

# Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Oct. 9, 2023

## Rotary presents golf funds to Thea Bowman House

By Jerry Kraus

The Rotary Club of Utica recently presented The Thea Bowman House with the proceeds from its August Golf Outing. A check for \$3,138 was delivered to their De-

Sales Center and members of Utica Rotary got a chance to meet some young Pre-K students and their teachers.

“We were glad to help The Thea

Bowman House with our golf outing funds this year, knowing the great work they do here in our community,” said Rotary President Linda Iannone.



FROM LEFT: Darby O'Brien (Rotary treasurer), Jane Domingue (Thea Bowman House executive director), Jerry Kraus (Rotary golf chair), Linda Iannone (Rotary president).

Deadline for next newsletter (10/16) is Sunday, Oct. 15 at noon; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

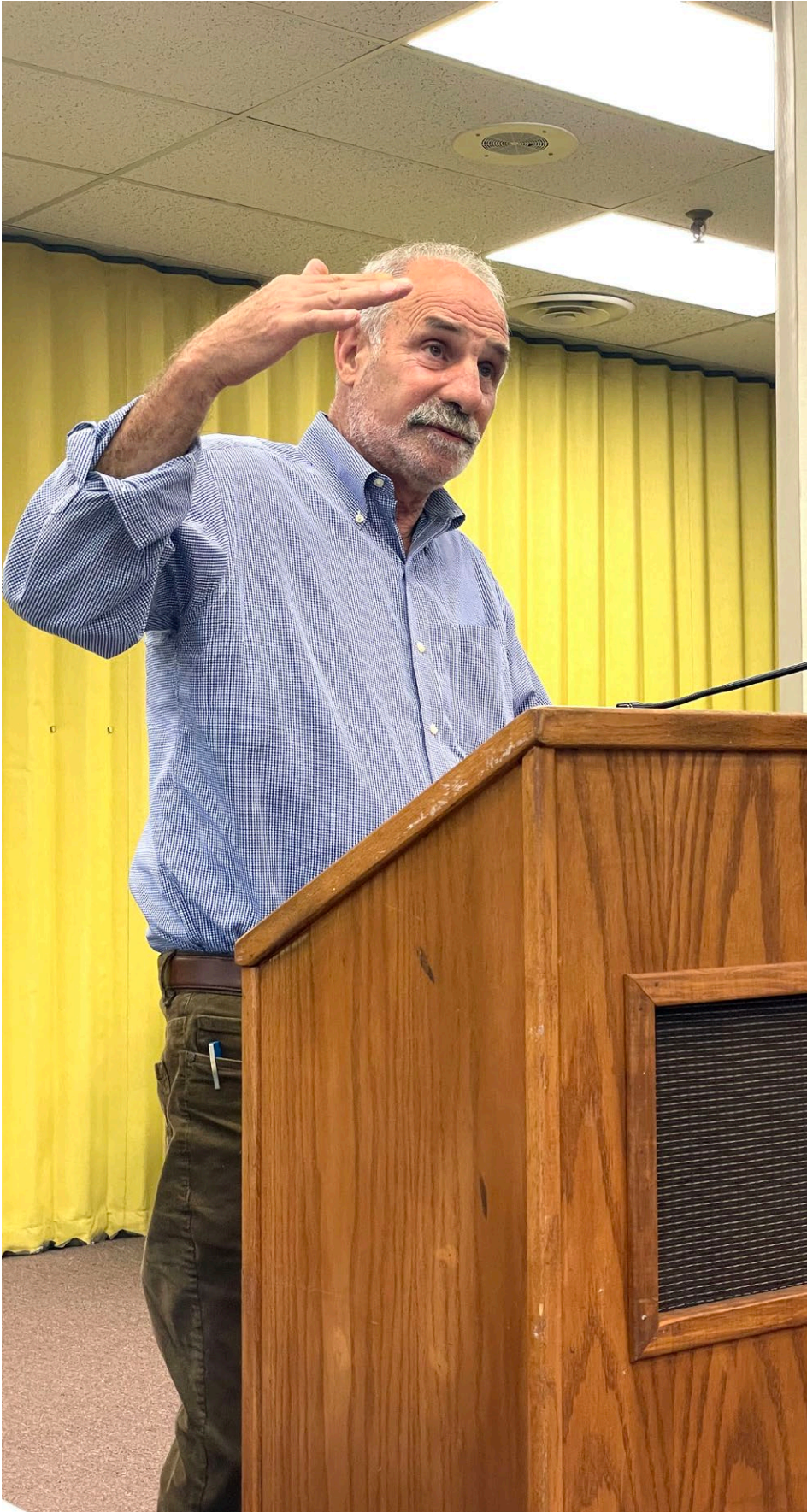
Editor Robert Stronach



TAKE ACTION: [www.uticarotary.org](http://www.uticarotary.org)



# What's biggest barrier to overcoming homelessness?



As a sociologist working with local government and community agencies, Steve Darman did some extensive research into the barriers to recovery from homelessness.

What he discovered makes one stop and think, *well, of course*.

“Safety and affordable housing are the biggest barriers to recovery,” he told the Rotary Club of Utica during its regular meeting on Thursday, Oct. 5.

There’s a huge shortage of affordable housing in the area, he added, noting that one-income households used to be able to afford to own a home or rent an apartment, whereas today’s economy requires many families to have two incomes.

Steve, who chairs the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition, said there has been a recent spike in local homelessness. On any given day, one will find 300 homeless people on the streets, representing 200 households. And they are not always suffering from addiction or mental illness. He said they were seeing more first-time homeless – families who could no longer afford to make mortgage or rent payments.

He has been advocating for more affordable rental units and for affordable “starter homes” in which people can raise a family and have a positive impact on their neighborhoods.

“What’s needed is a comprehensive, community-wide approach.”

# Meeting recap: how to make someone's day

President Linda Iannone spoke of the power to make a person's day after noting that the 7th meeting of the 108th year of Utica Rotary was taking place on National Do Something Nice Day (Oct. 5).

"Kindness doesn't require grand gestures... So today, give a compliment, hold the door for someone, buy someone a cup of coffee. In a matter of seconds, we hold the power to change the course of a person's day by being nice."

She also noted that with World Homeless Day coming up on Oct. 10, it was appropriate that the program speaker, Steve Darman, would educate the club about homelessness in our community.

"Spending the night under the stars sounds romantic," she noted. "But for hundreds of thousands of Americans, it's the exact opposite. It's not a choice; it's an unpleasant reality that can quickly become detrimental to one's life."

She pointed to Seattle Rotary Clubs that built tiny houses around that city as "an important intermediate step for providing shelter for the homeless."

Before introducing Steve Darman of the Housing and Homeless

Coalition, Linda made a few announcements:

**1. The speaker on October 19 will be PDG Randy Wilson** from the Sauquoit Club who will be educating us on the Polio Plus Program and its impact through the Rotary Foundation.

**2. We are working on getting together a date** for the Highway Clean-Up, so stay tuned.

**3. Travis Rabbers is starting to work on the Not So Silent Night Auction** scheduled for the first week of December. Anyone interested in joining the committee, please see Travis.

**4. Tree planting will take place on Saturday, October 28.** Please contact Dave Jones to join in the work that day.

**5. Congratulations to Israel Acosta** for completing a 50-mile bike ride to raise awareness of breast cancer in the Real Men Wear Pink campaign. Drew DeBasiis is also an ambassador for this, so if you would like, you can donate to the cause in their honor by going to the Real Men Wear Pink site on the American Cancer Society website (*see link below*).

**6. The next Social Event** will be on October 26 (5:30 p.m. at Five Points Public House at Irish Cultural Center).

**7. A District Grant of \$2,500** was awarded to our club and the board has decided to fund one bench for the city in one of the parks. More information will follow.

**8. Apparently, there is a Little Free Library** in front of the Fire Station on Whitesboro Street that was put in place by Utica Rotary. It is in a little disrepair and needs some TLC...a little piece of wood to brace it, a couple of screws and some paint. We can get a new plate to place on top to replace the old one. Looking for some volunteers to take this on.

After the guest speaker made his presentation, Linda brought the meeting to a close by reminding everyone of Rotary's vision statement:

**Together**, we see a world where **People** unite and take action to **Create** lasting

**Change** across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

**Link to Real Men Wear Pink**

[https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=106017](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=106017)



**This month's social event begins at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 26 at Five Points Public House at the Irish Cultural Center, 623 Columbia St, Utica.**



# 'Give me five' to end polio now!

By Jim High, PDG | Foundation fundraising chair

Beginning on October 24, 2023, your District 7150 Rotary Foundation Committee will begin a "High Five" initiative to raise money for YOUR Rotary Foundation! As you know, our district will come to an end on June 30, 2024 and we will become part of the great CNY Rotary. This will be the LAST campaign for Rotarians in D7150 to show their support to end polio, forever.

From October 24, 2023 to Mid-February, 2024, we would like to raise at least \$5000 to eradicate polio. We want it gone!

We have nearly 1000 members of Rotary Clubs in D7150. Think about the dramatic impact if, in February of 2024, we can give The Rotary Foundation an additional \$5000 and tell them it came from EVERY Rotarian in our district!

This is our final District gift to The Foundation. We want EVERY Rotarian in the district to contribute \$5.00 to end polio now. That's it. Five Dollars.

This money will be used right now, in the current Rotary year. Did I mention it is only \$5.00 per Rotarian? Five bucks. EVERY Rotarian. Of course,

multiples of "five" are also appreciated. But the goal is FIVE DOLLARS PER MEMBER...EVERY MEMBER.

In February of 2024, we will be holding a District 7150 Victory Celebration. This virtual event will recognize ALL of the Clubs and Rotarians in the district. We will have special prizes for clubs that meet the goal of EVERY Rotarian... Five Dollars for polio! We will be recognizing clubs and Rotarians for outstanding accomplishments involving Rotary Foundation giving. That's it. What an easy way to help end this devastating disease.

Now, let's see how many high-fives all of us can give to The Rotary Foundation. Whether you write five more checks or hold five more fundraisers or find five new donors, or simply give five more dollars, every high-five counts.

We know that many Rotarians currently support the annual campaign. We are looking for five more dollars per every Rotarian in the district.

**GIVE ME FIVE!!!**

## Calendar of Events

**10/18** Board Meeting  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

**10/19** Meeting | PDG Randy Wilson  
*Polio Plus*  
noon | Mid-York Library

**10/26** Social | Five Points Public House  
5:30 pm

**10/28** Service | Urban Tree Project  
9 am |

**11/2** Meeting | DG Elise Hereth  
noon | Mid-York Library

**11/15** Board Meeting  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

**11/16** Meeting | PDG Don Reese  
*Rotary Foundation*  
noon | Mid-York Library

**11/15** Service | 'Artists Works in Progress'  
| Sculpture Space