

Utica Rotary Hub



Utica, NY, USA

Oct. 19, 2026

Meet the outstanding workers

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The Rotary Club of Utica honored six local employees during its annual Pride of Workmanship Awards luncheon last Thursday.

They are (*pictured in order as listed*):

- Zenobia Cole – MV Community Action Agency
- Patrick Garrett – Utica City School District
- Dan Ianno – MVCC
- Lt. Brendan Kain – Utica Fire Department
- Christopher Lenahan – County Sheriff's Office
- Karen Nole – Bank of Utica



Beauty and the Beast



Utica Rotarians volunteered at Saturday's Children's Character Party at the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL), where club member Mia DeBernardis teamed up with the beast from "Beauty and the Beast".
More on Page 4.



Rotarians "Walk to End Alzheimer's". See page 5.

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach



Celebrate at the Foundation Luncheon on Nov. 7

by JOE ABRAHAM

Join CNY Rotarians on Saturday, November 7, from 12 to 3 p.m. at Roselawn Banquet Facility in New York Mills as we celebrate the generosity of our peers across the district and the life-changing impact of giving to The Rotary Foundation.

For \$35 per person, enjoy a delicious lunch, fellowship, and an opportunity to celebrate the incredible generosity of our Rotary community. Hear how more than 800 donors contributed over

\$500,000 to The Rotary Foundation in 2025–26, recognize clubs leading the fight to end polio, and learn about district and global grant projects making a difference locally and around the world.

Space is limited, so reserve your seat by October 30! We look forward to celebrating with you!

To register, visit <https://cnyrotary.org/events/foundation-luncheons-2026/>

Volunteer to plant trees on Oct. 24

Utica Rotary's Urban Tree Planting Project takes place. Saturday October 24, starting at 9 a.m. Volunteers will meet at the Utica Parks Department (233 Valley View Rd.). To volunteer, email David Jones at Davidjones0422@gmail.com



Calendar of Events

10/21	Visit Area Clubs, CNY Rotary Pres. 5:15-8 Orchard Hall, Sauquoit	11/6	Meeting Cornhill Empowerment Center noon 230 James St, Utica
10/22	Meeting Board of Directors noon Chamber of Commerce	11/12	Service Flags for Heroes takedown
10/24	Service Urban Tree Planting 9 am Meet at Utica Parks Dept	11/19	Social Mangia Macrina 5:30 pm 470 French Rd, Utica Reserved Rotary seating; complimentary salad with purchase of fav pizza & beverage
11/3	Service Flags for Heroes set-up 8:30 am Memorial Parkway		

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Wear Something Cool, Promote Rotary, Too.

Check out our Utica Rotary merchandise at the online store:

https://maxsprintshopstores.com/rotary_club/shop/home

PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS HONOR 6 EMPLOYEES



Rotarians gather around the six outstanding workers. Photos by Jerry Krause.

by JOE ABRAHAM

The Rotary Club of Utica celebrated six exceptional professionals during its 2026 Pride of Workmanship Awards luncheon last Thursday at Five Points Public House and Events Center in Utica.

The annual awards recognize employees who consistently go above and beyond in their work, demonstrating outstanding dedication, professionalism, and a commitment to the success of their organizations. This year's honorees exemplify the awards' motto, *"Where Pride Meets Performance,"* through strong work ethic, dedication to excellence, and positive impact on their workplaces and the broader community.

This year's honorees:

- **Zenobia Cole, an Office Assistant at Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency** for eight years, was recognized for her positive attitude, outstanding work ethic, and willingness to support colleagues and contribute to the agency's Wellness and Safety Committees.

- **Patrick Garrett, an eighth-grade Social Studies teacher** at Senator James H. Donovan Middle School for eight years, was honored for his dedication to students, leadership among colleagues, and commitment to mentoring young people as a soccer coach.

- **Lt. Brendan Kain, a 20-year veteran of the Utica Fire Department**, was recognized for his courage, professionalism, and lifesaving efforts throughout his career, including his response to challenging rescue and emergency situations.

- **Dan Ianno, Director of Admissions at Mohawk Valley Community College** for approximately 20 years, was celebrated for his welcoming personality, extensive knowledge, and commitment to helping prospective students and families navigate the college admissions process.

- **Christopher Lenahan, a Correction Officer** with Oneida County Sheriff's Office for nearly 20 years, was recognized for his dependability, outstanding work ethic, and willingness to take on additional responsibilities while supporting fellow employees.

- **Karen Nole, a Note Teller at Bank of Utica** for 39 years, was honored for her exceptional customer service, professionalism, and dedication, earning the trust and respect of generations of customers and colleagues.

Through the Pride of Workmanship Awards, Utica Rotary continues its tradition of recognizing individuals whose everyday contributions strengthen their organizations and make a meaningful difference in the community.

ROTARIANS GET INTO CHARACTER AT RCIL PARTY

Utica Rotarians volunteered at Saturday's Children's Character Party at the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL).

Past President Travis Rabbers dressed up like the Mandalorian from "Star Wars", and Mia DeBernardis teamed up with the beast from "Beauty and the Beast."

Other Rotarians there included PP Linda Iannone and Jennifer DePasquale (*below*), both of whom work at RCIL.



Travis Rabbers as Star Wars' Mandalorian.



ROTARIANS JOIN 'WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S'



FROM LEFT: Robin and Joe Dhara, Utica Rotary Secretary Matt Schlosser, CNY Rotary President Pamela Baker Gratton, Utica Rotary President-Elect Joe Abraham and Utica Rotarians Terry DeLude and Maggie Reed.

Club members joined Rotarians from across CNY in participating at Saturday's Utica/Rome *Walk to End Alzheimer's* on MVCC's Utica campus.

CNY Rotary President Pamela Baker Gratton and DeWitt Rotarian Joe Dhara (who will lead the district in 2028-29) were among those walking with Utica Rotarians.

"Brain and Mental Health" is a major theme/focus of President Pamela's Rotary year.

In addition to participating in the event, Utica Rotarians raised \$250, aiding in the fight to rid the world of this horrible disease.

