



### Mayor's Corner

As Fall is in full swing, it is election time again. This year you will choose a new Mayor and some changes on City Council. I wish my successor much good fortune as this is a wonderful City to serve. As a point of personal privilege, I wanted to thank the electorate for my 29 years as Mayor and 4 on City Council. For me, this has been an enormous privilege and honor to work with and for you.

I have many people to thank who were instrumental in allowing us to make such significant progress over the last three decades. First and foremost, I owe my family, without whose support I could not have worked so long and so hard. I was blessed with many supportive Council members and especially excellent department heads and employees who made me look good through their dedicated service. Also of note,

are the City Boards and Commission members, our engineering firm, our planners, Macomb County officials and neighboring jurisdictions of Sterling Heights and Shelby Township, as well as our representatives in Lansing and Washington, D.C. and numerous State and Federal agencies. My work was enhanced and aided by the marvelous education and support from the Michigan Municipal League and Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments. The Utica Community Schools were an integral partner with our administration on many levels. Individuals too numerous to mention all played important roles in helping Utica move forward during my tenure as Mayor. It may take a village to raise a child, but it definitely takes a solid team to govern a City and continually move it toward excellence in public service. I was fortunate to lead such a team.

Some ask, in looking back, which are my proudest changes in Utica. There are many but the highlights are: founding the Utica Pioneers, this newsletter (special thanks to Howard Reinhold for helping with 30 volumes of City Limits), creating festivals for downtown with Parks & Rec and DDA, repaving almost all our residential streets,

rebuilding and widening Van Dyke, computerizing and equipping all departments, working with MDOT to get M59 done, saving Utica from detachment, Charter revision, establishing job descriptions for all positions, televising Council meetings, creating the DDA whose projects include our signature sign, streetscape, Memorial Park, hike & bike trail, additional parking in historic downtown, Jimmie John's Field partnership with USPBL and GSE, state of the art fire/police/DPW building enhancements, equipment, and training, and outside grants totaling well over \$11.5 million. That list does not begin to speak to policies, procedures and best practices established to comply with professional standards and State/Federal laws.

Being your Mayor has been a wonderful part of my life and I have you to thank for it. I will miss seeing everyone but Jerry and I are not leaving Utica. Stop by to say hello. I wish everyone well and look forward to more free time to travel and enjoy my great husband and family. Utica means the world to me. Thank you!

Mayor Jacqueline K. Noonan  
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## Library Happenings

The Utica Library staff and Board of Trustees would like to thank all the residents who voted their support of the library by passing our .4 millage request in August. It is our great pleasure to serve you, and we're grateful that you've given us the opportunity to continue to do so! The voted funds will not be available until summer of 2017, so we hope to re-open on Mondays in August, while retaining year round Saturday service.

Join us Thursday, November 17, for our first ever Poetry Slam! The event will be in the Gibbing Room and will start at 6:30. We encourage all residents of all ages to share their poems with the audience. And we invite everyone to attend, whether you write poetry or not. This will be a good opportunity for budding or established poets to read their work to a receptive audience, and for lovers of the spoken word to listen, recognize, and show appreciation for local talent. If you don't write, but love poetry, you are welcome to read a favorite poem written by someone else. But there is no obligation to read! You may attend just to listen. The oral tradition of poetry is as old as mankind; poets of old held the history of their cultures in their heads, and recited epic poetry to their enthralled listeners. We want to continue that tradition of the spoken word. And since Bob Dylan just won the Nobel Prize for literature, we'd like to point out that song lyrics are poetry. If you are a song writer, you're welcome to read your lyrics. Watch our website [www.uticalibrary.com](http://www.uticalibrary.com) for updates.

The holidays are approaching and that means the library's annual bake sale! The sale will be held Saturday, December 10, from 10-2 in the Gibbing Room. We have

the best bakers in the state, so we encourage you to stock up on all those holiday treats that you don't have time to bake and help the library at the same time. Proceeds from the bake sale are used to help fund our DVD collection.

Also, our BIG book sale is coming in February timed, as usual, for the Ice Festival weekend. We've already amassed an impressive collection of books and DVDs covering all topics and genres, and we'll have much more by the day of the sale. Check our website [www.uticalibrary.com](http://www.uticalibrary.com) regularly for updates on all events or call us at 586-731-4141 with questions.

Don't forget that we have internet computers for public use, and a wireless connection for those with their own devices. As winter approaches you may feel less inclined to venture out in the snow and ice, so remember we offer Overdrive, downloadable books and audiobooks, (provided by the Utica Heritage Association); FreeGal, a streaming and downloadable music site; and Zinio, downloadable magazines, for your convenience. Links to these online services are all provided on our webpage, and the beauty of these online databases is that they're available to you 24/7 and can all be accessed through your computer or smart phone or tablet, while you're snug on your couch in your jammies with a mug of hot chocolate beside you!



## Police Department

The leaves are changing colors and the days are noticeably cooler so it is time to say good-bye to another summer. I hope that your summer was enjoyable.

I was fortunate enough to attend some of the ballgames at the new stadium this past summer. What a beautiful facility they have. The

ballpark brought a lot of people to our downtown area. I am happy to report that there were very few incidents that required police involvement as a result of the ballpark. There were some reports of issues with parking. We addressed those issues and continue to look at ways to improve the parking situation not only for the ballpark but all businesses within the downtown area.

As many of you have heard, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is to begin construction on Hall Road in March. The project will entail a complete removal of existing concrete. The first phase will include both directions of Hall Road between M53 and Garfield. Phase two will be from Garfield east to Romeo Plank. MDOT has advised us that they will maintain three lanes of travel both directions during the peak travel times. During other times the travel lanes may be reduced to two or even one lane of travel. Obviously this will cause traffic back-ups and will most likely increase traffic in the subdivision. Our department will maintain a high level of visibility in and around the subdivisions in order to slow traffic and maintain safe neighborhoods. Contact us if you notice any areas of concerns.

As for crime trends in our area, I am seeing an increase in the number of identity theft type crimes. This category includes the unauthorized use of credit cards. In today's environment people use less cash and more credit or debit cards thus providing more opportunity for accounts to be compromised. As the holidays approach we expect to see an even higher increase in these types of crimes. Our advice is to conduct frequent checks of your credit card and bank statements. Report any unauthorized charges on your account immediately to your bank or credit card company.

I mentioned in my spring newsletter article about incidents in neighboring communities in which suspects posing as utility workers attempt to gain access to homes so that they can steal property. We had two of these types of crimes in our community this past

summer. In the first instance, the suspect indicated to the homeowner that he was from the water department. The suspect gained access and after distracting the homeowner took several items from the home. The second case involved a suspect posing as an employee of the gas company. In this incident the homeowner became suspicious and denied access. As a reminder, utility company workers will not require access to your home unless a prior appointment was made. All utility workers should have an identification card displayed. Call us immediately if someone says they are from one of the utility companies and are asking for entry into your home and they have not scheduled an appointment with you.

Macomb County has seen an increase in the number of drug overdoses with the majority being as a result of using heroin. A lot of heroin users were initially addicted to pain medications and heroin became the cheaper alternative. Please ensure that pain medications are taken as prescribed and disposed of when no longer needed. If you or someone you know is dealing with an addiction to pain medication or heroin contact Families Against Narcotics for assistance.

Lastly I want to address the climate in our country as it relates to the law enforcement profession. The Utica Police Department is fortunate in that the vast majority of the residents we serve appreciate the work and dedication we provide. For that we say THANK YOU! Not all agencies have the same level of support as we receive and unfortunately, it is a smaller group of people that dislike police officers that make the most noise and garner the media attention. Our men and women, like most in law enforcement agencies throughout the county, state and nation, are true professionals and we strive every day to provide the highest level of service to the residents of this great city.

On behalf of the men and women of the Utica Police Department, I would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a

healthy and happy new year.

As a final note the members of the Utica Police Department would like to extend our appreciation to Mayor Noonan for all her years of support and dedication to the city and specifically our department. We wish you well in your retirement!



**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

We have some really good news to share. Utica

Fire Department received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security for \$273,715.00. Utica's match is \$13,685.00, or (5%) five percent of the total contribution. This grant will be used to purchase new turnout gear for firefighters, from head to toe. Also, we have purchased new self-contained breathing apparatuses. Both these purchases will replace the outdated equipment that we have been operating with. Utica will be the first in the state to have thermo imaging cameras integrated into our packs. This increases firefighter safety because every firefighter will have an infrared camera which will greatly assist us with search and rescue. Also, I would like to make our residents aware that this grant was written in-house by Sergeant Orlowski and Inspector Bawkon. This is a great accomplishment by these dedicated employees. I would also like to thank Mayor Noonan and Utica's City Council for their support.

With the fall season approaching, I would like to remind our residents that there is no burning of any type of yard waste. Fire is a common disaster which causes more deaths than any other disaster. If you have a smoke detector, you will get an early warning so that you and your loved ones can escape. Install a smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on every floor of your home. Remember to replace new

batteries in your detectors and practice fire safety. Do you have a personalized Fire Plan. Start a chart and sign it after each round of tests. Here is a Fire Preparedness Guide to help you plan and be ready:

New Smoke Detectors Installed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Batteries Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Test Smoke Detectors: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Person checking smoke detectors: \_\_\_\_\_  
(family member name)

Look at your fire extinguisher to ensure that it is properly charged. Use the gauge or test button to check proper pressure. Units with low pressure, damage, or corrosion should be replaced or professionally serviced.

Checked Fire Extinguisher: \_\_\_\_\_  
(family member named)

Draw a floor plan of your home; mark two fire escape routes for each room.

Floor Plan Completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Decide on a safe outside place to meet after escaping from a fire.

Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice a low-crawl escape from your bedroom. Try it with your eyes closed to see how well you could do this in thick smoke.

Smoke Escape Drill Conducted: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Conduct a home fire drill at least twice a year.

Home Fire Drill Conducted: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

and \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Finally, make your home fire safe. Remember to install a battery-powered smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home. Also, use the test button to check each detector once a month. Replace batteries when necessary and at least once a year. Be sure to have a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen. Know how to turn off utilities at your home. Be sure to conduct random fire drills so that everyone knows what to do in case of a real fire.

Utica Fire Department wishes you a safe and happy winter. Please exercise safety so that everyone can enjoy the holidays.



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Regular work hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Office telephone number is (586)731-6110. You can also contact us via e-mail at [cityofuticapublicworks@comcast.net](mailto:cityofuticapublicworks@comcast.net). Please call Police Dispatch at (586)731-2345 for after-hours emergency calls.

### Refuse Pickup

The regular pick up for all City of Utica residents is Friday. Waste Management (800)796-9696 picks up yard waste, compost and trash in containers less than 32 gallons. Items to be picked up should be placed at the curb prior to 7:00 a.m. the morning of pick up and no earlier than 7:00 p.m. the evening prior to pick up. Rubbish should be placed in proper containers to prevent spilling or blowing before Waste Management has the chance to pick items up. Loose items must be tied, and containers must have lids.

• **Yard Waste** – The final pick up of yard waste for 2016 is December 9. Please place items in a 32 gallon container that is marked "Yard Waste" or in the Kraft brown paper bags. Branches must be bundled and be no larger than 4 feet long

and 1 foot wide. Place yard waste apart from household rubbish at the curb.

• **Holiday Schedule** – Holidays do affect some pick up dates. Waste Management observes New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. If these holidays fall on a weekday, scheduled pickups will be delayed to Saturday of that week only.

### Fall Lawn Care

• **Mowing Your Lawn** - While most people know that spring and summer are important seasons for taking care of their lawns, did you know that the fall is just as important? Here are a few tips for fall lawn care that will help keep your lawn healthy all year long and will help protect water quality. Three inches is the rule! Keep your lawn three inches high during the fall. It will help hold moisture in the plant, reduce stress and shade out weeds.

• Avoid dumping grass clippings down storm drains or in waterways, leave your clippings on your lawn. You'll need less fertilizer if you leave clippings on your lawn!

• **Mulch** - Those colorful leaf "bits" provide much-needed organic matter for your soil. As leaves fall onto your lawn, chip the leaves into smaller pieces by running over them several times with your lawn mower. Leaves can also be used as mulch in your gardens beds. Be sure to keep leaves away from storm drains and out of waterways.

• If your mulch is a little thin or absent, add more to flower beds and any other areas where grass and weeds are unwanted. Three inches of double-shredded hardwood or shredded leaf mulch will also help to retain soil moisture, prevent soil erosion, and enhance soil quality.

• **Feed in the fall** - fall is generally the most important time of the year for applying fertilizers.

• Be sure to test your soil if you haven't done so recently and use your soil test results to determine proper application rates.

• **Lawn Fertilizers** - Slow-Release Fertilizers require fewer applications because they supply plants with a steady supply of nutrients

over an extended period of time.

• Look for the Earth Friendly Fertilizer Sticker on products at your local Ace or Great Lakes Ace Hardware store. Visit <http://www.crowc.org/stormwater-protection/lawn-fertilizer/> to find a store near you.

The Clinton River Watershed Council website provides some useful information on lawn care practices.

Visit <http://www.crowc.org/stormwater-protection/> for details.

### MISS DIG



A friendly reminder goes out to all that any digging done in the City must be preceded by a 72-hour notice to the MISS DIG system at (800)482-7171. If damage is done to any underground utility when digging and notification was not given, the proper owner will be liable for repairs.

### WATER AND SEWER SERVICES

1. An interesting fact about our water from the Detroit Water and Sewer Department: In winter, you may notice an increased smell or taste of chlorine in the water. This is due to the fact that chlorine dissipates slower in colder weather than warm weather. There is not an increase in the level of chlorine used.

2. In an effort to provide the best quality of drinking water possible, the City of Utica, in conjunction with the Detroit Water and Sewer Department, tests and monitors the drinking water throughout our system. An annual report with the results of testing performed is available July 1 each year at the Municipal Offices.

3. The DPW provides sewer-cleaning services from house to main. If you suspect a problem, the DPW will check City mains upon your request. City ordinance maintains the homeowner is responsible for issues at the house and running to the main. The City is responsible

for any problems with the main itself. If the problem appears to be your responsibility, you may elect to use a private contractor or the DPW for a fee.

4. With sewer rates being approximately 2/3 of the entire water charge, we strongly encourage homeowners and business owners to consider the purchase of an Area Maintenance Meter for outside water use. No sewer charge is assessed on outdoor water use. Before purchasing, call (586)739-1600 to obtain details on this service.

### HELPFUL HINTS FOR WATER AND SEWER ISSUES

In the event of possible water or sewer-related problems, here are a few items the property owner can do to avoid a bill from the City if the problem originates before the main:

- In the event that a pipe freezes and bursts, there should be shut off valves on either side of the water meter that can be shut off for as long as it takes for repairs. These valves should be inspected periodically to ensure they are in good working order. Property owners need to be aware that maintenance of these valves are their responsibility. The water shut off stop box is the property of the City, and only City employees are allowed to manipulate this valve. Violation of this ordinance results in a \$500 fine.
- If a high water/sewer bill is received, your first step is to check for leaks. One easy way to do this is to remove the lid off the rear of the toilet tank and drop 4 to 6 drops of food coloring into the water. If colored water appears in the bowl after a short amount of time, the working parts in the tank should be replaced.
- If you have a water operated sump pump, the operating valves should be inspected periodically. They sometimes stick open and water consumption goes unnoticed, causing an extremely high water/sewer bill. Property owners may want to install an alarm system to warn of any malfunctions that occur.
- There are several causes for sus-

pected sewer backups. If the water is clear, check the sump pump to make sure it is operating. If the water is not clear, it is possible there is a blockage that needs to be addressed, either at the main or through the house-to-main connection.

### PARKS DEPARTMENT



During the winter months when the weather remains below freezing for an extended period of time, we make every effort to flood the basketball courts and provide an ice rink for open skating and hockey. We do ask that when the rink is initially flooded that it be allowed to cure before individuals go onto the ice.

We want to give a special thank you to Metro Bike Shop of Shelby Township, Michigan, for their generous donation of a bicycle repair station located at the river front park along our Hike and Bike Trail. We are grateful for their partnership.

### STREET DEPARTMENT

With the winter season right around the corner, the DPW asks that in the event of a major snowfall, residents park off the City streets to allow efficient snow removal by DPW personnel. It is the resident's responsibility to keep sidewalks clear and the clear a 5 foot perimeter around any fire hydrants near your property. Please note, depositing snow in any roadway is not permissible by law.

Please be aware that any material i.e. rocks, gardening, etc. placed along the edge of the road can become damaged or become a danger to street cleaning equipment, its operator, other vehicles/equipment and/or any

bystanders. The City is not responsible for any damage sustained to these items as, at times, it is necessary to use the easement to help clear streets.

### STREETLIGHT MAINTENANCE

The City of Utica has been working with Detroit Edison's Community Lighting group to expedite the repair and maintenance of the streetlights in our community. In the event of a streetlight outage, please call the DPW at (586)731-6110 with the following information:

- A specific streetlight location i.e. nearest crossroads, nearby business, etc.
- Whether the pole is wooden or metal
- The streetlight pole number. For metal poles, that number is located at the base of the pole. For wood poles, it is located approximately 8 feet up the pole.
- Details about the outage i.e. light completely out, flickering, on during the day, broken bulb, etc.

### Help keep our rivers healthy year-round!

#### • WINTER

- Besides limiting the amount of salt you use to melt ice, start thinking about adding native plants to your yard this spring. Plants native to Michigan have deeper roots than turf grass, so they help absorb storm water and filter out pollutants.

#### • SPRING

- Along with adding natives to your landscape, take care of the lawn you already have by keeping your grass about three inches tall. Taller grass cools the soil, needs less water and shades out weed growth. It is also more insect and disease resistant!

#### • SUMMER

- Conserve water by using only what your lawn needs. By watering late in the afternoon, water will reach roots more easily and won't evaporate as quickly in the hot summer sun. Also make sure your sprinkler is watering your lawn — not your driveway or sidewalk!

#### • FALL

- Rather than bagging all of your leaves for disposal, try compost-

ing. Compost piles are easy to make, and you'll end up with rich, earthy fertilizer for your lawn and garden

**Winter brings with it** lots of fun activities, like sledding, ice skating and skiing. But winter also means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often make the job easier by applying deicers like salt. Besides sodium chloride, many deicers also contain chemicals like cyanide. When ice melts, the salts and chemicals dissolve and are plowed into street drains that lead directly to the river, endangering aquatic life. Here are a few tips to reduce salt use and prevent pollution year-round. The most important step is to physically remove as much ice as possible before applying salt.

1. Use a shovel to break up the ice before you add another layer of salt to your sidewalk. Adding more salt without removing what has melted can result in over-application, meaning more salt and chemicals end up in the river.

2. You can also reduce salt use by limiting access to your home to one entrance. For every doorway that is not used, there will be less salt running into the catch basin in your street.

### **Help prevent storm water pollution this winter!**

*Below are some approaches to reducing storm water pollution from household salt:*

#### **1. Try an Alternative**

• Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) was developed as a deicing alternative because it has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn't cause erosion.

#### **2. Reduce your salt use.**

• By limiting the amount of salt we use on sidewalks and driveways, we can reduce the amount of polluted storm water washing into our waterways.

#### **3. Use De-icing Products Based On Winter Conditions**

• Before applying a deicer to your sidewalk, think about the air temperature, potential for sun exposure, and how much product you'll need. Remember to follow label

directions carefully and use products sparingly. It's easy to over apply deicers, but applying more than you need won't melt your ice any faster.

• For Dry, Powdery Snow: Shovel or sweep snow immediately to avoid using deicer.

• For Wet, Heavy Snow: Apply deicer product as soon as snow begins falling in order to prevent it from bonding.

• For Sleet & Freezing Rain: Apply deicer product early on during these conditions to prevent ice from building up.

• For Significant Snowfall: When more than 2 inches of snow falls, plow or shovel first and then use a deicing product to melt any underlying layers of ice that have built up due to packed down snow.



### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

It's time to get ready for the colder weather. Time to test all your smoke detectors. Time to double check shovels and snow blowers. Also, it is time to take a good look at the trees on your property for limbs that could cause trouble on buildings by rubbing or falling with the extra weight from the snow and ice.

#### **To answer a few frequently asked questions:**

➤ Fire pits are not allowed within the City limits unless they are within barbecues, manufactured fireplaces and manufactured above-ground fire pits

➤ One recreational vehicle/boat/trailer may be stored within their property provided they are in operable condition, are not occupied and are not kept within 20 feet of the closest edge of any neighboring road surface.

➤ There is no parking on grassy areas, including residential areas.

➤ All property owners are responsible for maintaining their properties including keeping yards and landscaping maintained per ordi-

nance.

➤ Shed and deck construction require a permit.

➤ An inspection is required for occupancy of foreclosed upon homes.

➤ Permit applications and many other forms are available online at [www.cityofutica.org](http://www.cityofutica.org). Go to "Departments" Tab and click on "Building".

Remember it is your job to keep driveways and sidewalks clear in front of your residential and commercial areas from obstructions, snow, ice, etc. This includes fire hydrants, also. If you have any questions regarding your maintenance responsibilities, you can consult the city website at [www.cityofutica.org](http://www.cityofutica.org) or the following web site: <https://law.resource.org/pub/us/code/ibr/icc.ipmc.2012.html>.

Please be sure each building is clearly marked with a street address to assist emergency personnel, in case there is that need.

Remember when having any work done on heating, ventilation, plumbing and/or electrical systems to have a licensed contractor perform the work. Make sure the contractor obtains a permit and the necessary inspections are completed. Anything other than a small repair would likely need a permit. When in doubt call the Building Department at (586) 739-1600. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Building Department would like to remind all the landlords that a license is required bi-annually with inspections. The landlords that have not yet set up their inspections or have not fixed the violations from an inspection, please get this done as soon as possible to avoid any penalties.

Business registration applications are due December 31, 2016 for every business. When a new business moves into the City, there is a process that must be followed through City Hall.

Hope everyone has a very good winter and safe holidays.



## TREASURER

### 2016 Levy and Tax Due Dates

The 2016 Summer tax was levied on July 1, 2016 and was due on August 31, 2016. Unpaid balances accrue interest at the rate of one per cent (1%) per month, calculated on the first day of each month.

The 2016 Winter tax will be levied on December 1, 2016 and will be due on Monday, February 28, 2017.

All taxes unpaid at the close of business on February 28, 2017 will become payable to the Macomb County Treasurer with late payment fees and interest.

### Partial Payments

The City of Utica accepts partial payments of tax bills; you do not have to wait until you have the full amount of your bill before making a payment.

### Internet Services

Assessing, building, and tax information, as well as current balances of water & sewer accounts, is available via the internet. This information can be found by selecting a link on the City's website, [www.cityofutica.org](http://www.cityofutica.org). The links can be found on the corresponding department pages or by clicking on the "ONLINE PAYMENTS" button found on the Homepage.

Taxes and water & sewer bills may be paid with a credit or debit card, either at City Hall or online via the City's website. The fee for this service is the greater of \$2.00 or 3% of the bill payment.

### Payments by Mail

When sending payments by mail to the City of Utica, please remember the following items:

Enclose the remittance stub with your check;  
Write the tax parcel number or water bill account number on your check;  
Mail the payment with ample time for the postal service to deliver it by the due date.

Tax payments with a postmark on or before the due date will be credited as paid on time if received within seven days of the due date. Water bill payments must be received on or before the due date to be considered as paid on time.

### On-line Banking

When using on-line banking services to issue a payment to the City of Utica, please remember to update the remittance information to correctly identify the tax parcel or water & sewer account to be credited. Order the payment with ample time for the bank to process the payment and the postal service to deliver it by the due date.

### Drop Box

There is a mail slot in the wall, to the left of the doors to the Administration Offices, where payments by check can be deposited when the office is closed. Please do not deposit cash payments in the drop box.

### Budget Constraints

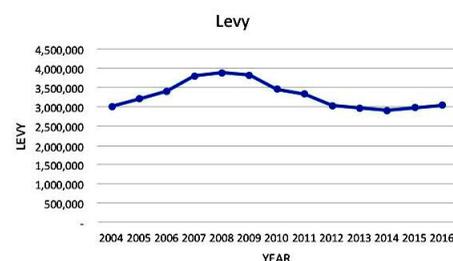
The rebound of property values is not translating into a corresponding rebound of property tax revenues for the City of Utica's General Fund and Public Library Fund. The decline of property values in the City of Utica halted in 2014. In the two years since, the total taxable value has increased 6.1%, but the tax levies for the General Fund have risen only 4.5%. Two factors attribute to the slower rebound in tax

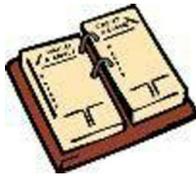
levies; Proposal A and the Headley Roll Back Provision.

Proposal A refers to the constitutional amendment passed in the 1990's which limits the growth of individual property taxable values year over year to the lesser of the CPI (inflation) or 5%, unless there is a change of ownership or additions to or demolition of the property. The Headley Roll Back Provision refers to a constitutional amendment which requires millage rates to be reduced when the total taxable value of a taxing authority, when adjusted for additions and deletions, increases year over year at a rate greater than inflation.

For the 2016 Tax Year, which funds the 2017 Fiscal Year, the City was required to reduce the millage rates for the General Operating, Public Safety and Public Library millages. The millage rate reduction exceeded the increase in taxable values pursuant to Proposal A, resulting in a net reduction of property taxes levied against the properties subject to the Proposal A taxable value cap.

While the effects of Proposal A and the Headlee Roll Back Provision are beneficial to the property owner's wallet, they have a negative effect on the City's ability to provide the services which the residents desire and demand. Tax revenues represent approximately 60% of the General Fund expenditures, and about 65% of the General Fund revenues.





## Administration Office

Where did the summer go! The leaves are starting to turn their beautiful colors and it's time to get out and explore what the season has to offer. Apple picking, cider, the pumpkin patch, new trails and craft beverages are a few things this great State along with the City of Utica has to offer. As much as most of us do not want the nicer weather to end, autumn is upon us.

November 8, 2016 was the City Election. This ballot contained the office of Mayor and three Council members. The new officials take office beginning January 1, 2017. I would like to congratulate and welcome the new officials to the City as we look forward to working with all of you, as leaders of the City. A formal good-bye and giant thank you to Mayor Jacqueline K. Noonan (retiring 12-31-16) who transformed the City of Utica into the wonderful place it is today.

Be sure to visit the website, [www.cityofutica.org](http://www.cityofutica.org) for events, property information and much more!

The Assessor, Nancy Strehl, is in the office Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to answer any assessing related questions.

From all of us in the Administration Office to all of you have a safe and happy holiday season!

Members and friends meet in the Community Room at 7650 Greeley to promote friendship and leisure activities for persons 55 years of age or above who reside in the City of Utica and its surrounding communities.

**The Utica Pioneers' activities include:**

**PINOCHLE TOURNAMENTS** are held every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**GENERAL MEETING** is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. Specialty lunches follow each meeting and the monthly Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated. Bingo games are played after lunch.

**WE CARE** program provides monthly remembrances to the residents at the Regency Manor in Utica.

An information bulletin called **THE TRAILBLAZER** is published each month for the Utica Pioneer members.

**HOT NUTRITIOUS LUNCHES** are served Monday through Friday by the Macomb County Senior Citizens Nutrition Program at 11:30 a.m. for a cost-sharing of \$3. Come to socialize and help reduce your grocery shopping. Meals are pre-ordered a week in advance. Reserve your meal.

## THE CITY OF UTICA

MAYOR: Jacqueline K. Noonan

### COUNCIL:

Kenneth Sikora  
William Osladil  
Faith Terenzi  
Barb Montag  
Charles Cuddington  
Frank Czapski

Treasurer/Fin.Dir: Phil Paternoster  
City Clerk: Beth Ricketts  
Police Chief: Dave Faber  
Fire Chief: Kevin Wilseck  
DPW Superintendent: William Lang  
Library Director: Marsha Doege  
Assessor: Nancy Strehl

**New drop box for non-cash payments in foyer at City Hall.**

### New hours for City Hall:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Friday  
8:30am to 11:30 pm.

Voice mail available during closed hours. 586-739-1600

City Limits is a Publication of the City of Utica, produced twice a year. Articles are contributed by department heads and other interested individuals.

Editor is Jacqueline K. Noonan.



## The Utica Pioneers

The Utica Pioneers is Utica's Senior Organization that had its beginning on June 20, 1988.



There will be a Holiday Tree Lighting Sunday, December 4, at 6pm at the Utica Fire Station.