

Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

Oct.30, 2025



Outstanding workers (from left): Vahn Dongsavanh (Meyda Lighting), Sandy Graves (Slocum Dickson Medical Group), Joseph Puleo (Utica Fire Department), Stephanie Robinson (Hospice and Palliative Care), Jackie Warmuth (Sitrin Health Care Center) and Starr Wooden (Utica Police Department). MORE PHOTOS / PAGES 2-3.

150 years of outstanding workmanship

Friends, families and esteemed colleagues filled the Five Points Public House and Events Center on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 16, for the Rotary Club of Utica's Pride of Workmanship Awards.

Since 1990, the club has recognized outstanding local professionals for their dedication, commitment, and exemplary service in their respective fields, reflective of the event's motto: *"Do it once, do it well. Build a better future."* This year's recipients are Vahn Dongsavanh (Meyda Lighting), Sandy Graves (Slocum Dickson Medical Group), Joseph Puleo (Utica Fire

Department), Stephanie Robinson (Hospice and Palliative Care), Jackie Warmuth (Sitrin Health Care Center) and Starr Wooden (Utica Police Department). Combined, they have provided 150 years of outstanding work, noted event chair Joe Abraham.

State Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon and Utica Mayor Michael Galime were in attendance, sharing a few remarks about this year's honorees, as well as the event itself and work of Utica Rotary in the community. The assemblywoman also presented "Certificates of Merit" from the State Legislature,

which honorees received with their awards. The Club was joined by CNY Rotary President Bob Balk of Moravia, who had a great time visiting with Utica Rotarians and community members before heading to an Area Visit in Oneonta later in the evening. All in all, it was a beautiful day and terrific event!

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Pride of Workmanship Awards and to my committee for their hard work," said Joe Abraham. "It was truly inspiring to celebrate such dedicated professionals who embody the spirit of excellence and service."

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON



Calendar of Events

10/22 Visit | CNY Rotary President's Visit
5:30 pm | Halloween fellowship
Orchard Hall, Sauquoit

10/23 Social | Family Fun Factory
5 pm | New Hartford Shopping
Center (rear)

10/25 Service | Urban Tree Planting Project
| in East & West Utica

11/6 Meeting | Dr. Anshu Chandra
noon | Mid-York Library HQ



WORLD POLIO DAY
IS 24 OCTOBER



PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS

photos provided by Jerry Kraus & Joe Caruso



Rotarians gather for a group photo at the awards luncheon.



Addressing the crowd were (above) event chair Joe Abraham, and (at right) Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon and Mayor Michael Galime.

Volunteers needed for tree planting project is on Oct. 25

By Dave Jones

Our annual tree planting project will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, October 25. Rotarian Volunteers will meet at the Utica Parks Garage at 233 Valley View Road at 9 a.m.

We will be loading tree mulch into our vehicles

at the Parks Garage. Please bring gloves, shovels, rakes, a utility knife or box cutter and appropriate clothing for the weather.

To volunteer, please contact Jerry Kraus: JKrausutica@aol.com before October 22.



PUMPKIN RUN 5K FOR POLIO

Stride towards a polio-free future!

This event will raise money for Rotary International's efforts in vaccinating children against polio. To learn more, visit RI's website:

rotary.org/en/our-causes/ending-polio

We look forward to seeing you for a fun run/walk!

Please note – to utilize all possible funds for polio prevention, this event will not be professionally timed.

PROUDLY HOSTED BY:



SUNDAY

26 OCTOBER, 2025

9AM

**REGISTER
TODAY!
\$15**



5k & 1 mile routes available



vvsrotary@gmail.com



**Sherrill CAC
139 E. Hamilton Ave, Sherrill**