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South Utica Newsletter #27 from Councilperson Celeste Friend

Summer has arrived! My teaching semester at SUNY Poly ended officially on May 3rd, when I submitted my final grades for the two courses I teach there. That leaves me with more time to devote to all things Utica. I'm excited by all the things I have planned to do over the next few months. (This includes a canoe camping trip in June on Forked Lake in the Adirondacks and a road trip in July with all four of my sisters!)

As always, please forward this email to anyone you know who might enjoy it. They can easily sign up just by clicking the link below.

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My Votes on the Council in May 2022

Here are all my votes in May. All votes described below were unanimous unless otherwise noted. But, of course, if there is more you'd like to understand, please

let me know.

Summer Common Council Meetings

It is the tradition of the Common Council to only meet once in July and once in August. We passed a Resolution that we will meet on July 6th and August 3rd. In September, we will resume our normal schedule of meeting the first and third Wednesdays of every month.

Marriage Officers Who wants to get married? Anyone? The Council can Resolve that anyone who resides in the City be made into a marriage officer. (All members of the Council are made Marriage Officers at the beginning of their terms.)

Timothy J. Julian, 137 Higby Rd, Utica 13501

URA Properties Sold: All properties sold by the URA must be approved by the Council. They are approved of in three separate stages: first, we pass a Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing. Second, we place into Committee the legislation to authorize the sale. And finally, once that Public Hearing has been held, we pull from Committee and vote on the Ordinance selling the property. I will only list the legislation authorizing the final sale. So, here are the sales we Ordained in May:

508 Millgate Street to Joseph Fraccola for \$20,000

1673 West Street to Nur Alam Bin Abdul Ghafar & Akima Binit Rahman for \$250

Authorizing Sale of Wine and Beer Nothing says "Summer" in Utica like the Council giving permission to street festivals, fairs, and the like to sell beer and wine outside. So you can expect to see these Resolutions for the next few months. Here are May's:

St. Mary of Mount Caramel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, July 15-17

FX Matt Brewing Company, June 10

Utica Zoo, June 4 & August 6

Utica Zoo, Fridays, July 8th through August 26th

Street Signs The Council must Ordain all street signs in order for them to be legally enforceable. So from time to time, we amend them as circumstances dictate.

Handicapped Parking Locations: one Handicapped Parking Spot at 1010 Belmont Ave

No Parking At All Times: East side of Coventry Ave from Herkimer Rd. to 446 Coventry Ave and West side of Coventry Ave from Trenton Road turn off to Servis Place

Intersections Where Stop Required: Northwest Corner of Beckwith Place and James St.

Transfers of Funds: According to Local Law, anytime that \$15,000 or more is transferred from one budget line to another by E&A, such a transfer must be approved by the Common Council.

\$22,923 from "Off-street Parking Wages" & "Engineering - Gas & Oil" to "Engineering - Contractual 811"

\$66,130 from "Comptroller - Wages & Leases" & "Law - Salaries" to "Comptroller - Salaries & Social Security"

Resolution Appointing the Following Person to Board of Assessment &

Review There are a few Boards to which the Common Council has the authority to appoint people. The Board of Assessment and Review is one of these. In May, we appointed:

Rosemary A. Talarico, 1109 Parkway East, Utica NY 13501

Resolution Appointing the Following Members to the Flood Mitigation Task Force

A few meetings back we passed legislation forming a city wide flooding task force. This legislation appointed a new person to this task force:

James Genovese, 200 Elizabeth St, Utica NY 13501

Commissioners of Deeds: The Common Council can Resolve that eligible voters who reside in Utica be allowed to become Commissioners of Deeds. This allows those people to collect ballot petition signatures from anyone in the City, regardless of party affiliation. After the Council passes them, these Resolutions are then sent to the County to be finalized. We Resolved that the following people be appointed as Commissioners of Deeds in May:

None

Legislation in Committee: The following pieces of legislation have been placed in committee:

Ordinance Establishing a Vacant Building Registry We have kept this legislation in Committee while we have been busy with Budget legislation.

A Local Law Entitled "Registration and Posting of Owner and Manager Information and Designation of Agent"

Ordinance Amending Composition of the Bureau of Fire

Resolution Requesting Each District Councilperson Allocate Funding to Establish A Business Directory App to Help Support and Revitalize the Business of Utica This is a Resolution by Councilmember Colosimo-Testa for Councilmembers to pool some of our ARPA funding.

Ordinances (4) in relation to "Speed Limits Generally" - these are four related Ordinances sponsored by Councilmember Colosimo-Testa which are intended to better organize all of our laws regarding speed limits

A Local Law Amending the Charter, a local law that will change the taxable status date from August 1st to March 1st

Celebrate Juneteenth & World Refugee This Year - June 18-20

Juneteenth is a national celebration that marks and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. Although President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation declared slavery over in 1863, it wasn't until June 19, 1865 that slaves in Texas were officially made aware that their bondage had ended. Juneteenth has been celebrated by African-Americans ever since. In 2021, President Biden signed a law making it into a federal holiday, and the Utica Common Council added it to our list of "Public Holidays Designated." Although traditionally celebrated by formerly enslaved people and their descendants, I believe that it should be celebrated by all of us. The end of slavery is an important milestone in our collective efforts to make of these United States a "more perfect union" and as such every American has a right to be proud of this day in history.

There are events taking place across Utica for several days surrounding Juneteenth. There will be more details to come, so look forward to another newsletter closer to the middle of June, when I will tell you all you need to know to celebrate this important holiday.

Friday, June 17:

Tour of Underground Railroad in Utica - details to be announced

Saturday, June 18:

Utica Roadrunner's 3rd Annual Run Against Racism

9am start, 3 mile route (2 loops) from Kemble Park to Johnson Park

FREE to register, donations will benefit Johnson Park Center's Youth Center

Juneteenth Celebration at Chancellor Park

12-8pm, with live music, a variety of vendors and community organizations, and fellowship - A truly **GREAT** event - 800+ people attended in 2021

World Refugee Day

12-4, Hanna Park, come celebrate the rich diversity of all of Utica's immigrant and refugee communities

Sunday, June 19th: events and activities to be announced

Monday, June 20th:

Levitt AMP Utica Music Series Kick Off Concert!

6-9pm at Kopernik Park in Oneida Square

The best thing to do on Monday nights in Utica all summer long!



Photo: an image of the word "Juneteenth" in the colors of the pan-African flag: red, black, and green, on a yellow background

Summer Green Waste Schedule

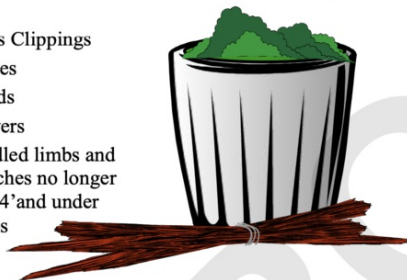
We've all by now received our green waste postcard - hold on to it - it's a good reminder of how green waste pick up works, and when we can put our green waste out. General reminder - there's a time in the Spring when we can put it out loose at the curb (but not in the street) and then a time when we have to put it out in containers, and then again in the Fall we can put it out loose again. Some people in City Hall believe that we shouldn't ever be putting it out loose, as there is so much chance of it making a mess. But then again, for some of us, we would simply need too many containers to hold it all. So keep in mind that this is a very helpful service that the City provides at no additional charge. And yes, sometimes the DPW does get behind, such as when a late snow storm creates a lot of broken tree limbs that they must clean. Please be patient with crews as they continue to do the best they can. The final pick-up in South Utica is May 25th, so please consider starting to containerize all your green waste now. **And remember: grass clippings must always be containerized. When it storms, and grass clippings are loose in the street, they can easily end up blocking storm drains and that causes flooding.**



CITY OF UTICA 2022 GREEN WASTE PICK-UP SCHEDULE

ALLOWABLE GREEN WASTE ITEMS

- ☒ Grass Clippings
- ☒ Leaves
- ☒ Weeds
- ☒ Flowers
- ☒ Bundled limbs and branches no longer than 4' and under 50 lbs



ITEMS NOT ALLOWED

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| NO Household garbage | NO Plastic |
| NO Plant Pots | NO Bricks |
| NO Soil | NO Cement |
| NO Shrubs | NO Lumber |
| NO Stumps | NO Construction Debris |
| NO Logs | NO Hazardous Waste |
| NO TREES | NO Chemicals |

The City of Utica **DOES NOT** pick up large green waste items such as trees, shrubs, logs and stumps. If you have large green waste items to be removed, call Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority at (315) 731-0238 to schedule a pick-up. A nominal fee is charged for this service.

NOTE: Landscaping and construction contractors are mandated by the City of Utica Code Sec. 2-22-41 to remove all green waste from any city property at which they have provided services.

City of Utica
1 Kennedy Plaza
Utica, NY 13502

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Utica, NY



CITY OF UTICA 2022 GREEN WASTE PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Place items loose at curb, **NOT** in the street.
(See reverse side for a list of allowable items.)

NORTH (Broad St. and NYC & HR Railroad north to city line)

Spring: STARTS April 11 – May 23 FINAL PICK-UP
Fall: STARTS Oct. 3 – Nov. 14 FINAL PICK-UP

UPPER EAST (Eagle St./Welshbush Rd. south to the city line and east of Genesee St./Memorial Parkway/Oneida St.)

Spring: STARTS April 12 – May 24 FINAL PICK-UP
Fall: STARTS Oct. 4 – Nov. 15 FINAL PICK-UP

SOUTH (Burrstone Rd. south to the city line and west of Oneida St.)

Spring: STARTS April 13 – May 25 FINAL PICK-UP
Fall: STARTS Oct. 5 – Nov. 16 FINAL PICK-UP

LOWER EAST (Broad St. to Eagle St. and east of Genesee St.)

Spring: STARTS April 14 – May 26 FINAL PICK-UP
Fall: STARTS Oct. 6 – Nov. 17 FINAL PICK-UP

WEST (Oriskany St. to Burrstone Rd. and west of Genesee St.)

Spring: STARTS April 15 – May 27 FINAL PICK-UP
Fall: STARTS Oct. 7 – Nov. 18 FINAL PICK-UP

Dates subject to change due to weather at the DPW Commissioner's discretion. Your FINAL PICK-UP is the last day to put out bulk green waste. Heavy volume of green waste in certain areas of the city may cause delays. Please be patient with crews.



CITY OF UTICA GREEN WASTE COLLECTION ROUTES

Between May 28 – September 30,
green waste **MUST** be in containers.

Each household is allowed (5) – 32 gallon barrels no more than 50 lbs each. Branches must be bundled, no longer than 4' and weigh no more than 50 lbs.

**BULK GREEN WASTE PILES PUT OUT DURING
THE REST OF THE YEAR WILL BE CITED.**

Photo: an image of a beautiful green tree.

Second Annual Flower Show & Garden Tour - July 8&9

Last year, our local garden club (District V of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York) organized Utica's first ever flower show and garden tour. It was a big success, and so they are doing it again. The flower show will be at the Utica

Public Library on Friday, July 8th, and a self-guided tour of gardens will be held on Saturday, July 9th. So mark your calendars now and keep an eye out for more details to come. If you would like for your garden to be included, just click on the link provided below. (I'm excited to be able to show off my own little garden this year!)



This photo shows a very nicely designed poster for the Utica Flower Show and Garden Tour.

Add Your Garden to the Garden Tour Map

Utica Housing Study - We Want Your Input

Utica's population has been growing for two straight decades, downtown revitalization is gaining momentum, and economic development in the region is on the upswing with impressive levels of new investment. But is the city prepared to meet the housing needs of the coming decade? And is it prepared to attract and retain new households to support the region's workforce needs and the city's own tax base?

To address these questions, the City of Utica has commissioned **czbLLC**— a national planning and housing consultancy—to analyze housing conditions and trends in Utica, define unmet housing needs, and identify feasible strategies to support a stronger and healthier housing market.

The Utica Housing Study commenced in February 2022 and will be completed in June 2022.

But we need your input - please participate in our Housing Study by answering a few questions. We need to hear from everyone, so no matter who you are or where you live, please help us out!



Photo: an historic image of the beautiful Olbiston Apartments

Flooding Mitigation - Detention Pond at Valley View

You may have noticed - a couple of years ago the parking lot at Valley View Golf Course, at the corner of the Parkway and Valley View Road, was completely rebuilt. The City rebuilt this parking lot in order to incorporate into it a "detention pond". This is a small pond constructed to hold excess storm water run off. So when we get a particularly heavy rain, this pond is designed to hold back a good deal of water which can then drain into our storm water drain system, but do so in a way that the system can handle. Pretty cool, right? The more you know.....



Photo: an image of the bound City Budget for 2022-2023

JEWtica - Sunday, June 12th, 12pm -

8pm

One of the best things about Utica is our ethnic and cultural diversity. From the New Englanders who first settled here in the 18th century, to the new arrivals from Ukraine and Somalia who continue to arrive today, Utica has long been populated by a heady mix of people from all over the world. This includes Jewish people of course. The Jewish Community Center on Oneida Street in South Utica is organizing a new event this year - JEWtica! It will be a big, happy festival, with traditional Kosher food, music, and cultural activities for everyone. So come enjoy a knish, and listen to some up-to-date and high energy Klezmer music. All sorts of details can be found at the link below.



Photo: an image of six happy women in an urban setting with a variety of musical instruments

[Learn more about JEWtica!](#)

ATVs and Dirt Bikes - What the City is Doing

ATV's and dirt bikes can be a real problem when they are operated on City streets and in our parks. These are vehicles not intended to be operated in the City, and they can be dangerous, both to their operators, but also to the rest of us.

In May 2021, the Common Council passed an Ordinance that amended laws already on the books in order to deal with this problem, which has been growing ever since the pandemic began in 2020. We amended the law in order to create tougher consequences for using ATVs and dirt bikes on our streets, sidewalks, and parks. The newly amended Ordinance allows us to not only cite people who operate these vehicles where they absolutely are not allowed, but also to impound these vehicles when we catch people breaking the law. It costs \$2,500 to get the vehicle out of impound, in addition to any other fines imposed.

If you see these vehicles being operated dangerously, please call 911.

Give the best description you can manage (type of vehicle, color, description of the operator, location and direction it is headed in, etc). The more we know about where these vehicles are being operated, the better we can track and apprehend them. (Note - the police will not chase them. That is simply much too risky for everyone involved.)

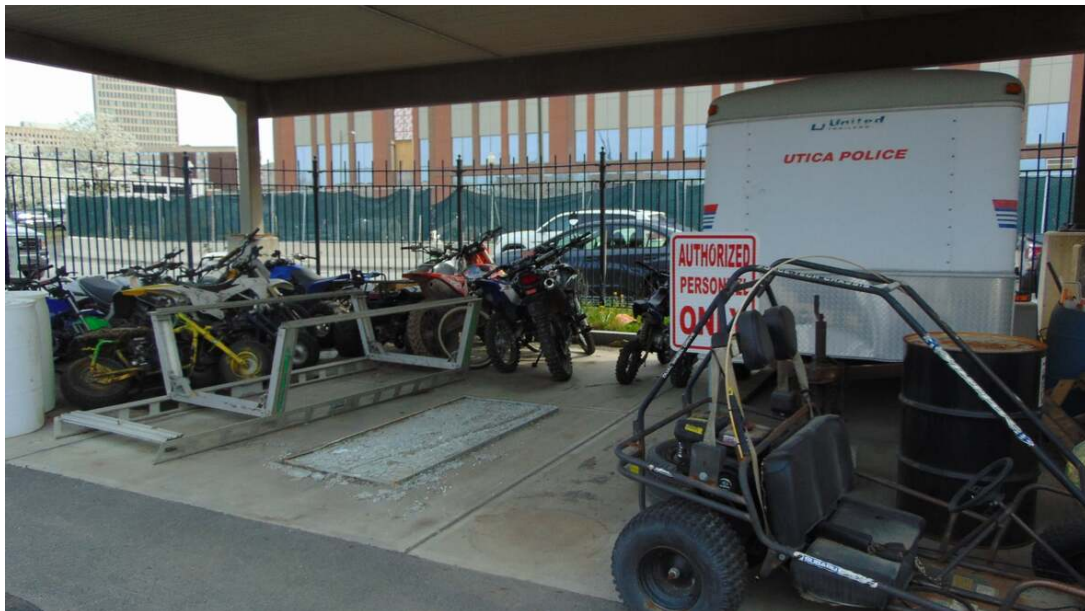


Photo: an image of ATVs and dirt bikes impounded by the Utica Police Department

Report from E&A - April - May 2022

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment is a five person Board, on which I serve, that oversees the day-to-day budget operations of the City. All transfers of monies from one area of the budget to another must be approved by E&A, as well as all expenditures of supplemental monies that come into the City, as well as any and all changes to the Table of Organization, which lists all employees of the City. E&A is also authorized to settle lawsuits brought against the City.

Transfers for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year:

In April & May , E&A passed the following Resolutions, authorizing transfers:

\$275 between various "Budget" lines

\$3,914 from various "Purchasing" and "Assessment" lines to "Purchasing - Salaries"

\$400 from "City Clerk - Travel" to "City Clerk - Postage"

\$1,7779 from "Law - Printing" to "Law - Social Security"

\$7,111 from "Law" and "City Clerk" to "Civil Service - Salaries & Social Security"

\$1,500 from "DPW - Wages" to "DPW - Salaries"

\$1,500 from "City Hall Maintenance - Social Security" to "City Hall Maintenance - Other Supplies"

\$6,332 from "Facilities - Repairs" to "Facilities - Wages, Overtime, Social Security"

\$17,985 from "Traffic Control", "City Court", and "Demolitions" to various "Sign Shop" budget lines

\$9,211 from "Street Lighting - Overtime" and "Off-street Parking" to "Street Lighting - Salaries & Wages"

\$8,064 from "Demolitions" and DPW Central Garage" to "Demolitions - Wages, Foreman Pay, Social Security"

\$12,724 from "Parkway Rec Center - Supplies & Materials", "Demolitions" and "Bertolini" to "Parkway Rec Center - Salaries, Wages, Social Security, & Repairs"

\$22,923 from "Off-street Parking" and "Engineering - Gas & Oil" to "Engineering - Contractual 811"

\$66,130 from "Comptroller - Wages & Leases" and "Law - Salaries" to "Comptroller - Salaries & Social Security"

\$793 - within budget lines for "Comptroller"

\$5,630 from "Parking & Animal Enforcement" and "Bertolini" to "Parking & Animal Enforcement - Salaries & Social Security"

\$3,685 - from "Off-street Parking - Repairs" to "Parkway Rec Center - Repairs"

\$25,521 from "Assessment - Salaries" to "Playgrounds - Wages, Overtime, & Social Security"

\$1,975 between different budget lines of "Codes"

\$11,039 from "Ski Chalet - Electric" to "Pools - Addison Miller Heat, Buckley Heat, Addison Miller Electric, Buckley Electric"

\$1,277 from "DPW Garage - Other Supplies" to "DPW Garage - Heat"

\$9 from "Planning - Contractual" to "Planning - Salaries & Social Security"

\$4,730 from "Ski Chalet - Electric & Contractual" to "Ski Chalet - Education and Training & Heat"

Table of Organization:

We added a "Temporary Part-time Project Manager" - this will be a temporary position to help us manage the various projects being undertaken with ARPA funds.

We unfunded a "Receptionist" and funded an "Office Manager" after a new employees qualifications were reviewed.

We amended a Secretary in the Department of Legislation from \$33,219 to \$40,000

We amended a Secretary in the Department of City Clerk from "Temporary, Part-time at \$30,000" to "Permanent, Full-time at \$40,000"

Supplemental Appropriations:

We authorized that \$100,375 of a grant be allocated to the "Capital Outlay" budget line in order to study the feasibility of a community-style heat pump system in Downtown

We authorized that \$199,610 of a grant be allocated to "Capital Outlay" to complete a study of brownfields along the old Erie Canal Corridor

We resolved to hire an outside attorney to help the City with our 207-a and 207-b cases. (These are cases of ongoing disability of members of the UFD and UPD.)

We authorized the settlement of a lawsuit against the City for \$2,500.

Watch Common Council Meetings Online

I've always encouraged everyone to attend Common Council meetings. Come and participate in our democratic process, even if only by witnessing the Council as we conduct the City's business. But if you can't come in person, you can always watch the livestream available on YouTube. So, young or old, on a computer or on your phone, even while eating pizza, feel free to tune in. Regular meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Our

pre-meeting conference is at 6pm, and the Council meeting is at 7pm.



Photo: an image of a young child watching a Common Council meeting on a phone while eating pizza.

[Watch Common Council Live on YouTube](#)

Regular SUNA Meetings

The South Utica Neighborhood Association continues to meet on the second Monday of every month at 6pm in the Ski Chalet at the Parkway Recreation Center. You can sign up for their regular newsletter just by following the link below. I am there every month by 5:30 to listen to constituents and learn about issues of concern to them.



Photo: an image of a SUNA meeting at the Ski Chalet at the Parkway Rec Center

[**Sign up for the SUNA Newsletter**](#)

Newsletter Archive Now Online

If you have found my Newsletters interesting and informative, I have good news. They are now all archived on my website.

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