



This year the Newton Rotary Club is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This local service club has been contributing to the community since May 15, 1923. The club, currently has over 100 members, and meets weekly at the Lafayette House.

Originally, Newton Rotary had 18 charter members. They were drawn from a wide circle of industries. These early categories included: silk merchant, shoe manufacturing; lawyer and hotel owner.

New clubs must be sponsored by an existing club. Bill Chapman (in the early 1920's) worked for Standard Oil and was a member of the Denville Rotary Club. Since business brought him to the area, he met many local business people. On several of these trips, he mentioned the formation of a Newton club.

When the club was established, they met in the main dining room, and later in the Log Cabin Room of the largest hotel in Newton, the Cochran House. The hotel/restaurant was owned by Charles Hendershot, one of the charter members. It was not coincidental, then, that the club continued to meet there for 33 years.

Lunch, in those early days was \$ .50

In 1957, the club moved to Wilber's Newtonian Inn on Route 206, north of Newton. This restaurant is now the Hampton Diner. Luncheons were held there for 34 years until the club moved to the Lafayette House, in 1991.

The Club went on to sponsor several other clubs, in the area. These clubs, in turn, sponsored other local clubs. Currently, there are six clubs in the county. Newton Rotary is proud of the fact that it was the seed for many of them.

Over the years, there have been many memorable events and local people connected and associated with the Club.

Newman Drake purchased and donated land, in 1928, that eventually became Memory Park. He was the founder of the Drake Baking Company...you know DRAKES CAKE.

Harry Jones made substantial gifts for the establishment of the Newton Municipal Pool.

## George Condit donated the land for Newton Medical Center

The club as a whole also has supported or sponsored a large number of events or projects, including:

Sponsored a performance of the US Navy band, in 1978	Established a Boy Scout troop, as its first community project in 1923	Donated a rest room to Ft Dix in 1943
Sponsored the Woody Herman Band in 1985	Donated a tractor to Ecuador in 1962	Published the book, Sussex County – A History
Sponsored the US Marine Band in 1979 and 1983	Donated a used fire truck to The Bahamas in 1965	Donated school buses to Chiapas, Mexico

## NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Club has been very instrumental in the establishment and success of The Newton Medical Center. Early members provided the land as well as the initial capital for its establishment.

Subsequent other contributions have also been significant. The club's annual golf outing has been dedicated to the hospital to improve community healthcare. At times larger sums were committed, over several years, toward projects such as the nurse's lounge and emergency room upgrades.

Various types of equipment were also donated over the years. Among them was a 1937 La Salle ambulance that was used until 1951. In fact, this vehicle was later used in several scenes of the GODFATHER.

You may remember the scene , when Don Corleone was transported to the hospital. **That ambulance was our 1937 LaSalle.**

Since 2000, over \$200,000 has been donated to the hospital with another \$100,000 having been pledged for the future.

In an effort to have an even more lasting, positive impact, Newton Rotary and the Hospital Foundation agreed in the early 1990's that all future donations would be restricted until Rotary approved any proposed expenditures. These funds have grown over the years. The goal is to create a permanent fund and lasting legacy that will continue to benefit Newton Medical Center far into the future.

**Other significant local contributions**, since 2000, include over \$75,000 for scholarships to local students. In fact, all community donations, since 2000, have exceeded \$500,000. Total contributions since 1923 are estimated to be at least \$1,000,000



## Current Members with 30+ Years of Service

Tom Brodhecker	John Frank
Larry Condit	Mike Gaus
Tom Digby	Eli Gaynor
Frank Eberhart	Sandy Hollander
Jack Hontz	Chris Lynch
William Houghton	Wayne McCabe
John Iliff	George Morville
George Kaiser	Fred Seplow
Stanley Koza	Sherman Tomasino
Carl Lazzaro	Bob Walker
Sylvester Fletcher	Alden Welch

## Current Members with 50+ Years of Service

Dewitt Budd  
Richardson Buist  
Clark Hendershot  
Paul Cummins  
Bill Gray  
Ray Hecht

*The Newton Rotary Club looks forward to continuing its traditions of community service as it approaches its next major milestone in 2023, when the club will mark 100 years of serving our community.*

To fit 20, each ad will have to fit in a $2\frac{5}{8}$ inch wide x $1\frac{3}{4}$ high block like this			