The Winooski Newsletter

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

SEPTEMBER 2026

WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools



Dear Winooski Families and Community,

It was a pleasure to see many of you during our Back-to-School Community BBQ. Seeing hundreds of familiar faces enjoying food, learning, and catching up with each other is one of the highlights of my year. I particularly love the excitement of our children and youth that day when they get to see each other again and play together after the summer break.

As we settle into the new school year, I want to take a moment to welcome our newest members of the Winooski School District team. This year, we have new educators and support professionals across the district, including a Math Educator, Multilingual (ML) Educator, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, and Technology Technician, as well as Behavior Interventionists, Program Assistants, an Intensive Classroom Program Assistant, and Instructional Assistants supporting Special Education, General Education, and Speech-Language Pathology. Each of these positions plays an important role in ensuring that our students have the support, instruction, and opportunities they need to thrive. I am grateful to our new staff members for choosing Winooski and to all of our returning staff for welcoming them into our community.

We have also continued important work behind the scenes to ensure our schools and campus are ready for students. Over the summer, our Facilities Team completed extensive work throughout the campus, including landscaping and grounds maintenance, deep cleaning, painting, and annual safety inspections. Our main soccer field received significant attention, including top-dressing, dethatching, seeding, and aeration, helping provide our student-athletes with a safe and well-maintained space for the fall season. These efforts may not always be visible in the classroom, but they are an important part of creating a school environment where students and staff can learn, work, and belong.

Another exciting development this year is our partnership with Green Mountain Transit Authority (GMTA), which will provide Winooski students with free public transportation. Approved by the School Board as part of the budget process, this partnership gives our students greater independence and access to opportunities beyond our campus. Whether traveling to an after-school job, visiting family, or participating in activities throughout the community, reliable transportation can open doors for our students. More information about the initial rollout of this community benefit will be forthcoming.

Just days into the school year, there is already a great deal to be proud of. Our classrooms are busy, our students are engaged, and our staff are doing the important work of building relationships and supporting learning every day. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together this year.

Thank you for your continued support.

School Board Update

By Katie Livermore, Board of School Trustees



Just like that, the 2027-28 school year has begun! We look forward to another year of your investment in our district being skillfully used to prepare students to graduate college and career ready and lead healthy, productive, and successful lives.

At our August Board meeting, we received a number of updates on ongoing processes that have been initiated since the recent passage of Act 170—the education transformation law.

CESAs: Board President Nicole Mace is our representative on the Chittenden-Central Cooperative Educational Service Area (CESA) Board and she shared that the only action taken so far was appointing a Board Chair and setting a schedule. The Board agreed to meet the 4th Monday of each month at 6pm. These meetings are open to the public, but at the time I am writing this, a meeting location is still TBD. If you are interested in following this process, all the relevant information will be posted on the district website on an ongoing basis as it becomes available to us. The CESA Board is still waiting on clarity on a number of critical topics, such as what their legal status is, before they can proceed with the work they were tasked with.

Merger committees: As a reminder, Act 170 requires 1-2 Board members from Winooski to meet with representatives from South Burlington and Burlington to explore the possibility of merging into one school district. Our committee must start meeting by Oct 15 of this year and are tasked with gathering information and analyzing what benefits and challenges could arise from merging.

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WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
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SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE *(continued from page 1)*

A report on the committee's analysis is due by September 1st, 2027—only about a year from now! Act 170 does not require districts to merge, and the final decision will have to be approved by voters in each participating district on Town Meeting Day, March 2028. We encourage community involvement in this process, and will continue to share regular updates with you.

In budget related news, our fiscal year ended on June 30th of this year. Sarah Haven, our district's Director of Finance and Operations reported to the Board that we have a surplus of about 2.5% from last fiscal year's budget. That amount isn't official until we have completed our annual audit, but it is based off a report she filed with the state, and is more than just an estimate. I commend Sarah and Wilmer's leadership and their entire team's diligent and dedicated work to both so accurately estimate a budget over a year and a half before it would be used, and also their fiscal responsibility that resulted in a slight surplus rather than a deficit.

Finally, another warm welcome to our student board members Barakit Gyi and Gabby Dzessou. This past August was their first meeting as Board members and they jumped right in sharing acknowledgements and asking great questions. We are so excited to have them on our team!

Welcome, New Winooski School District Staff!

A new school year means new faces, new ideas and new members of the Winooski School District community. We are excited to welcome our newest staff members to Winooski as we prepare for the 2026–27 school year!

New staff joined us in August for orientation, getting to know the district, our schools, programs and priorities, and the many people who work together to support Winooski students and families.

Please join us in welcoming:

Educators

- Ryan Farran — Math Educator
- Buthaina Eidan — Multilingual Learner Educator
- Carrie Macedonia — Early Childhood Special Education
- Carin R. Palsrok-Lilly — JFK Art Teacher

Student Support & Program Staff

- Anna Steele — Program Assistant
- Kaitlin Letourneau — Program Assistant
- Margreta Hardy-Mittell — Program Assistant
- Christen LaFountain — Program Assistant
- Kaitlyn Sweador — Program Assistant
- Justine Donahue — Program Assistant, Intensive Classroom
- Claudia Beighley — Program Assistant
- Megan Hoffmann — Support Services Instructional Assistant
- Ella Grzybowski — General Education Instructional Assistant
- Natasha Sky — SLP Instructional Assistant

Behavior Support

- Tanner Bates — Behavior Interventionist
- Nicholas Abruscato — Behavior Interventionist
- Samuel Mercer — Behavior Interventionist
- Kristiana Letourneau — Behavior Interventionist
- Evelyn Monje — Behavior Interventionist
- Michaela Hoffman — Behavior Interventionist

Technology

- Robert Rock — Technology Technician

We are thrilled to have these new members joining our team. Each person brings unique experience, skills and perspective to Winooski, and we look forward to the contributions they will make to our students and school community.

Welcome to Winooski! We are glad you are here.

Winooski Students Lead the Conversation on AI in Schools

This summer, two Winooski students had a seat at the table for a national conversation about the future of artificial intelligence in schools.

Nimo Ali and Shagan Yadav, accompanied by WMHS Co-Principal Kate Grodin, represented Vermont at America's Youth AI Festival, held July 17–19 in Boston. Hosted by AASA, Day of AI, MIT RAISE, and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, the first-of-its-kind gathering brought together more than 130 student and education leaders representing all 50 states.

Rather than simply learning about AI, students were asked to help shape how schools should approach it. Meeting at the UMass Boston and MIT campuses and gathering in the Edward M. Kennedy Institute's Senate Chamber, student delegates debated ideas and developed recommendations for the responsible use of AI in K–12 education.

Their work resulted in the STUDENTS FIRST Act of 2026, a national framework addressing AI literacy, student privacy, the importance of human judgment in grading, and protections against deepfakes.

For Nimo and Shagan, the experience offered an opportunity to bring the perspective of Winooski students to a national stage—and to help shape a conversation that will directly affect their generation.

802 Smiles Network On-Site Dental Program

By Tracy Towers

The Winooski School District is proud to offer the 802 Smiles Network On-Site Dental Program again this year! This program provides students with preventive dental services including cleanings, fluoride treatments, and sealants—right at school during the day.

Benefits:

- Students receive care without needing to leave school.
- Parents don't have to miss work to transport their child to a dental office.
- Please note, this program does not replace regular dental check-ups or X-rays with your child's dentist. If your child is seen at school, a report will be sent to their regular dentist.

How to Enroll:

- Complete the fillable form in PowerSchool OR get a paper copy available in Health office at school

Additional Services:

The 802 Smiles Network (formerly the Tooth Tutor Program) works to ensure every student has access to comprehensive dental care, including preventive, restorative, and continuous care in a dental office. We assist families without a dentist in finding a dental home and provide free dental screenings with parental consent.

About Me:

My name is Tracy Towers, RDH, and I am passionate about promoting oral health and connecting families to dental care. This is my 9th year at WSD and my 35th year in clinical practice. I look forward to working with all students and families this year!

Questions? Email me at ttowers@wsdvt.org

Winooski School District Child Find Notice

The Winooski School District is required by federal law to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities. The process of locating, identifying, and evaluating children with disabilities is known as Child Find. The Winooski School District conducts a Kindergarten Screening every spring, but parents may call to make an appointment to discuss their concerns at any time. As the school district of residence, we have the responsibility to identify and provide services to any child with special needs who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.

If you have, or know of any resident, who has a child with a disability under the age of 21, including children enrolled in a private school located in Winooski by parent choice or are being home-schooled, we would like to hear from you. Sometimes parents/guardians are unaware that special education services are available to their children.

Please contact the Director of Support Services, Katherine Blair at (802)383-6085 or kblair@wsdvt.org

Welcome back to the 21C Afterschool Program

By Suzanne Skaflestad, 21C Program Director



Welcome back to 21C afterschool! Our afterschool program is a partnership between the Winooski School District, City of Winooski, and our 21C grant. 21C offerings are taught by licensed teachers, WSD staff with specific expertise, and community partners, and provide enrichment opportunities for students in the areas of literacy, math, science, social studies, technology, wellness, and the arts. All programs are offered at no charge and students receive a meal during afterschool.

Afterschool programs are important because they provide another place for students to explore their interests and discover their passions, take risks and connect with their teachers, and meet new friends. Research shows that regular participation in afterschool programs positively impacts school day attendance.

As a parent of a high school student and a young adult, who have accessed opportunities beyond the school day, I appreciate what the afterschool world has to offer, and value the partnerships that are necessary to make high quality programs happen for students of all ages. And, I have a firsthand experience of how it plays a pivotal role in their future success and builds confidence, leadership and the 21st century skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication.

We are very excited about our afterschool offerings for Session I for students in grades K-12 with some old-time favorites and new offerings! Session I will begin Tuesday, September 22nd and ends Friday, December 11th. K-12 students will receive their afterschool fliers around Friday, August 28th. JFK families receive a paper copy sent home with their student, and WMHS students are emailed a copy, and printed copies are available at the WMHS office. All families receive an electronic copy sent out by the WSD. A complete list of Session I afterschool offerings, as well as future afterschool session offerings, will be available on the school district website under the parent and family tab throughout the school year.

Please stop by, introduce yourself and share with me your hopes and dreams for after school for this coming year. Whether you are a parent, student, school staff person, board member or community member, I welcome the opportunity to talk with you about afterschool programming.

If you would like to connect with me, please feel free to call me at 802-383-6119 or e-mail me at sskaflestad@wsdvt.org.

We are looking forward to another year of engaging and high interest afterschool programs. Thank you for your ongoing support of our afterschool program!

Winooski Educators Earn National and State Honors for Excellence in Teaching

The Winooski School District is proud to celebrate two outstanding educators who have been recognized for their leadership, innovation, and dedication to students.



Congratulations to middle and high school music educator **Mikayla Kelemen** on being named the Eastern Division Representative to the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Council for Innovations.

This national appointment recognizes Mikayla's exceptional contributions to the fields of Popular Music, Modern Band, and music technology. Through her innovative approach to music education, she continues to expand opportunities for students and inspire the next generation of musicians and creators.

Congratulations, Mikayla, on this well-deserved honor!



The district also celebrates **Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver**, who has been named the 2026 Vermont History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Since 2004, this distinguished award has recognized exceptional K–12 educators for their outstanding work teaching American history. The honor celebrates teachers who demonstrate dedication, creativity, and effective use of primary sources to bring history to life for students.

Nominees are recommended by students, colleagues, or school leaders and selected by state committees of historians and educators.

As the 2026 Vermont History Teacher of the Year, Caitlin will receive a $1,000 honorarium, a curated collection of American history books and educational materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute, and recognition at a local ceremony. She will also join 52 other state honorees as a finalist for the 2026 National History Teacher of the Year Award.

Congratulations to Mikayla and Caitlin on these remarkable achievements. Their creativity, expertise, and commitment to students represent the very best of Winooski educators.



Every Day Counts: Building Strong Attendance Habits

Regular school attendance is one of the simplest ways families can help students stay connected, engaged and on track for learning. Missing school—whether because of illness, appointments, family travel or other challenges—can add up quickly. Even missing about 10% of the school year can make it harder for students to keep up academically and feel connected to their school community.

For our youngest learners, developing good attendance habits early can make a lasting difference. In middle and high school, attendance becomes increasingly important as students take on more responsibility for their learning and work toward graduation.

Families can help by:

- Establishing consistent bedtime and morning routines.
- Preparing clothes, backpacks and other school items the night before.
- Scheduling non-urgent appointments and trips when school is not in session whenever possible.
- Having a backup plan for getting to school when unexpected challenges arise.
- Monitoring your child's attendance and addressing patterns of absence or tardiness early.
- Helping students make up for missed work when they are absent.
- Talking with your child about how they feel at school and whether they feel safe, supported and connected.
- Reaching out to teachers, school counselors or other school staff if your child is struggling with attendance, anxiety, academics or relationships with peers.

For older students, frequent absences can sometimes be a sign that a student is struggling with school, feeling disconnected or facing another challenge. Staying in regular communication with your student—and with the school—can help identify concerns before they become bigger barriers to learning.

If attendance is becoming difficult, you don't have to navigate it alone. Our school staff are here to work with families to understand what's getting in the way and help students get back on track.

Every day counts. Every student matters.



Burlington Winooski Middle School 2026 Summer Program

By Suzanne Skaflestad, 21C Director

Over 25 students from Winooski Middle School (MS) engaged in five weeks of summer programming Monday-Friday from 8:00-3:30pm at Hunt Middle School.

The Burlington Winooski MS Summer Program provides students with enriching academics that maintain or accelerate learning gains, social-emotional support, socialization, fun, and safe ways for youth to be active and engaged.

They are exposed to new learning, caring mentors and trained educators, healthy meals and transportation. The activities support physical health and well-being, creativity, and opportunities to explore careers and gain workforce skills.

The students got to choose between the following morning academic options: Math 6, Geometry, Around the World, English Enrichment, Solve It Science, Summer Book Club, It's a World Cup World, Word Power, and Changemakers. In the afternoons, the students got to choose from the following activities: Circuitry, Math 7, Team Sports, Lawn Games, Dungeons and Dragons, Art-Venture, Adventure Club, Eureka Experiments and Nature and Water Explorers.

Some students participated in field trips to the: YMCA, the beaches, both Leddy and North, Red Rocks, Shelburne Farms as well as Shelburne Museum. The students also enjoyed strawberry picking, sailing, The Echo Center, Fletcher Free Library and Mt. Philo.

It is the unexpected positive comments shared with me by a student, family member, or teacher, seeing a student take a risk in our program and try something different, being a new participant in the MS program for the first time, and having a fun experience, or observing a student working very hard to follow expectations and finish strong, that makes summer programming worthwhile.

One morning while the Winooski students were boarding the bus, the bus aide, who is also one of the math teachers at the summer program, remarked at how polite the students are as they get off the bus each morning. "They always say thank you before getting off the bus." Thank you, Winooski students!

The expectations between school day, afterschool and summer remain the same. Students practice HEART while engaging in this offsite summer experience. They learn about accountability and responsibility. Students entering 6th grade in the fall are already practicing how to navigate the middle school world. They are learning how to work with other students who may push their buttons at times, and recognizing that it is important to ask adults for support. Students also realize that they need to be timely in order to board the bus leaving for Hunt Middle School. They get to practice decision making during these summer experiences, which sets them up for success as they begin school in the Fall. The social skills that are learned and practiced during the summer are invaluable.

As students boarded the bus one morning, they were asked why they signed up for the program and here is what they said:

- "I did not get to do it last year and I thought this was an opportunity to do something different in the summertime."
- "It's fun and we get to learn Math."
- "To learn more stuff that I did not know."
- "To read more and improve."
- "I did not want my summer to be boring staying home."
- "It's fun because we play soccer and other sports. We go to the beach."
- "When I stay home I don't really do anything and I want to participate in activities."
- "I wanted to experience it."
- "To hang out with my friends."
- "It's fun."

WSD staff person Deb remarked, "I get to stay connected to the students and make new connections with incoming 6th graders. There is no better way to spend my summer."

Thank you to bus driver Hussein for his commitment to transporting Winooski and Burlington students during the summer. His reliability is appreciated and valued.

SCHOOL MENUS • SEPTEMBER — JFK ELEMENTARY LUNCH

	1 Nacho Bar Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Black Bean & Corn Salad	**2** Spaghetti with Turkey Meatballs Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar Side Caesar Salad Side Caesar Salad	**3** Waffles & Eggs Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar Homestyle Potatoes (Homefries) Roasted Root Vegetable Medley Sausage Patty	**4** Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar
7 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Creamy Tomato Soup	**8** Beef Soft Tacos Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Chunky Salsa, Mild Brown Rice (1 WG) VT	**9** Chicken Broccoli Pasta Bake (made with Halal Chicken) Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar	**10** Chicken Tenders Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Green Peas Tater Tots Whole Grain Rolls BBQ Sauce	**11** Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Side Caesar Salad Genuine Scratch Pizza Dough
14 Sweet & Sour Chicken Thigh Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Honey Glazed Carrots Pineapple Fried Rice BBQ Sauce	**15** Bang Bang Chicken & Rice Bowl Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Chunky Salsa, Mild	**16** Penne with Meat Sauce Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Parmesan Roasted Broccoli	**17** Hot Honey Glazed Chicken Thigh Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Buttered Parsley Potatoes Rich's WG Dinner Roll R6574 (VT)	**18** Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Cajun Seasoned Corn
21 Popcorn Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Daily Salad Bar Roasted Potato	**22** Southwest Chick'n Rice Bowl Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Bar: Mexicali Seasoned Corn	**23** Cajun Chicken Pasta Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Garlic Roasted Green Beans	**24** Corn Dog Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Vegetarian Fried Rice	**25** Buffalo Chicken Dip Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar
28 Asian Chicken & Noodle Stir Fry with Cabbage and Broccoli Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar	**29** Taco Cheese Quesadilla Chicken Quesadilla Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Vegetarian Fried Rice Daily Salad Bar Chunky Salsa, Mild	**30** Chicken Poutine Bowl Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Daily Salad Bar Garlic Roasted Green Beans Whole Grain Rolls	**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



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! As we head into September, we only have a few more days of summer left before the autumnal equinox arrives. I hope you'll take advantage of these last days of the season to enjoy our parks, spend time with friends and family, and make the most of the warm weather before fall arrives. **I also want to wish our students a wonderful start to the new school year.** Whether you're new or returning for another year, I hope you have an amazing time, learn lots, make friends, and take advantage of everything our district has to offer. Big thanks to our teachers and school staff for all you do! **Thank you to everyone who came out for the Friendship Festival.** It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the event and celebrating the community we've built here in Winooski. Events like this remind us of the energy and connection in our city. **City departments have been busy throughout the summer.** Our Community Services team continues to make progress on the Landry Park pavilion, wrap up the 2026 Myers Memorial Pool season, maintain our parks and trails through volunteer events, and much more. The O'Brien Community Center renovation hasn't begun just yet—progress is moving a little slower than anticipated, but we're excited about what the amazing new space will provide for the community. If you'd like to support or share the fundraising effort for this project, please visit *getahome.org/donate-obrien*. Our Police and Fire departments continue to work on recruitment/retention and strengthening public safety coordination. **One of August's biggest highlights was our Primary Election,** which saw a significant increase in voter participation. 23.9% of Winooski's registered voters participated in this year's Primary, compared with 14% in 2024. We also welcomed 85 new voters to the rolls. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote, and especially to the many volunteers who helped make Election Day run so smoothly. I also want to thank our City Clerk and the entire Clerk's Office for all the work that goes into organizing an election before, during, and after Election Day. As we look ahead to the General Election on November 3, I encourage everyone to do their research, learn about the candidates and the issues, and make a plan to vote. And, as always, encourage your neighbors, friends, and family to participate as well. Our democracy works best when all of us take part. Learn more about elections and voting in Winooski at winooskivt.gov/vote. You can register today at *vote.vermont.gov*. **There's so much to do in September!** Downtown Winooski's events continue with the Winooski Farmers' Markets, the annual Winooski Pride event at Rotary Park on September 16, and Youth Vendor Day on September 27. You can learn more about these events and the full Farmers Market schedule at *downtownwinooski.org/events*. Be sure to keep an eye out for the construction completion of both the Main Street Revitalization and Sugar House Hotel projects!

Finally, I want to remind everyone to use e-bikes and e-motos safely and responsibly. We have seen an uptick in reckless use, and it's clear that there is still some confusion about what is and isn't permitted. Please take a few minutes to review the City's guidance so that we can all help keep our streets, sidewalks, and public spaces safe. Learn more at *winooskivt.gov/moto*. Thank you, as always, for being part of our Winooski community. I hope everyone has a wonderful September and that the start of fall brings plenty of opportunities to get outside, connect with your neighbors, and enjoy all that our city has to offer!

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco



This summer I talked with hundreds of Winooski residents—at doors, our parks, community events, and simply walking around our city. I'm grateful to everyone who took time to share what's working, what isn't, and what you want your representatives to focus on next.

One message came through clearly. Winooski residents are feeling squeezed. Housing, health care, groceries, transportation, child care, and taxes are separate policy issues, but they collide at home. When health insurance goes up, our rent increases, or when a family suddenly needs a car because the bus route they depend on is reduced, there is less money for child care.

That practical reality guides how I prioritize the state policy work I do for you.

I heard how strongly all of you want Winooski to remain a community where people of different incomes, backgrounds, and ages can afford to live. As our city grows, we need more housing and we also need to protect renters, support home ownership and make sure the people who make this such a unique place, aren't priced out of it.

I heard one message that made me especially proud and hopeful this summer, wherever I went, it was clear that Winooski residents care deeply about one another. Neighbors across the city talked with me about protecting immigrants, supporting our school and teachers, improving mental health and health care, and making sure everyone in our community feels safe, able and welcome.

This year more than 1,400 Winooski residents voted in our August primary, almost double our last non-presidential primary! It was exciting to see new voters, including several 2026

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REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE *(continued from page 8)*

Winooski High School graduates voting for the first time. Our city was one of the two most impactful in the state for electing Democratic nominee for Governor, Amanda Janoo-with a margin of 2400 votes and Winooski contributing almost 900 of them (66% of our total votes). Now we need to turn out in even stronger numbers this November to keep our voices heard all up and down the ballot. Remember to log in to your new voter profile to make a voting plan at /vote.vermont.gov

Thank you for placing your trust in me to continue representing Winooski in the State House. Between now and January I'll be turning what I heard this summer into priorities for the next legislative session. Please keep reaching out. The best ideas I bring to Montpelier begin with a conversation about a challenge right here at home.



City Hall Reminders

Winooski City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2026, for Labor Day

To promote safety in our community, The Winooski Police Department and the Winooski School District to encourage parents, students, residents, and visitors to **learn the difference between e-bikes, e-motos, and e-scooters.** Make sure you know which vehicles are legal and safe! Scan the QR code to learn about local laws, safety information, helmet use, and important battery/storage tips.



Main Street Revitalization Project Update

winooskivt.gov/mainstreet

Throughout August and into early September, significant progress continued on the Winooski Main Street Revitalization Project. Crews installed new traffic signals at the Winooski Fire Station and the Main Street and Spring Street intersection. Permanent pavement markings and line striping were installed throughout the project area. Crews completed final sidewalk, curb, and paver installation, as well as landscaping and site restoration activities. The contractor also focused on general site cleanup and addressing punch list items. **The project is anticipated to reach substantial completion in early September!** Following this, the project team will conduct a final inspection, and the contractor will complete any remaining punch list work before project completion. The City of Winooski and project team will host a public ribbon-cutting ceremony later this month to celebrate the substantial completion of this critical three-year municipal infrastructure project. More information will be announced through project email updates and on the project website at winooskivt.gov/mainstreet.



❶ Streetscape improvements included new streetlights, trees, a brick apron between the sidewalk and roadway, and granite cobblestone pavers. In addition, all overhead utilities were relocated underground before road reconstruction and paving, eliminating utility poles and overhead wires along this section of Main Street.



❷ A new pedestrian refuge island at the crosswalk near Union Street enhances pedestrian visibility and allows crossing in stages. The green pavement marking highlights the designated northbound bicycle crossing at Platt Street.



❸ The project reconstructed appoximately one mile of Main Street, adding new pedestrian and bike facilities, mid-block crosswalks, a dedicated northbound bike lane, and shared-lane pavement markings and signage for southbound bicyclists and motorists. The project also widened sidewalks to seven feet.

Stay Informed: Sign up for project email updates at *www.winooskivt.gov/mainstreet.*

Questions or concerns? Contact our public information team: 802 595 4399 | info@winooskimainstreet.com



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 Area | TBD
Landry Park Area | Thursday, September 24 | 4pm-6:30pm

Sign up for Community Services Programs & Events!

SCAN ME!

winooskivt.gov/programs



Winooski Memorial Library

65 Winooski Falls Way | 802-655-6424 | library@winooskivt.gov
winooskivt.gov/library
Hours: Tuesday–Friday: 10:00am–5:00pm, Saturday: 10:00am–2:00pm, 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, begins Sep. 9 | 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, Sep. 11 | 10:30am
Food Challenge: Dot Cake | Ages 5+ | Friday, Sep. 18 | 3:30pm
Reading Dragons & Friends | Ages 5+ | Friday, Sep. 25 | 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
Mahjong – All Levels | Ages 18+ |Fridays (starting Sept. 11)| 10am

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month: Celebrate Library Card Sign-up month throughout September as we invite everyone to discover the amazing programs, resources, and opportunities available at the Library! Cards are free for anyone who lives, works, pays taxes, or goes to school in Winooski. Stop by or sign-up online today.

Reading Dragons & Friends is back at the Winooski Library: Reading Dragons is a collaborative national reading program created by the Dover Public Library in Ohio that encourages children in grades K-8 to read for fun through earning collectible dragon cards as they read. Join the Library on the last Friday of the month to play, trade, craft, and talk about all things Reading Dragons.



Winooski Senior Center

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

TUESDAYS

Cultural Connections: September 22

- 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 September 9 and 30

THURSDAYS

Morning Mobility: 9 – 10am

Wellness Café: 10am–12pm

Fun & Games: 1 - 2:30pm

Free Drop-in | New Programming weekly

FRIDAYS

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: September 18

- 5PM | 60+ |$7 Suggested Donation | RSVP by September 11

Mobile Pet Food Shelf: September 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.

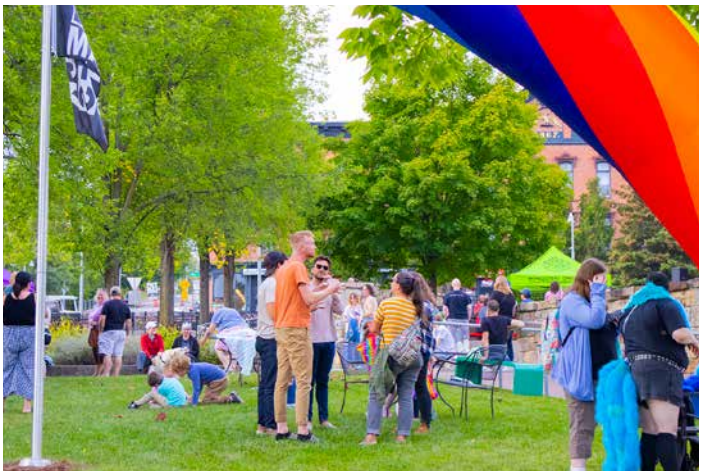
Visit *winooskivt.gov/thrive* or more information and to register, or contact the Thrive Program Director: thrive@winooskivt.gov | 802 233 8188.

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

Summer may soon be giving way to fall, but we've still got a lot of fun left to have this year. Thanks to everyone who's joined us so far this summer, including all the incredible August events.

September brings Youth Vendor Day to the Winooski Farmers Market! We're excited to welcome about a dozen youth vendors, youth performers, an instrument petting zoo, a special POP Club, and so much more fun to the market on September 27. Come support these young entrepreneurs!

On Wednesday, September 16th from 5–8pm, enjoy Winooski's Pride celebration in Rotary Park. We'll be partying with DJs, incredible local drag performers, delicious food from local vendors, supportive guests, and lots of family fun. We can't wait to celebrate the LGBTQIA2S+ community together!

Winter programming announcements will be coming soon, keep an eye on *downtownwinooski.org* for the details.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

winooskiprevention.org

How do we know what's really in a vape? In the United States, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the primary enforcer of vape contents. Manufacturers are required to submit their test results before being authorized to sell them. In addition, independent academic researchers, state health departments and some laboratories test them.

In Vermont, a recent effort led by a Vermont group called Public Health Response to Research to test vapes collected in schools resulted in some surprising results. The WPP has collaborated with this group and a local digital media expert to share the results in this short video—visit *youtube.com/@WinooskiPrevention* to watch.

Last month, the WPP held two park clean-ups and collected hundreds of cigarette butts in a few hours. We raffled off a gift card to a local retailer to the person who guessed the total number from each clean-up! We also volunteered at the Food Shelf and are looking forward to upcoming events soon.

Stay tuned for more information and subscribe to our email newsletter at *winooskiprevention.org*.

Winooski Food Shelf

winooski food shelf
sharing food & giving hope

winooskifoodshelf.org

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

Wednesday, September 9	12–3 pm
Saturday, September 12	9–11 am
Wednesday, September 23	12–3 pm
Saturday, September 26	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's Street 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 SCHOOLS
We are the future.

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.wsdvt.org

Superintendent of Schools
Wilmer Chavarria, wchavarria@wsdvt.org
802-383-6000

John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Principal: Sara Raabe
802-655-0411
sraabe@wsdvt.org

Winooski Middle and High School
Co-Principals: Kate Grodin and Jean Berthiaume
802-655-3530
kgrodin@wsdvt.org
jberthiaume@wsdvt.org

Board of School Trustees
Nicole Mace, *President*, 802-363-7777, nimace@wsdvt.org
Robert Millar, *Vice President*, 802-238-0089, rmillar@wsdvt.org
Emily Bowers, *Secretary,* 802-383-6000, ebowers@wsdvt.org
Elom Essiba, 802-324-9431, eessiba@wsdvt.org
Katie Livermore, 802-383-6000, klivermore@wsdvt.org

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

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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