary and/or secondary education. Each LEA must use a proportionate share of their IDEA funds to provide special education services to non-profit non-public schools and home-schooled students with disabilities. For the purposes of proportionate share requirement, Vermont defines non-public schools as: independent (secular, and non-secular) schools, as well as home study programs.

The meeting will be facilitated by the Office of Support Services. Katherine Blair will meet at 1 pm via Google Meet and in person on 11/11/26 to review this process and answer any questions you may have.



Hydro-Québec Brings Smiles to Pre-K Students

Pre-K students got a special surprise thanks to the generosity of Hydro-Québec!

The company donated crayons, doodle pads, magnetic letters, cars, squishy toys, Pop-Its, play dough, and other fun supplies for our youngest learners. These new materials give students more ways to explore, create, play, and learn together.

Thank you, Hydro-Québec, for supporting our students and helping make the start of their school year a little more joyful!



Fifth Graders Dance Their Way Through Kickline

By Kristin Van Fossen, 5th Grade Teacher

On September 25, Winooski fifth graders joined students from across Vermont for Kickline, an annual community dance event hosted by The Flynn at the Burlington Waterfront.

Throughout the day, artists in residence led workshops and taught choreography, bringing students together through movement and music. Winooski students left with a brand-new dance routine to "Love Is Not Hard to Find" by Yendry.

Along with learning new moves and building community, students enjoyed a beautiful fall day by the lake.



Exciting News for Our Students' Dental Health

By Tracy Towers RDH

We are thrilled to announce that our Winooski School District On-Site Dental Program has received a $15,000 grant from the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation. This generous funding will be used to purchase state-of-the-art digital sensors, allowing us to take digital X-rays right here at school when prescribed by a dentist.

By upgrading to this modern technology, we can streamline dental visits, minimize time out of the classroom, and significantly enhance the preventative and diagnostic care we provide to our students.

The new equipment is scheduled to be fully operational by January 2027. We are incredibly grateful to the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation for their investment in our community and for helping us keep Winooski smiles healthy and bright!



SCHOOL MENUS • NOVEMBER — JFK ELEMENTARY LUNCH

2 Asian Chicken & Noodle Stir Fry with Cabbage and Broccoli Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar	**3** Taco Cheese Quesadilla Chicken Quesadilla Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Vegetarian Fried Rice Daily Salad Bar Chunky Salsa, Mild	**4** Chicken Poutine Bowl Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Garlic Roasted Green Beans Whole Grain Rolls	**5** Turkey Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun Chili Cheese Dog, Scratch Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Tater Tots	**6** BBQ Chicken Pizza, SS Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar
9 Asian Chicken & Noodle Stir Fry with Cabbage and Broccoli Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar	**10** Taco Cheese Quesadilla Chicken Quesadilla Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Vegetarian Fried Rice Daily Salad Bar Chunky Salsa, Mild	**11** Chicken Poutine Bowl Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Garlic Roasted Green Beans Whole Grain Rolls	**12** Turkey Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun Chili Cheese Dog, Scratch Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Tater Tots	**13** BBQ Chicken Pizza, SS Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Cheese Pizza Daily Salad Bar
16 BBQ Chicken Sandwich (made with Halal chicken) Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Pulled Buffalo Chicken Wrap Daily Salad Bar Roasted Potato Creamy Coleslaw	**17** Nacho Bar Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Black Bean & Corn Salad	**18** Spaghetti with Turkey Meatballs Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich OR, Turkey Hot Dog WG Bun (Franz) 2MMA 2WG Daily Salad Bar	**19** Waffles & Eggs Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Homestyle Potatoes (Homefries) Sausage Patty	**20** Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar
23 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Creamy Tomato Soup	**24** Beef Soft Tacos Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Chunky Salsa, Mild Brown Rice (1 WG) VT	**25** Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Macaroni & Cheese Daily Salad Bar	**26** Chicken Tenders Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Green Peas Tater Tots Whole Grain Rolls BBQ Sauce	**27** Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Side Caesar Salad Genuine Scratch Pizza Dough
30 Sweet & Sour Chicken Thigh Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Honey Glazed Carrots Pineapple Fried Rice	**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.**			

Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Thomas Renner



At the end of September, I was happy to speak at the **Main Street Revitalization Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**, where we celebrated the many years of work that went into planning, voting for, designing, and constructing what is now our beautiful new Main Street. Projects of this size take years of work and involve countless people, and I want to once again thank our business community and residents for sticking with us through all the dust, construction, and detours. It was wonderful to finally celebrate the finished product together. Depending on when you get this newsletter, **Halloween in Winooski**, one of Winooski's biggest community traditions, will either be right around the corner or wrapped up to end another amazing October. Every year I look forward to this incredible event—from planning to pumpkins, volunteer opportunities, and the many activities for everyone, I'm always so impressed with how much community spirit goes into every aspect to make it perfect. Learn more at downtownwinooski.org/halloween or check out Downtown Winooski on social media to see the snaps. Looking forward through November, the **General Election** is on November 3! I encourage everyone who is eligible to make a plan to participate. For all things election, including ballot and voting information, visit winooskivt.gov/vote or view the "City Hall Reminders" section of this newsletter. **As we prepare for another budget season**, we want to hear from residents. Your priorities help the City Council consider how we invest in Winooski and provide services to our community, but your input matters year-round, not just during budget season. One of the best ways to stay engaged is to attend City Council, board, commission, and committee meetings. You can offer public comment during meetings or share your thoughts with the Council or Commission by email. Meeting schedules, agendas, and information about how to participate are available at *winooskivt.gov/representatives*. You don't need to be an expert on city government to participate. If something matters to you and your community, we want to hear about it! **Lastly, I'd like to take a moment to address something that occurred recently that upset many members of our community.** A nationally known white supremacist entity unfortunately took to our streets again to post hateful materials around the city. Winooski's identity is rooted in the many cultures, histories, and families that make our city stronger, and there is no place for hate speech or discrimination here. The City Council and staff strongly condemn these actions, and I thank our neighbors for their vigilance in bringing the materials to our attention. Please report instances of vandalism or hate speech to the Winooski Police Department's non-emergency line at 802-655-0221. I continue to be proud of our community and our commitment to one another, and I want to thank the many neighbors who showed diligence and care in addressing this matter. Winooski's diversity is our strength. Thank you, as always, for being part of this community. I hope you take some time this month to connect with your neighbors, support our local businesses, and enjoy all that makes Winooski home.

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco



This fall, my work has focused on **protecting access to health care** and preparing legislation that responds to concerns I hear from Winooski residents. Conversations with residents, providers, state officials, and community partners are shaping those priorities for the next legislative session.

I visited residents at Our Lady of Providence in Winooski, where our discussion was cut short by a lively game of bingo! I also met with the executive director of Vermont's Free and Referral Clinics at Pingala to explore expanding Medicaid coverage for dentures and keeping our free clinics open. Oral health affects nutrition, confidence, and employment opportunities, especially for people rebuilding their health in recovery. Free clinics are essential as Vermonters face changes in insurance coverage and affordability. Last week, **physical therapists shared the deep financial pressures** facing their practices: low reimbursement rates, rising operating costs, and workforce shortages. They reported several recent practice closures—a reminder that threats to health care access extend beyond hospitals. I'm bringing these concerns into legislative planning, with a focus on sustaining community providers before more services disappear. In a meeting with Blue Cross Blue Shield, I raised the importance of addressing artificial intelligence in billing. As these tools become more common, we need transparency and accountability around how they affect patients, providers, and costs. I also met with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation about affordable education opportunities. Through 802Opportunity, eligible Vermont residents with a family adjusted gross income of $100,000 or less can attend the Community College of Vermont tuition-free. If you are considering college or a career change, VSAC can help you explore your options. **Mental health remains a major focus of my work.** I met with leadership at Clara Martin Center, Vermont's first state-certified Community-Based Integrated Health Center, and learned more about its resources and programming for veterans. Accessible, coordinated care is essential to ensuring veterans and their families receive the care and support they deserve. At a national mental health caucus meeting in Nashville, I visited a jail diversion facility serving people with mental health needs. As conversations broaden about

(continued on page 8)

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE *(continued from page 7)*

untreated serious mental illness and community safety, I am working toward solutions that uphold human rights and dignity, respect victims' rights, and follow evidence-based practices. We need effective pathways to care and thoughtful responses to community safety concerns.

I am also working with youth mental health and wellness stakeholders on legislation to direct Vermont's Meta lawsuit settlement funds. With hundreds of organizations involved in the broader conversation, these resources must be strategically invested to prevent, reduce, and address social media harms. Young people's perspectives must guide these investments. My priorities include promoting off-screen connection—think libraries, parks and after school program—and providing prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery supports for youth and young adults. **Another bill I am preparing would ban electric shock gloves** in Vermont. ICE has purchased these devices for planned use by its officers, raising serious concerns about safety and potential abuse. We have to address this issue before their use takes hold here. These conversations are shaping my priorities for the next legislative session: preserving access to care, strengthening youth mental health, and protecting the dignity and safety of our community. Please continue to share your questions, concerns, and ideas.

City Hall Reminders



City Hall Closures:

- Wednesday November 11 (Veteran's Day)
- Thursday November 26 and Friday November 27 (Thanksgiving)

The **General Election** will take place on Tuesday, November 3, from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Winooski Senior Center. Please visit *winooskivt.gov/vote* for election, ballot, and voting information. The Vermont Secretary of State mailed General Election ballots to all registered/active voters in Winooski using the address you provided through the voter registration portal at *vote.vermont.gov*. This is your ballot! Once completed, please bring your ballot to the Winooski Senior Center (123 Barlow Street) on Election Day from 7 am to 7 pm. You can register to vote any time in Vermont. To register, or check the status of your ballot, visit *vote.vermont.gov.*

The voter-approved **Winooski Police Department renovation** is underway! The Winooski Police Department has temporarily relocated from Winooski City Hall at 27 West Allen Street to the Champlain Mill Building at 20 Winooski Falls Way. There are two entrances, the upper entrance from the footbridge, and the lower entrance, which is ADA accessible. Paid street and garage parking, as well as 15-minute courtesy spaces are available. To learn more about the new location, and how to access the Winooski Police Department at the Champlain Mill, visit *winooskivt.gov/police*.

Long-Term Winooski Parking Garage space agreements are now available! Are you a resident with an extra vehicle? Are you a college student, business owner, or employee looking for a steady parking option? Need a spot in the parking garage during winter parking bans? Just looking for a place to park? Visit *winooskivt.gov/parking* to fill out the interest form and learn more.



Main Street Revitalization Project

winooskivt.gov/mainstreet

The City of Winooski and project team celebrated an important milestone on September 30 with a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the near completion of the Winooski Main Street Revitalization Project. City officials were joined by representatives from state and federal agencies, funding partners, and congressional offices. The event recognized more than a decade of planning and three years of construction to improve one of Winooski's most important corridors. **"As I look up Main Street, I am incredibly proud of the tremendous work that went into massively improving the accessibility, longevity, and vitality of our primary gateway district."** said Mayor Thomas Renner, highlighting key improvements such as the reconstructed roadway, wider sidewalks, a dedicated bike lane, enhanced pedestrian crossings, upgraded traffic signals, new streetlights, and trees. **"To our incredible business owners and those who live and work on Main Street, thank you for your patience, perseverance, and partnership throughout the project,"** he continued. While the new streetscape features are the most visible changes, the project also replaced nearly 19,000 feet of aging water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. Looking ahead, speakers noted that these upgrades position the corridor to support future housing and business growth. Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Misty Sinsigalli reflected on the effort required to

bring the project to life. **"Winooski dreamed big," she said. "A $28 million project is a big lift for a city of this size. It took a lot of partners, a lot of patience, and a lot of people who kept saying, 'We will figure it out.' Almost a decade later, that big dream is right here under our feet."** The project is nearing completion, with only minor work remaining. Limited and parking traffic impacts are expected. As work winds down, this will be the final Main Street Revitalization Project update published in the Winooski Newsletter. Community members can continue to find updates at *winooskivt.gov/mainstreet.*

Recreation and Parks

Register for programs at *winooskivt.gov/recprograms*
802-540-1476 | recreation@winooskivt.gov

YOUTH



FIRST Robotics Challenge
Ages 9-13 | Mondays, Sept 14–Nov 30

Teen Very Merry Theatre
Ages 10-15| Mondays and Wednesdays, Nov 2–Dec 21

Skateboarding at Talent
Ages 8-14 | Tuesdays, November 3–December 15
Ages 8-14 | Thursdays, January 7–February 18

Youth Climbing
Ages 5-8 | Thursdays, November 5–December 17
Ages 9-14 | Tuesdays, January 5–February 16

Youth Basketball League
Grades K-2 Co-Ed Clinic | Saturdays, January 9–February 20
Grades 3-4 Girls Team | Weeks of January 4–February 13
Grades 3-4 Boys Team | Weeks of January 4–February 13
Grades 5-6 Girls Team | Weeks of January 4–February 13
Grades 5-6 Boys Team | Weeks of January 4–February 13

What an amazing turnout for our Memorial Park Bird Watch! Many thanks to Trish O'Kane and Friends of the Winooski River for this incredible educational opportunity to explore one of #Winooski's parks and wildlife.





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–Monday

DROP-IN PROGRAMS

YOUTH

Playgroup | Birth & up | Tuesdays | 10:30 am
Pokémon Club | Ages 8+ | Wednesdays | 3:30 pm
Storytime | Birth & up | Thursdays | 10:30 am
Lego Club | Ages 4+ | Thursdays | 3:30 pm
STEam Ahead | Ages 4+ | Saturdays| 10:30 am
Spanish Musical Kids | Birth & up | Wed., Nov. 4 | 10:30 am
Community Helper Storytime | Ages 2-5 | Friday, Nov. 6 | 10:30 am
Food Challenge: Turkey Cupcakes | Ages 5+ | Friday, Nov. 13 | 3:30 pm
Reading Dragons & Friends | Ages 5+ | Friday, Nov. 20 | 3:30 pm

ADULTS

Monthly Book Group | Ages 18+ | Last Tuesday of each month
Monthly Writing Group | Ages 18+ | Call or email for specifics

Spotlight on Resources: Mango Languages: Now is a great opportunity to explore the world of Mango Languages, a free online resource offered to Winooski Library cardholders! Featuring over 70 languages, Mango offers self-paced learning opportunities for anyone looking to freshen their skills, take a deeper dive, or embark on a new language journey. To get started, simply head over to our online resources page at *winooskivt.gov/library*.

Spanish Musical Kids: Join the Winooski Library on the first Wednesday of the month for a morning of movement and Latin American songs with Argentinian-born Constancia Gomez. We'll learn the basics of the language, including colors, numbers, body parts, and animals, all while moving and shaking!



Winooski Senior Center

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

Senior Community Connections
- 9 am–12 pm | Free | Drop-in
- Play games, puzzles, crafts and more

Sit Down Community Meals
- 12 pm | 60+ | $7 suggested donation
- RSVP the previous Wednesday
- No Meals served on November 11 and 25

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Morning Mobility | 9–10 am
Wellness Cafe | 10 am–12 pm
Fun & Games | 1 - 2:30 pm
- FREE | Drop-in | New Programming weekly

FRIDAYS

Memory Cafe 9–10:30 am | Free | Drop-in
Singing Group | 10:30–11:30 am | Free | Drop-in
- Programs for people with memory loss & caregivers

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Friday Night Dinner Party | Friday November 13
- 5 pm | 60+ |$7 Suggested Donation | RSVP by November 9

Thanksgiving Luncheon | Wednesday November 18
- 12pm | 60+ |$7 Suggested Donation | RSVP by November 12

Mobile Pet Food Shelf | Sunday November 22
- 1–3 pm | Free pet food and items for those in need

Bone Builders Exercise | Free | Mondays and Wednesdays | 2–3 pm

Meals on Wheels | Call Age Well at 802-865-0360



Thrive Afterschool

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 3–5:30 pm, 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.

Thrive Afterschool is a "Five Star" program. STARS is Vermont's Quality Recognition and Improvement System for childcare, preschool, and afterschool programs. Participation in STARS means that a program is striving beyond licensing regulations to meet higher quality standards, uphold professional practices, and commit to continuous quality improvement.

Sign up for Community Services Programs & Events!

SCAN ME!

winooskivt.gov/programs

Downtown Winooski

downtownwinooski.org



Thanks, Winooski - we had such a blast with you at Halloween! We are so grateful to everyone who came out to celebrate with us. We are also thankful for such an amazing summer farmers market season. We could not do it without you.

November is a quieter month while we begin our preparations for next year, but we're still excited to bring you the first of two winter farmers market dates this month! Join us on Sunday, November 15th at the Winooski Senior Center for a winter market, featuring over a dozen of the wonderful vendors you know and love from the summer market. Grab brunch, get some groceries, do some holiday meal prep, and maybe even get a jump start on your winter gift shopping. Please note that we are trying out a new schedule this winter - we're still starting at 10 am but the market will wrap up at 1pm instead of 2 pm. If you can't make it this month, you can find us again on December 13th before we finish up for the year.

We're also getting ready for the Winooski Holiday Pop-Up Shop. The Pop-Up Shop will take place on Thursday, December 3rd from 5–9 pm at a variety of downtown Winooski businesses. Take a tour of around the Rotary while shopping small from local vendors with a wide array of carefully crafted holiday gifts. Grab a Pop-Up Passport and get it stamped at every location while you browse the vendors. Turn in a full card for the chance to win sweet prizes! Get all the details at *downtownwinooski.org/holiday-pop-up*.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

winooskiprevention.org

Above the Influence, our after school youth leadership club, has started and is taking place on Thursdays again this year. Get in touch with Mukhtar to learn more: mabdullahi@winooskiprevention.org. In addition, the WPP is partnering with youth and is planning to partner with families soon to provide CPR and first-aid training. These skills can help save lives at critical moments and the more residents who are trained, the better we protect and serve our community. Finally, the WPP will be surveying adults in Winooski soon to find out what awareness exists around Cannabis and Alcohol addiction treatment. The survey is brief (truly!) and will help us help families and adults in the area and we hope that you'll consider taking it. Our space is limited here, but we are doing a lot more and you can learn about it on our website and by subscribing to our newsletter. We hope to see you around! Resources for cessation and other treatment are available in Vermont. Quit the Hit, for teens to help quit vapes *https://quitthehitnow.com/* | MyLife MyQuit revamped! A totally anonymous app for teens. And *https://vt.mylifemyquit.org/en-us/* | And 802Quits offers free Nicotine replacement and tobacco cessation help: *https://802quits.org/*.

Winooski Food Shelf

winooskifoodshelf.org

winooski food shelf
sharing food & giving hope

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

Wednesday, November 4	12–3 pm
Saturday, November 7	9–11 am
Wednesday, November 11	12–3 pm
Saturday, November 21	9–11 am

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

Volunteers needed: Please reach out to us at our e-mail, winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com. We need volunteers to pack produce boxes and pantry staples. We especially need help the third Wednesday of each month at 9am to help bring inside and shelve the food dropped off by the Vermont Foodbank truck.



Howard Center

howardcenter.org | *802-488-6000*

HOWARD CENTER
Help is here.

Howard Center's Community Outreach Team works alongside the Winooski Police Department to connect individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, or substance use issues with support. With compassion, the team helps connect community members experiencing vulnerable moments to housing, behavioral health care, recovery services, medical care, and other essential resources. This collaborative approach focuses on safety, and long-term stability, ensuring people receive help before a crisis escalates while strengthening the well-being of the Winooski community. To learn more, visit *howardcenter.org/outreach*.

Town Meeting TV

cctv.org

CCTV Center for Media & Democracy

Vermont's Midterm General Election is on Tuesday, November 3rd. Don't miss Town Meeting TV's Live Election Night Results Show at 7pm for real-time results, commentary, political analysis, and interviews with newly elected officials. Watch live at YouTube.com/TownMeetingTV or on Comcast Channel 1087.

WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
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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

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

This newsletter is published by the Winooski School District and the City of Winooski • Anne Linton Elston, Editor. 802-655-0942. newsletter@wsdvt.org