

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Nov. 25, 2024

Rotary's tree-planting project gets media coverage



DAVID JONES
UTICA ROTARY CLUB

NEWS Channel
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The Utica Rotary Club has achieved a significant milestone in its tree-planting project.

The Urban Tree Planting Project, chaired by Utica Rotarian David Jones, hit a milestone this year.

It not only hit the 100-tree mark, but surpassed it. Since the proj-

ect's inception in 2021, a total of 121 trees have been planted around the City of Utica.

See Page 2 for the full story.

Deadline for next newsletter (12/2) is Saturday, Nov. 30 at 3 p.m.; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach



TAKE ACTION: www.uticarotary.org

Rotary's tree-planting project gets media coverage

It was a news media event on Monday, Nov. 18, when WKTV News Channel 2 visited one of the residences that received a new tree as part of the Urban Tree Planting Project. It took place on Cherry Street in West Utica.

Utica Rotarians Dave Jones and Jerry Kraus were there, along with Mayor Mike Galime, Barb Freeman from the Climate Action Team at the Unitarian Universalist Church, and members of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District (MVEDD), which helped secure the grant for the tree purchases. The project is a collaborative effort by the Rotary Club of Utica, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Utica and the City of

Utica Parks Department.

With a whopping 40 trees planted across the city this year, the project surpassed the 100-tree milestone. Since its inception in 2021, a total of 121 trees have been planted around the city, Project Chair Dave Jones reports. Dave told WKTV about the need for trees in the city, that they not only beautify the neighborhood but also improve air quality and increase the value of the homeowner's property.

As he stated previously, "It's a testament to what we can achieve when we work together to make a difference."

The Tree Planting Project provides eligible Utica homeowners with a free tree, which is deliv-

ered and planted at no charge. Homeowners are required to care for the trees for a minimum of five years. Funding for this project was made possible through a Department of Environmental Conservation grant.

The goal is for the trees to thrive over many years and serve to enhance the value of these properties, improving the air quality by reducing carbon emissions, provide a canopy of shade to lower the heat index during summer months, and (as urban studies have shown) serve to reduce the level of crime.

Applications for trees to be planted in Fall 2025 will be made available in the summer.



Rotarian Dave Jones chats with Mayor Mike Galime (left), Barb Freeman from Unitarian Universalist Church, Rotarian Jerry Kraus, and representatives from MVEDD (at right).

Calendar of Events

**12/5 Meeting | Mid-York Library
noon**

**12/18 Board | Greater Utica Chamber
noon**

**12/11 Event | 'Not So Silent Night' auction
6-7:30 | Fort Schuyler Club**

**12/19 Meeting | Mid-York Library
noon**

Our 'silent night' gift auction is anything but silent

By Travis Rabbers

Our 5th annual *Not So Silent Night* Gift Auction is on Wednesday, December 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Fort Schuyler Club.

For anyone who has not attended the gift auction before, or in case you need a refresher, here is how it works:

Attendees can bring in a wrapped gift with a clue or hint attached (example: this gift is for a family with kids, a night out in Utica or something to drink while watching the Bills). Have fun with it! Please provide the value of the gift so we know where to start the bidding (We ask for the value of each gift to be at least \$50).

Our great emcees will then bring up one gift at a time, read off the description and open up the bidding. For providing payment on gifts you win, you can bring cash or checks.

Checks should be made payable to "Utica Rotary Service, Inc." You can also pay with a card through PayPal via our Rotary donaton page (*or use the QR Code at right*).

If you prefer to attend and not bring a gift, that is totally fine!

If you are not able to attend, but would still like to provide a gift, you can drop it off prior to the event at Tina Pavlot's M&T branch off Commercial Drive in New Hartford or my M&T branch off Oriskany Boulevard in Whitesboro.



Presented By:



Proceeds to Benefit:



If you are planning to attend, please email me at trabbers@mtb.com with answers to the following questions:

1. Your name and names of any guests who will also be attending.
2. Will you or any of your guests be bringing a gift?

Please let me know if you have any questions. We would love to keep growing this event, so please share and invite your friends, family and co-workers!

We hope to see you all there!

Scan the QR Code to make a donation for the "Not So Silent Night" Gift Auction -- to benefit Catholic Charities' Christmas Assistance Program.



Rotarians tour Wynn Hospital

photos by Joe Caruso



Rotarians tour Wynn Hospital

By Joe Caruso

Rotary Club of Utica members went “on the road” last week for a tour of the Wynn Hospital in downtown Utica.

The hospital, which opened last fall, merged St. Elizabeth Medical Center and Faxton-St. Luke’s Healthcare.

The meeting began over lunch in the Wynn boardroom where Darlene Stromstad, president/CEO of Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS), parent company of the Wynn Hospital and all related corporations in Utica,

gave a fascinating presentation on the forming of MVHS and current stats:

- On moving day in October 2023, MVHS utilized twenty-six ambulances to move all the patients in St. Elizabeth’s and St. Luke’s hospitals, in one day.
- 4,400 are employed by MVHS, the second largest employer in our region (only Turning Stone employs more)
- 120 medical residents and 3rd and 4th year medical stu-

dents are in training at Wynn Hospital, in its seven residency programs, including medical, dental, ob/gyn, psychiatry, podiatry, and pharmacology

Stromstad discussed the planning currently taking place to determine the future of the St. Elizabeth and St. Luke’s campuses, and took questions from the members.

Afterwards, we received a tour of the facilities which included the state-of-the-art lab and operating rooms.

