

Like

Tweet



Councilperson Celeste Friend
SOUTH UTICA - THIRD WARD



cfriend@cityofutica.com
315-725-5987

Follow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

South Utica Newsletter #28 from Councilperson Celeste Friend

Another month, another Newsletter. This is shaping up to be a great summer, with lots of great stuff happening in Utica. The Common Council only meets once a month in July and August, so there will be a little extra time to work on projects in South Utica.

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.

[Sign Up for This Newsletter](#)

Stewart's Gas Station on Genesee?

The Stewart's corporation has been informally talking to the City about buying the old Raspberries restaurant on Genesee Street in South Utica and building a new gas station and store there. In order to do so, they will have to go before both the Planning Board and the Scenic & Historic Commission. I know what I

think, but I really need to know what you think. Please fill out my two question survey (just follow the link below) so that I can best represent you on this matter.



[Take The Survey](#)

My Votes on the Council in June 2022

Here are all my votes in June. 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.

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 June's:

Jewish Community Center, June 12th, 12-8pm

Amending Our Rules of Order: At the beginning of each new term, the new Council adopts its Rules of Order. But we can also adjust them as we go along. At our June 1st meeting, we amended our Rules of Order to deal with disruptive behavior by Council Members. The new rules of order allow the Chair of a meeting to temporarily Censure a member who refuses to come to order when asked to do so. This passed by a margin of 7 to 2, with Samantha Colosimo-Testa and Joe Betrus voting against it.

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 716 Court Street and one at 711 Mary Street

Ordinance Amending Speed Limits: In an effort to better organize our speed limit laws, we unanimously passed two Ordinances which state that our default speed limit is 30mph, except in school zones, and a short list of other exceptions. As part of this, we also rescinded an older Ordinance that the new one improves upon.

Civilian Public Safety Board: The Council appointed two members to this newly formed Board. They are:

Monalisa Fermin, 1215 West Street

John Ciccarelli, 1019 McQuade Ave

Amending the Composition of the Bureau of Fire on June 1st, we amended and then passed an Ordinance to adjust the composition of the UFD. We created four new Lieutenant positions, and eliminated four Firefighter positions. In other words, we created more Officers but kept the overall size of the complement the same. Lieutenants, of course, also fight fires, so we do not have fewer "fire fighters" in general. Rather, we gave firefighters who have been operating in the capacity as Lieutenants that rank permanently. We did this at the request of Chief Scott Ingersoll, who needs the Lieutenant positions to appropriately organize our response to fires. In order to pass this legislation, we first had to amend it so that we were keeping the overall complement of the Bureau of Fire the same. That amendment passed 5 to 4, with DiBrango, Colosimo-Testa, Williamson, and Betrus voting against it. The amended legislation then passed 8 to 1, with only Williamson voting against it.

Note: The City has applied for a SAFER grant from FEMA. If we are awarded that grant, we will have the funds to hire additional firefighters without using our own local taxes. The majority of the Council believes that we should wait to learn the outcome of that grant before we consider hiring more firefighters.

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 June:

125-127 Grove Place to Dmitry Brutskiy for \$750

Adoption of 2022 Oneida County Hazard Mitigation Plan: This was a Resolution by which we agreed to adopt the County's Plan as our own.

Levitt AMP on Monday Nights - the BEST part of Summer in Utica!

My favorite thing to do in Utica in the Summer is, hands down, the Levitt AMP Monday nights concert series. For ten Monday nights, Kopernick Park comes alive with music, dancing, children making art, and people from every corner of Utica enjoying all of it. Last week's opening concert was wonderful. There are eight more Monday nights to go (note: there is no concert on July 4th), and I am going to savor every single one of them.

[You can Follow Levitt AMP On Facebook.](#)



Photo: an image of several different musicians and musical groups and the words "Monday Nights In Utica"

Green Waste Must Be Containerized

From now until the first week in October, ALL GREEN WASTE MUST BE CONTAINERIZED!!! Everywhere I go in South Utica, I see green waste piled up at the curbs, and even worse, in the streets. It is making a mess, and it is getting worse every day. The City has begun ticketing and citing property owners. If need be, the City will pick it up and then directly charge property owners on their taxes. Please save yourself the trouble of a citation by picking up any loose green waste you have already put out, place it into a container, and put it out on your regular trash night.

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

Standard Mail
US Postage
PAID
Permit # 566
Utica, NY

Photo: an image of a postcard that Utica mailed to all households with the Green Waste schedule on it



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.)

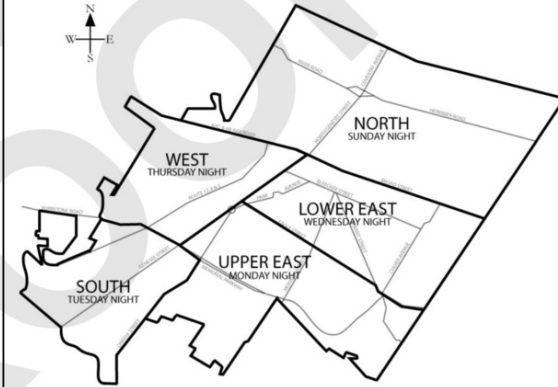
NORTH (Broad St. and NYC & HR Railroad north to city line)
Spring: STARTS April 11 – May 23 FINAL PICK-UP
Fall: STARTS Oct. 3 – Nov. 14 FINAL PICK-UP

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



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.**

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.

Photo: an image of a postcard that Utica mailed to all households with the Green Waste schedule on it

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. On Friday, July 8th, you will be able to pick up printed maps at the Utica Public Library or see the list on the District Five Website. (Expect one more announcement, inviting you to come see my own garden as part of the tour.)

You can also find the Flower Show and Garden Tour on Facebook.



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

**Find All Your Flower Show and Garden Tour Information Here
on July 8th**

The "new" Daily Sentinel - now available at Cafe Domenico

As we all know, our own Observer-Dispatch was bought out by Gannett, and ever since has covered less and less local news. The Rome Sentinel has stepped into that vacuum and is now becoming the Daily Sentinel, covering Utica news as well as that from Rome. And now you can buy this new daily local paper at Cafe Domenico.



Photo: an image of someone holding up the Daily Sentieneel newspaper inside Cafe Domenico

Take Me Out to a Ballgame in Utica!

So much to do in Utica in the Summer - and here is yet another! Come out to Donovan Stadium in Murnane Field. Our very own Blue Sox are playing 12 home games in July. Summer is going to fly by, so check out the schedule on the website, and go down to cheer on the home team.



Photo: an image of a baseball uniform that says "Utica"

[Check Out the Blue Sox](#)

Update: New Forest Cemetery

Many of you may have noticed that New Forest Cemetery, on Oneida Street, is beginning to get overgrown. (New Forest is on the left, or the North, side of Master Garden Road, with the older and larger Forest Hill Cemetery on the right, or South side of the road.) They have more financial liabilities than they do assets, and the Board may be on the verge of what is called "abandonment". But I had the chance to talk to Assemblywoman Buttenschon about it today. She is working hard on the problem at the state level. I will meet with her again on Friday. Meanwhile, if you have a mower or weed whacker, and even just a free hour this weekend, please consider getting in there and doing whatever maintenance you can. We will continue to do our best to work out a long term solution. And I will keep you informed, as always.



Image: headstones in New Forest Cemetery

Report from E&A - June 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.

Listing every transfer we make is turning out to be very time consuming. So from here on out, I will give a general summary of the work of E&A, and also provide a link where all of the minutes of E&A can be found.

The Board met three times in June. We made the usual transfers between budget lines. We also added some supplemental appropriations (grants, ARPA, bonds, etc.) to the Budget. We corrected a historical error in how one employee was classified so that his employment record now accurately reflects his 42 years of service to the City. We authorized hiring outside attorneys to handle legal matters for some of our employees. We approved new contracts for our two Chiefs of Police. We settled a few small lawsuits against the City.

Full minutes of the Board of Estimate & Apportionment can be found at the link below.

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](#)

No SUNA Meetings for July & August

The South Utica Neighborhood Association, after surveying lots of people,

decided to suspend meetings for July & August. But they are still busy reaching out to the community and keeping people informed. Sign up for their email in order to stay in the loop.



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.

[Newsletter Archive - See them all here!](#)



[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by **Mad Mimi**®
A GoDaddy® company