

The Winooski Newsletter

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

JANUARY 2025



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

From the Superintendent

By Wilmer Chavarria,
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Winooski Community,

According to current projections, taxes will not increase this year for Winooski. The tax rate is set to go down once again (last year, the rate went down by 90 cents, but the record high property values reflected through the new city-wide reappraisal made it so that this reduction did not translate into actual tax bill reductions for many homeowners). The board directed our administration to present budget options that come below current total services. As you know, even if we do not add anything new to our operations, the cost of what we do offer increases every year. So, even if we accommodate a moderate increase to catch up with rising costs, we are still faced with the need to make some reductions in our services and personnel. This is the trade-off for ensuring tax sustainability and affordability over time within a larger state-wide context of uncertainty.

We are doing this with much care. Achieving this compromise will likely mean giving up four full-time positions of people currently employed in our district. It also means taking advantage of vacancies resulting from retirements and attrition and strategically rethinking educational programming in parts of our schools to save. Reductions are never easy to achieve, but we hope that the changes for the upcoming year will not impact our students negatively. Our school staff are cooperating and supportive of some of these compromises, and I am confident that we will continue to do our best to provide the highest quality of education and learning experiences for the children of the community. Additionally, we plan to continue funding most other additional services our families have come to rely on.

I trust that the board has and continues to do its due diligence to strike a balance between ensuring that taxpayers are able to afford to live in our community while continuing to improve the quality of our services for children and youth. I hope you vote YES on the school budget question this coming March, not only because your taxes are likely to decrease, which is rare in Vermont, but also because funding our schools is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your support, as always.



Preschool Skills Screening and Pre-registration

March 21, Room D185 at JFK Elementary School

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

Please contact our Early Learning Office, Tina Carroll at tcarroll@wsdvt.org or 802-383-6138 to schedule an appointment. For more information, visit the Winooski School District website at wsdvt.org.

PEACE JAM'S

CLOTHING DRIVE

Saturday January 18

11-1 pm

AT THE O'BRIEN CENTER



Happy January, Winooski

By Nicole Mace, Winooski Board of School Trustee

The Winooski Board of Trustees is preparing to adopt a final budget amount to present to the voters for approval on Town Meeting Day. While it is too early (as of this writing) to share what that budget is, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our residents about the process the Board undertook to arrive at a decision on January 8th. The presentations referred to below can be found on the Board's Budget Information page on the website: <https://www.wsdvt.org/school-board/budget/>

The Board began its process by reviewing the context we are budgeting within. Over the summer, board members were contacted by Winooski residents concerned about the increase in their tax bills that occurred as a result of the new property values and the budget approved by voters in March. Increases varied widely across homeowners, but 50% of Winooski homeowners experienced education tax increases of more than 11%. 12% of Winooski homeowners saw a decrease in their education tax, while 8% saw their education taxes increase by more than 20%.

In September, Governor Scott sent a communication to school boards indicating that due to pressures on the Education Fund, even if school district spending is held flat statewide, Vermonters would face a 7% increase in their property tax bills. The Governor stated in his letter, "we will need boards

to consider all options to contain education spending growth."

The Board also reviewed information on historical and projected enrollment by grade, which is provided to the Board on an annual basis from the New England School Development Council. The District's historical enrollment decreased by 8% between 2014-15 and 2024-25. The report predicts a 9% drop in total enrollment over the next ten years, which is an improvement over last year's projections.

The context for this budget also includes conversations at the state level about a path forward for education funding, governance, and program delivery. As a member of the Commission on the Future of Public Education, I have received multiple reports from the Agency of Education and Legislature regarding possible policy directions in the upcoming legislative session. One report in particular has a recommendation that would substantially impact Winooski - an analysis that would adjust the weights adopted in Act 127, which would reduce the funding for multilingual learners by more than 80%. While it is too early to tell what direction the state will move towards, it is fair to say that everything is on the table, and we are budgeting in a very uncertain environment in terms of future access to resources.

In response to this context, the Board

directed the administration to develop three scenarios for consideration - a level services budget, a 0% increase, and a budget increase aligned with inflation (2.4%). The Board, and our budget buddies (Eli Phillips, Jordan Matte, Ruth & Brian Steinmetz, Yam Basnet, and Chloe Tomlinson) reviewed each of these scenarios and requested an additional scenario for consideration - between 3-5% growth over last year. Other than the level services budget, all would require reducing teaching and staff positions. Based on Education Fund projections provided by the Tax Commission as part of the December 1 letter, all four scenarios could result in tax rate reductions for Winooski homeowners. Details regarding each of these scenarios can be found on the Board's budget page: <https://www.wsdvt.org/school-board/budget/>

On December 14th, the Board held a community lunch and budget presentation to seek community input on each of the scenarios modeled by the administration. Translation and child care was provided, and the presentation was recorded and shared widely for those unable to attend. The Board is grateful for all the community input and engagement that has occurred to date in the process, and welcomes your continued input as we prepare to adopt a final budget January 8th.

Thank You, Ian MacFarland, and Burton Snowboards!

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

The Winooski School District would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ian MacFarland, VP of Enterprise Planning and Operations at Burton Snowboards, and the entire Burton team for their generous donation of winter gear to our school store.

This thoughtful contribution is helping to ensure that our students are warm, comfortable, and ready to embrace the winter months.

Your kindness and commitment to supporting our Winooski community make a lasting impact, and we are incredibly thankful for your partnership.

Thank you for being a valued supporter of our students and making a difference in their lives!



Spartan Spotlight: Karen Greene

By Rahmah Alchaderchi, Winooski High School Class of 2021 and
WSD Communications Intern

Karen Greene, a Student Services Assistant, has worked in the Winooski School District since 1988. This year is her 37th year at the district, and it will also be her last year working for Winooski School because she is retiring.



Mrs. Greene has witnessed many changes in the building locations and the student population. She has a deep heart for the school and its students. Working at the school district allowed her to create a safe environment for students and help them on the right path. She believes Winooski has a unique spirit; “We are one big family,” said Mrs. Greene.

She previously lived in Winooski; her children attended and graduated from Winooski schools. One of her favorite memories is witnessing her children graduate from Winooski. Another unforgettable moment is when Mrs. Greene and her husband join other families on a bus trip to watch their children play soccer in the State Championship. Moments like that remind her why Winooski is important to her.

Karen Greene has helped generations of Winooski students and left an impact on them. Her voice will forever echo in the hallways.

Health Office Update:

By Elizabeth Parris, BSN, RN, NCSN

Winter is in full swing and that comes with a general increase in respiratory illnesses.

In particular, we are seeing an increase in cases of pneumonia among students. Please monitor for common signs of a chest cold, such as:

- fever and chills
- headache
- feeling tired
- shortness of breath
- a slowly worsening cough

If your child has persistent or worsening symptoms such as wheezing and cough, please contact their primary care provider for further assessment.

A reminder that masking is not a requirement.

To aid in the prevention of pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses, please practice good hand hygiene and talk to your child about properly covering their cough and sneeze.

We hope you are staying safe and warm this season!



First Graders and Their Magnificent Things

By Nancy Johnson, 1st Grade Teacher

First grade finished their tools unit, and we celebrated by presenting our magnificent things. Throughout the unit, first graders explored various tools (cooking, math, science) and learned how tools make work easier. We also learned about the tools that all of us have within ourselves, which we call Habits of Character. We learned how initiative, collaboration, perseverance, and responsibility also make work easier.

The students then worked in small groups to design, plan, build, and revise magnificent things for the classroom. Some examples are a hall pass sign, a class materials sign, and a tomorrow box (a place for the classroom teacher to put materials needed for tomorrow). After creating the objects, students wrote about the process. The writing pieces had a focus sentence, two or more details, and a conclusion. Finally, we presented it to our families and staff members.

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



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.



Farewell and Best Wishes to Rahmah Alchaderchi

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

We bid a heartfelt farewell to our outstanding communications intern, Rahmah Alchaderchi. A proud alumna of Winooski High School’s Class of 2021 and a senior at Champlain College, Rahmah is set to graduate in May with a degree in Communications. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and grateful for her contributions to our community.

During her internship, Rahmah demonstrated exceptional talent and commitment. She captured the essence of our community through her outstanding photography and videography, organized a memorable Teacher of the Year celebration for Ms. Caitlin, inspired students with her presentations, and initiated the Spartan Spotlight series to showcase the remarkable individuals in Winooski.

Rahmah’s creativity, dedication, and passion have left an indelible mark on Winooski. While we will miss her greatly, we are excited to see her continue to excel and make a difference in the world. Best wishes, Rahmah, for a bright and successful future!



Celebrating Excellence in Education

By Miriam Greenfield, Director of Communications

Before fall break, educational leaders, colleagues, family, and friends gathered at the University of Vermont to celebrate Vermont’s 44th Annual Outstanding Educator Awards. Among the honorees was Winooski High School’s own Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver, the 2025 Vermont Teacher of the Year.

Interim Vermont Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders highlighted Ms. Caitlin’s innovative approach to curriculum design, which integrates students’ diverse cultures and identities, making education deeply personal and meaningful. Saunders also commended her for fostering connections between parents, families, and the community through events that celebrate student learning and cultural heritage.

Additionally, Winooski educators Lucas Dunn of Winooski Middle High School and Grace Holcomb of JFK Elementary School were honored as Outstanding Educators for their extraordinary commitment to their students and schools.

Congratulations to all the awardees for their exceptional contributions to education. A special thank you to Winooski High School student Yozna, whose stunning photograph of Ms. Caitlin was featured at the event and in various publications.



Lucas Dunn



Grace Holcomb

Cubist Art from 7th and 8th grades

By Emily Jacobs, Winooski Middle School Art Teacher

Our 7th and 8th grade artists recently studied Cubist art, analyzing and taking inspiration from the work of historical artists such as Pablo Picasso and Lois Maillou Jones, as well as current neo-Cubist artist Jessalyn Brooks. Students then brainstormed and sketched to plan original cubist artworks of their own, with freedom over the subject of their artwork and the “story” it would tell. They observed and practiced skills such as using shape and color to fragment the subjects of their artworks, and to create illusions of shadows, highlights, and three-dimensionality. Students also considered how the ways in which they used these cubist qualities might contribute to the mood or meaning of their artwork. We’re thrilled to share here some of the uniquely beautiful works that resulted from this process.



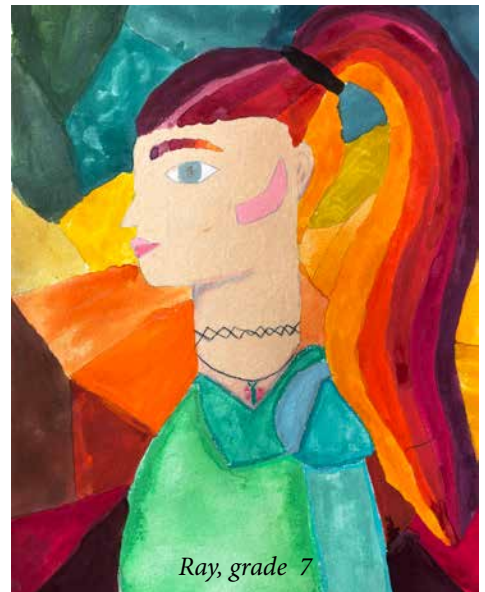
Jacob, grade 7



Sitei, grade 8



Annika, grade 8



Ray, grade 7



Kahmiley, grade 8



Jenny, grade 8



Samayh, grade 7



Shikha, 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>No School</p>	<p>01</p>	<p>02</p> <p>Lunch Entree Piri Piri Chicken Greek Chicken Wrap Chicken Caesar Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Collard Greens Daily Salad Bar Grains Jollof Rice</p>	<p>03</p> <p>Lunch Entree Chicken Aioli Sandwich Pasta Bar Vegetables Italian Herbed Sautéed Zucchini Broccoli Daily Salad Bar</p>	
<p>06</p> <p>Lunch Entree Grilled Cheese Sandwich Southwest Crunch Salad Turkey Ham & Cheese Hoagie Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Granola & Yogurt Parfait Vegetables Tomato Soup Carrot Slaw Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>07</p> <p>Lunch Entree Ground Turkey Tacos Hawaiian Chicken Wrap Chef Salad with Turkey Vegetables Fiesta Corn Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>08</p> <p>Lunch Entree Hot Dog Grilled Cheese Sandwich Mixed Green Salad with Cheese Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>09</p> <p>Lunch Entree Sweet & Sour Chicken Teriyaki Tofu Cheese and Turkey Pepperoni Pizza Vegetables Honey Ginger Green Beans Daily Salad Bar Grains Fried Rice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Lunch Entree Cheesy Baked Ziti Chicken Ranch Wrap Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Lemon Pepper Broccoli Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Lunch Entree Huli Huli Chicken Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Seasoned/Roasted Carrots Daily Salad Bar Grains Hawaiian Mac Salad</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lunch Entree BYO Burrito Bowl Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Fire Roasted Black Beans Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Lunch Entree Chicken Parm Sandwich Grilled Cheese Sandwich Turkey & Cheese Melt Vegetables Buttered Parsley Potatoes Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lunch Entree Teriyaki Chicken Teriyaki Tofu Roasted Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Green Beans Veggie Stir-Fry with Ginger Daily Salad Bar Grains Asian Noodles Brown Rice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Lunch Entree Chicken Tenders Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Chef Salad with Turkey Vegetables Chili Roasted Sweet Potatoes Daily Salad Bar</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Lunch Entree BBQ Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Vegetarian Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar Roasted Mashed Potatoes Grains Whole Wheat Dinner Roll</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lunch Entree Nacho Bar Greek Chicken Wrap Vegetarian Chef Salad Vegetables Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar Taco Bar: Seasoned Pinto Beans</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Lunch Entree Grilled Cheese Sandwich Meatball Marinara Sub Chicken Caesar Salad Turkey Sandwich Vegetables Daily Salad Bar Tomato Soup</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Lunch Entree Beef Shepherds Pie Vegetarian Shepherd's Pie Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Glazed Carrots Daily Salad Bar Grains Whole Wheat Dinner Roll</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Lunch Entree Jerk Chicken Drumstick Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Steamed Broccoli Daily Salad Bar Grains Rice Pilaf Whole Grain Corn Bread</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Lunch Entree Beef Cheeseburger Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Roasted Potato Lettuce & Tomato Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Lunch Entree Loaded Baked Potato Chipotle Chicken Soft Tacos Southwest Crunch Salad Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Fresh Roasted Broccoli with Garlic Pico de Gallo Daily Salad Bar Grains Whole Wheat Dinner Roll</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lunch Entree Curry Chicken Curry Chick'n Cheese Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Green Beans Daily Salad Bar Grains Brown Rice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Lunch Entree Spaghetti with Meatballs Meatless Meatball Marinara w/ Spaghetti Chicken Caesar Salad Buffalo Ranch Chicken Sandwich (Scratch) Vegetables Calabacitas con Elote (Squash with Corn) Daily Salad Bar</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Lunch Entree Hot Honey Glazed Chicken Thigh Honey Glazed Chick'n Roasted Chicken Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Meal with String Cheese Vegetables Vegetarian Baked Beans Daily Salad Bar Grains Rice Pilaf</p>



Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Kristine Lott | klott@winooskivt.gov / 802 766 1988

Hello Neighbors,

This month, the City Council will complete the annual process for developing next year's budget, which voters will see on the Town Meeting Day ballot in March. The City Council will vote to finalize the budget on January 21st - if you're reading this before then, I encourage you to reach out to me or other members of the City Council with your thoughts. Additional budget presentations are held in February and March for residents. To view the full details and schedule, visit winooskivt.gov/fy26.

As of writing this update, the City Council is considering a budget with a 5.68% increase to the tax rate, or ~\$253 more to the city portion of your property tax bill. It is worth noting that healthcare costs were projected to increase by 24%, but quick work by the City Manager, Finance Director, and Human Resources Director resulted in a plan to switch providers resulting in a lower percentage increase of 13% (a savings of ~\$100k).



This budget also includes a conservative increase to infrastructure and fire safety investments and increases to fund three critically needed partner services: the Howard Center Community Outreach Team (mental health response support), an Equity Policy Advisory position at the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (supports Winooski in lieu of staffing our own Equity Director), and Green Mountain Transit (our regional public bus service). This budget also includes increases to utility rates (6.7% for water, 13.9% for sewer).

In addition to the budget and City Council/School Board seats, the Town Meeting Day ballot will also include the Just Cause Eviction Charter

Change that voters initially approved in 2023 (we need to re-vote on this issue due to a technical process error). To learn more about Just Cause Eviction, please visit winooskivt.gov/justcause. The Town Meeting Day election is on Tuesday, March 4, 2025! Be sure you're registered to vote - visit winooskivt.gov/vote to get started.

From Your Local Representative

By Representative Daisy Berbeco

As the snow falls and not all of our residents are safely tucked in a warm home, I want to share words written by one of my colleagues in the Vermont House who summarizes our housing crisis best. This commentary is by Emilie Krasnow, representing South Burlington. Be well and be you, Daisy Berbeco. Vermont is facing a crisis of housing affordability and availability — a dire shortage that we must confront as a public health emergency. At the latest count, 3,458 Vermonters are experiencing homelessness — a number that continues to rise. Many families face precarious living situations: They are living outdoors, relying on friends or family for a few days or weeks of shelter, or finding temporary help through the motel voucher program. Each case of homelessness serves as a reminder of the urgency of this crisis. It's not just about numbers; it's about real people — families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities — who all deserve better. We can't look away. For several years, we have been strategically using American Rescue Plan Act funding to make deep investments in housing and services for Vermonters. But the one-time federal pandemic funds are now gone, and to continue the momentum, we must use state dollars derived from tax revenue. This transition requires thought and consideration of what it means to invest state funds into housing, and what return we should expect. One effective approach is the "housing first" model, which prioritizes stable housing before tackling other challenges. When individuals have a place to call home, they are more likely to engage with support services, leading to improved health outcomes and

reduced reliance on emergency resources. This model not only addresses homelessness but also fosters healthier communities. In the short term, we need to expand emergency shelter options and ensure access to healthcare, food, public transportation and support services for those in crisis. Tackling this issue is essential for helping our neighbors regain their footing and dignity. We must also invest in long-term solutions. This includes building more affordable housing units and increasing access to mental health and substance misuse recovery services. Housing is not just a roof over one's head; it's a cornerstone of well-being for our communities. To address this crisis, we must also work to increase the availability of housing units... by streamlining the development process, removing zoning and regulatory obstacles and incentivizing both public and private sectors to invest in affordable housing. The link between housing instability and public health is undeniable. Individuals without stable housing are at greater risk for chronic illnesses and mental health issues, which ultimately strains our health care system. Investing in housing is not merely an act of compassion; it's a sound economic strategy that benefits us all. Moving forward, we must embrace a dual approach: immediate relief and sustainable long-term solutions. It's time to recognize housing as a public health crisis and take decisive action to support our communities. We must remember that housing is not only an economic issue; it's a fundamental human right, essential for the health and vitality of every Vermonter. Let's work together to ensure that everyone has a place to call home.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Recreation and Parks

802-777-1621 | recreation@winooskivt.gov
winooskivt.gov/recprograms

View all programs at winooskivt.gov/recprograms

YOUTH

Youth Climbing

Ages 5–8 | Tuesdays, January 7 – February 18
Ages 9–13 | Wednesdays, January 8 – February 19

First Robotics Explore

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
Grades 5-6 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 Camp

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

ADULTS

Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum

55+ | Thursday, January 2

Yoga Vinyasa Flow

18+ | New Dates to be announced!

Holiday Ukulele Lessons

18+ | Mondays, November 25 – December 16



Winooski Memorial Library

32 Malletts Bay Avenue | 802-655-6424 | library@winooskivt.gov
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

ADULTS

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

1:1 Tech Assistance | Ages 18+ | Saturday, Jan. 25 | 11am – 1pm

Free Veggie Distribution

Join us on Wednesday, January 8th from 3:30 – 5:30pm for our monthly veggie distribution in partnership with The Intervale Center. Bring your own bag; first served basis.

Restored Saturday hours

Good news - the library is open again 10am – 2pm for Saturday services! Join us for regularly scheduled youth programming, 1:1 tech assistance, public computer access, books, and more.

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 January 21st

WEDNESDAYS

Grab-n-Go

10am–12pm | 60+ | \$5 suggested donation

Nutritious takeout meals from AgeWell

Call to RSVP by 12pm the previous Thursday

Breakfast Café

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

Enjoy freshly made breakfast sandwiches, fruit, and drinks

Senior Community Connections

9am – 12pm | FREE | Drop-in

Play games, puzzles, craft, sew, and more!

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

Elvis Birthday Breakfast Party

Wednesday January 8th | 9am – 12pm

\$5 suggested donation, RSVP by January 2

AARP Tax-Aide

 FREE | Mondays & Fridays February 7 – April 7

Calls accepted for appointment beginning on January 18

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 After School

winooskivt.gov/thriveprograms

Thrive After School is a state-licensed childcare/enrichment program. Through our partnership with the Winooski School District, we seek to build a community where children can explore, learn, and grow during their afterschool hours. Our daily structure provides children with opportunities to expand on the learning that takes place during the school day and allows them to explore and grow through play-based, hands-on learning. We have opportunities for outside time and other gross-motor play, imaginative play, STEM learning, art, literacy, skill-building activities, and exploring hobbies and interests.

Thrive is hiring Program Assistants to join our Afterschool Team! Visit winooskivt.gov/jobs for more information and to apply.

Thrive Afterschool will also be accepting new students in early 2025, and as a State-licensed program most families are eligible for State support to help cover the cost of the program. For more information or to sign up please visit winooskivt.gov/thrive

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



winooskivt.gov/programs



City Hall Reminders

Open 8am – 4pm, Monday – Friday
winooskivt.gov/clerk | 802 655 6410

City Hall closures:

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Martin Luther King Day (January 20)

Dog Licenses:

Per state law, all dogs owned in the City of Winooski must be registered with the City Clerk on or before April 1, 2025. Please note, the State of Vermont has increased their fee by \$2:

- On or before April 1: Altered: \$16 | Un-Altered- \$20
- After April 2: Altered: \$18 | Un-Altered- \$22

The annual **Town Meeting Day** election is on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. To register to vote and learn about voting in Winooski, visit winooskivt.gov/vote. For full details on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, please visit winooskivt.gov/fy26. Looking to run for City Council or School Board? Visit winooskivt.gov/vote to learn more about the required paperwork and petitions which are due on Monday, January 27, 2025!

Winter parking bans began on December 1 and end on March 31. To learn more about overnight parking restrictions and how to sign up for alters, please visit winooskivt.gov/parking.



Main Street Revitalization Project Update

The first year of construction for the Main Street Revitalization project concluded in mid-December. From April to December of 2024, crews installed new water, sewer, and gas lines along the one-mile stretch of Main Street from the railroad bridge near Maple Street to the Winooski/Colchester town line. They also added new stormwater systems and conduit duct banks for underground utilities in the southern half of the project area. Roadway reconstruction began on Main Street between Maple Street and Spring Street. Temporary pavement and line markings were installed throughout the project area before construction paused for winter in December.

In preparation for the project's winter shutdown, Main Street has been restored to normal traffic patterns. Green Mountain Power will intermittently work on West Spring Street between Weaver Street and Main Street on weekdays this winter. This work will primarily occur along the shoulder of the roadway, with minimal impact on traffic. Flaggers will be on-site to guide travelers.

Major construction work will start again in spring 2025, focusing on reconstructing the road and adding sidewalks, curbs, streetlights, and landscaping. Crews will also complete upgrades to the water and sewer lines between Tigan Street and the Winooski/Colchester town line, as well as stormwater systems and conduit in the northern half of the project area. The City of Winooski will share project updates before construction starts next year.

You can visit the project website at winooskivt.gov/mainstreet or sign up for email updates to stay informed. The website has information in 15 languages. Questions or comments about the Main Street Revitalization Project? Contact the project team at 802 595 4399 or info@winooskimainstreet.com.

Crews install underground conduit duct bank on East Spring Street near its intersection with Main Street.

Downtown Winooski

Downtown Winooski wrapped up the 2024 event season with our annual Holiday Pop-Up sale, which supported 50 vendors this year! Our Winter Farmers Market was a tremendous success at our new location at the Senior Center during November and December. The Summer Farmers Market data reported \$245,500 in sales to 59 vendors throughout the season.

We fundraised \$42,000 this year to provide live music and activities for our Downtown Block Parties, free to the community and attended by more than 7,000 people. None of this could be possible without the passionate dedication of 8 board members who volunteered 480 hours of work and coordination. Please give a word of thanks when you see them around town: Laura Wade, Ali Nagle, Seth Leonard, Sarah Johnson, Craig Mitchell, Matthew Bingnot, George Bergin and Jacqueline Dagesse. We had new and returning sponsors this year and we could not operate without their financial support. Please consider joining the local business community that supports our programming: Winooski Organics, Redstone, Waterworks Food + Drink, Barr Hill,

Monkey House, Onion City Chicken & Oyster, Misery Loves Co., CarShare Vermont, Burlington Telecom, Uncle Nearest, Northeastern Reproductive Medicine, Efficiency Vermont, VT Wine Merchants, Alliance Francais Lake Champlain Region, CCV, Winooski Historical Society, VT French-Canadian Genealogical Society, Winooski Mill Museum and Nusantara. This year brought the Better Places Campaign to Winooski, and we had over 80 donors contribute to enhancements to our Downtown Block Parties. Some project elements have been completed, such as the mosaic art installation and others are slated for execution this spring and early summer.

Thank you to all of you who sponsored events or donated to individual campaigns throughout the year. The local business community really embraced Downtown Winooski's programs this year and we are extremely grateful. Stay tuned for 2025 event announcements coming soon!

—downtownwinooski.org

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Kate Nugent, Executive Director

Join the Winooski Partnership for Prevention this month for a showing of Screenagers:



Elementary School Aged Edition. Watch the trailer at screenagersmovie.com/about-screenagers-elementary. Concerned about your own or a loved one's substance use? Refer them to VT HelpLink, a resource for treatment and recovery services that are free for everyone in Vermont. And if you haven't yet, please check out our annual report on our website's homepage to read about all of the incredible hard work Winooski engaged in to keep neighbors healthy this year: winooskiprevention.org. Have a wonderful, safe and happy new year!

Winooski Food Shelf

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

Wednesday, January 8	1pm – 3pm
Saturday, January 11	9:30am – 11am
Wednesday, January 22	1pm – 3pm
Saturday, January 25	9:30am – 11am

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

By Paul Detzer, Development and Communications Engagement Manager



Howard Center's Community Outreach Team collaborates with Winooski police to assist individuals in crisis. Officers may involve the team to respond alongside them or send the team independently for welfare checks. Calls often involve mental health challenges that may pose a danger to self or others. Serving Winooski and nearby communities, the team provides immediate support and connects individuals to follow-up care when needed. Kind and approachable, they are here for you—say hello when you see them and call 802 488 7778 to connect directly with the Outreach Team if you or someone you know needs help.

—howardcenter.org | 802 488 6000

Town Meeting TV

Happy New Year! January is the perfect time to get involved with CCTV & Town Meeting TV. Whether you create your own TV show highlighting something in the community you're passionate about, volunteer in the studio to learn the ins and outs of video production, or submit your home videos to be preserved in our video archives, there's something for everyone to do! Please email Jordan at maketv@cctv.org with any questions or ideas. Feel free to stop by our studio at 294 N Winooski Ave in Burlington - we'll gladly give you a tour!

—cctv.org



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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
 Robert Millar, *President*, 802-238-0089, rmillar@wsdvt.org
 Kamal Dahal, *Vice President*, 802-310-2821, kdahal@wsdvt.org
 Isaiah Donaldson, *Secretary*, 802-999-8410, idonaldson@wsdvt.org
 Elom Kpessa, 802-324-9431, eessiba@wsdvt.org
 Nicole Mace, 802-363-7777, nimace@wsdvt.org

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CITY OF WINOOSKI
www.winooski.vt.gov, 802-655-6410

Mayor
 Kristine Lott, 802-766-1988, klott@winooski.vt.gov

City Manager
 Elaine Wang, 802-655-6410, ewang@winooski.vt.gov

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

City Clerk
 Jenny Willingham, 802-655-6410, 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

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