

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Sept. 11, 2023

'All hands on deck' for biggest tree-planting project

Utica Rotary's urban tree-planting project returns for a third year, and it's bigger than ever.

In the fall of 2021 the club planted 13 trees in front of homes around the City of Utica.

A year later club members and friends put 26 assorted trees in the ground at homeowner properties in the city.

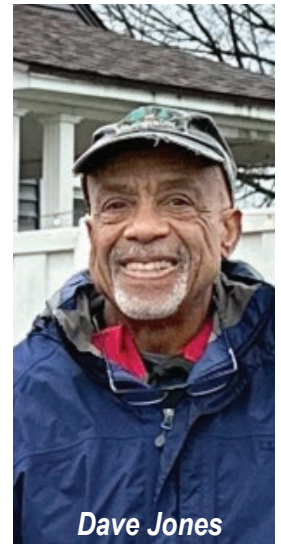
This fall, thanks to a grant from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), "our Rotary Club will plant 40 trees on Saturday, Oct. 28." Project Chair Dave Jones announced.

"This will be the most trees we have planted at one time in our three-year history." So, it's "all hands on deck!"

"We need volunteers" – who will meet at 10 a.m. Oct. 28 at the Utica Parks Department at 233 Valleyview Road.

"I will also need at least 4 trailers and 4 pickup trucks to expedite our planting project, which usually gets done by 1 p.m. If you own or have access to a trailer or pickup truck, please let me know at your earliest convenience."

To volunteer or provide vehicles, contact Dave at davidjones0422@gmail.com.



Dave Jones

Last week's meeting featured speakers from MUCC / page 3



Deadline for next newsletter (9/11) is Sunday, Sept 10 at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach



TAKE ACTION: www.uticarotary.org

Highlights of last week's meeting



President Linda Iannone on Sept. 7 welcomed Rotarians and guests to the 5th meeting of the 108th year of the Rotary Club of Utica, noting that “we look to ‘create hope in the world’.”

She also offered some surprise refreshment – a tomato pie – in honor of Cheese Pizza Day (Sept. 5).

Her inspirational message for the day was to refer to an article in Rotary Magazine giving an example of Rotary’s dedication to education and literacy.

“As our local communities start a new school year, I would like to focus on a story in Panama. The Panama-Norte Club routinely delivered backpacks with essential supplies to grade schools throughout the country. Members noticed that teachers were ill-equipped to have computers or even know how to use them and there was limited access to the internet. A global grant with a Los Angeles Rotary club helped to provide access to interactive whiteboards and laptops. In addition, the turnover rate of teachers caused challenges in learning for students. Working with a club in Kansas City, Missouri, a \$230,000 global grant was given to these clubs to form Paul Harris Interactive Classrooms. This is where apprentice teachers could do in-class teaching. The important component was to train the teachers to use the

equipment and have them learn innovative methodologies to teach the kids in schools. They continue to work to secure more global grants to expand to more of Panama’s 10 provinces.”

Rotary Institute

In other Rotary news, President Linda noted:

“On September 23rd, Rotary Leadership Institute will be held in Vernon at VVS High School. Rotary often focuses on service, but Rotary also develops leaders that help change the community and the world. John Maxwell, an author on leadership said, ‘The single greatest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them’.

“I would encourage anyone who would like to attend this training to let me know so we can get you registered. This is paid for by the club.”

Upcoming

President Linda also announced:

• **The speaker on Sept 21** will be Melanie Francis, who is the associate director of Development at the American Cancer Society. She will be speaking about how “Real Men Wear Pink.”

• **The Alzheimer’s Walk** is at 10:00 a.m. on Sept. 23 on the MVCC campus. “We would like to get a team to walk that day.” To participate, contact Joe Abraham.

• **the Social Event** for September 23rd will be announced soon.

• **“A District Legacy Grant** of \$10,000 will be awarded to five clubs for worthwhile projects in the community. The board talked about the possibility of putting some benches at the new skate parks with the Rotary Logo on them. The City of Utica is interested in the bench idea for the parks and has given the specs for the benches. Based on their cost and the metal plates that would have to be installed, we would be able to provide four benches in four areas of the city. I will be submitting a grant application for this.”

Rotarian Kevin Marken introduced the guest speakers from the Mid-Town Utica Community Center – **Hawa Juma**, director of community engagement, and **Kay Klo**, executive director.

After their presentation, President Linda closed the meeting by reciting 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.

Center is a safe place for refugee families to excel

The Midtown Utica Community Center was a welcoming place for Hawa Juma and Kay Klo, who both came to the U.S. as young refugees fleeing war in Somalia and Myanmar. It was a safe place that helped build their self-confidence. They both went on to obtain college degrees (including Kay being a Fulbright Scholar), and now they are excited to be back at MUCC offering support to members of the refugee communities, young and old alike.

MUCC programs emphasize build-

ing self-confidence and developing leaders of the future. They include:

- Tutoring that promotes academic self-development.
- Arts and Culture program that promotes dance, music, storytelling, theater, traditional dress, language acquisition, cultural festivals and practices.
- Health and Wellness (volley ball, swimming lessons; cultural and dance clubs; “Cookie Tuesdays” and “Little Food Pantry”).

- MUCCamp, a week-long summer camp in the Adirondacks with hiking, canoeing, swimming, bonfires, and more.

- Youth employment in conjunction with Oneida County Summer Youth Employment Program.

Kay and Hawa said they are always looking for volunteers and other kinds of support. They may be contacted at: kay@midtownutica.org and hawa@midtownutica.org.



What's happening in our community



On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties will host its second year of “Mohawk Valley Gives,” a 24-hour community-wide giving day to benefit nonprofit organizations serving the Mohawk Valley region.

Check out the website to see what organization(s) you would like to support. <https://www.givemv.org/>

Interestingly, the Midtown Utica Community Center (which we learned about at the Sept. 7th meeting) has a one-to-one matching grant, meaning that for every dollar donated, the grant will match up to \$10,000.

Some of the other nonprofits have a Rotary connection, such as Utica Salvation Army’s Capt. Jonathon Ross, Arc’s Heather Evans, Stanley Theatre’s Linda Iannone, and RCIL’s Holly Saupp. (The Salvation Army of Utica has a generous donor that is offering a 3 to 1 match – that’s right, every dollar donated will have



Oneida County History Center is hosting a New Hartford Chamber of Commerce “Business After Hours” on Thursday, Sept. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 1608 Genesee St., Utica. Refreshments, networking and history all rolled into one. \$5 per person. RSVP John Hobika at hobika50@gmail.com.

a quadruple impact.)

Libraries are among the nonprofits, including two with Utica Rotary connections; namely, Mid-York Library System and Utica Public Library.

OnPoint for College, Oneida County History Center, Peace Together Project, Sleep in Heavenly Peace are among those that have been featured at Rotary meetings.

Apologies to anyone we may have missed. The causes to support are almost limitless – from arts and disaster relief to homelessness and hunger to seniors and youth.

Calendar of Events

9/20	Board Meeting noon Greater Utica Chamber	10/19	Meeting PDG Randy Wilson <i>Polio Plus</i> noon Mid-York Library
9/21	Meeting Melanie Francis Am. Cancer Society “ <i>Real Men Wear Pink</i> ” noon Mid-York Library	11/2	Meeting DG Elise Hereth noon Mid-York Library
9/23	Service Walk to End Alzheimer’s 11 am MVCC	11/15	Board Meeting noon Greater Utica Chamber
9/23	Rotary Leadership Institute VVS High School	11/16	Meeting PDG Don Reese <i>Rotary Foundation</i> noon Mid-York Library
10/5	Meeting Steve Darman <i>Housing & Homeless Coalition</i> noon Mid-York Library	11/15	Service ‘Artists Works in Progress’ Sculpture Space
10/18	Board Meeting noon Greater Utica Chamber		