

# The Winooski Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY 2025



**WINOOSKI SCHOOLS**  
*We are the future.*

## Welcome, Officer Saja Almogalli

By Paul Sarne, Director of Communications, City of Winooski

The City of Winooski and Winooski School District proudly announce the hiring of Saja Almogalli, our new District Liaison Officer!

The District Liaison Officer (DLO), formerly the School Resource Officer (SRO), supports the students, families, and staff of the Winooski School District while prioritizing school safety and community engagement. This role (now stationed at the Winooski Police Department) emerged from meaningful collaboration between city and school staff and the Winooski School District Antiracism Steering Committee, reflecting shared values of equity and inclusion. Made possible by collaborative funding between the City and school district, key aspects of this role include emergency planning, counseling, substance abuse prevention, and teaching programs like Driver's Education. Most importantly, the DLO builds trust through community policing, outreach, and fostering positive relationships with students and families.

Officer Saja Almogalli's professional

and personal experiences make her uniquely suited to serve the Winooski community. As a Community Service Officer with the Burlington Police Department and a Burlington School Board Commissioner, she has worked to support students and families, focusing on alternative disciplinary solutions and helping foreign-born students integrate into schools. Saja is certified in CPR and First Aid, fluent in Arabic, and proficient in ASL and Turkish. Notably, Saja received an award from the Governor of Vermont for her immigrant success story and has spoken at the United Nations on refugee issues and world peace.

“As a law enforcement officer and community advocate, my personal journey has instilled in me a deep commitment to youth safety. Having faced challenges as a refugee from Iraq, I deeply understand the importance of creating a safe and supportive environment for young people. I am thrilled to take on this position and to make a difference in Winooski!”

Please join us in welcoming Officer Saja Almogalli to Winooski.



Officer Saja Almogalli

Thank you to everyone who attended the Burlington-Winooski Bridge Open House event on December 11!

If you weren't able to attend, visit [burlingtonwinooskibridge.vtransprojects.vermont.gov](http://burlingtonwinooskibridge.vtransprojects.vermont.gov) and check out the Virtual Open House. Explore different topics, project updates, and take the bridge aesthetic survey to weigh in on features like pedestrian railings, traffic barriers, and lighting options.

**Next steps:** the Project Team is working on a Request for Qualifications and a Request for Proposals for development. Coordination continues for right-of-way environmental commitments, utility relocation, and stakeholder engagement.

The team is committed to transparency and keeping the public informed through regular email updates, social media posts, and other effective communication channels.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support!



**BURLINGTON  
WINOOSKI  
BRIDGE**





## From the Superintendent

*By Wilmer Chavarria, Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Winooski Community,  
What comes to mind when you imagine what public schools do? This is an important question these days given the constant rhetoric at the local, state, and national level regarding education. For the average person, the idea of a public school is a classroom with pupils and a teacher engaging in a lesson. If we are fortunate enough to ever have you visit us, you will likely see that this is true. But you will also find so much more.



For illustrative purposes, I'd choose to have you speak to any of our outstanding Multilingual Liaisons and ask them what types of conversations they have with families and students when they are needed for support. On any given day, a liaison could have helped a student get seen for a dental problem, connected a student with a counselor, supported a family in need of housing advice, offered reading materials in the child's home language at the request of the teacher, reminded students to take the vegetables from Veggie Van Go home, ensure that a student has a winter coat, help a family navigate a complex legal process, transport a student because the family car broke down, support a student through a loss, advocate a cultural observance, or so many other things that don't fit in this space. We could also ask the same teacher we imagined earlier what they actually do (in addition to teaching). I would need a few pages for that too. The point is our schools are the recipients of an ever-growing list of responsibilities society has decided to evade.

Our public schools cannot turn anybody away, and they shouldn't aim to. Whatever your children need, we will work hard to provide. This sometimes is not just the result of goodwill on the part of public school officials and educators; it is often the law. Regardless of whether the public schools are given the

funds to carry out the required services, the law expects them to comply. When the public school tries its best but fails due to lack of funds, or because the law was shortsighted in the first place, society, along with its complex web of institutions and individuals, is often ready to place blame on the school rather than on itself.

Things get more interesting when you add other elements to the mix. What happens when you do have schools that can turn people away—that simply can say “sorry we do not have the services your child needs, maybe you should try the public school”? What happens when communities themselves are different in the tangible and intangible resources they provide to children independent of the schools, yet we expect schools everywhere to “achieve” the same for the same price? What happens when the “accountability”-minded state overly relies on its outsourced standardized tests to parade an obscured, flattened picture of student achievement to make the public believe “high levels of spending” aren't matching the “student outcomes”? I think about this and more as we head into the budget votes across the state. Children and public education, unsurprisingly, continue to be simultaneously the punching bags and dear darlings for some politicians and their respective agendas. Whatever our governor and the legislature decide, it should not be at the expense of the children who need the most help. They should not be distorted into “data” to advance inequitable models. It is tiresome to hear the same old refrain of “we do this because Black, brown and poor kids are affected the most” while defending a policy in the next breath that will take resources from them. Let's remain watchful of where our dollars go, and let's make sure that we do not let national forces that aim to defund our most vulnerable public schools sneak their way into Vermont while wearing a charismatic smile.

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## Hands-On Learning in Literacy Lab!

*By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications*

Our Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd-grade students are diving into exciting, hands-on activities that connect directly to what they're learning in the classroom!

Kindergarten students explored the weather and launched the Create Lab to craft detailed weather landscapes, bringing their knowledge of nature to life.

1st graders used watercolors in the Create Lab to paint the sky at different times of the day, fostering creativity and curiosity.

2nd graders stepped into the Create Lab to sculpt their very own dinosaurs, combining art and science.

Thank you, Ms. O'Brien, for always inspiring curiosity and making literacy an adventure for our students! Our Literacy Lab wouldn't be the magical place it is without the creativity and passion of her.



## Happy February, Winooski

By Elom Essiba, Winooski Board of School Trustees

Dear Winooski Community,

As we move into February, thank you for your continued engagement and support for our schools. This newsletter highlights key updates regarding the upcoming budget vote, sanctuary school initiatives, and other important community updates.

### 2025 School Budget Proposal

On March 4, 2025, you, the Winooski community, will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed school budget. This budget, which includes critical funding to ensure all students have access to high-quality education, maintain our facilities, and support our dedicated staff, is a reflection of our collective commitment to our schools.

This year's proposed budget of \$33,289,732, which reflects a 4.13% increase over the last year and potentially lowers the homestead tax rate by 1%. The way in which pupils have been "weighted" by the state from last year to now, make it so that our 4.13% increase appears as though it is a 13% increase in "per-pupil" spending. But in reality, our number of actual students did not decrease. Only the way some of them were counted. As a board, we believe that 4.13%, which is only a little above inflation, is a necessary step to continue providing students with the resources to thrive despite financial pressures. Additionally, the budget includes creating a debt reserve fund required to fulfill our USDA loan obligations.

We encourage you to learn more at our informational meeting on March 3, 2025, at 6pm at the Winooski Educational Center.

Your voice matters, so please join us to ask questions and share your thoughts.

### Sanctuary Schools Initiative

Winooski Schools continue to prioritize inclusivity and safety for all students and families. As part of our ongoing commitment to equity, we are proud to explore policies that affirm our schools as sanctuary spaces. While there are limitations as to what our district can do within the law, this initiative aims to ensure that all students, regardless of immigration status, feel safe and supported within our school community. This effort aligns with our district's values of belonging and respect. In the coming weeks, we will share more details and invite community feedback.

### Community Engagement

We remain committed to keeping you informed and engaged. Here's how you can stay involved this month:

- **Informational Meeting:** March 3 at 6pm at the Winooski Educational Center.
- **Budget Voting:** March 4 from 7am to 7pm at the Winooski Senior Citizen Center.
- **School Board Meetings:** Stay updated by attending monthly meetings or visiting our website for minutes and agendas.

We are grateful for your partnership as we work together to support our students and community. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

## On Site Dental Program

By Tracy Towers, RDH

Did you know that your child can access preventive dental services at school? WSD has an on-site, registered dental hygienist, Tracy Towers RDH.

She can provide dental cleanings, fluoride treatments, and dental sealants at school. This means you don't have to take your child out of school and miss work.

This does not replace your child's yearly exam or x-ray with their dentist. If your child is signed up for the dental program, we will communicate with your child's regular dental office to let them know what services they have completed at school.

Forms to sign up are available on PowerSchool. If you prefer a printed copy, they are available in the Health Office at the school.

Questions? Contact [ttowers@wsdvt.org](mailto:ttowers@wsdvt.org).



## Health Office Update

By Elizabeth Parris, BSN, RN, NCSN

We recognize that there are a lot of viruses going around in the community right now that may be impacting family members in your home.

If your student has been exposed to these viruses, but is not experiencing any symptoms, please send them to school.

If they start to experience symptoms throughout the day, our health office team will assess and determine the best next step for your child.





## Pre-Kindergarten Notices

**ACT 166 Publicly Funded Pre-Kindergarten for children between the ages of 3 and 5 who reside in the town of Winooski, Vermont**

### Preschool Skills Screening & Pre-registration Form

\*New and returning families must complete a new pre-registration form EACH year to participate.

### What is publicly funded pre-kindergarten education?

Publicly funded pre-kindergarten education is defined as: Ten hours per week for 35 weeks in a community private early care and education programs. These pre-approved programs meet specific quality standards and provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences that are based on Vermont's Early Learning Standards. Children who reside in Winooski and are between the ages of three-five are eligible. Prekindergarten education is limited to the academic year (September – June).

### Are these 10 hours/week pre-kindergarten programs tuition-free?

The pre-kindergarten program offered in public school is tuition-free. The pre-kindergarten program offered through a partner program will charge families for the care and education program the child needs beyond the 10 hours/week during the academic year. Your child's preschool must deduct these public funds from your annual tuition bill.

### Is my child eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten?

If your child is 3 years old by September 1, 2025, and resides in Winooski, then your child is eligible to participate.

### How much will the Winooski School District pay?

The Agency of Education established the statewide rate of \$3982.00 per child for the 2024/2025 school year. This covers 10 hours per week of high-quality prekindergarten education for 35 weeks.



*Students in the Narwhals class made play dough creatures and worked on learning and sequencing the letters of their names.*

### How do I apply?

1. Winooski residents must first be enrolled at a pre-qualified preschool program in order to receive Act 166 funding. You need to contact the program directly to enroll your child. To search pre-qualified preschool programs visit: *Bright Futures Information System*
2. Once enrolled in a pre-qualified preschool program, then complete the Winooski ACT 166 Pre-registration Form to let WSD know what program your child will be attending for the school year. \*Returning families must update their PowerSchool forms EACH year.
3. Upload all documents to PowerSchool. A copy of the child's birth certificate and your proof of residency (a utility bill or mortgage/lease) will be needed to participate. Please contact our Early Learning Office, Tina Carroll at [tcarroll@wsdvt.org](mailto:tcarroll@wsdvt.org) or 802-383-6138 with any questions.

## Preschool Skills Screening & Pre-registration

If your child is or will be 3 by September 1st, 2025 please complete a Preschool Pre-registration Form for ACT 166 Publicly Funded Pre-K or to inquire about a Winooski Preschool Program and attend our preschool skills screening day. If you have concerns about your child's development, our Winooski Early Childhood team will screen your child's development. This screening is play-based and free for 3 and 4-year-old children living in Winooski.

- **When:** Friday, March 21, 2025.
- **Where:** In the preschool classroom at JFK Elementary School, room D185.
- **How:** Please contact our Early Learning Office, Tina Carroll at [tcarroll@wsdvt.org](mailto:tcarroll@wsdvt.org) or 802-383-6138 to schedule an appointment for you and your child to come into the program on March 21, 2025.

For more information about preschool opportunities visit our WSD website under *Pre-Kindergarten*.

## Recognition

**Dahlia Michoma**, sophomore at Winooski High School, recently auditioned for the 2024-2025 Vermont District III Choral Music Festival Scholarship and received an honorable mention. Dahlia will be performing her solo, "Letter to my 13 Year Old Self" by Laufey, on Friday, February 7th at Champlain Valley Union High School at 7:00pm. Other students from Winooski High School will also be performing as part of the 2024-2025 Vermont District III Choral Festival Chorus. If you would like to attend, you can purchase tickets at the door: \$5 per person or \$15 for a family of four or more. If you see Dahlia, be sure to congratulate her on this honor!





Greta, grade 7



Anisha, grade 8



Jenny, grade 8



Clara, grade 7

## The Beauty of Nature

*By Emily Jacobs, Winooski Middle School Art Teacher*

In our recent art units, Winooski's 7th and 8th grade artists have been exploring & celebrating the beauty of nature! Visual Arts classes recently practiced skills in drawing & painting realistic wildlife artwork, in which students depicted Vermont wildlife species in their habitats.

This unit was followed by exercises in landscape painting with watercolors; our young artists layering colors and manipulating them with water and brushstrokes to create a sense of depth and texture.



Ankita, grade 8



Pranav, grade 7



Jibu, grade 7



Murphy, grade 7

**Note: 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.**

<p style="text-align: right;">03</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> BBQ Chicken Roasted Chicken Vegetarian Chef Salad <b>Vegetables</b> Steamed Corn Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Mac &amp; Cheese</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">04</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Chicken Quesadilla Taco Cheese Quesadilla Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Fire Roasted Black Beans Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">05</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Hot Dog Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chicken Caesar Wrap <b>Vegetables</b> Chili Roasted Sweet Potatoes Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">06</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Chickpea Masala Cheese and Turkey Pepperoni Pizza Cheese Pizza <b>Vegetables</b> Kale Roasted Red Peppers Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Brown Rice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">07</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Oven Fried Chicken Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Hawaiian Chicken Wrap <b>Vegetables</b> Garlic Roasted Green Beans Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Cilantro Lime Brown Rice</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Chicken &amp; Andouille Jambalaya Red Beans &amp; Rice Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Chicken Al Pastor Tacos Chicken Quesadilla Chef Salad with Turkey Ham Black Bean Soft Tacos <b>Vegetables</b> Creamy Pinto Beans Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Beef Cheeseburger Gardenburger® Veggie Burger Creamy Buffalo Chicken Salad Wrap Garden Salad with Cheese &amp; Egg <b>Vegetables</b> Roasted Potato Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Piri Piri Chicken Greek Chicken Wrap Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Collard Greens Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Jollof Rice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Chicken Aioli Sandwich Pasta Bar <b>Vegetables</b> Italian Herbed Sautéed Zucchini Broccoli Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Southwest Crunch Salad Turkey Ham &amp; Cheese Hoagie Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola &amp; Yogurt Parfait <b>Vegetables</b> Tomato Soup Carrot Slaw Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Ground Turkey Tacos Hawaiian Chicken Wrap Chef Salad with Turkey <b>Vegetables</b> Fiesta Corn Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Hot Dog Grilled Cheese Sandwich Mixed Green Salad with Cheese Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Sweet &amp; Sour Chicken Teriyaki Tofu Cheese and Turkey Pepperoni Pizza <b>Vegetables</b> Honey Ginger Green Beans Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Fried Rice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Cheesy Baked Ziti Chicken Ranch Wrap Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Lemon Pepper Broccoli Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Huli Huli Chicken Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Hawaiian Mac Salad</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> BYO Burrito Bowl Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Fire Roasted Black Beans Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Chicken Parm Sandwich Grilled Cheese Sandwich Turkey &amp; Cheese Melt <b>Vegetables</b> Buttered Parsley Potatoes Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Teriyaki Chicken Teriyaki Tofu Roasted Chicken Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese <b>Vegetables</b> Green Beans Veggie Stir-Fry with Ginger Daily Salad Bar <b>Grains</b> Asian Noodles Brown Rice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p><b>Lunch Entree</b> Chicken Tenders Cheese Pizza Sunbutter &amp; Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Chef Salad with Turkey <b>Vegetables</b> Chili Roasted Sweet Potatoes Daily Salad Bar</p>



# Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Kristine Lott | [klott@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:klott@winooski.vt.gov) / 802 766 1988

Hello Winooski,

The **Town Meeting Day election is on Tuesday, March 4, 2025!** Thanks to everyone who provided feedback during the budget process. There are still opportunities to learn more about the budget. Our annual community dinner will be held later this month and the Town Meeting Day meeting at the Winooski School District takes place at 6 PM on March 3rd. For full election, ballot, and budget info, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting](http://winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting). A few notes about ballot items: **City Budget** - As of January 13, the Council is considering adopting a budget with a 3.99% tax rate increase (or about \$178 more annually for the average home). Our hope is that this increase balances critical community needs and affordability. This budget continues existing city services and modest infrastructure investments (smaller than last year). Rising healthcare costs are a big contributor to the increase, as is funding for our critical partnerships with Green Mountain Transit and the Howard Center Outreach Team. If voters approve the budget, we'll move forward with these investments.



If voters don't approve the budget, the City Council will work to develop a different budget to present to voters at a special election. **Local Representatives:** Vote for two City Councilors, two Winooski School District Trustees, and the Winooski School District Treasurer. Check out Town Meeting TV for coverage and forums on local candidates and issues at [cctv.org](http://cctv.org). **Voter-Proposed Charter Change For Just Cause Eviction:** Winooski voters approved this item back in 2023, but due to a technical process error, will have to cast their votes again. For full details, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/justcause](http://winooski.vt.gov/justcause). **Pledge Regarding Palestinians and Israel:** This item came from a voter-organized petition. It is a non-binding/advisory vote that won't result in any action taken by the City Council but allows

voters to provide feedback on this topic. Don't forget that all legal residents, regardless of citizenship status, can vote on local City/School ballot items on Town Meeting Day. Learn how to register to vote and use our voting resources at [winooski.vt.gov/vote](http://winooski.vt.gov/vote).

## From Your Local Representative

By Representative Chloe Tomlinson



Chloe Tomlinson (left) and Daisy Berbeco (right)

Hello neighbors,  
I'm honored to be starting my first term as your State Representative, serving alongside Representative Daisy Berbeco. The 2025-2026 biennium is off to a busy start! We entered this session in a challenging landscape, facing a drop-off in the influx of federal funds that we received during the pandemic, while in the midst of significant challenges in housing, healthcare, education, and affordability more broadly. The top priorities I've

heard from folks across Winooski include 1) addressing our housing and homelessness crisis through the development of affordable housing and implementation of renter protections, 2) transitioning to a more sustainable education funding system that doesn't overburden low and middle-income families, while ensuring we maintain our commitment to equity; and 3) addressing the underlying issues that lead to our public safety challenges, while also working to strengthen our public

safety systems. The Governor shared in his Inaugural Address that his focus this session will be on our education system and housing—and I hope we will have more specifics on his proposed plans by the time this update lands in your mailbox. I am committed to working hard to ensure that the unique needs of Winooski are represented and heard as we work through these complex, interconnected issues throughout the session. We also received our committee assignments. I am serving on the House Transportation Committee. Our work centers around our transportation infrastructure, our transit systems, and the impact of transportation on the environment and climate change. There is important work to be done on this committee relevant to our community here in Winooski—particularly related to the Burlington-Winooski Bridge project, our public transportation system, climate-resiliency, and infrastructure that supports active transportation. Please don't hesitate to reach out anytime with questions, concerns, or ideas! I'm happy to help you get tapped into what's happening in the State House—whether you might want to visit in person, get pointed in the right direction to follow committee discussions online, or just need a quick update on an issue of interest. You can also find a wealth of information on the legislature's website: [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov). You can find me at [ctomlinson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:ctomlinson@leg.state.vt.us). Additionally, Representative Berbeco and I intend to hold regular 'office hours' to connect for conversation. Keep an eye out for updates on Front Porch Forum.



## City Hall Reminders

Open 8am – 4pm, Monday – Friday  
[winooskivt.gov/clerk](http://winooskivt.gov/clerk) | 802 655 6410

**Presidents' Day:** Winooski City Hall will be closed Monday, February 17, 2025.

**Town Meeting Day:** The annual Town Meeting Day election is on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025** (7am – 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center, 123 Barlow Street). To register to vote, please visit [winooskivt.gov/vote](http://winooskivt.gov/vote). For all ballot, budget, and election information, please visit [winooskivt.gov/townmeeting](http://winooskivt.gov/townmeeting).

**Winter parking bans** began on December 1st and end of March 31st. To learn about winter parking bans, please visit [winooskivt.gov/parking](http://winooskivt.gov/parking).

**Dog Licenses:** It's time to register your dog! All dogs owned in the City of Winooski must be registered with the City Clerk on or before April 1 of each year per State and City laws. To get started, stop by the City Clerk's Office at Winooski City Hall. Please provide a copy of the current rabies certificate when registering. Note - State licensing fees have increased by \$2:

- On or before April 1 - Altered: \$16 / Unaltered: \$20
- On April 2 or after - Altered: \$18 / Unaltered: \$22

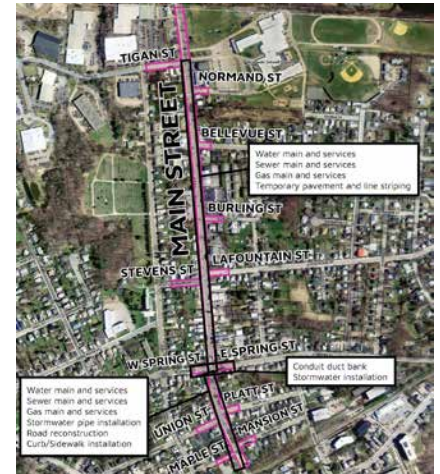
All dog licenses must be renewed every year. Licensing helps ensure that dogs are properly vaccinated against rabies. Registering dogs and providing tags helps return lost dogs to their owners. Unlicensed lost dogs are commonly transported to animal shelters - avoid impounding and boarding fees!



*Photo Courtesy  
 Amanda Marquis  
 and Downtown  
 Winooski (taken  
 during the 2024  
 'Best Pooch in the  
 Noosk event)*

## Main Street Revitalization

Major construction activities for the Main Street Revitalization project concluded on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 and will resume this spring. This winter, Green Mountain Power will intermittently work on West Spring Street between Weaver Street and Main Street on weekdays. This work will primarily occur along the shoulder of the roadway, with minimal impact on traffic. Flaggers will be on-site to guide travelers.



### 2024 Construction Season Recap:

- Significant underground infrastructure improvements (new water and sewer mains, new Vermont Gas systems, new stormwater pipes, new concrete duct banks for underground utilities)
- Roadway reconstruction (excavation, grading, installation of underdrain pipes, granite curbing, sidewalks, paving)  
 Crews install the new water and sewer main and services

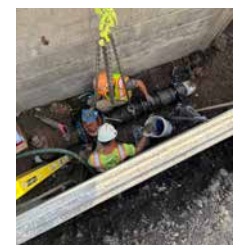
### The 2025 Construction season includes:

- Completion of improvements to the underground infrastructure and reconstruction of Main Street
- Completion of water/sewer main and services
- Installation of stormwater pipes and conduit duct banks (telecom vaults and transformer pads)
- Excavation, grading, granite curb installation, and paving
- Milling and paving top course and driveways
- Installation of permanent pavement markings (including the northbound bike lane), sidewalks, streetlighting, roadway signs, landscaping, traffic signal equipment

The Main Street Revitalization project is estimated to complete in spring/summer 2026 with final landscaping activities, site clean-up, and restoration.

Please sign up for our project updates and traffic alerts and find project information (including updates in 15 languages) at [winooskivt.gov/mainstreet](http://winooskivt.gov/mainstreet).

Questions? Contact the Public Information Team at 802 595 4399 / [info@winooskimainstreet.com](mailto:info@winooskimainstreet.com).





## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



### Recreation and Parks

802-777-1621 | [recreation@winooskivt.gov](mailto:recreation@winooskivt.gov)

View all programs at [winooskivt.gov/recprograms](http://winooskivt.gov/recprograms)

#### YOUTH

##### Youth Climbing

Ages 5–8 | Tuesdays, January 7 – February 18

Ages 9–13 | Wednesdays, January 8 – February 19

##### First Robotics

Grade 3-6 | Mondays, January 6 – February 17

##### Youth Basketball League

Grades K-2 Clinic | Saturdays, January 4 – February 15

Grades 3-4 Teams | Weeks of January 6 – February 15

##### Very Merry Theatre

Grades 1-7 | Mondays, January 6 – March 24

##### Skateboarding at Talent Skate Park

Grades 3-8 | Thursdays, January 9 – February 20

##### February Break Creator Camp

Grades K-5 | Monday - Friday, February 24 – 28

#### SUMMER

##### Summer Camps and Pool Programs

Registration opens on February 1! Visit [winooskivt.gov/recprograms](http://winooskivt.gov/recprograms) to sign up.

##### Budding Gardeners Camp

Grades K-5 | Monday - Friday, June 16 - 20

##### Very Merry Theatre Camp

Grades 1-6 | Monday - Friday, June 23 - 27

##### Art Fusion Camp

Grades K-5 | Monday - Friday, August 11 - 15

##### Olympians Camp

Grades K-5 | Monday - Friday, August 18 - 22



### Winooski Memorial Library

32 Malletts Bay Avenue | 802-655-6424 | [library@winooskivt.gov](mailto:library@winooskivt.gov)  
[winooskivt.gov/library](http://winooskivt.gov/library)

Tuesday to Friday: 10am - 5pm

Saturday: 10am - 2pm

#### Drop-in programs:

##### YOUTH

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

**Pokémon Club** | Ages 8+ | Wednesdays | 3:30pm

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

**Lego Club** | Ages 4+ | Thursdays | 3:30pm

**STEAM** | Ages 5+ | Saturdays | 10am

**Cozy Craft Time** | Ages 5+ | Friday Feb 7 | 3:30pm

**Audubon VT** | Ages 8+ | Saturday Feb 8 | 10am

##### ADULTS

**Monthly Book Group** | Ages 18+ | Last Tuesday of each month | 6pm

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

**1:1 Tech Assistance** | Ages 18+ | Saturday, Feb. 1, 8, & 22 | 11am

##### Free Veggie Distribution

Join us on Wednesday, February 12th from 3:30 – 5:30pm for our monthly veggie distribution in partnership with The Intervale Center. Bring your own bag; first served basis.

##### Moon in Full: A Modern-Day Coming-of-Age Virtual Book Talk

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7pm  
In partnership with Vermont Humanities, join Memoirist Marpheen Chann as he shares his story of growing up in working-class Maine. Adopted into a majority white community, Chann must reconcile his fears and secret longings as a young gay man with the devoutly religious beliefs of his new family. Register for free at: [vermonthumanities.org/event/moon-in-full-a-modern-coming-of-age-book-talk](http://vermonthumanities.org/event/moon-in-full-a-modern-coming-of-age-book-talk).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



### Winooski Senior Center

123 Barlow Street | 802-655-6425

seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov

winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9am – 12pm

#### TUESDAYS

**New American Community Connections** | 10am–1pm

No Program on February 18th

#### WEDNESDAYS

##### Breakfast Café

9am–11am | Priced by donation | Drop-in

Enjoy fresh breakfast sandwiches, fruit & drinks

##### Senior Community Connections

9am – 12pm | FREE | Drop-in

Come and play games, puzzles, craft, sew, and more!

##### Sewing with Radha

10am–12pm | FREE | Drop in

Learn basic skills – all materials are supplied

#### THURSDAYS

##### Sit Down Community Meals

12pm | 60+ | \$5 suggested donation

Call to RSVP by 12pm the previous Thursday.

Healthy sit-down lunches from AgeWell

#### SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**Valentine's Day Party** | Thursday February 13 | 12pm

\$5 suggested donation, RSVP by 2/6

**AARP Tax-Aide** FREE | Mondays & Fridays February 7-March 7

Call 802 655 6425 for an Appointment. AARP will return your call.

**Bone Builders Exercise** | FREE | Monday & Wednesday | 2–3pm

**Meals on Wheels** Please call AgeWell at 802 863 0360 for eligibility. Volunteers are always needed!



### Thrive Afterschool

winooskivt.gov/thrive

**Thrive Summer 2025:** Hey there campers – are you ready for the best summer ever? We've got tons of fun activities planned for you! Registration for Thrive Summer opens on February 1, 2025, and we encourage families to sign up early. We'll be exploring nature, celebrating different cultures, and enjoying STEAM activities, and trips to the Myers Memorial Pool all summer long. Join your friends and neighbors to make some lifetime memories!

- Grades K- 5 (must have completed Kindergarten)
- Monday – Friday
- 8am - 5pm at the Winooski School District

#### Dates (themes TBA):

- June 23 – 27
- June 30 – July 3 (partial week)
- July 7 – 11
- July 14 – 18
- July 21 – 25
- July 28 – August 1

State scholarships have expanded and offer some level of support for most Winooski families to pay for Thrive. Applications are encouraged – visit [dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap](https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap) for more info or email [thrive@winooskivt.gov](mailto:thrive@winooskivt.gov) for help.

Thrive Afterschool is accepting new students in early 2025, and as a state-licensed program, most families are eligible for help with program costs. For more info and to sign up, visit [winooskivt.gov/thrive](https://winooskivt.gov/thrive).

Sign up for  
Community Services  
Programs & Events!



winooskivt.gov/programs

# DOWNTOWN WINOOSKI AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

## Downtown Winooski

Now that the Winter Farmers Market season has wrapped up, we're already looking towards this summer! Plans are underway for another great season and we're so excited to share it with you. We can't wait to see you back in front of the Champlain Mill at 20 Winooski Falls Way every Sunday, 10am – 2pm, from May 18 to October 26, 2025! In addition to fresh and local produce, food, and artisan goods, we're also making sure the market will be full of fun. Pending funding, we're excited to reintroduce the Power of Produce (POP) Club twice monthly — where kids can participate in nutrition education activities and get \$2 to spend on fruits and veggies!



We're also bringing back the monthly special event days we had so much fun with last year. Mark your calendars for:

- **May 18:** Opening Day
- **June 29:** French Heritage Day
- **July 27:** Best Pooch in the Noosk
- **August 31:** Fiber Fair
- **September 28:** Youth Vendor Day
- **October 26:** Halloween

Applications are now open for the Winooski Farmers Market and we'd love to hear from Winooski-based growers, makers, and bakers. The market rules and application can be found on our website at [downtownwinooski.org/winooski-farmers-market](http://downtownwinooski.org/winooski-farmers-market). Apply by February 28th! Applicants will be notified on March 14th.

## Winooski Food Shelf

[winooskifoodshelf.org](http://winooskifoodshelf.org)

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



Saturday, February 8	9:30am – 11am
Wednesday, February 12	1pm – 3pm
Saturday, February 22	9:30am – 11am
Wednesday, February 26	1pm – 3pm

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



**Volunteers needed:** Please reach out to us at our e-mail: [winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://howardcenter.org)



### Howard Center's Multicultural Liaison Program

connects resettled communities in Chittenden County with mental health, substance use, and developmental needs.

Launched during the pandemic to address communication gaps, the program supports over 100 families from 22 countries. Services include mental health education, resource navigation, and partnerships with local organizations.

Trained liaisons from resettled communities provide culturally sensitive support to build trust and promote access to care. For information, call Howard Center at 802 488 6000 or visit [howardcenter.org](http://howardcenter.org).

## Town Meeting TV

[cctv.org](http://cctv.org)



Town Meeting TV's 2025 election coverage is underway!

Tune in to Winooski budget & ballot item presentations and candidate forums before you vote on March 4th.

Watch our election coverage on Comcast 1087 and [YouTube.com/TownMeetingTV](https://www.youtube.com/TownMeetingTV). Community members are invited to attend forums in-person and are also encouraged to call 802-862-3966 during live forums to ask questions. Forums take place at our Town Meeting TV studio located at 294 N Winooski Ave in Burlington.

For the most up-to-date forum schedule and more information, visit [cctv.org/TMD2025](http://cctv.org/TMD2025).



**WINOOSKI SCHOOLS**  
*We are the future.*

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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN WINOOSKI**

**WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**[www.wsdvt.org](http://www.wsdvt.org)**

**Superintendent of Schools**  
 Wilmer Chavarria, [wchavarria@wsdvt.org](mailto:wchavarria@wsdvt.org)  
 802-383-6000

**John F. Kennedy Elementary School**  
 Principal: Sara Raabe  
 802-655-0411  
[sraabe@wsdvt.org](mailto:sraabe@wsdvt.org)

**Winooski Middle and High School**  
 Co-Principals: Kate Grodin and Jean Berthiaume  
 802-655-3530  
[kgrodin@wsdvt.org](mailto:kgrodin@wsdvt.org)  
[jberthiaume@wsdvt.org](mailto:jberthiaume@wsdvt.org)

**Board of School Trustees**  
 Robert Millar, *President*, 802-238-0089, [rmillar@wsdvt.org](mailto:rmillar@wsdvt.org)  
 Kamal Dahal, *Vice President*, 802-310-2821, [kdahal@wsdvt.org](mailto:kdahal@wsdvt.org)  
 Isaiah Donaldson, *Secretary*, 802-999-8410, [idonaldson@wsdvt.org](mailto:idonaldson@wsdvt.org)  
 Elom Essiba, 802-324-9431, [eessiba@wsdvt.org](mailto:eessiba@wsdvt.org)  
 Nicole Mace, 802-363-7777, [nimace@wsdvt.org](mailto:nimace@wsdvt.org)

**CITY OF WINOOSKI**  
**[www.winooski.vt.gov](http://www.winooski.vt.gov), 802-655-6410**

**Mayor**  
 Kristine Lott, 802-766-1988, [klott@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:klott@winooski.vt.gov)

**City Manager**  
 Elaine Wang, 802-655-6410, [ewang@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:ewang@winooski.vt.gov)

**City Councilors**  
 Aurora Hurd, 802-734-7082, [ahurd@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:ahurd@winooski.vt.gov)  
 Charles Judge, 802-655-6410, [cjudge@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:cjudge@winooski.vt.gov)  
 Bryn Oakleaf, 802-448-2966, [boakleaf@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:boakleaf@winooski.vt.gov)  
 Thomas Renner, *Deputy Mayor*, 802-922-3265, [renner@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:renner@winooski.vt.gov)

**City Clerk**  
 Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, [jwillingham@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:jwillingham@winooski.vt.gov)

**Winooski Police**  
 Emergency: Call 9-1-1  
 Non-emergency: 802-655-0221

**Winooski Fire Department**  
 Emergency: Call 9-1-1  
 Non-emergency: 802-655-6420

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA** We are @WinooskiLearns

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA** We are @winooski