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Councilperson Celeste Friend



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South Utica Newsletter #39 from Councilperson Celeste Friend

Summer is almost over! The Council meets once a month in July and August, so it made sense to take one month off from the Newsletter. But Fall is almost here, so I'm ready to get back into the swing of things. As always, forward this email to anyone you think would like it, and ask them to sign up for themselves.

[Sign Up for This Newsletter](#)

Rehabilitated Pond at New Forest Cemetery

New Forest Cemetery is next to Forest Hill Cemetery, separated by Master Garden Road. (These are two completely separate cemeteries, although it is easy to see them as one large cemetery.) New Forest Cemetery has struggled with upkeep over the last few years, and has worked hard to get themselves better situated in terms of both long term care and financial stability. In relation

to that, a woman, Alecia Pendasulo, who cares about our history and the cemetery brought it to my attention that the little pond inside the Cemetery was in bad shape - it had filled in with sediment and vegetation. I asked one of our City engineers to assess it. I wanted to know whether cleaning it out could contribute to our efforts to mitigate against flooding in South Utica. She assessed it and determined that the pond was not functioning as it should, to both act as storage after heavy rains and to allow excess water to enter our storm drain system more slowly. All this is good for the City, so the Mayor agreed to allow the City to pay to have the little pond cleaned out. We obtained an easement from the Cemetery to have the work done, and last week a City-hired contractor got in there, drained the pond, dredged it of years' worth of silt and sediment. Before too long, the pond will fill up again, the grass along its banks will grow, and it will once again be a beautiful and functional part of its surroundings.



Photo: the pond in New Forest Cemetery after being cleaned out, with new grass seed planted.



Photo: the pond at New Forest Cemetery before rehabilitation: full of sediment and vegetation - hardly a "pond" at all.

New Beautiful Art Downtown

Our muralist, Steven Teller, has arrived and is hard at work! First, we protected our newly refurbished fountain, because the artist uses a heavy lift to access the wall. Then he marked off the entire wall with small dots, to create a grid. Now he is sketching the outline, and soon he will be filling it in. He adjusted his initial design in order to respond to people's responses to his submission. So soon we will get to see the final design. I encourage everyone to watch this project as it unfolds. It is exciting to get to watch art in the making. (And keep an eye out for a separate announcement of a small event I will organize where folks can meet and talk to the artist.)



Photo: early stages of our new mural downtown, painted by artist Steven Teller

Third Annual Flower Show and Garden Tour, September 8 & 9

For the third year running, Utica will be home to a Flower Show and Garden Tour, on Friday, September 8th and Saturday, September 9th. This year, the show and tour is co-sponsored by UticaGreen, formerly known as the Central

New York Conservancy. You can get all the details by going to the [GreenUtica website](#).



**The Utica Garden Tour and
District V, FGCNYS Flower Show**

Utica Public Library

September 8 & 9, 2023

For more information:

www.districtvfgcnys.com

Photo - a poster advertising this year's Flower Show and Garden Tour

International Women's Hockey Tournament Comes to Utica

Now this is exciting! Mohawk Valley Garden and the city of Utica, New York, have been selected to host the 2024 International Ice Hockey Federation's Women's World Championship! The event, tentatively slated for April 4-14, 2024, will include 31 games and feature the top women's hockey players from across the world. Host venues for the 10-team tournament will include the Adirondack Bank Center and Utica University Nexus Center. This is an exciting opportunity for Utica, and will make for an exciting 10 days this coming April. So put it on your calendar and make sure to get at least one game in.



Green Waste Must Be Containerized!

I've said it before, I'll say it again: from now until the first week of 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

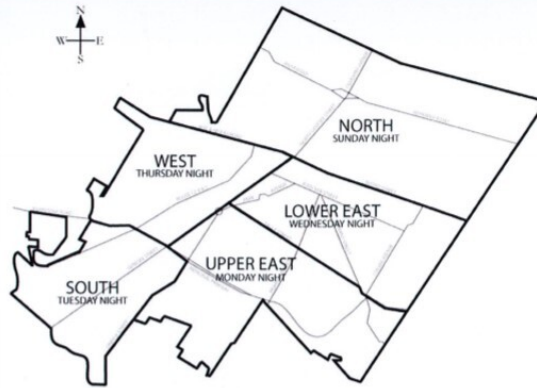
LOWER EAST (Broad St. to Eagle St. and east of Genesee St.)

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.**

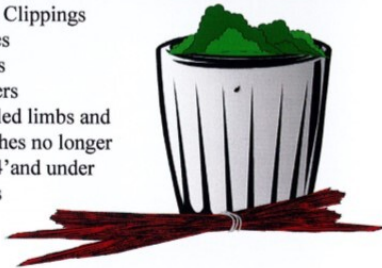


CITY OF UTICA 2023 GREEN WASTE PICK-UP SCHEDULE

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 June, July, and August 2023

Here are all my votes in June, July, and August. 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 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.

Munson/Woodland Farm Brewery, Sunday July 29th, 2023

Delmonico's Steakhouse, Monday, August 7th, 2023, Valley View

East Utica Classic, Sunday, August 6th, 2023, Valley View

American Legion Post 229, Saturday, August 19th, 2023

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, Sat. & Sun., September 23rd & 24th, 2023

Traffic Ordinances

Stop Required: at Fincke Ave & Grandview Ave; Whitesboro St and Seneca St, four way stop; Whitesboro St and Broadway, northeast and southwest corners of Whitesboro St and Broadway and Whitesboro St. southeast corner of Broadway; Whitesboro St and Auditorium Drive; Bleeker St and Anthony St, Four Way Stop; 15 Stop signs, throughout East Utica, to ordain where stop signs are already in place

Handicap Parking Sign Required in front of 1516 Taylor Ave

Speed Limits: Pleasant St north side from Memorial Parkway to Tilden Ave: 20mph; Whitesboro St from Seneca St to Potter Ave, 25mph

One Way Streets: Rescind: Columbia Square westbound from Saratoga St to Lenox Ave, and Columbia Square eastbound from Lenox Ave to Saratoga St, and Whitesboro St, westbound from Wiley St. to Saratoga St and add: Whitesboro St, westbound from West Saratoga St to Lenox Ave

Yield Signs: rescind: Columbia St and Whitesboro St, north side and add: Whitesboro St and Columbia St, northside of Whitesboro St

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

1006 Wager St. to Dariany Marte for \$25,000

637 Plant St. to Khada Nagi for \$40,000

1215 Miller St to Cho Thae Lyndia for \$250

1243 & 1254 Lincoln Ave to Daniel Nauen for \$500

935-937 Schuyler St to Edgar Avila for \$750

0 Utica Rd to Jasmin Solokar for \$220.45

Sale of Property at Public Auction

The sale of URA properties only pertains to properties within the URA purview. Properties in other parts of the City must be sold at public auction. Once the auction is complete, the Common Council must then authorize the final sale via Ordinance. This Ordinance authorized the sale of 9 properties across the City, ranging from \$3,000 to \$90,000.

Board of Assessment Review

The Board of Assessment Review is the board that hears grievances from property owners over their assessment. The Council gets to appoint one person to the Board.

David Williams, 16 Geer Ave, Utica, NY, term ending on Sept 30, 2027

Resolutions for Grants

From time to time, those who apply for grants ask the Common Council to support their application by passing a Resolution in support.

Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica, historic preservation grant

Silas D. Childs Chapel at Forest Hill Cemetery, historical preservation grant

Midtown Utica Community Center (MUCC) for Main Street Grant

Munson for a grant from NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Resolution Approving Intermunicipal Agreement

Intermunicipal Agreements (IMA's) are an important way in which different municipalities can share resources and thereby act more efficiently.

IMA between City and Oneida County for the City to provide inspections of certain facilities to ensure that they are safe and habitable

IMA between the City and the Town of New Hartford and Oneida County for police services, specifically for the use of the Metro SWAT Team

Ordinance Authorizing Sale of UPD Vehicles

Only the Common Council can authorize the sale or disposal of any City property. This Ordinance authorized the sale of 10 vehicles that are no longer usable by our Police department.

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:

\$73,099 between different Budget lines within the Department of Engineering

\$35,000 between different Budget lines within the Building Codes Department

Bond Ordinances for \$2,750,000 and for \$250,000

Every year, after the Budget is passed, the Mayor presents the Council with his

Capital Plan. This includes issuing bonds for long term projects. In May, the Council approved a Bond for almost \$10,000,000. In June, the Administration presented the Council with a second proposal, for 2 3/4 million dollars. This bond will allow for additional important work on our City Sewer System, which includes our storm water system. We also, by separate Ordinance, approved a bond for 1/4 million dollars to finance the cost of new computer equipment.

Honorary Street Sign for Father Joseph Salerno

One of the pleasures of serving as South Utica's Councilperson these past few years has been getting to know Father Joseph Salerno, who has served as the priest of Lourdes Church, and as the Chaplain for our Fire Department. Father Joe has retired, and so the Council has named Barton Ave, between Genesee St and Sunset Ave, "Father Salerno Way".

Proclamation Honoring the Life of Alfred "Al" LaSalle

Al LaSalle was a regular member of the audience at Common Council meetings. He often spoke, sometimes quite colorfully!, at Public Comment. He will be missed and the Council was happy to pass this Resolution honoring his life and his many contributions to Utica.

Commissioners of Deeds

John Garfield, 1000 State St, Utica NY 13502

Dennis Bova, 471 Roseclair Ave, Utica NY 13502

Residency Waivers

Employees of the City of Utica are required to live in Utica. The Council can waive this requirement, and has increasingly been asked to do so by the Administration, due to the increasing difficulty to filling various open positions. In July, we waived the residency requirement for a Junior Engineer and for a Lineman. Both positions are in the Department of Engineering.

Report from E&A - June, July, & August 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,

and to authorize the sale of City property at auction.

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 several times since my last Newsletter. We have done so without the usual guidance of a City Budget Director, as our previous one has taken a new job with the Utica City School District, and the Mayor has not replaced her. Nonetheless, 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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