The Winooski Newsletter

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

OCTOBER 2026

WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

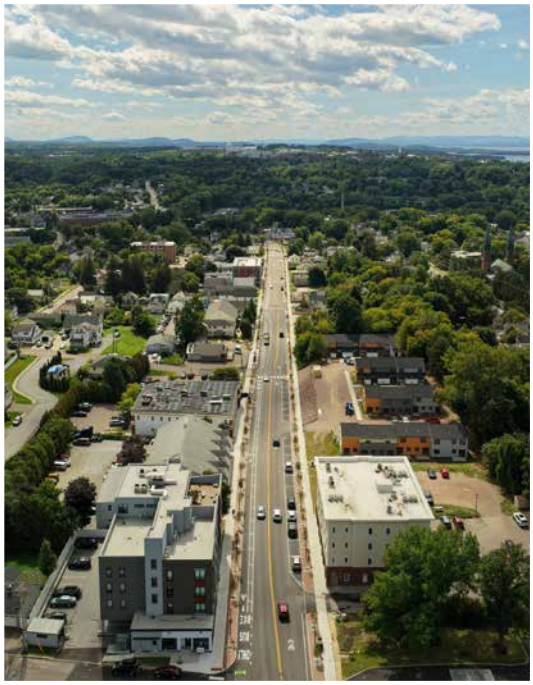
Main Street Revitalization Update

Via winooskivt.gov/mainstreet



After three years of construction, the Main Street Revitalization Project is nearing substantial completion, marking the transformation of one of the city's most important corridors.

The Main Street Revitalization Project was designed to create a safer, more accessible, and more welcoming corridor for everyone who lives, works, visits, and travels through Winooski. From the railroad bridge near Maple Street to the Winooski School District, Main Street has been rebuilt from the ground up. The project delivered a tremendous amount of work, strategically combining multiple infrastructure and streetscape improvements into a single effort to limit the need for future construction and minimize long-term disruption to the community. Improvements include widened sidewalks, a new northbound bicycle lane, enhanced pedestrian crossings, upgraded traffic signals, new streetlighting, trees, and brick pavers. Beneath the roadway, the project replaced aging water and sewer infrastructure, installed new stormwater systems, and relocated overhead electrical and telecommunications utility lines underground—improvements that enhance reliability, improve resilience, and transform the appearance of the corridor. By addressing these needs concurrently, the project maximized the value of construction while helping avoid repeated disruptions to residents, businesses, and travelers in the years ahead. By the time the project reaches substantial completion this fall, crews will have:





- Upgraded nearly 19,000 feet of underground water, sewer, stormwater, and drainage infrastructure, replacing critical infrastructure hidden beneath the roadway
- Installed more than 23,000 feet of conduit and duct bank, allowing overhead utility lines to be relocated underground
- Rebuilt nearly 4,000 feet of Main Street, almost three-quarters of a mile of roadway
- Constructed 5,850 square yards of sidewalk, enough to cover more than an acre of land
- Planted 132 new trees and 73 perennial plants, creating a greener and more inviting streetscape
- Installed 31,000 pavers, granite cobbles, and bricks, and 92 streetlights, transforming the look and feel of Main Street
- Installed two new traffic signal systems to improve safety and traffic flow for all users

If you receive this newsletter before September 30, a ceremonial ribbon cutting will be held at the Winooski VFW (Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 10am). This event is free and open to all! To view the press release and full event details, visit *winooskivt.gov/mainstreet.*

WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools



It is hard to believe we are already five weeks into the 2026–27 school year. Across the district, students and staff are settling into routines, building relationships, and getting down to the important work of learning. Just like a New Year's resolution, I have made the commitment to personally spend a lot more time in classrooms and establish more frequent conversations around learning with students and teachers. This is something more in line with what our principals do, but our district is small enough to allow me to join in the fun. I will be sure to keep everyone posted about the great things I see.

This year is the start of several good things, like free public transportation for students or the creation of a student leadership fund through the Career Pathways program, but it is also a year of strengthening important investments we have made over the years, including supports for Civil Rights education, home visiting, mentorship, health and nutrition, among many other things.

Speaking of important investments, our Pre-K team continues to create a program as strong as they come. This year, they developed a schedule that intentionally balances focused instruction in literacy and mathematics with play, exploration, choice, and relationship-building, and for the first time, we have expanded Unified Arts opportunities for our 4-year-olds. The investment we have been making over the past few years is making a big difference for parents of young children.

At JFK Elementary, our Intensive Classroom program has been redesigned into two classrooms, one serving grades K–1 and another serving grades 2–5. The classrooms provide individualized support in literacy, mathematics, social-emotional development, and functional skills, helping students build the skills they need for success in school.

Fall athletics are also underway. This year, our high school team captains are participating in a leadership course focused on accountability, communication, sportsmanship, and positive peer influence. Athletics are about more than competition, and they can help develop leadership and internal tools in our students. One example is the program's advocacy for our female student-athletes, which is already contributing to broader change. Last year, Winooski introduced a "No White Shorts" initiative for girls' soccer after students raised concerns about white uniforms. The team continues to wear black shorts, supporting the comfort and confidence of our athletes. As a result of this advocacy, the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) is working to replace white sports bottoms with darker colors for girls' teams across Vermont. Vermont is the first state in the nation to take this step to remove a uniform barrier and help keep girls active in sports.

We are grateful to our students, families, educators, and community partners for helping make this a strong start to another school year.

School Board Update

By Emily Bowers, Board of School Trustees



Happy back to school, Winooski! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer and is geared up for another great school year. The Board just had our annual retreat, during which we took a tour of the entire school. It was wonderful to see everyone hard at work, getting to know their new classes and fellow students. What a great community we have here in Winooski!

We learned a lot at the retreat this year. We started the day with the State of the Schools, where JFK, middle school, and high school administrators gave us updates on academic outcomes, social-emotional well-being, attendance, and course offerings in the high school, which are somewhat limited by our small size. The State of the Schools presentation helps us prepare for budget season and gives us a good sense of what needs to be prioritized in the upcoming year. This is a crucial part of the retreat, and the Board was very encouraged by what we learned.

The District has made remarkable progress in recent years, thanks to focused work aligning and deepening our curriculum. Thanks to our leadership teams and teachers for all their efforts to make WSD one of the only districts in the state demonstrating sustained growth in math and English Language Arts!

The rest of our time was spent focusing on the school district merger process. There's so much to learn, and we are just at the start of the process, but we are as up to date as we can be at the moment. The big things we decided at the retreat were who would represent us on the merger committee and what values and priorities we might bring to the merger study process.

The Board appointed Nicole Mace to represent us on the merger study committee, and we could not be in better hands, in my opinion. We are also in the early stages of planning the best ways to get the community involved in the merger process so that communication between

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SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE
(continued from page 2)

the Board and Winooski is as streamlined as possible.

The Board will be asking community members to join us as Merger Buddies—similar in concept to Budget Buddies, but a year-long commitment. The goal is for Merger Buddies to join regular Board meetings as often as they are able, get up-to-date information on the merger process, and provide input along the way. We should have more information on that in the next newsletter!

If you are interested in joining as a Merger Buddy, please email nimace@wsdvt.org.

As always, our previous Board meetings are available on the district website. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email the Board or attend an upcoming meeting for public comment.

On-Site Dental Program

By Tracy Towers RDH

We are always enrolling students to our On- Site Dental Program, please sign up! This program provides Preventive Dental Services (Cleaning,Fluoride, Sealants) by a Registered Dental Hygienist at school during the day.

Our program DOES NOT take the place of a yearly dental exam by your child's primary dentist.

Dental Transportation Program

Our Dental Transportation program is NOT running this year, due to construction at the Winooski CHC Dental Center. Parents/guardians are responsible for scheduling and transporting their children to dental appointments for exams yearly, or as needed due to decay.

Dental Forms are available in Powerschool, and printed copies in the health office at school.

Please reach out with any questions at ttowers@wsdvt.org

Foundations of Art: Starting the Year with Creativity



High school Foundations of Art students kicked off the school year by jumping right into the creative process.

In their first class, students rotated through hands-on stations focused on painting, drawing and sculpture building while exploring a fundamental question: What is art?

The class offered students a chance to experiment, create and have fun without worrying about getting everything "right." It was an engaging introduction to a course designed to give students experience across a variety of artistic disciplines.

Throughout the year, Foundations of Art students will explore painting, drawing, sculpture and printmaking while developing their skills and discovering different ways to express their ideas.

It's a hands-on, creative way to start the school year—and a great introduction to the possibilities of art. Thanks to Ms. Monty for getting students creating from day one!

Building Community Beyond the Classroom

As part of Winooski High School's advisory program, all high school students kicked off the school year with community-building field trips designed to bring students and advisors together outside the traditional classroom setting. These experiences give students opportunities to strengthen relationships with their advisory groups and advisors, practice leadership and teamwork, try new activities, and have fun as a school community.

Each grade took on a different adventure:

- 9th Grade: Students headed to the Bolton Adventure Course for high and low ropes activities, where they challenged themselves while working together and building trust with their classmates and advisors.
- 10th Grade: Sophomores spent the day at the Burlington Surf Club, with activities including stand-up paddleboarding, beach volleyball, and yoga.
- 11th Grade: Juniors took to the water at the Burlington Community Sailing Center for dragon boat racing with Mālia Paddling & Racing Club, combining teamwork, communication, and plenty of friendly competition.
- 12th Grade: Seniors paddled down the Lamoille River with Vermont Canoe and Kayak, enjoying time together on the water while building connections during their final year of high school.

These trips are an important part of the advisory program and are intentionally designed to support the relationships and sense of belonging that help students thrive throughout the school year. They also give students a chance to step outside their usual routines, learn new skills, and experience their community together.









Friendship Festival Brings Winooski Together

Photos courtesy: Erin, Winooski High School

The 2026 Friendship Festival brought Winooski together for an afternoon and evening filled with fun, food, music and connection. Families enjoyed skating, mini golf, train rides, a bounce house, lawn games, crafts and other activities throughout the day.

The festival also showcased the many talents and cultures that make Winooski such a vibrant community. Attendees enjoyed performances from KeruBo and her vocal jazz band, Winooski High School students from The Unheard Stories, and AALV's African & Bhutanese Nepali Dance Troupe. The Rice Dish Competition added another delicious—and competitive—element to the celebration.

Special guests helped make the day even more memorable, including Champ from the Vermont Lake Monsters and Miss Black USA.

An event of this size takes a community to make it happen. We are especially grateful to the many vendors, community organizations, volunteers and partners who contributed their time, energy and resources. A special thank you goes to Winooski City Manager Elaine Wang for her help and support, and to Winooski School District's Craig, Anson and Sulley for all they did to support the festival.

And a very special thank you and congratulations to Ruth Steinmetz, chair of the Friendship Festival, whose leadership and dedication helped bring the celebration to life.

Most of all, thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate. The Friendship Festival was a wonderful reminder of what happens when a community comes together—with plenty of laughter, new connections and memories along the way.

What I Found When I Came Back to Winooski

By Buthaina Eidan, Long-term Substitute - ML Education



Once upon a time, six years ago, I walked away from Winooski Schools.

I left in 2020, never imagining that six years later I would return not simply to the school community I once knew, but as an Multilingual teacher, with a new perspective, new experiences, and a deeper appreciation for the power of education.

So much has changed.

One of the things that has touched me most is seeing the growth in diversity among our faculty and support staff. I see people from different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences coming together to support our students. I see a community that is becoming more representative, more welcoming, and more inclusive.

And then there is something that truly makes me stop and reflect: seeing former students whom I once supported in Study Hall at the high school now becoming part of the school community themselves supporting little ones.

Six years ago, I was supporting students as they navigated high school. Today, I am returning as an ML teacher, and some of those same students have grown into individuals who are now contributing to our schools and supporting the next generation.

Six years ago, I walked away from Winooski. Six years later, I walked back in and I saw growth, diversity, belonging, possibility, and hope.

And perhaps that is the most beautiful part of it: realizing that the story never really ended. It simply kept growing.

I am reminded of an Arabic saying: "Whoever plants goodness will harvest goodness."

May we continue planting seeds of kindness, knowledge, courage, inclusion, and hope in our students. May those seeds grow into a generation that not only dreams of changing the world, but has the courage and compassion to make it better.

Thank you, Winooski!

To every educator, support staff member, leader, and student who continues to plant seeds of kindness, knowledge, courage, and hope: thank you. We may not always see the fruits of our work right away, but one day, those seeds will bloom.

And to our students: this school is yours. Your voices, your cultures, your dreams, and your ideas belong here. You are not just preparing for the future, you are the FUTURE!



Civics Comes to Life at the Winooski Memorial Library

Students in Caitlin's Civic classes walked down to the Winooski Memorial Library to view the traveling exhibit, *The 1619 Arrival*.

In Civics, students are engaged in our first unit, "Interrogating the American Ideal." This exhibit was perfectly timed for class, and helped students reckon with our nation's complex and contradictory history.

A special thank you to library Youth Services Coordinator Kirsten Wilson who hosted us, and city council member Al Turkos who joined us.

And a huge appreciation to Mattarello Baked Goods, who gave students free cupcakes! What a treat.

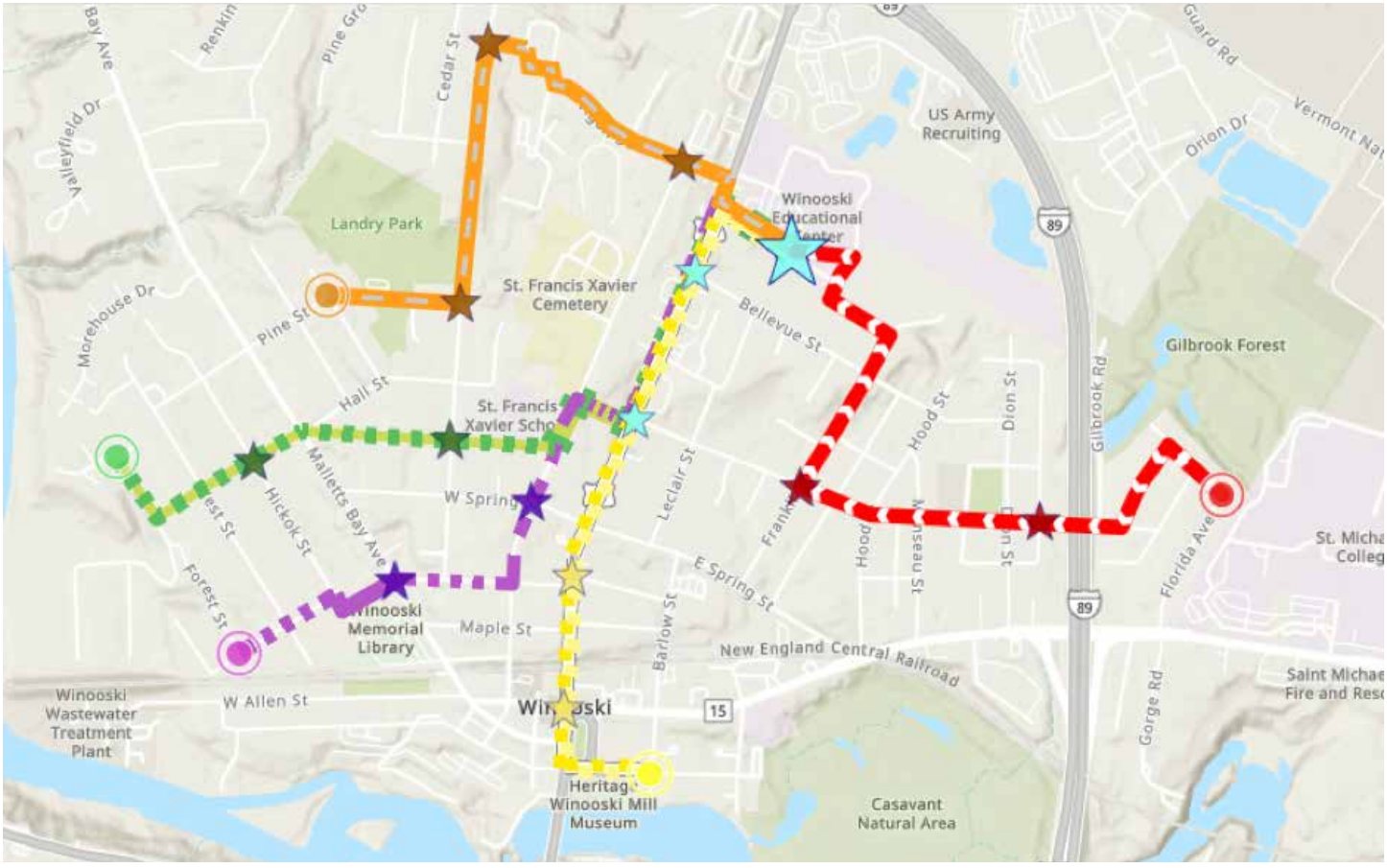
Winooski Walk to School Day is Wednesday October 7th!

We invite you to join our walking and rolling 'school buses' across town. All students are welcome to participate, regardless of whether a guardian can join them - and all adults are welcome to join, even if you're not a caretaker to a kiddo!

Check out the map to find your nearest starting point and the scheduled departure time. Snacks and prizes will be available at school for everyone who walks or rolls!

October 7th will be the first of our monthly walk to school days for the school year. Walk to school days will be held on the first Wednesday of the month until June - so please plan to also join us November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2!

For questions, please reach out to Al Turkos at aturkos@winooskivt.gov.



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.

			1 Turkey Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun Chili Cheese Dog, Scratch Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Tater Tots	2 BBQ Chicken Pizza, SS Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar
5 BBQ Chicken Sandwich (made with Halal chicken) Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Pulled Buffalo Chicken Wrap Daily Salad Bar Roasted Potato Creamy Coleslaw	6 Nacho Bar Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Black Bean & Corn Salad	7 Spaghetti with Turkey Meatballs Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar Side Caesar Salad	8 Waffles & Eggs Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar Homestyle Potatoes (Homefries) Roasted Root Vegetable Medley Sausage Patty	9 Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar
12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Creamy Tomato Soup	13 Beef Soft Tacos Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Chunky Salsa, Mild Brown Rice (1 WG) VT	14 Chicken Broccoli Pasta Bake (made with Halal Chicken) Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar	15 Chicken Tenders Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Green Peas Tater Tots Whole Grain Rolls BBQ Sauce	16 Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Side Caesar Salad Genuine Scratch Pizza Dough
19 Sweet & Sour Chicken Thigh Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Honey Glazed Carrots Pineapple Fried Rice	20 Bang Bang Chicken & Rice Bowl Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Chunky Salsa, Mild	21 Penne with Meat Sauce Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Parmesan Roasted Broccoli	22 Hot Honey Glazed Chicken Thigh Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Buttered Parsley Potatoes Rich's WG Dinner Roll R6574 (VT)	23 Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Cajun Seasoned Corn
26 Popcorn Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar Roasted Potato	27 Southwest Chick'n Rice Bowl Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Bar: Mexicali Seasoned Corn	28 Cajun Chicken Pasta Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Garlic Roasted Green Beans	29 Corn Dog Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Vegetarian Fried Rice	30 Buffalo Chicken Dip Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar

Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Thomas Renner



Hello Neighbors,

Happy fall! There is something about October that makes a city feel a little different. The evenings get quieter, the mornings get cooler, and before long we start seeing the first signs that winter is on its way. For me, fall is also a reminder of how quickly a year moves. We've packed a lot into the past few months, and as we head into the final stretch of the year, there is still plenty happening across Winooski.

Halloween in Winooski is also right around the corner! The City and Downtown Winooski are so excited to once again host this beloved community tradition. It is always wonderful to see trick or treaters at businesses, Rotary Park full of pumpkins, and plenty of Halloween spirit. Events like this take a lot of community support to make happen, though, and we need volunteers! If you are able to lend a hand, please consider volunteering and helping us make this year's Halloween celebration another great Winooski tradition. Learn more at *downtownwinooski.org/events/halloween.*

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, but your input matters year-round, not just during budget season. One of the best ways to stay engaged is to attend City Council and City Commission meetings, either in person or virtually. You can offer public comment or share your thoughts with the Council or Commission by email. Meeting schedules, agendas, and participation information 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!

Reminder: the General Election is coming up on November 3. Now is a good time to make your voting plan, whether that means voting early by mail, voting early in person, or heading to the polls on Election Day. Please take the time to learn about the candidates and the issues and encourage your neighbors and friends to participate. Every election is an opportunity to make our voices heard and help shape our future. Learn more and register at *winooskivt.gov/vote*. Lastly, the fall season is a perfect time to visit our beautiful parks, trails, and open spaces. Residents are encouraged to check out Memorial Park (enter from Elm Street) to see the lovely improvements made by our new Parks and Trail Steward! Thank you for continuing to be such an engaged and caring community. I hope you find time this month to enjoy the changing season and take part in the many things happening around Winooski. I look forward to seeing you out and about!

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Chloe Tomlinson



As fall begins and we approach the start of a new legislative biennium in January, make sure to have your voice heard! Over the next few months, legislators will work on setting priorities for the coming session, and bills will start being drafted for consideration. This period before the session begins is an important time to reach out to legislators, share your priorities, and help shape the conversations that will guide the upcoming work in Montpelier.

In this column, I want to focus on an issue that can sometimes receive less attention as we are dealing with crises and many immediate challenges: the growing power of Big Tech, and the related questions of privacy, surveillance, and artificial intelligence. Recent developments have brought this increasingly into public conversation.

Ideally, these issues would be addressed through bold federal and international action. But in the absence of meaningful leadership on this in Washington, states have an essential role to play in setting higher standards, protecting residents, demonstrating what responsible policy can look like, and challenging some of the largest and most powerful companies in the world. We've made some progress in the State House on these issues, but it is important that we continue advancing legislation that pushes the conversation forward.

In 2025, we passed Act 63, the Age-Appropriate Design Code, which will take effect in early 2027. It establishes stronger protections for children and teens online to address the harmful impact social media platforms have on young people's mental health and wellbeing. During this year's session, we passed H.727 which would have placed significant restrictions and safeguards on the construction of data centers in Vermont (if it had not been vetoed by Governor Scott).

The Legislature also passed a broader consumer privacy protection bill earlier this year (S.71). While I strongly supported the goals of that legislation, I had significant concerns about the final details. Lobbyists for Big Tech are active in the State House, and during the legislative process stronger enforcement provisions were weakened while numerous carve-outs and loopholes were added. When privacy legislation is weakened in this way, there is a risk that it creates the appearance of meaningful action while still allowing large technology companies to continue largely with business as usual.

As we enter the next biennium, I hope we continue the conversation about privacy, AI, surveillance, data centers, and the power of technology companies. We must keep working toward strong protections for Vermonters in a rapidly changing world.



City Hall Reminders

Winooski City Hall will be closed on Monday, October 12 for Indigenous Peoples Day.

Community Feedback is Needed for the Comprehensive Plan!

The City of Winooski must readopt a municipal plan (a high-level plan that guides the City's future) by the end of 2027. The current plan, known as the Master Plan, is being updated and will be called the "Comprehensive Plan".

Community feedback is needed to guide the plan! Scan the QR code or visit *winooskivt.gov/plan* to fill out the following community surveys:

Land Use Goals and Actions

How does Winooski change and grow?

Municipal Infrastructure

How does Winooski improve our water, sewer, stormwater, transportation, and energy network?

Economic Vitality

How does Winooski maintain/expand our economy?

Safe, Healthy, Connected People

How does Winooski improve livability, parks, community programs, health, and safety?

Questions? Contact Ravi Venkataraman, Director of City Planning: rvenkataraman@winooskivt.gov.



VERMONT
Register to vote at
vote.vermont.gov

Upcoming Election

The General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 7 AM to 7 PM at the Winooski Senior Center. Important: The Vermont Secretary of State will mail 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! The Secretary of State's Office is expected to begin mailing General Election ballots to Winooski voters by October 2026. Once completed, you can return your voted ballot by:

- Mail (as soon as possible) to Winooski City Hall, 27 West Allen Street, Winooski (postmarks are not considered timely for voted ballots)
- Drop-off at City Clerk's Office (Monday–Friday, 8 AM – 4 PM, after-hours drop box available near the entrance)
- Bring your ballot to the Winooski Senior Center on the day of the election from 7 AM to 7 PM

Please note: Check your ballot status at vote.vermont.gov Only U.S. citizens may vote in Federal elections. Learn more about elections in Winooski at winooskivt.gov/vote. Vermont has no deadline to register to vote; to ensure your name appears on the checklist, register online by the Friday before the election. You can also register in person through Election Day. Register to vote as early as possible at vote.vermont.gov. General Election information, such as the warning and sample ballots, will be posted to the City's website soon. Questions? Call or email 802 655 6410 | clerk@winooskivt.gov



Recreation and Parks

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

Register for fall programs at winooskivt.gov/recprograms!

YOUTH

Very Merry Theatre
Grades 1-7 | Mondays & Wednesdays | August 31–Oct 19

Vermont Patriots Soccer
U6 | Saturdays | September 12–October 24
U8-U12 | Monday–Thursday | August 31–October 18

FIRST Robotics Challenge
Ages 9 -13 | Mondays | September 14–November 30

Field Hockey
Ages 5 -11 | Tuesdays | September 1–October 27

Sailing @ Community Sailing Center
Ages 8-12 | Thursdays | September 10–October 8
Ages 13-17 | Fridays | September 11–October 9

EVENTS FOR ALL

Volunteer Trail Cleanup Days
Memorial Park | Saturday, October 10 | 10am - 12:30pm
Casavant Nature Area | Thursday, October 22 | 4 - 6:30pm

Halloween in Winooski
Rotary Park | Saturday - Sunday, October 31 – November 1

Fall program registration at *winooskivt.gov/recprograms*



Winooski Memorial Library

65 Winooski Falls Way | 802-655-6424 | library@winooskivt.gov
winooskivt.gov/library
Hours: Tuesday–Friday: 10am–5pm, Saturday: 10am–2pm, Sunday & Monday: Closed
We've Moved! The Library has moved from the O'Brien Community Center to our new, temporary location at **65 Winooski Falls Way** (formerly leased by Commodities Market).

DROP-IN PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Playgroup | Birth & up | Tuesdays | 10:30am
Pokémon Club | Ages 8+ | Wednesdays | 3:30pm
Storytime | Birth & up | Thursdays | 10:30am
Lego Club | Ages 4+ | Thursdays | 3:30pm
STEAM Ahead | Ages 4+ | Saturdays| 10:30am
Community Helper Storytime | Ages 2-5 | Friday, Oct 2 | 10:30am
Food Challenge: Monster Pizzas | Ages 5+ | Friday, Oct. 9 | 3:30pm
Reading Dragons & Friends | Ages 5+ | Friday, Oct. 16 | 3:30pm
Silly Goose Party | All ages | Friday, Oct. 23 | 3:30pm

DROP-IN PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

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

Silly Goose Party: A Geoffrey Tribute

Join us for an appreciation party at the Library for our local legend, Geoffrey the Goose, a year-round resident of the Winooski Riverbanks. Take part in a Geoffrey-themed scavenger hunt, draw a Geoffrey portrait for our community display, and enjoy other goofy activities. Everyone is invited, including Geoffrey!



Winooski Senior Center

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

TUESDAY OCTOBER 20

Cultural Connections

- 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
- 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
- No Meals served on October 21 and 28

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15

Morning Mobility: 9–10am

Wellness Café: 10am–12pm

Fun & Games: 1–2:30pm | Free Drop-in | New Programming weekly

FRIDAYS

Memory Cafe:| starts October 9 | 9–10:30am

Singing Group - Session starts October 2

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

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Friday Night Dinner Party: October 16

- 5pm | 60+ |$7 Suggested Donation | RSVP by October 9

Mobile Pet Food Shelf: October 27

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

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

Meals on Wheels | Call Age Well at 802 865 0360



Thrive Afterschool

winooskivt.gov/thrive

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.

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

Brrr... do you feel that chill in the air? That can only mean one thing... Halloween in Winooski is right around the corner. We're so grateful to everyone who was a part of our summer programming this year, from sponsors to vendors to visitors. We can't wait to jump into a super fun fall with you!

First up, we're finishing out the farmers market season at 20 Winooski Falls Way before we hop inside for a quick winter season. You can find us outdoors in front of the Champlain Mill through October 25th, when we'll celebrate the end of the season with a super fun Halloween market. With pumpkin painting, a scavenger hunt, themed vendors, and costumes, it'll be a frightfully fun end to our summer market season, and the perfect way to warm up for Halloween in Winooski the following weekend. Then, keep an eye out for us at the Winooski Senior Center on November 15th and December 13th for our winter market season.

Halloween in Winooski will hit Rotary Park on Saturday, October 31st and Sunday, November 1st. No one does Halloween like Winooski, and we'd love for you to come celebrate with us! We need all hands-on deck for pumpkin carving at the Winooski Senior Center from Tuesday, October 27th through Thursday, October 29th. Then, see your jack-o-lantern come to life with 1,000 others in Rotary Park on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday night brings the celebration from 4-9pm, including business trick or treating, music, kids activities, pumpkin lighting, and more. The pumpkins will be lit again on Sunday from 6-9pm for those looking for a quieter experience.

Find all the details at *downtownwinooski.org/halloween.*

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.

Saturday, October 10	9–11 am
Wednesday, October 14	12–3 pm
Saturday, October 24	9–11 am
Wednesday, October 28	12–3 pm

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'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. Our mission is to help people and communities thrive by providing supports and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

winooskiprevention.org

September has been a busy month for the Winooski Partnership for Prevention. We wrapped up summer at the Winooski Friendship Festival celebrating Winooski and the city's residents' contributions to this vibrant community. We continued to pitch in and help keep Winooski clean, as well, heading to Landry Park on September 18th and later, Casavant. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped spread the word and showed up in person. Coming up, we're excited to see the improvements to Main Street and how they will make it easier and safer for people to walk and take advantage of everything Winooski has to offer. At the end of September, some of our staff and partners headed to Washington, D.C., to share and learn from others in the public health field and bring home fresh ideas to strengthen prevention work in Winooski. If you're interested in learning more and volunteering, reach out to info@winooskiprevention.org and let us know. We look forward to seeing you around.

WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI

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www.wsdvt.org

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John F. Kennedy Elementary School
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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
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Emily Bowers, *Secretary,* 802-383-6000, ebowers@wsdvt.org
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www.winooskivt.gov, 802-655-6410

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