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Councilperson Celeste Friend
SOUTH UTICA - THIRD WARD



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South Utica Newsletter #33 from Councilperson Celeste Friend

This Newsletter is coming right on the heels of Newsletter #32, so I'm going to keep it short. The heart of these Newsletters has always been Council business. So I'll stick to that and a couple of holiday announcements.

This is my 33rd newsletter in 3 years. Not bad, if I say so myself. In the New Year, I will be making an effort to send more of my "How Utica Works" newsletters. As always, if you find these helpful, please forward to others and encourage them to sign up themselves.

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Bank of Utica's New Year's Eve

Bank of Utica is once again hosting a great downtown New Year's Eve party. Genesee St will be closed, there will be music and food and entertainment. Come on down!



Photo: poster for Bank of Utica Downtown New Year's Eve Celebration

Uptown Family Christmas!

The Uptown Theater is always up to something creative! I've got my tickets and I'd love to see you there!



Photo: a poster for Uptown Theater's December 23rd Christmas event

Tickets to Uptown Christmas

My Votes on the Council in December 2022

Here are all my votes in December. 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.

Ordinances for Various Streets:

Stop Required:

Neilson St 7 James St

South St. & Ontario St, 4 way at each intersection

Arlington & Crestway and Eastwood & Crestway, both on Crestway

Hollingsworth Ave & Jefferson Ave

Rosemont & Mohawk St

Sherman Drive & Mohawk St

No Parking:

26 Schuyler St to Oriskany St West

Rescind & Replace Chapter 2-29, Zoning Ordinance:

This Ordinance renumbered the entirety of the Zoning Ordinance in order to make consistent the numbering system adopted by ECode 360 (an online database we use for easy access to all of our legislation, Codes, Law, Charter, etc.)

Authorizing Sale of Wine and Beer:

Bright Nights, Saturday, December 17th, at the Utica Zoo

NYE Downtown, Saturday, December 31, Genesee St Downtown

Resolutions for Commissioners of Deeds:

Lorraine Kozlowski, 10530 Cosby Manor Rd, Utica

Michael Ruggiero, 2106 Ottillia St, Utica

John Goff II, 710 Lansing St, Utica

Ruth Concepcion, 10 Memorial Parkway, Utica

Anthony Leone Jr., 501 Mary Elaine Drive, Utica

Nedim Mujic, 1004 Dudley Ave, Utica

Samantha Colosimo-Testa, 1808 Blandina St, Utica

David Roefaro, 1011 James St, Utica

Say Wah, 702 Jefferson Ave, Utica

Alma Mujanic, 922 Lansing St, Utica

Proclamation Recognizing Todd Abraham:

Recent Proctor graduate Todd Abraham had a very impressive high school athletic career. And now he is going on to Binghamton University, a Division 1 baseball school. Todd makes Utica proud, and the Council was happy to recognize his achievements.

Proclamation Recognizing Franco's Pizzeria:

We love our pizza here in Utica, and the Common Council is always happy to recognize our long standing locally owned and locally operated businesses. Congratulations to Franco's Pizzeria for 50 years of good pizza!

Resolution Authorizing Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) with the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank (GMVLB):

This Resolution, which I introduced and sponsored, renews our membership in the Land Bank. I serve on the Board of the Land Bank, and also on its Executive Committee with Commissioner Brian Thomas. The Land Bank does good work, and I would like to see Utica work more closely with the Land Bank to rehabilitate properties in our City.

E&A Transfers:

Quick reminder: all and any budget line transfers of \$15,000 or more must be authorized by the Common Council

\$150,000 to re-allocate funds from repaid loans to help install heat pumps in low and moderate income households

\$103,652.54 to reallocate funds from within CDBG employment programs

\$2,433,617.34 to reallocate various prior year CDBG funds not yet used

\$950,000 to reallocate funding various for ARPA projects

\$500,000 from the Sewer Fund to adjust for unexpected but necessary repairs to our sewer & storm water systems

\$24,000 from Parks wages to Parks salaries to pay for a new Deputy Commissioner of Parks 5 month position

Report from E&A - December 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.

E&A has not met since my last Newsletter, and may not meet again until the next year. But as always, important stuff happens at E&A, and I'll tell you all about it here.

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

[**Minutes for Board of Estimate & Apportionment**](#)

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.

[**Watch Common Council Live on YouTube**](#)

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!](#)



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