



Councilperson Celeste Friend
SOUTH UTICA - THIRD WARD



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South Utica Newsletter #17 from Councilperson Celeste Friend

In honor of Summer months and time off, and the like, this month's Newsletter and next's will be a little shorter than usual. But there is always something to report, so I can't quite bring myself to take a complete break like I did last year. If you like getting this Newsletter and find it useful, we encourage you to tell your friends and neighbors to sign up for it as well. They can just drop me an email at cfriend@cityofutica.com and I will add them to the list.

Yoga in the Park!

Running from June 17th through September 4th, there will be free Yoga at Lily Pond in F.T. Proctor Park, sponsored by the CNY Conservancy and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. These events are every Thursday from 6-7pm and every Saturday from 9:30-10:30am. No registration is required, but please bring a towel or mat and comfortable clothes. These classes are designed for the entire community and for all fitness levels. Enjoy our beautiful Park and relax at the same time.



The RoCo (Roscoe Conkling) Walkers - Summer Hours

For July and August, The Roscoe Conkling Walkers will be meeting at 8am in order to walk when it is cooler. We will return to our normal 9am in September. We walk every Sunday, and would be happy to have you join us. [Just click here to see the Facebook page.](#)



Citizen Action Diaper Drive

We all know that there are families in our community who don't have enough to eat. Food pantries and food giveaways work to feed people who would otherwise be hungry. But those same families who struggle to feed their families also struggle to buy diapers for their babies. Citizen Action, a local Progressive community organizing group, has decided to run a local diaper drive, collecting diapers for families in need. So the next time you are buying groceries or other essentials for your own family, consider getting some diapers as well: any size, any brand. You can simply drop them off on my porch at 37 Emerson Ave. I will pass them along to Citizen Action, who will get them to families who will appreciate your generosity.



Common Council Summer Schedule

Common Council will only meet once a month in the Summer: July 14th and August 11th. In September we will resume our normal routine of meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of every month.

And don't forget - PUBLIC COMMENT is back in place. So come a little early to sign up for public comment, and directly contribute to making Utica Better for All of Us.



First Annual Utica Garden Walk and Flower Show

An exciting new event is coming to Utica: The Utica Garden Tour and Flower Show. It will be held on July 9&10, 2021. The Garden Tour will be of residents' gardens and the Flower Show will be held at the Utica Library. (<https://www.gardensbuffaloniagara.com/garden-walk-buffalo>) The organizers of this event still have room for a few more Volunteers to show off their gardens. [You can click this link to sign up.](#) Sign up today! This project is being promoted by the Utica Common Council, The Oneida County Board of Tourism, The Cornell Cooperative Extension, The CNY Conservancy and District V of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York.



Levitt AMP Free Concerts Summer Schedule

Every Monday night, starting this coming week, we can enjoy live, free music in Kopernik Park - so grab your chair or blanket, and come down to enjoy one of THE best things about Summer in Utica!

Utica Zoo Upcoming Events



Our beloved Utica Zoo has announced the return of its signature events!
Brewfest Saturday, August 7th, 6-9pm
Wine in the Wilderness Saturday, September 25th, 6-9pm

Bright Lights Starting Friday, November 26th and running 5-7pm Thursday through Sunday evenings until Thursday, December 23rd

My Votes on the Council in June

Resolutions I Voted For:

June 2nd: Resolution to Create a "Utica Common Council" Facebook page (this was "full council" and passed unanimously; Resolution to Amend Appendix A to Section 2-2-B6 of the Utica City Code Re: Financial Disclosures; Resolution announcing July 14th and August 11th as Summer schedule for Common Council; Resolution Authorizing Sale of Wine and Beer to Ashley Lynn Winery;

June 16: Resolution Approving Main Street grant application for Utica Theatre for Creative Arts. I was the original sponsor and promoter of this legislation, but I was very pleased when everyone on the Council saw the value of this Resolution. The Resolution went "full council", meaning we all sponsored it, and we passed it unanimously.

Ordinances I Voted For:

June 2nd: Ordinance for Handicapped Parking Locations on Maple Street; Ordinance for "Car-Free Sundays in Roscoe Conkling Park" (it failed, with Moody, McNeil, and myself voting for it. Burmaster, Meola, Betrus, Williamson, LoMedico, and DiBrango all voted against it.)
June 16th: Ordinance to Discontinue a Portion of Ash Street; Ordinance to place a Stop sign at Highland Ave & Downer Ave; Ordinance for No Parking at all times on a portion of Hazelhurst Avenue (alongside Gilmore Park); An Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Conveniences and Smoke Shops in the City of Utica (for six months); a pair of Ordinances rescinding No Parking at All Times on Brinckerhoff Avenue and adding No Parking at All Times on a portion of Brinckerhoff Avenue (this pair of Ordinances fine tuned the No Parking portion of Brinckerhoff, per Councilperson Moody's assessment of the needs of the street); An Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Wine and Beer to Handshake.City

Ordinances I Vote to Send to Committee

June 16: having placed a temporary moratorium on all new convenience and smoke shops in the City of Utica, we then voted to send to committee three ordinances meant to fine tune our new Zoning Ordinance in regards to such stores

Local Law I Voted to Lay on the Table:

June 2nd: A Local Law Establishing June 19 'Juneteenth' as a Public Holiday in the City of Utica;

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