



Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

Sept. 22, 2025

6 to receive Pride of Workmanship awards



The Rotary Club of Utica will honor six individuals for their outstanding work ethic during the Pride of Workmanship Awards luncheon on Oct. 16.

the police and fire departments, and several healthcare institutions. The luncheon starts at noon at the Irish Cultural Center.

The honorees work for a business,

For full story and how to register, see Page 2

Rotarians discover green thumbs at Thea Bowman garden

Rotarians discovered their green thumbs on Sept. 13 and helped create a nourishing space for the children and families that Thea Bowman House serves. They pulled weeds, pruned, trimmed and cleaned up Thea Bowman's community garden and playground, which is located adjacent to St. Joseph and St. Patrick Church at 72 Columbia St., Utica.



Photos by Joe Caruso

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach



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PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP HONOREES

The Pride of Workmanship Committee is excited to announce the names of the six individuals who will be celebrated at Five Points Public House and Events Center (Irish Cultural Center) on Thursday, October 16 at noon.

They are: Vahn Dongsavanh (Meyda Lighting); Joseph Puleo (Utica Fire Department); Starr Wooden (Utica Police Department); Stephanie Robinson (Hospice); Sandy Graves (Slocum Dickson Medical Group);

and Jackie Warmuth (Sitrin).

“We were truly blown away by the quality of nominations we received this year, and selecting these recipients was no easy task, with many of them having spent several decades with their respective company/organization,” noted Committee Chair Joe Abraham. “So please join me in congratulating each of our recipients, and a sincere thanks to their nominators for taking the time to recognize these outstanding individuals.”

The awards will be presented during a luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Irish Cultural Center (Five Points Public House and Events Center). Tickets to the luncheon are \$25 per person.

“I hope you can attend and join us for this great celebration,” Joe said. “You can register for the event on the Pride of Workmanship page of the Utica Rotary website or follow the link below.”

[Register Here](#)

LAST THURSDAY’S MEETING FEATURED RAY DURSO

Ray Durso, President /CEO of The Genesis Group, was the guest speaker at last week’s Rotary meeting. Celebrating 25 years, Ray gave a history of The Genesis Group’s beginnings and notable community initiatives they have been involved with, including working with various local counties, development agencies, schools and chambers of commerce.



Ray Durso, left, with Club President Roger Breslow.

Calendar of Events

9/25 Social | “Picnic on the Patio”
5 pm | MKJ Farm, Deansboro

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

10/16 Meeting | Pride of Workmanship
noon | Awards Luncheon
Irish Cultural Center

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



WORLD POLIO DAY
IS 24 OCTOBER



This month's social: 'picnic on the patio'

By Tina Pavlot

Join fellow Rotarians for "Picnic on the Patio" at beautiful MKJ Farm at 6844 W Hughes Road in Deansboro this Thursday, Sept. 25, for an evening of fall fun the whole family will enjoy!

Please arrive at 5 p.m. if you would like a private tour. Otherwise the music plays 6 to 8 p.m.

FREE TO ATTEND, but please bring cash for the food vendors. Also, considering bringing a chair or blanket to sit on.

Bring your friends, family, and lawn chairs to relax in the scenic outdoor setting while enjoying:

- Live acoustic music by Shawn Smith Acoustic (our very own PE

Heather Beebe's husband)

- Dinner from Mandy's Food Truck
- Ice cream from ROC Star Ice Cream
- Bounce House by 3 Brothers Party Rentals LLC
- Lemonade and snacks by Mr. Squeeze Lemonade

ROTARIANS AT THEA BOWMAN GARDEN

photos by Joe Caruso





An evening of Halloween-themed Rotary fun and fellowship from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Orchard Hall in Sauquoit.

Join CNY Rotary president for a spooky evening

Get your Halloween costume on and join a festive autumn evening Oct. 22 with CNY President Bob Balk and members from across Area 3 (Utica, Hamilton, New Hartford, Oriskany Falls, Sauquoit, Greater Utica Sunrise, and North Utica-Whitestown) and beyond!

It runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Orchard Hall. Come out to enjoy:

- World Polio Day celebration (just two days later)
- Our Halloween theme - afterall, our ven-

ue is haunted!

- A costume contest, so wear something spooky
- Pumpkin decorating
- Fellowship with members from all over the area and CNY Rotary leadership

Cost is \$22 per person, which includes hot and cold appetizers.

To reserve a spot, contact Area Rep Carol Malloy of Sauquoit Rotary at mjjm44@aol.com.