

**NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, November 20, 2023**  
**Newtown Senior Center**  
**8 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470**  
**Called to order at 4:00pm**

*THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING*

**Present:** Bill Darrin, Anne Rothstein, Claire Theune, Barbara Bloom, Judit DeSefano, Stephen Riccitelli, Micheal Stearn, LeReine Frampton (4:20)

**Absent:** Lia Levitte, Ziao Han, Patricia Bailey, Tricia Gogliettino, Micheal Stern

**Also Present:** Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, Senior Center Care Navigator/Social Worker Alexa Griffin, Director of Nunnawauk Meadows Mary Salley, and one member of the press

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** C. Theune moved to approve the minutes of the 10/16/23 meeting, B. Darrin seconded, all in favor.

**Director of Human Services:** Natalie Jackson reviewed her report (att.)

**Treasurer's Report:** Anne Rothstein reviewed the treasurer's report (att.). B. Darrin moved to approve the treasurer's report, B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Survey distributed via Newtown Neighbors Unite to assess interest in UR Community Cares –*  
J. DeStefano explained that Facebook doesn't seem to have their own survey, so she created the survey (att.) in Survey Monkey. There is a concern that when you have to click through you lose a lot of people. J. DeStefano will collaborate with M. Stern to streamline the opening statement to make it shorter with bullet points.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Short term and long-term goals to be set relative to programming, UR Cares and transportation*  
– Not discussed

L. Frampton moved to add the 2024 meeting schedule to the agenda, B. Darren seconded, all in favor.

L. Frampton moved to approve the 2024 meeting schedule as amended. B. Darren seconded, all in favor.

**Members Comments:** At the December meeting there will be a vote for officers. C. Theune and L. Frampton will be on the nominating committee.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachment: Report from Director of Human Services, Treasurer's report, Survey, 2024 meeting schedule



## Department of Human Services

*Supporting a high quality of life for the Newtown community through services, programs and information that promote mental, physical and social well-being.*

### Commission on Aging Report: November 20, 2023

Hello Members of the COA,

At today's meeting I am thrilled to be introducing you to our new Care Navigator/Social Worker, Alexa Griffin. While Alexa's office is located in our 28 Trades Lane location, she has attended multiple events at our Senior Center to begin to get to know our residents in the senior community who may not be directly connected to our social service programs out of 28 Trades. Alexa comes to us from Family Centers in Stamford and is a newer resident to Newtown. She is eager to make an impact in her now hometown. Please join me in welcoming Alexa to Newtown and the Human Services team!

Holidays are a busy time in Human Services. This past Thursday 71 households received Thanksgiving baskets (consisting of the provisions for a turkey dinner and basic groceries to stock their kitchens). This effort is made possible through the Woman Involved in Newtown (WIIN), matching those in need (screened by DHS) with donors. Tomorrow two of our team members are hitting the road in the Senior Center bus to deliver multiple Thanksgiving meals through the FAITH food pantry to some of our homebound residents. As always following the completion of all holiday giving I will share the total number of residents who received assistance, also detailing the number of senior residents included.

In addition to food assistance deliveries this past Friday the Newtown Senior Center hosted our Thanksgiving Pre-game Dinner with 60 of our members. It was a great celebration to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday, with guests enjoying live piano music and a delicious meal.

As Thanksgiving celebrations come to a close we will be geared up for our December holidays. In partnership with the Newtown Fund over 90 households received holiday gifts and food last year. We are approaching the request deadline for this program and are expecting about the same number of households to receive assistance. A time for giving and for celebrating, we are then looking forward to hosting the holiday gathering at the Senior Center on December 15<sup>th</sup> with a special performance from a women's chorus.

Finally, I would like to share information brought to the Senior Center today by the Director of Emergency Communication, Maureen Will. Maureen came to educate our members about Code Red and Smart 911. Smart 911 was brought to Newtown in 2012. The information stored in the secure system provides first responders with vital medical information and details about the home setting when responding to an emergency. Despite its' being available for over 10 years, Maureen shared that only about 10% of seniors are enrolled. This service is paid for through a grant and is no cost to residents. I hope COA will help get this information out to the public and encourage community members to take advantage of it. It can save a life. (Please see attachments)

Best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Respectfully submitted,

*Natalie*

Natalie Jackson, LCSW  
Director, Newtown Human Services

# Protect what's important.



## Help 9-1-1, help you

Smart911 is a free national service provided to you by your local 9-1-1 agency. Create a Safety Profile for your household that includes the vital personal and medical information you would want response teams to have in the event of an emergency. Then if you dial 9-1-1, your profile is immediately available allowing call takers and first responders to assist you faster and more effectively.

Smart911 is a free service brought to you by the  
**Town of Newtown**

It is 100% Private and Secure.

**It could save your life, or the life of someone you love.**



**Smart911**  
Protecting Millions of Lives

Create Your Safety Profile

[www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)



[Facebook.com/Smart911](https://Facebook.com/Smart911)

[Twitter.com/smart911](https://Twitter.com/smart911)



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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

MAUREEN A. WILL  
Director  
Maureen.will@newtown-ct.gov

### What is CodeRED™?

CodeRED™ is the notification system that the Town of Newtown utilizes to inform our community in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts such as severe power outages due to storms – shelter openings or evacuation notices. This is a free service offered to the community by the Newtown Emergency Management team.

To create a CodeRED™ account, simply go onto the Town of Newtown webpage: <http://www.newtown-ct.gov/emergency-management>, click on the CodeRED tab on the left side of the page and you will be directed to the enrollment page. You may choose to create a managed account, which requires a user name and password (if you have a Google mail account/ Facebook page or Twitter account) you can log in with that information OR simply check the box marked NO, I would like to review and submit my information.

Simply fill out the form with your First and Last name – address and the phone numbers you wish to have the calls go to. If you have a TTD/TTY please make sure you check that box – if you want a text message to your phone you must know the carrier for the phone and message/data rates may apply. If you have any difficulties please contact either the Communications Director, Maureen Will @ 203.270.4296 or Nancy at the Fire Marshal's office, 203.270.4370 for assistance.

### What is Smart911™?

Smart911™ is a secured application that allows information that YOU have chosen to place into the system to be seen by the Telecommunicators at the Newtown Emergency Communications Center when you call 911 for emergencies. The dispatchers and the responders will know exactly what YOU want them to know. Key information about members of your home that would help responders in an event of an emergency.

Person's information such as photos to help officers should someone go missing, specific address information (color of home – access to residence) medical conditions and emergency contact information all located in one secure location, the only time it is accessed is when you call 911.

To access the Smart911™, simply go to <https://www.smart911.com> and select the sign up button and create your account. This free service is provided to you by the Newtown Emergency Communications Center. If you have any questions, please contact the Director, Maureen Will at 203.270.4296.

**People that were active between 10/13/2023 and 11/17/2023**

	Count	Percent
<b>Age Range as of 11/17/2023</b>	1	3.8%
Ages 60-64	3	11.5%
Ages 65-69	8	30.8%
Ages 70-74	5	19.2%
Ages 75-79	3	11.5%
Ages 80-84	3	11.5%
Ages Below 55	1	3.8%
Ages Over 85	2	7.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Curent Member</b>	
<b>Reident</b>	478
<b>Non Resident</b>	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>570</b>

# Event Occurrences from 10/13/2023 to 11/17/2023

Category	Event	# of Event Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated	
F - Class/Workshop				
	Art Class (Tuesday 10:00 AM)	5	10	25
	Knitting	5	5	22
	Sewing Crew	5	7.5	8
	Spanish Class (Thursday 10:30 AM)	5	5	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>57</b>
F - Health/Fitness				
	Broadway Burn (Friday 10:30 AM)	5	5	25
	Chair Pilates (Thursday 9:00 AM)	5	5	33
	Chair Yoga A (Monday 2:30 PM)	5	5	26
	Chair Yoga B (Thursday 1:00PM)	5	5	43
	Deep Stretch (Wednesday 9:00 AM)	4	4	19
	Fit and Fabulous	2	2	11
	Flex, Fit & Tone (Tuesday 10:00)	3	3	29
	Floor Yoga	8	8	35
	Kevins Line Dance Exercise (Thursday 10:30 AM)	5	5	25
	Line/Country Dancing (Wednesday 10:30)	4	4	25
	Modified Exercise	1	1	6
	Move and Groove	5	5	23
	Pilabolus	2	2	18
	Tai Chi (Monday 10:00AM)	5	5	21
	The History of Fairfield Hills W/Ann Marie Macey &	1	1	7
	Zumba (Monday 1:00 PM)	5	5	29
	<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>164</b>
F - Nutrition				
	Daily Lunch	9	9	31
	Special Event	3	3	99
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>117</b>
F - Rec./Entertain				
	Billiards	25	125	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>12</b>
F - Social Activity/Event				
	Lunch and Learn	4	4	41
	Matts Ballroom	5	5	19
	Ping Pong	3	7.5	1
	Poker	5	15	9
	Special Event	7	7	77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>109</b>
F - Socializing				
	Socializing & Just Visiting	25	212.92	43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>212.92</b>	<b>43</b>
F - Special Events				
	Speaker	11	11	34
	Speaker AM	5	29	28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>48</b>
F - Special Groups				
	Silver Tones	2	3	8

Womens Discussion Group Chicken Soup for the Sou	5	5	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>540.25</b>	<b>329</b>



# **Event Statistics from 10/13/2023 to 11/17/2023**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Duplicate</b>	<b>Unduplicate</b>	<b>60 and Ov</b>	<b>Under 60</b>	<b>( Hours</b>
F - Class/Workshop	19	7	0	0	27
F - Health/Fitness	92	13	0	0	92
F - Nutrition	23	12	0	0	23
F - Rec./Entertain	1	1	0	0	5
F - Social Activity/Event	31	12	0	0	31
F - Socializing	26	5	0	0	221.43
F - Special Events	16	7	0	0	40
F - Special Groups	6	3	0	0	7
P - Health/Fitness	3	1	0	0	3
P - Nutrition	1	1	0	0	1
P - Trips	1	1	0	0	2.17
<b>Total Event Signins</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>452.6</b>

## COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS	BALANCE
				TRUST FUND	
7/1/23	Beginning Balance				46,350.98
7/25/2023	Knotts Trust 12-31-22 Deficiency w/d- 200-22			30.50	46,381.48
7/25/2023	Qrtly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-33			590.00	46,971.48
8/31/2023	Donation- Anne Rothstein- 220-9		2,000.00		48,971.48
10/27/2023	Qrtly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-96			590.00	49,561.48

The Newtown Commission on Aging seeks input on the community's interest in a program called UR Community Cares. The mission of this program "is to connect people who need at-home help with those who want to help." Through this program, we would create a network of vetted volunteers to provide simple services to older and disabled adults in order to help improve their quality of life. Volunteers can offer their time to assist with housework, yardwork, companionship, and transportation. Those seeking services (community deeds) can request what is needed, and be confident they are receiving help from a reliable and trusted neighbor. Please take a minute to complete this 4 - question survey, keeping in mind this service would be just for residents of Newtown and Sandy Hook:

1) What is your age:

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75 or older

2) Please select the option that best represents you:

I would be interested in volunteering

I know at least one person who would be interested in volunteering

I would be interested in volunteering AND I know at least one person who would be interested in volunteering

None of the above

3) Please select the options that best represents you; you can choose all that apply:

I would be interested in requesting community deeds

I know at least one person who would be interested in requesting community deeds

I would be interested in requesting community deeds AND I know at least one person who would be interested in requesting community deeds

None of the above

4) Please share any additional information you would like us to consider. (Text box)

COMMISSION ON AGING  
NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER  
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, 8 SIMPSON STREET, NEWTOWN, CT

**2024 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 4:00PM

January 22, 2024(forth Monday)

February 26, 2024 (fourth Monday)

March 18, 2024

April 15, 2024

May 20, 2024

June 17, 2024

July 15, 2024

August 19, 2024

September 16, 2024

October 21, 2024

November 18, 2024

December 16, 2024

January 27, 2025 (fourth Monday)