



Rotarians get muddy for Urban Tree Planting Project

Under extremely wet and muddy conditions, nine Rotarians from area Rotary clubs came together on Tuesday, November 16, to plant 15 trees throughout the City of Utica for the Urban Tree Planting Project. Volunteer arborist Chris Mercurio provided expert instructions for planting the trees, which included varieties of White Birch, Maple Blaze, Pear, Northern Red Oak, Japanese Lilac, and American Linden.

Funding for Urban Tree Planting Project was made possible through money raised from Rotary Club of Utica's Tees for Trees golf outing held in August. The project is a cooperative program with The Rotary Club of Utica, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, The Adirondack Mountain Club, The Unitarian Universalist Church's "Climate Action Team," and the City of Utica Parks Department. The goal is for the trees to thrive over many years and serve to enhance the value of these properties through pride of ownership, improve the air quality within the community by reducing carbon emissions, provide a canopy of shade to lower the heat index during summer months and, as recent studies have found, trees planted in urban areas have served to reduce the level of crime.

Rotary volunteers were Dave Jones, Michelle Brandstadt, Jerry Kraus, David Bagley, Greg Benincasa. Barbara Freeman (Adirondack Foothills), Randy Wilson (Sauquoit), Chuck Tomaselli (New Hartford), and Charlie Smith (Marcellus).

Media coverage was also provided by WKTV ([Utica Homeowner Gifted Tree Through Community Project](#)) and the Observer-Dispatch ([Here's why 15 trees were recently planted throughout the city of Utica](#)).



L-R: David Jones (Urban Tree Project chair), Barbara Freeman (Unitarian Universalist Church), Jerry Kraus (Golf chair), Denise Coleman (homeowner) and Darlene Mack-Brown (Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency)

Below L-R: Chuck Tomaselli, Charlie Smith, Greg Benincasa, Dave Jones, Jerry Kraus



Above L-R: Randy Wilson, David Bagley

**Deadline for next newsletter (11/30) is Monday, November 29, at noon;
submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org**

Coat drive warmly supported by community

On Wednesday, November 18, Utica Rotarians Elizabeth Nasser, Roxanne Mutchler, and President Stephen Turnbull delivered 220 coats for the teens of The Underground Cafe. The coat drive, organized by Elizabeth, was supported by friends and family of Elizabeth, Rotary Club of Utica members, and Casa Imports. The photo features Elizabeth, Roxanne, and Stephen (bottom right) along with teens of The Underground Café.



Mark your calendar for Not So Silent Night Gift Auction to benefit Thea Bowman

Last year's Not So Silent Night Gift Auction event was a huge success so we're doing it again on December 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at Delta Hotels by Marriott for in person or virtual attendance.

The event is an evening for members and their family and friends to come together in the spirit of Rotary fellowship and holiday giving. All proceeds will benefit Thea Bowman House.

Details are still being nailed down, but additional information can be found on the flyer at the end of this newsletter and on the Club's website at [Not So Silent Night Gift Auction](#). Watch for more information!

Calendar of Events

- 11/26 NO MEETING
- 12/3 Program Meeting | Noon & Zoom
NY Sash: Teddy Bear Toss
- 12/10 Program Meeting | Noon & Zoom
Heather Beebe
- 12/16 Not So Silent Night Gift Auction
5:30-7:30 p.m. | Delta Hotels by Marriott
- 12/20 Board Meeting | 1 p.m. | Fort Schuyler Club
- 12/24 NO MEETING
- 12/31 NO MEETING



TO BENEFIT THE



**THEA
BOWMAN
HOUSE**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
5:30-7:30PM
DELTA HOTELS BY MARRIOTT**

**IN PERSON
(FIRST 50 PEOPLE)
& VIRTUAL**

LEARN MORE AT: bit.ly/notsosilent-2021

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



**Upstate
Wealth**
CONSULTING

DRINK SPONSOR:

Ryan Gilroy
from
NBT BANK

Rotary
Club of Utica

