



Newtown Lions Club

"We Serve"

Newtown,
CT
Est. 1949

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023

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LIONS FALL CALENDAR

Sept 4 - Labor Day parade/party
 Sept. 13 - First Dinner Meeting
 Sept 14 - Blood Drive Sept.
 Sept 20 - Board meeting
 Sept 23 to 24 - Newtown Arts Festival
 Sept 27 - Dinner Meeting
 Oct 7 - Orchard Hill Cleanup
 Oct 11 - Dinner Meeting
 Oct 18 - Board meeting
 Oct 21 - Car raffle drawing
 Oct 21 - Health fair(tentative)
 Oct 25 - Dinner Meeting
 Oct 28 - Model train show
 Nov 8 - Dinner Meeting
 Nov 15 - Board Meeting
 Dec 8 - Blood Drive

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Major kudos to Paula Hope-well and Bruce Walczak for an outstanding effort at the Milford Oyster Fest, they sold all 300 tickets they had. Just the type of effort needed to get back on track with the Mustang raffle sales.



The Country club has a new chef so we will be able to continue meeting there but he requires more notice of the number of attendees, so our meeting notices will be going out earlier with a quick response needed.

Our first meeting, Sept. 13th, will be club picture day. We will have no speaker scheduled so we can hear from the car committee, Stuff a truck, Model train show, vision screening, Membership, and Newtown Arts Festival.

Our second meeting, Sept. 27th, we will have Rick Zappone visiting, he is our new District Governor, and we will hear from the refugee resettlement folks about some possible new families in the area.

In addition to all the activity already noted we have the Labor Day parade, and I am hoping for a good turnout by the club and Leo's. Bruce Walczak has graciously agreed to hold a pizza party after the parade. Bring your family to the parade and party. You do not need to march to attend the party.

Steve has sent out the sign up genius for the Parade.

We are also holding a Blood Drive, so we are very active with lots of productive and fun activities for the fall.

President's Message Continued on page 2.

President's Message Continued

I have been asked to remind the members that the board meeting is open to all members. Please email me if you plan to attend.

Please bring your car raffle ticket to our meetings in September. Also note that we will be selling David Merrill prints at the art show. He will be signing books and prints from 1 to 3 both days.

I have saved the best news for last. Through our fund-raising efforts, we were able to send \$1000 to the Lions club on Maui. Thank you for all your efforts.

Proud to be a Lion,

Andrew Iorio

The following article was written by Neil Randle and Frank Gardner. It was published in the Danbury News Times. We think it is worth everyone's time to read.

It's Here! It's Now! It's a Disaster!

Call it "Global Warming," call it "Climate Change," call it what you like... We are experiencing a number of unprecedented events, the likes of which this planet has never seen.

It's easy to become overwhelmed, to believe that it's "Fake News," weaponized by Politicians on both sides of the aisle, to think that it's someone else's problem to solve. After all, what can we do to reverse the catastrophic melting of ice sheets in Greenland or the Antarctic... and what does it matter, anyway? We live approximately 400-800 feet above sea level. Yes, but 600 million people worldwide live on the coast, within 30 feet of current levels. Think Manhattan, Long Island and Florida.

Wildfires happen. Yes, but not at such a record pace and not to the extent that we are advised to stay indoors due to extreme air quality issues. Consider the on-going tragedy and fatalities in Hawaii... And yes, we have experienced brushfires in our area this year.

Water scarcity: 771 million people lack access to clean, fresh water. That's 1 in 10 people on the planet. It's not simply a water problem. It's about access to the right water...

What can we, in Fairfield County, do about that? Maybe support the companies that are already taking steps to improve matters?

There are many reputable sources of information you can research to better-understand different aspects of the problem. Experts know the facts and have articulated them well. Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth," Thomas Friedman's "Hot, Flat and Crowded," John Grisham's "Grey Mountain" to name a few. You don't need to read the statistics, just look at the pictures!

Here are just three themes:

Coal: Why is it an issue? Where and how is it used? What are the alternatives?

Greenhouse Gases: What are they? Where do they come from? How do they affect the climate? What can we do to mitigate their effects?

Deforestation: Where and why does it happen? How fast is it happening? How long will it take to repair the damage already done.

Once you have the information, you can start making connections. Then you can begin to think about actions you might want to take.

For instance:

Cars are a major purchase item. It takes a lot of thought before making a decision on what make of car/model to buy.

We're not asking you to exclude your existing preferences. Buy the car you want. Of course you should. What we are suggesting is that you consider including environmental impact in your decision... EVs and Hybrid technology are moving at breath-taking speed.

The infrastructure these vehicles need e.g., charging stations is catching up fast. They may be more expensive than their internal combustion counterparts today, but there is a payback period, and it may not be as long as you think. It's worth checking out. If you are not ready for that big a jump, consider downsizing.

Cheaper to buy and cheaper to insure. A Honda Pilot gets 20 mpg in town, a CRV 28mpg. That's a 40% improvement in mileage. Good for your wallet and good for the environment... just as reliable and easier to park!

Continued on page 3.

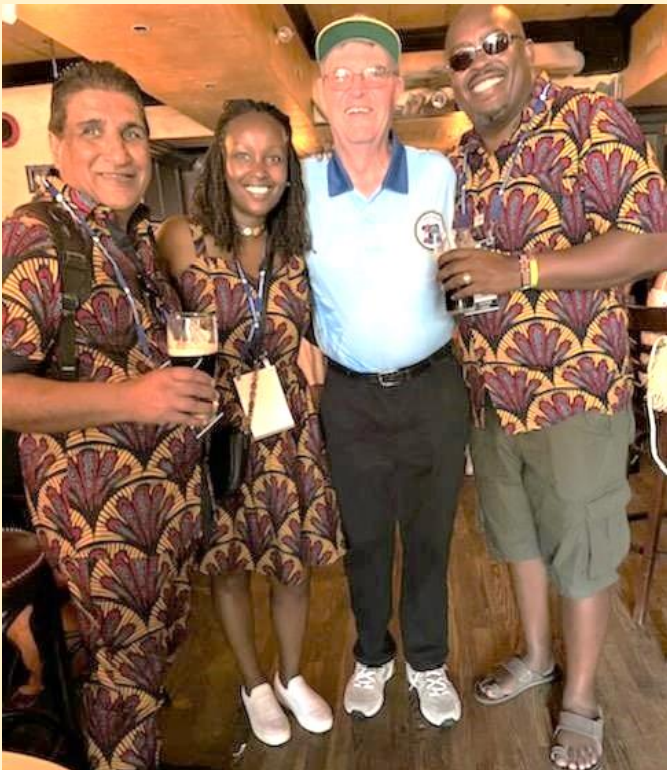
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The average American spends 8 minutes in a **shower** (someone actually calculated that!). Standard shower heads use 2.5 gallons per minute... so 20 gallons per shower. That means an average family could save almost 3000 gallons of water per year, just by installing a 2 gallon per minute shower head. Same shower experience... less environmental impact. Take it a step further. Spend 6 minutes in the shower instead of 8... Or 8 instead of 10 and save 20-25% of your water volume used. Remember, it's not just the cost of heating the water, it's the cost of getting the water to your home and treating the wastewater. All impact your pocket-book and of course the environment.

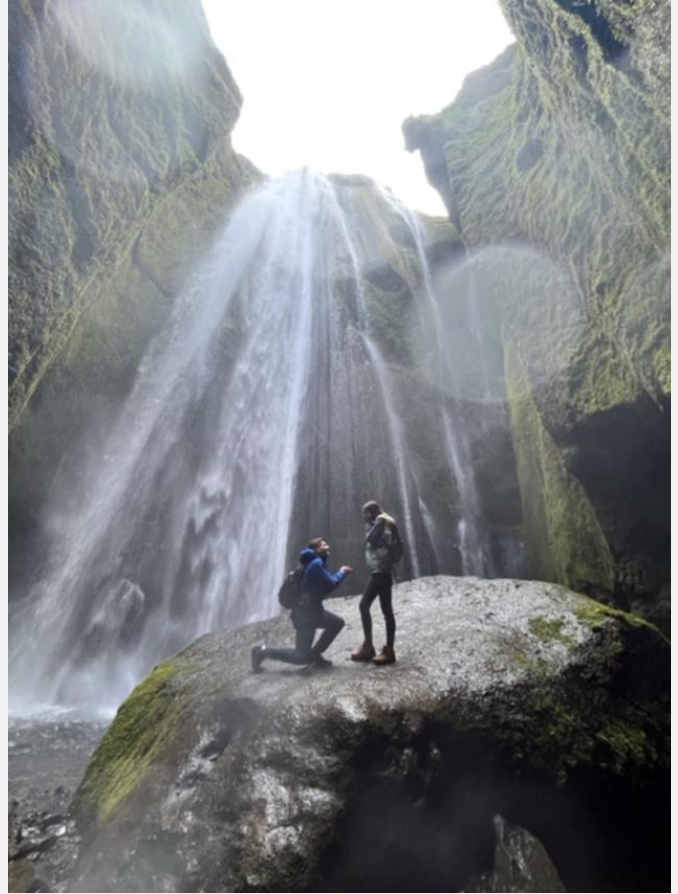
These are just a few examples of what we can do, starting today, without any significant negative impact on our lifestyle. Who doesn't want to save money... and help save the planet? **It's Up To You. Do It For Your Grandchildren!**

Neil Randle & Frank Gardner

KEVIN COREY HAD A GOOD TIME AT THE LIONS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN BOSTON THIS SUMMER



A ROMANTIC PROPOSAL



On 13 June 2023, Andrew proposed to Molly Arneith (Paul's granddaughter) while on vacation in Iceland. A friend took this amazing photo.

Molly grew up in Sandy Hook and graduated from Newtown High School. She then completed the six-year Physician Assistant program at Quinnipiac University and now works as a PA in surgery at a Brooklyn, N.Y. Hospital. Paul and Liz could not be prouder.

**THE OLDER YOU GET
THE MORE YOU APPRECIATE
BEING AT HOME DOING
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.**

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

By Steve Bennett



Lions Gordon, Jordon, Kevin, and Bruce rang for the Salvation Army's "Christmas in July" bell ringing this past Saturday, July 22nd.

The event achieved our goal of raising \$1,000 for Newtown's Human Services Department, thanks to generous donors and volunteer bell ringers.

Funds will support Newtown's Human Services Department's traditional fall "Back-to-School" purchase of school supplies that are put into backpacks as well as programs for our friends and neighbors in Newtown that need our assistance.

Our club makes annual donations to both the Newtown Salvation Army and Newtown's Human Services Department.

We also took the occasion to be with Jeff Capeci as he hopes to be the Republican

candidate for first selectman this fall. Jeff is a longtime ringer for the Newtown Salvation Army.

Photos are attached of the Lions, Jeff, and Natalie Jackson, manager of Newtown's Human Services Department and a member of the Newtown Salvation Army Committee.



Traveling to Newfoundland With Gary and Peggy Fillion



We're up in Newfoundland on the west coast on our way to where the Vikings landed on the very northern tip and decided to stay at an RV park in Port Au Choix and discovered that it's run by the Lions Club!

They have their own building like Berlin. and they run Bingo. They have dart leagues for men and women and rent it out for special occasions as it has a full kitchen and bar!

The campground is nothing more than sixteen spots side by side in a parking lot with no vegetation, but it faces the Western sky over the Bay of St Lawrence. Too bad the weather is so snotty!

I never saw anyone smiling while they were jogging. So, that's all I need to know about that!



JUST FOR LAUGHS

Imagine you're traveling and opening your passport at the airport and boom!!!....😱😱😱



I forgot my cat outside.
I am too scared to let him in now.



This may be my last post

Not to brag, but I just went into another room and actually remembered why I went there. . .

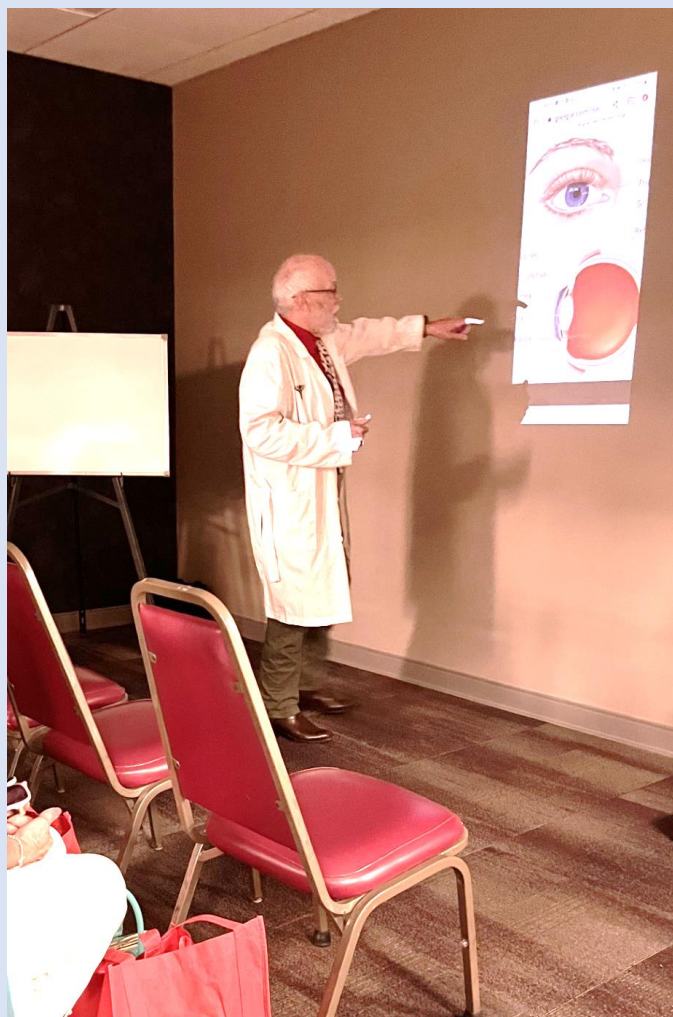
It was the bathroom - but still.

Two Newtown Lions at the Senior Center Open House and Expo

On Thursday, July 20, the Newtown Senior Center held an open house and Expo. Lions Dr. Joe Young and Bob Schmidt were there to share their knowledge and talents.

Joe gave a lecture to a standing room only crowd about what seniors need to know regarding eye care. He spoke about conditions such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, and what seniors can do to manage and treat these conditions. Joe offered a question-and-answer session at the end of his presentation.

To provide the open house with a festive atmosphere, Bob Schmidt and his wife, Josie performed as people entered the senior center. Their duo "Solid Gold Times Two" has played for several Newtown Senior Center parties.



Look out Josie, Joe may have replaced you in the band.



Once in a Blue Moon by Bob Schmidt

It was 12:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 31st and I was just about to go to bed. I noticed a lot of light outside and thought I might have left the driveway light on. Then I remembered it was the night of the blue moon. I picked up my phone, ran outside and took some photos. It was breathtaking. In case you missed it, you'll have to wait until 2035 for it to come again.

DOINGS OF THE PRIDE

Congratulations go to **Neal Randle and Frank Gardner**. They have been increasingly concerned about the environment and what is happening because of global warming. They decided to do something about it in a very special way. Together they penned an article which both the *The Newtown Bee* and *The News Times* published. What made the article so impressive is the number of suggestions they gave as to how each of us in our small way can address the problem. It was an excellent article, and they promise more. In addition, Neal's second novel is complete except for some revisions. This one takes place in South Africa and Nelson Mandela is a key player along with the engaging couple we met in his first book.

We tip our Lions hats to **Bruce Walczak** who is running for a board of education position on an independent ticket. We all know what a strong leader Bruce has shown himself to be in his work for the Lions Club. Several Lions wrote letters to *The Newtown Bee* commending him. We hope that other Lions will support him in this worthy effort. We know what a good job he would do on the board.

As you remember, **Jan Bennett** fell down the stairs and caused quite a bit of damage. Turned out she had a ruptured tendon in her leg which required surgery to attach it.. Although she still spends a lot of time in bed she also is walking with the aid of a walker. . . .Overall, she is definitely on the mend. **Gordon Mounts** while still not walking well has also made good progress. He has a part time aide and his wife, Betty, is very nurturing.

The travel bug hit some Lions this summer. Among the first to feel that urge were the **Fillions** who went to Newfoundland and stayed in an RV camp which they enjoyed. . **Kevin Corey** traveled to the Lions international convention in Boston this summer and had a wonderful time. He liked mingling with people from all over the world. In fact he liked it so much he felt that it was the best Lions event he had ever been to.

Bruce Hoag and his son, Nate had a real adventure this summer. After restoring it, Bruce took his high school car, a 1966 Mustang, on a 2,600-mile road trip. The trip took them to six race-tracks throughout the southeast starting in Atlanta. Bruce was able to run six laps on the Atlanta

Motor Speedway and drag race on the Zmax Dragway in North Carolina. He had several breakdowns on the road and other multiple issues and he didn't win any of the races, but the fact that after nine years running a fifteen second quarter mile and sharing the adventure with his son, it was a huge win!



Bruce, his son Nate, and his Classic Mustang



Some last-minute repairs and adjustments



Dash cam photo while Bruce is behind the wheel. Now that's exciting!

CAR COMMITTEE REPORT

by David Landau

Set loose on the Connecticut and New York countryside, our 2020 Mustang is selling tickets like a stallion. Cranking out 31- Horse Power with the top down and the shiny blue coat glowing, not even a thunderstorm or a rogue golf cart can slow it down. September is going to be a great month to take the car out. There are plenty of open events, like the Bethlehem Fair, Berlin Fair and Silverman's Orchard that you can sign up for. And don't forget about the Labor Day Parade! Please sell and turn in your personal tickets. Also please put October 21st at 1:00 P.M. on your calendar for the drawing at Edmond Town Hall.

This is our club's largest fundraising event, and we appreciate all our members getting involved. Also, please "like" and "share" on the Lion's Facebook Page. !

Thank you from the Car Committee !

NEW Movie Review of "Oppenheimer" by Gary Fillion

Peggy and I decided to go to the movies on a very rainy Monday to catch "Oppenheimer". It was quite a revealing movie showing us the behind-the-scenes discord surrounding the development of the A bomb.

Oppenheimer was at the time the most brilliant scientist, physicist who even outdistanced Einstein! He was a stoic, dedicated, visionary man who saw the promise of breaking the atom but also the devastation it could cause if misused. He pushed for cooperation and total disarmament to prevent world destruction.

As much as a hero that he was ending WWII with the most powerful bomb ever devised, he was later branded as a communist sympathizer, blamed for the leaks that enabled Russia to develop their own A bomb. He was a victim of the rampant McCarthyism prevalent at the time. This great man didn't deserve this. I definitely recommend this movie!

THE LABOR DAY PARADE ON SEPTEMBER 4th



Arnie and Joe leading the Lions.



A Wow Moment

While walking in the parade Dave Landau, took a minute to take this beautiful photo of the Magnificent Mustang and our summer flag.



Dick, with Bruce, and Steve not far behind.



Bob and Dave took turns pulling "Lucky Duck."



Oscar and Jordan carry the Model Train Show banner.



Ed and Dave stop to take a breath on a very hot, hot day.

Before the race



Bruce, Senator Blumenthal, Arnie, and Jordan.



Oscar, Paula, Walt and Dick

Afterwards many of us went to Bruce's house to eat, drink, and watch the rest of the parade go by. A great time was had by all.