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Councilperson Celeste Friend
SOUTH UTICA - THIRD WARD



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South Utica Newsletter #15 from Councilperson Celeste Friend

If you're thinking that this Newsletter looks a little different from the ones you've received before, well, that's because it does. I've gotten an official City of Utica email address and switched platforms for these Newsletters. I also decided that it is important to separate out my official Newsletters, which I send out as a member of the Common Council, and the emails I will be sending out as a Candidate, now that my re-election campaign is winding up for a busy Summer. So, new email address, new look, but same monthly Newsletter (and mid-month one as well) that aims to keep you informed of Council business, matters important to the Third Ward, an explanation of my votes, and more.

Roscoe Conkling Park Update



The Switchbacks in South Woods, a wonderful place to walk car-free in Utica

As I reported last month, lots of people have complained to me about cars passing through Roscoe Conkling Park as they are out enjoying a walk. The Park is popular for walkers, and yet their only way to access the Park is on roads that for around half the year are open to cars. (The roads are closed in Winter so that people can ski and snowshoe in the Park.) So I ran a survey, and 4 to 1, people supported the idea of a "Car-Free Sunday". I brought legislation to the Common Council, placed it in Committee, and held a Committee meeting to discuss the idea. Well, as much as most people I talked to wanted it, it is clearly an idea whose time has not come yet. I had no support on the Council for my legislation. Even though my legislation was only for ONE day a week, people simply do not like change. But I will continue to promote the beautiful Roscoe Conkling Park as a place for people to walk, enjoy time out of doors with their families, and take in the spectacular views of the Mohawk Valley. In fact, I have started a happy walking group: The Roscoe Conkling Walkers. We meet every Sunday at 9am at the Oneida Street gate, and walk up to the Eagle, on to the Pavillion (where Phil shares the treats he brings!), and then some of us continue on to enjoy the Switchbacks. It is a friendly and diverse group, and we'd love to have you join it.

Don't Wish Cycle!

April's mid-month Newsletter "How Utica Works" was devoted to all things solid

waste. This poster is a brief reminder of how to Recycle, and how to be sure to avoid "wish cycling".



recycleone™
ONE AND DONE

ONE BIN NO BAGS

EASIER. MORE CONVENIENT. LESS COST.

MIX ALL YOUR RECYCLABLES TOGETHER

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority is asking YOU to help us celebrate Earth Day by RECOMMITTING TO RECYCLEONE!



Do You Wish-Cycle?

Wish-Cycling: Putting non-recyclable items in your recycling bin with the hope they will be recycled. When non-recyclables are placed in your recycling container, they contaminate the acceptable material.

RECOMMIT to RECYCLEONE by reviewing the list of acceptable material in your curbside recycling container!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

★ All Recyclable Items Mix Together In One Bin For Collection ★

1. All recyclable items—paper, plastic, metal and glass—need to be mixed together loosely in one container.
2. Recyclables must be placed in your designated recycling bin or a durable plastic or metal lidded container of your choice, under 35 gallons and not more than 50 pounds.
3. Lids and labels should be left on recyclable containers. Containers should be empty and rinsed before recycling.
4. Do not place recyclables in plastic bags for collection. No string, trash or green waste allowed.



PAPER

Newspaper & Inserts
Junk Mail, Circulars,
Magazines & Catalogs
Phone & Paperback Books
Brown Grocery Bags
Lightweight &
Corrugated Cardboard
Beverage Cartons
(Milk, Juice and Juice Boxes)

DO NOT INCLUDE:
Hard Cover Books, Napkins, Paper Plates,
Tissue Paper, Soda & Beer Cartons,
or Construction Paper



PLASTIC

Plastic Bottles & Containers
(With and Without Recycling Number Codes)
Milk & Water Jugs
Cottage Cheese,
Yogurt & Pudding Cup
Containers
Soap & Detergent Containers

DO NOT INCLUDE:
Styrofoam Containers, Plastic Bags,
Toys, Motor Oil Bottles, Prescription Bottles
or Clothes Hangers



METAL

Food & Beverage Cans
Deposit Cans
Aluminum Foil
Aluminum Plates
& Trays
Aerosol Cans
Metal Lids

DO NOT INCLUDE:
Metal-Cardboard Containers (Cocoa &
Motor Oil), Clothes Hangers, Silverware
or Small Appliances



GLASS

Green, Amber &
Clear Containers
Canning Jars
Deposit Bottles
Liquor & Wine Bottles
Food & Beverage
Containers

DO NOT INCLUDE:
Broken Glass, Drinking Glasses,
Ovenware or Ceramics, Dishes, Mirrors,
Window Glass or Light Bulbs

Not Sure, visit AmIRecyclable.com?



For more information on RecycleOne, waste disposal and special programs, visit ohswa.org or call **315.733.1224**

*RecycleOne decals can be obtained from the Administrative Office at 1600 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502



It's Time To Go Electric



The Climate is in crisis, and we all know it. The average global temperature is rising and that is causing all sorts of change to what has been a predictable climate. And although it is too late to completely reverse this situation, we still have time to mitigate against the worst possible outcomes. The most fundamental thing we have to do and do together, is to figure out how to burn far fewer fossil fuels. Before too long we will need to stop burning fossil fuels altogether. New York State is in the process of working towards this goal through the Climate Community Investment Act. One way to do this is to start driving electric cars. Electric cars are not necessarily emission free, because the electricity itself may be generated by burning coal or gas. But electric cars are far more efficient, and as we convert our electric production to renewable sources (such as wind and solar), then those cars do in fact generate less and less greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, no internal combustion engine can ever NOT create greenhouse gasses.

I believe that Utica needs to begin the process of converting our fleet to electric vehicles. We will not be the first city to do so. Many cities have already begun buying electric vehicles for their police departments, and we need to follow their

lead. There are all sorts of practical advantages to doing so in general, and to beginning to do so as soon as possible. We borrow money for these kinds of long term investments, so to continue to buy Internal Combustion Engine vehicles at this time is simply not a responsible way to invest the tax payers' money. We are borrowing money to buy what is rapidly becoming an obsolete technology. Moreover, these cars are far less expensive to maintain and to fuel. But perhaps most importantly, starting the process of converting our fleet to electric vehicles will make us consistent with new state-wide climate legislation. The New York State Assembly and Senate recently passed, by comfortable margins, laws that will require that by 2035, all in-state sales of passenger vehicles be emission-free. The Governor is expected to sign this bill any day now. So let's get ahead of this curve and start to convert our fleet now, rather than have to convert it much faster down the proverbial road.

Spotlight on a Local Business: Slice Pizzeria



Slice Utica - Slice Pizzeria

2007 Genesee Street

Utica, NY 13501

(315) 507-3197

FB Slice-Utica, NY

e-mail: slicebaking@gmail.com

Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 AM-9 PM

closed Sunday

Slice, opened in 2013, is known for its hand-tossed foot long NY style pizza

slices and its signature Purple Cow wings. Not only do they have delicious pizza and wings, Slice also has an extensive menu from antipasto and riggies to cheesecake (from Purple Cow Cheesecake Co.) for dessert.

Birds, Bees, and Our New Zoning Code



For those of you who want to keep a few hens in your backyard and enjoy the freshest of eggs, or who want to keep some bees in your garden, the new Zoning Ordinance that we just passed recently has included some regulations to allow homeowners to do just that. Until the new Zoning Code is up online, simply drop me a line if you want to know just what the regulations say.

Volunteers Keep Utica Beautiful!



Last Saturday, April 24th, I organized a crew of Volunteers from South Utica to join the efforts of people across the City to pick up trash, with the support of the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority. It was part of the annual Keep American Beautiful and Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful campaigns. We went to five sites and piled up dozens of bags of trash along with old tires, windows, scrap metal, and so on. Within just a few days, the DPW had gone around and picked up all our bags and piles of trash. In just a few hours, we got a lot done, and enjoyed doing it together. It really brought home the lesson that volunteering is a powerful way to get things done. I may be organizing Volunteer activities in the future. Drop me a line if you'd like to be on my list for people to reach out to!

My Votes on the Council in April

Resolutions I Voted For: Board of Assessment Review Appointment for Justina Calenzo; Board of Assessment Review Appointment for Joseph Falcone; Commissioners of Deeds for Sherri Lynn LaSalle, Thalea L. Hunter, William C. Morehouse, and Katrina G. Martin; Commissioner of Deeds for Lori A. Washburn; Commissioner of Deeds for Devin M. Lindsey; Resolution to Support "Utica Garden Walk"; Commissioner of Deeds for Anthony Carmen Leone Jr;

Ordinances I Voted to Place in Committee: Car-Free Sundays for Roscoe Conkling Park (to Codes Committee); Limited Parking on Park Ave be rescinded (two ordinances);

Ordinances I Voted For: Transfer of Funds 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, re Police Administration; Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,825,000 to Finance The Cost of Reconstruction and Improvement of the City Sewer System



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