



Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

Aug. 19, 2025

MVWA on tap this Thursday

Patrick J. Becher, executive director of the Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA), will address the club this Thursday. The meeting gets underway at noon in Mid-York Library, 1600 Lincoln Ave.

Prior to joining MVWA, he managed the Syracuse Water Department and was that city's director of management and budget.

Continued on next page.



Golfing for charity

Utica Rotarians played and volunteered at the club's annual charity golf outing held Sunday at Hidden Valley Golf Course in Whitesboro. FROM LEFT: Joanne Moskal, Darby O'Brien, Dave Jones, Joe Abraham, Jerry Kraus, Mary Lou Reape and Linda Iannone. SEE PAGE 4

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

This week's speaker

continued from page 1

Patrick Becher grew up in East Northport on Long Island and graduated from Northport High School in 1977. He attended SUNY Cobleskill for his first two years of college as a business student, where he also played college baseball. He continued his studies in Business Administration at the University of Tampa for one semester, also playing baseball there.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree in business administration from SUNY Oswego, Pat worked for four years in the private sector before becoming an adminis-

trator in the Department of Engineering for the City of Syracuse. In this capacity, he managed departmental budgets, personnel functions, and performed a variety of organizational analyses. Then he became the manager of operations for the Syracuse Water Department.

Pat was promoted to the position of director of budget and management during his final four years with the city, administering a budget of more than \$275 million. He left the City of Syracuse in to take the position of executive director with the newly formed Upper Mohawk

Valley Regional Water Board in Utica.

The Regional Water Board now operates locally under the shortened name of Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA). Pat has been MVWA's first and only executive director for nearly 28 years and has overseen numerous modernization efforts and infrastructure improvements. During his tenure, the MVWA has received six upgrades to its bond rating and has been recognized by both Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services for its financial stability and sound management practices.

Calendar of Events

8/20 Meeting | Board of Directors
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

8/21 Meeting | Patrick Becher, MVWA
noon | Mid-York Library

8/28 Social | Michael T's
5 pm | Seneca Turnpike
New Hartford

9/4 Meeting | Anna D'Ambrosio, Munson
noon | Mid-York Library

9/17 Meeting | Board of Directors
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

9/18 Meeting | Ray Durso, Genesis Group
noon | Mid-York Library

New Member Proposed: Swasi-Ann Bradley

The board proposes Swasi-Ann Bradley for membership to Rotary Club of Utica. Per bylaws, club members have five days to submit a written objection to Secretary Matt Schlosser.

Swasi-Ann Bradley is founder of GJI Elite Assist, which, she says supports “entrepreneurs and organizations with executive-level support, streamlined systems, and strategic visibility services.”

Before stepping into entrepreneurship, she spent over a decade working in nonprofit and human services. “I’ve had the honor of serving in leadership roles at ACR Health, Upstate Cerebral Palsy, and Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection experiences that shaped my heart for service and strengthened my skills in operations, program coordination, and community-based impact.”

A graduate of SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Swasi-Ann earned an MBA from Walden University. The Utica native says she cares deeply about this region and the people in it.



“At my core,” she says, “I’m someone who loves connecting with others, finding solutions, and using my skills to make things easier for the people I work with. Through both my business and personal life, I’m committed to helping others thrive, and I’m excited about the opportunity to serve alongside like-minded leaders through the Rotary Club.”

Regarding her interest in Rotary, she says: “I value service, leadership, and community impact. I currently work at Hillside, where our mission is to help youth and families thrive, and I also run a virtual assistant business supporting small businesses. Joining Rotary aligns with both my professional and personal commitment to uplifting others and creating meaningful change. I’m excited about the opportunity to connect with fellow leaders and give back through service.”

Club seeks nominations for Pride of Workmanship Awards

NOMINATE A WORKER AT [UTICAROTARY.ORG](https://uticarotary.org)

Rotary
Club of Utica



**Pride of
Workmanship**

A golf outing for charity

The annual Utica Rotary golf outing held at Hidden Valley in Whitesboro “was another success!” declared golf chair Jerry Kraus.

This year, Hospice is the beneficiary.

“The champs shot a sizzling 11-under score of 60,” Jerry reported. “Congrats to TJ Farrell, Tony Ciccarelli, Joe Zielinski and Jim Kraus.”

The golf outing was Sunday, Aug. 17.



WINNING TEAM
TJ Farrell, Tony Ciccarelli, Joe Zielinski and Jim Kraus.



PP Tina Pavlott and husband Ryan were among the volunteers.



Jim Kraus, one of the golf champs, is the twin brother of golf chair Jerry Kraus.



RIGHT: Past Presidents Travis Rabbers and Linda Iannone joined chair Jerry Kraus as volunteers.

Utica Rotarians in the Wild!

CNY Rotary held its first inauguration fest on Saturday afternoon at the Syracuse Zoo, celebrating a successful first year. Outgoing District Governor Lizzy Martin (Baldwinsville) officially passed the gavel to Bob Balk (Moravia), CNY Rotary President for 2025-26. The two reflected on the past year and discussed what's ahead.

There were three Utica Rotarians in attendance ... Don Reese (CNY Rotary Foundation Chair), Dana Jerrard (CNY Rotary Secretary) and Joe Abraham (CNY Rotary Public Image Chair). It was also announced that PP Linda Iannone will serve as the district's new Events Chair.

After the ceremony, Rotarians explored the zoo.



Utica Rotarians Joe Abraham, Don Reese, Dana Jerrard (and wife Cathy) caught up with Sauquoit Rotarians Jan and Randy Wilson.



PDP Lizzy Martin reflects on a successful inaugural year for the district.



Utica Rotarian Joe Abraham explored the wildlife with District Friends Marisa Multari (Albany), David Bogue (Glen Falls) and Dawn Vavala (Twin Bridges).