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A Message on Progress



January 2024 marked the first time in over a decade that our City government had to truly restart. It wasn't just a new administration, Utica needed to be relaunched. Armed with a fresh perspective and grounded modern vision of where the city needs to be decades

from now, I set my sights on weaving business development, professional management, and constituent interest into every aspect of how we deliver city services and develop new initiatives that will improve the health of our City.

First, however, we had to put back in order what goes on within the four walls of city hall. Walking in with long term vacancies pre-existing like budget director, head of engineering, and public safety commissioner, or the lack of a purchasing department, prior year's audits not being complete, no lead for the parks department, and only a single part-time planner working in urban and economic development, it was a tall task to start square over the first year. But we filled key required vacancies with the future in mind—bringing bright, committed individuals from our community to the table, assembling a new generation of leadership that can instill new ideas and policies to care for our city.

We also needed a change of mindset. What we inherited in real time was a one-track focus purposed on how to spend \$60 million as quickly as possible—at all costs. This left us with depleted funds, unfinished and underfunded projects, and fiscal and material assets deprioritized to the point of severe deficit. We had to slam on the brakes and say out loud, for example, “why build new things when what we currently own is crumbling around us?” Walking in as a new Administration it was clear that all the good people left working were tasked with doing everything and nothing all at once. So, began a reset.

Our leadership in 2024 began with the following principles and policies.

- **Rebuild city government through competent leadership,** efficient systems, and accountability to the needs of the people that live and thrive here.
- **Addressing long-neglected infrastructure projects** to ensure safe, reliable roads, utilities, and public facilities.
- **Prioritizing neighborhood condition and pride** through improved sanitation, maintenance, and beautification efforts.
- **Partner with and promote local businesses** to encourage investment, growth, and job creation.

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- **Instill new vision in planning and business development** to cultivate a sustainable, realistic path towards new growth.
- **Raise youth support and engagement to new heights**, expanding programs and opportunities that invest in the next generation.
- Put **fiscal stewardship and long-term stability** at the center of decision-making and planning.
- Place Utica at the **forefront of advocacy** for support through state and federal government for everything including the “boring” topics like AIM and CHIPs funding needed to put less pressure on our property taxes
- Institute a pro-active land assessment and site preparation mindset to **provide new opportunity for business development**.

As of now we’ve made major progress. We’ve established a professional, accountable team. Internal systems have been restructured, making City operations more efficient and transparent. Neighborhood meetings and constituent priorities are shaping decisions, creating clear connections between City Hall and the people it serves. Interdepartmental coordination has become the standard, breaking down silos to improve objectives and workflows, and new initiatives in planning, infrastructure, and youth programs are building momentum for long-term progress that we can see.

Investing in the Next Generation



Engaging our youth is one of the most critical investments a city can make. Our administration has prioritized youth services with a commitment to equity, empowerment, and opportunity ensuring that young people from every neighborhood have access to recreation, support systems, and pathways to success.

Whether it’s through after-school programming, seasonal employment, or revitalized public spaces, we will never stop figuring out new ways to meet youth where they are and provide the resources they need to thrive. We’re proud of the steps taken so far and remain committed to growing these efforts.

This city report is a snapshot, fit within a few short pages, for residents and business owners to see what we’ve accomplished, what we are prioritizing, and where we are headed – with the anticipation that this format becomes a new standard, published online, and delivered directly into the hands of Uticans for years to come.

– Mayor Galime



Mayor Galime and the community celebrate the grand opening of Utica’s Harbor Point, Mayor explains to the crowd that the new space will be “a catalyst for business development and future investment.” Photo Credit: Nancy L. Ford.

Highlights of our Youth Services & Recreation Initiatives:

- Created and expanded citywide after-school programs.
- Prioritized youth hiring at city facilities, including the ice rink and recreation center.
- Reduced barriers for not-for-profit and youth organizations to permit fields.
- Reactivated O’Connor Park, with a focus on serving the Karen community.
- Supported several youth programs and organizations committed to youth development.
- Launched the Cornhill Impact Center, the first of several Empowerment Centers.
- Hosted several interns at City Hall across departments, fostering civic engagement and professional development.
- Through our advocacy, the Utica City School district extended after school programming.



City of Utica in the News!

Stay up to date on what is happening in your city. Scan the QR Code to read recent news stories.

Neighborhoods and Quality of Life

Utica is bigger than Genesee Street. For too long, too many of our neighborhoods were overlooked, left behind in conversations about growth and redevelopment. That’s why under the leadership of Mayor Michael P. Galime, the City of Utica has made neighborhood revitalization a top priority—ensuring that every area of our city receives the attention, services, and support it deserves.

We are focused on citywide redevelopment, while also putting emphasis on the unique needs of each neighborhood. Our approach has been strategic, hands-on, and grounded in the belief that every Utican, no matter their ZIP code, deserves safe streets, clean surroundings, and a pathway to success in the place they call home.

Key accomplishments include:

- Drove coordination and responsiveness to housing code violations.
- Created revitalization efforts to strengthen outreach to developers through neighborhood development assessments.
- Initiation of the Oriskany Street Corridor strategy, combining code enforcement, residential improvements, and property marketing to uplift our western gateway district—Oriskany Street.
- Commitment to our neighborhood parks.

This marks real progress in revitalizing Utica’s neighborhoods—block by block, street by street. The work is far from done, but the results are clear: Utica is building stronger, safer, and more vibrant communities across the city.

Restructuring CDBG to Go Further for Our Community

The City of Utica is uplifting our entrepreneurs, empowering underserved communities, and redefining how local government can drive inclusive economic growth.

Under the leadership of the Mayor, the City has made a strong commitment to championing Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs). Through a revitalized approach to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Utica is ensuring that public funding goes further than ever before, directly supporting those who are building the city’s future from the ground up.

“Small businesses are the backbone of any thriving community, including Utica,” said Mayor Galime. “Given the diversity of our city, I have long felt it was important to offer financial assistance to entrepreneurs. This initiative ensures that our CDBG dollars are going directly to where they can have the greatest impact—on the ground, in our neighborhoods, and in the hands of our city’s future leaders.”

particularly those who have historically been underserved. Through inclusive investment, community-focused leadership, and a commitment to equity, the City of Utica is not just administering grants, it’s building a stronger, more resilient, and more just future for all.

The administration is committed to investing in businesses and will continue to find funding streams to help bridge the gaps for businesses beyond MWBE designation.

In addition to support for MWBEs, the City of Utica has taken a hard look at how CDBG funds are allocated across all priorities. As a result, major reinvestments have been made in infrastructure improvements and youth programming ensuring that critical streets are repaired, parks and public spaces are revitalized, and young people have meaningful opportunities for engagement, development, and employment.

This restructured strategy represents a deliberate shift in how the city deploys federal resources. Rather than simply meeting minimum requirements, Utica is proactively using its funding to deliver transformational change in the lives of residents,



Congratulations to our 2025 MWBE Microenterprise Grant Recipients:
Javon Pratt (Rooster’s), Chenda Phou (The Lotus Garden), Elvia Alvarez (Harding Place Family Daycare), Marissa Fiorentino (The Blue Pearl Sales), Ya Za Lay (Tint Goat), Iriele Chery (Birthing and Beginnings Doula Services), Dr. Julia Jaikin (Central New York Spine and Rehab), Rijah Judah (Utica Caribbean Market Simmer), Alisha Porter (A-List Beauty Supply & Salon), Francesca Orsomarso (FMN Creative), Desrey King (Reset Grab and Go), Alexandra Nicolette (Bloom Nutrition Solutions)

Addressing The Unhoused Epidemic

The City of Utica is taking decisive action to address the unhoused, drug addiction, and the lack of mental health support in our community.

We will not stand by while our city is destroyed. In the photos below, you can see the before-and-after results of two encampment cleanups. This is just a small example of a problem we are continuously facing and solving.

Before every cleanup, we ensure coordination with municipal and private partners to identify individuals living in encampments and connect them with housing, treatment, and support services. Once a location is determined to pose a health, safety, or community-wellness risk, we set a cleanup date and provide notice to outreach teams so they can work with those on site.

In addition, we are:

- Conducting regular citywide cleanups to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean.
- Installing new trash receptacles in targeted areas to reduce litter.
- Enforcing nuisance abatement laws and bringing negligent landlords to Supreme Court to hold them accountable for unsafe and neglected properties.
- Securing additional mental health services by working with the county and state partners to bring more providers into Utica.

If you see encampments or activity like what is shown in the photos, please contact our office directly. Our Administration is committed to cleaning up our city, addressing homelessness with compassion, and making every neighborhood safer and healthier.

We need everyone to contribute to this by being diligent and not supporting the problem through giving to panhandlers.



Our City Moving Forward

With a new foundation staged for lasting change we are focusing on governance, infrastructure, business, and community engagement. We are positioning our city as a hub for sustainable growth in our region. The path forward is clear: maintain momentum, keep listening, and ensure that every decision contributes to the health, strength, and future of our city.

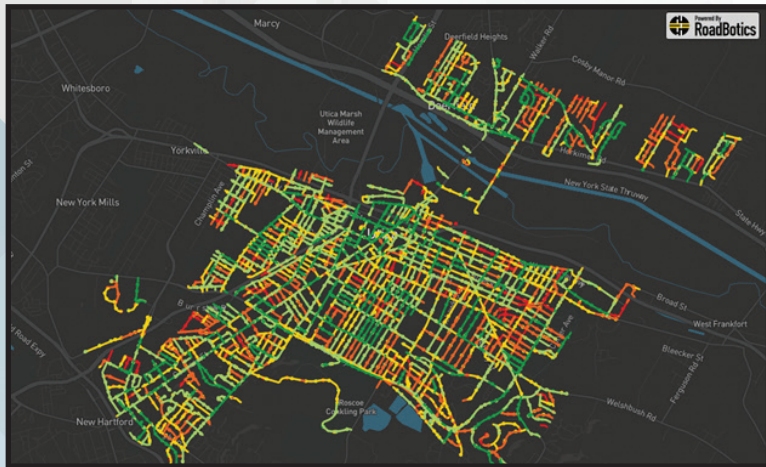
This administration has one unified goal, to take care of our city. With our shoulders against every problem imaginable, our hope is that the content of this report leaves you with a sense that Utica's municipal government is putting genuine thought into how we prioritize our actions, that our city has a defined direction across every aspect of our lives which local government interacts with, and that we want to act as a catalyst for us to thrive together. Thank you for living, working, and investing in Utica.

A New Course for Road Repair and Maintenance

We understand and share the frustration of our roads with the community, but now demonstrate that we have put a workable plan in place.

The City of Utica has launched a citywide paving initiative designed to address deteriorating roads while ensuring long-term quality and durability of Utica's infrastructure. Through multiple contracts targeting both immediate repairs and preventative maintenance, the city reaffirms its commitment to high standards in roadway construction and public service. Our engineering planning and management is focused on making lasting improvements.

“Changing how we maintain our road infrastructure is part of the Administration’s active work,” said Mayor Galime. “Step one was last year’s paving assessment (paveutica.com). This year, we’re using that objective data to implement a new program that completely rethinks how we maintain our streets—from potholes to full reconstruction.”



What's Different This Year?

- **Pothole Repair Program:** For the first time in over a decade, Utica's Department of Public Works is equipped with a hot box and roller, enabling in-house crews to make longer-lasting pothole repairs.
- **Shaw Street Full Reconstruction:** A road that has long symbolized infrastructure neglect is now being fully reconstructed.
- **Micro-Paving for Preventative Maintenance:** At a fraction of the cost of mill-and-fill, this method extends road life up to 10 years, offering a high-value, high-impact solution to surface wear caused by weather and utility cuts.
- **Roadway Repairs Program:** Following a post-winter road review, targeted large-scale repairs are underway. This includes sinkholes and detachment areas, with a focus on long-term fixes that prevent repeated failures.
- **Mill & Fill Projects:** Mill-and-fill treatments are now reserved for the worst-rated roads.
- **Ongoing Road Assessment:** Utica now conducts bi-annual road assessments using advanced RoadBotics technology by Michelin. Full results are transparent and publicly available at PaveUtica.com, ensuring every decision is based on real data—not guesswork.

A System, Not Just a Fix

Mayor Galime emphasizes that this isn't just a one-year effort—it's the beginning of a long-term, evolving system. “We're creating a new standard for ourselves, our contractors, and the city. This is about more than fixing roads. It's about making infrastructure improvements work the way it should—for years to come.”

Essential Services We Can't Live Without

A strong commitment to public safety starts by supporting the dedicated individuals who provide these critical services—our police officers, firefighters, codes personnel, and DPW emergency response crews. Under Mayor Galime's leadership, the City of Utica has prioritized investments in the tools, training, and infrastructure that empower these frontline teams to serve with excellence.

Key actions taken:

Investing in ShotSpotter technology to detect and respond to gun violence faster and more effectively.

Expanding professional training opportunities to ensure our public safety personnel remain prepared and protected in rapidly evolving environments.

Participating in trust-building initiatives that strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, promoting transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility.

From keeping our neighborhoods safe to maintaining clean streets and emergency readiness, public safety is the foundation of a prosperous Utica. The administration remains fully committed to ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of all residents—because everyone deserves to feel safe where they live, work, and raise a family.



City of Utica Mayor's Office
1 Kennedy Plaza
Utica, NY 13502



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City of Utica Contact Directory

Animal Control: (315) 725-5613 or (315) 266-8181

Responsible for domestic animal issues, including stray and dangerous dogs. For emergencies, call 911.

City Clerk's Office: (315) 792-0113

Provides death, birth, and marriage certificates; park permits; dog licenses; and FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) requests.

Civil Service Office: (315) 792-0225

Information on current job openings and civil service exam schedules.

Codes Department: (315) 792-0163

Contact for code enforcement, building permits and inspections, and related concerns.

Comptroller's Office: (315) 792-0133

For inquiries related to city taxes and financial matters.

Department of Public Works (DPW): (315) 738-1341

For concerns related to potholes, sewer issues, green waste collection, snowplowing, street lighting, and removal of deceased wild animals.

Engineering Department: (315) 792-0152

For inquiries about paving, street projects, and the sidewalk reimbursement program.

Mohawk Valley Water Authority: (315) 792-0301

All water board related inquires.

Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste: (315) 731-0238

For inquiries related to trash pickup, blue bags and recyclables.

Parks Department: (315) 738-0172

Handles tree removal, lawn mowing (City owned property), and general maintenance of city parks.