
Notes, Newtown Nonprofit Council February 15, 2021

The Nonprofit Council met to share information. Please consider reaching out to these groups to foster connections, cross pollinate events, and continue to make Newtown even happier. Today's VIP attendee was [John Voket](#) of the [Newtown Bee](#).

Selectman Maureen Crick-Owen reported that the [Board of Selectmen](#) has begun work on a suicide prevention initiative focused on teens and children. Similar to the [Talk Saves Lives](#) effort of Fall, 2020, the program will offer a speaker series and related materials.

Maureen also reported that the [American Legion Post 202](#) will be repeating the [Taps Along the Housatonic River](#) program on May 31st, 2021 and that veterans, scouts, videographers and photographers are needed for assisting the effort. Contact Donna Monteleone Randle for information.

Patrice Gans of [Random Hacks of Kindness Jr.](#) shared generally about the organization, that it is free to all and matches coding mentors with children in grades 4 to 8 to show the power of coding. Patrice also does Girls Who Code Clubs and other virtual coding clubs. Patrice has a [hack coming up on Saturday, 2/20](#) called [Hacking for Black History Month](#).

Katherine Simpson reported that the [Newtown Lions](#) are doing a food drive in March at the Newtown Senior Center in addition to the ongoing [Playground Project](#) at Treadwell Park. The Lions are also planning for a diabetes prevention project and have applied for permissions to hold the 2021 Duck Race on September 4. Playground flyer is [here](#).

Di Bartlett-Masters shared that [Kevin's Community Center](#) is continuing to ramp up for reopening and providing community health programs.

Glen River of the [River Art Museum](#), while focused on Fairfield County, recently coordinated saving the collections of an artist located in Florida.

Alex Villamil reported on the [Newtown Rotary](#) which is still meeting bi-weekly. Assisting with the meals at the [Dorothy Day House](#) in Danbury was successful – [160 meals were served](#). Alex also reported that there is an upcoming climate change program on 4/12 with a WCSU professor and that winter raffle tickets for an April drawing are \$20.

John Boccuzzi reported on [Friends of Newtown Seniors](#) which is holding a [coffee fundraiser](#) through [BD Provisions](#) to boost options for safe transportation for specialized populations that can add to the Senior Center's van service. FONS is looking into applying for a grant through the [WCAAA](#). FONS is also working on continuing its popular volunteer chore service. Coffee flyer [here](#).

Douglas Lord mentioned that the [C.H. Booth Library](#) has hired a new assistant director to start at the end of March which will improve the ability of the library to be a responsive, turned-outward institution, that capital improvements are still going strong including an improved driveway, an HVAC rehabilitation project, and a program of education about facets of equity, diversity, and inclusion that applies to the whole community. The next program is Wednesday, 2/17 on [informal work](#) and its role in the economy.

A committee of the Nonprofit Council is actively working on options that the group can use to create a robust directory of nonprofit agencies serving Newtown, combined with a volunteer clearinghouse, combined with a high profile calendar of events.

At the next meeting, scheduled for March 15th at 10:00AM, we will share news and discuss an aspect of best practices (e.g., social media, recruitment of volunteers, finding money, etc.). Stay tuned for the topic!

Get out there and build bridges, non-profits!

