

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

May 19, 2025

Utica Rotary plants Peace Poles at Proctor High

Thanks to Rotary Club of Utica, Proctor High School unveiled two Peace Poles on May 12 on the Hilton Avenue side of the school.

As WKTV News Channel 2 put it:

“There are more than 200,000 Peace Poles across the globe at schools, parks and public spaces. And now, two of them have found a home at Proctor High School

in Utica. Together, they convey the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in 15 different languages.”

The initiative was brought to life by Utica Rotary and is rooted in a tradition that began after World War II, aimed at offering a symbol of hope and reconciliation.

Club President Travis Rabbers joined school staff and students for the

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Photo by Jennifer Dougherty



DAVID JONES
PAST PRESIDENT, UTICA ROTARY CLUB

NEWS Channel 2
05 / 12
5:36
80°

Deadline for next newsletter (5/26) is Saturday, May 24 at 3 p.m.; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach

PEACE POLES

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ceremony, along with Past President David Jones, who noted: “I hope it’s a sign we can prevail through all our conflicts. All students and adults, we don’t always agree on everything, but the peace pole can serve as a byway to start discussion.”

Jones said he was glad to hear that Proctor students translated the peace pole messages into their native languages.

“We are honored to partner with the Rotary Club of Utica to bring these Peace Poles to our school community,” Superintendent Dr. Christopher Spence told WKTV.

“They will serve as powerful, visible reminders that peace, understanding, and respect are values that unite us all—both here in Utica and across the globe.”



Dave Jones presents Peace Pole Project certificate to Superintendent Christopher Spence, indicating that 10 trees would be planted in the African continent in honor of Proctor High School. Photos by Jennifer Dougherty.



PEACE POLES



Superintendent Christopher Spence and Dave Jones unveil the first of two Peace Poles. Photo / Jennifer Dougherty.
BELOW: Rotarians Joe Caruso, Dave Jones, Heather Beebe and Travis Rabbers, at one of the Peace Poles.



RSVP for Outstanding Educators Awards Luncheon in June

By Travis Rabbers

One of our favorite annual events is the Outstanding Educators Awards, where we gather to hear from local students as they celebrate the wonderful educators at their schools.

The event will be Thursday, June 5 beginning at 12 p.m. It will take place at the Irish Cultural Center in their event room. There will be a lunch buffet provided. Please plan to arrive early as we expect to begin promptly at noon.

The cost for the lunch buffet is \$25. I am including a

link to register and pay through the site below. If you would like to attend and pay at the door with cash or check, please email me to let me know.

We need to give a head count to Irish Cultural Center by May 29, so please register or email me before then.

[Outstanding Educators Event](#)

<https://www.crsadmin.com/eventportal/Registrations/PublicFill/EventPublicFill.aspx?evtid=bf-8c9c30-b01f-4525-a7df-23ce4f6ada3f>

MEETING RECAP

by Travis Rabbers

As our Rotary year comes to an end, this was the last meeting at the library as both our meetings next month will be offsite. Our two students from Clinton High School returned just in time after finishing an exam earlier in the morning.

We discussed several of our upcoming events, including the highway clean-up, Outstanding Educators, Service Above Self Gala, Rotary Awards Night and the summer golf tournament. Make sure to check your email and the newsletter for registering or volunteering.

Sarah Militano from Paradigm Consulting came prepared with information and statistics on retirement, specifically pertaining to Rotary Club members. She



reviewed commonly asked client questions as well as a few misconceptions people have. She shares the same as our Rotary Club in terms of helping people and finding what is best for them.

Calendar of Events

**5/21 Meeting | Rotary Board
noon | Greater Utica Chamber**

**6/5 Meeting | Outstanding Educators
Awards Luncheon
noon | Irish Cultural Center**

**6/6 Gala | 'Service Above Self' Gala
Stanley Theatre**

**6/12 Meeting | Tour and talk
noon | Children's Museum**

**7/2 Celebration | End of Rotary Year
5:30 pm | Piggy Pats pavilion**

**8/17 Service | Charity Golf Outing
noon | Hidden Valley Course
in Whitesboro**

Epic Day of Service: Highway Cleanup



Rotary Club of Utica held its annual spring highway cleanup this past Saturday. This year it was in support of CNY Rotary's Epic Day of Service! The Rotary crew included coordinator Tina Pavlot, Maggie Reed, Dr. Tom Webb, Dave Jones, Ken Williams, Rebecca Cavoli, Israel Acosta, and Joe Caruso. They cleaned up a portion of the Route 12 arterial in downtown Utica. In the photo are, from left: Maggie Reed, Dr. Tom Webb, Dave Jones, Tina Pavlot, Ken Williams and Rebecca Cavoli.

FOURTH ANNUAL
**SERVICE
ABOVE SELF**
Gala

- Red Carpet With Photo
- Music By Last Left
- Dinner
- Live Auction
- 1 Hour Open Bar

\$150
PER TICKET

Proceeds To Benefit
The Stanley Theatre

When: 6:00pm - 10:00pm, Friday June 6th, 2025

Where: The Stanley Theatre
259 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501

Rotary
Club of Utica



Presented By:

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For Gala Tickets, Visit: bit.ly/utica-gala-tickets

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