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Councilperson Celeste Friend



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South Utica Newsletter #38 from Councilperson Celeste Friend

Summer is here, and that means that there are lots of fun things to do in Utica. I hope you enjoy these warm days and all the fun things to do here in beautiful Utica! As always, forward this email to anyone you think would like it, and ask them to sign up for themselves.

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Levitt AMP is back, baby!

It's my favorite thing to do in the Summer in Utica: bring a lawn chair to Kopernik Park on Monday nights and hang with people from all over Utica and beyond and listen to great live music. And this year's grant is the first of a three-year grant, so we know that this music will be with us through 2025! The schedules include local performers as well as nationally and regionally recognized acts, and also local young talent who perform for us during

intermission. So these concerts bring us top-notch national talent, and also make sure to highlight all the talent that surrounds us every day here in Utica. A big shout out to Michelle Truett and her whole team for all of the work they do to bring us these amazing evenings of community and entertainment.

(The first concert in this series, was a huge success. The Park was full, the crowd was happy, it was like a big, happy family reunion. And there was great dancing! But I have got to practice my moves.....)



Photo: a collage of performers and bands coming to Kopernick Park this summer.

School Board News

On May 16th, Utica re-elected Joe Hobika to the School Board, where, presumably, he will continue to serve as President. We also elected Jason Cooper to serve his first term. Both Mr. Hobika and Mr. Cooper won by overwhelming numbers, and won in every Ward in the City. A few days later, Brian Nolan, who was our Interim Superintendent, unexpectedly resigned. The Board then hired Steven Falchi to fill out the remainder of the School year. So

the School Board continues to have lots of important work to do as we transition away from the Karam years. But I have great confidence in our School Board, and great hope for the future of our district.



Photo: a photo of happy school children on a bus on their way to school

Green Waste Must Be Containerized!

From now until early October, your green waste **MUST** be containerized. I still see piles of it loose in the street throughout South Utica. It is making a mess of our streets, and when it rains, those piles threaten to clog our storm drains and cause flooding. So, please, please, please, from now until October, put your green waste in a container and set it out on trash night. Thank you.



CITY OF UTICA 2023 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 10 – May 22 FINAL PICK-UP

Fall: STARTS Oct. 2 – Nov. 13 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 11 – May 23 FINAL PICK-UP

Fall: STARTS Oct. 3 – Nov. 14 FINAL PICK-UP

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

Spring: STARTS April 12 – May 24 FINAL PICK-UP

Fall: STARTS Oct. 4 – Nov. 15 FINAL PICK-UP

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

Spring: STARTS April 13 – May 25 FINAL PICK-UP

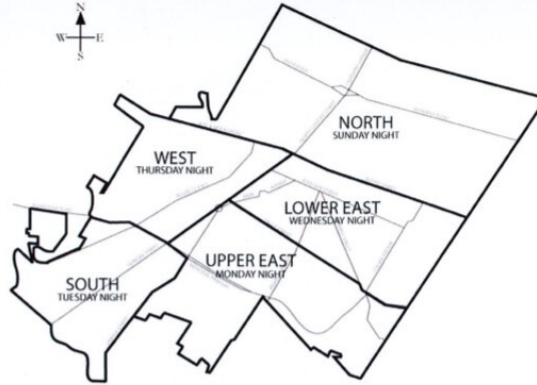
Fall: STARTS Oct. 5 – Nov. 16 FINAL PICK-UP

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

Spring: STARTS April 14 – May 26 FINAL PICK-UP

Fall: STARTS Oct. 6 – Nov. 17 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 29 – September 29,
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.

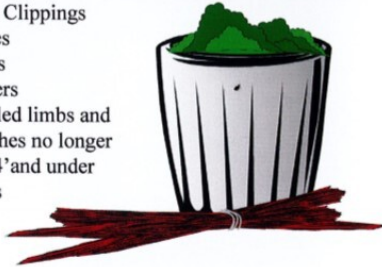
**BULK GREEN WASTE PILES PUT OUT DURING
THE REST OF THE YEAR WILL BE CITED.**



CITY OF UTICA 2023 GREEN WASTE PICK-UP SCHEDULE

ALLOWABLE GREEN WASTE ITEMS ALL GREEN WASTE MUST BE IN BARRELS

- 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

Photo: the mailer that the City sent every resident, outlining the green waste rules and schedule

My Votes on the Council in May 2023

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.

Discontinuance of a Portion of Cornelia St"

Cornelia St begins at Mandeville St, continues north, crosses Court St, and until

recently, ended at Columbia St. But much of what was Cornelia St is now in the footprint of the new Wynn Hospital. Now, it will dead end in front of Kennedy Plaza. We therefore voted to discontinue a portion of Cornelia St and allow the City to sell that land to the abutting landowner.

Ordinances Authorizing The Sale of Wine and Beer

The sale of alcoholic beverages and the possession of an open container containing alcoholic beverages is prohibited on Utica city streets, sidewalks, playgrounds, etc., unless the Common Council grants an exception. These exceptions are common in the Summer, when various events and festivals ask for permission from the Council to sell beer and wine at their events.

Jewish Community Center, Sunday, June 11th, "Jewtica"

Utica Zoo, Saturday, June 3rd, "Wine in the Wilderness"

Utica Zoo, Fridays July 7, 14, 21, 28, and August 4, 11, 18, 25, "Sunset Sips"

Utica Zoo, Saturday, August 5, "Brewfest"

Utica Center for Development, Tuesday, July 4, "July 4th Celebration"

Saint Mary of Mount Caramel, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, July 14-16, "Saint Mary of Mount Caramel Festival"

Mary, Mother of Our Savior, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, August 31 - September 2, "Annual Bazaar"

Santa Rosalia Society, Saturday & Sunday, September 9&10, "Festival"

F.X. Matt, Sunday, July 9th, "Boilermaker Party"

F.X. Matt, Saturday, June 24th, "Remain in Light Tour"

F.X. Matt, Friday, August 18th, "Collective Soul Concert"

F.X. Matt, Friday & Saturday, June 9th & 10th, "Mo Concert"

F.X. Matt, Saturday, August 19th, "Umpheys McGee Concert"

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, Friday & Saturday, June 9th & 10th, St. Anthony Festival

Proclamation Honoring Father Joseph Salerno

Father Joe is retiring from full-time ministry after 43 years. I have been so glad to get to know him these past years while I have represented South Utica, in which his parish of Lady of Lourdes is located. I wish him well in retirement, and hope that I will still get to run into him from time to time.

URA Properties sold: After holding Public Hearings, we passed the necessary legislation to sell the following properties:

921 Blandina St to Hezam Mubarez for \$5,000

318.22-3-2 Whitesboro St to Willie Smith for \$250

Transfers from the Board of Estimate & Apportionment

All transfers of \$15,000 or more from one budget line to another must be

authorized by the Common Council after first being approved by E&A. There were four such transfers in May:

\$74,040 from Youth Wages, Youth Travel, Bertolini Electric, Softball-Contractual, & Ski Chalet Electric to Youth Salaries and Youth Overtime Pay

\$92,516 between a wide variety of Fire Department budget lines

\$19,398 between Parks Maintenance budget lines

\$128,143 from Parks, Off-Street Parking, Traffic Control & Infrastructure to various Street Cleaning lines

\$95,947 between various DPW Central Garage budget lines

Ordinance Amending Composition of the Bureau of Fire

Recently, the Council voted to increase the number of Fire Fighters in the City by three in order to be able to get three new recruits into training in anticipation of retirements which were imminent. Now, those retirements have happened, so we can again reduce this number. (In other words, the number has stayed the same, but for a brief window needed to increase.) Then we also increased the number of fire fighters by 8 in order to accommodate the SAFER grants that the City recently received from FEMA. This grant will fully fund 8 new firefighters for three years. At that time, we will have to figure out how to pay for those firefighters ourselves, as one condition of the grant is that we cannot simply reduce the complement when the grant ends.

One Way Streets

Kent St, northbound from Elizabeth St to Bleeker St will now be one-way

Resolution Requesting that the City apply for a grant with the DOT

This is a grant for "Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)" from the U.S. DoT for Fiscal Year 2023. This is a Resolution, passed unanimously, asking Mayor Palmieri and his administration to apply for this grant.

Bond Ordinance for \$9,795,588

Every year, after the Budget is passed, the Mayor presents the Council with his Capital Plan. This includes issuing bonds for long term projects. This year the total for these projects is almost 10 million dollars. These bonds will allow us to make important long-term investments into our City. The projects include fire fighting equipment, paving, new police vehicles, traffic signals, etc.

Report from E&A - May 2023

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. Also, all transfers of \$15,000 or more must be authorized by the Common Council, so those are listed above in my Council votes.

E&A has only met twice since my last Newsletter. We continued to do lots of the usual transfers, cleaning up the budget from the previous fiscal year of 2022-2023.

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. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, except over the Summer, when we usually only meet once in July and once in August. The "pre-meeting" starts at 6, and the regular meeting starts at 7pm. 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.

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

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