



# The Rotary Club of Macon

## ♥ **THROBS**

*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**October 2, 2023**

*NewTown Loans, Lauren Marshall*

NewTown Loans is central Georgia’s first and only Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Supported by parent company, NewTown Macon, an economic development non-profit, they have been financing real estate and business projects and revitalizing downtown Macon for over a decade. NewTown Loans offers commercial and residential real estate loans to developers and owner-occupants, and will often serve as a secondary lender on real estate construction or acquisition projects. But there is even more, and you can find out this Monday, October 2 when our guest speaker will be Lauren Marshall, NewTown’s Vice President of Community Development.



### Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our September 25 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2855h8pm>

### **FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS** approved by the Board of Directors:

#### **October, 2023**

- |    |                             |              |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 9  | No Meeting – Columbus Day   |              |
| 16 | Macon Mental Health Matters | Andrea Cooke |
| 23 | No Meeting                  |              |
| 30 | GRSP/Club Assembly          |              |

#### **November, 2023**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 6  | Crimestoppers – No meeting at church                                 |
| 13 | District Governor Felix Smith and Asst. District Governor Steve Bell |
| 20 | No Meeting   |

## New Member Approvals

At their meeting of September 19, the Board approved two new membership applications. They are:

- Rachel Adams, Head of School for Stratford academy, with the classification of Private Schools/Non-Sectarian
- Jeffrey Wilhelm, Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual, with the classification of Insurance-Life

Members have 10 days to make comments in writing to President Stephanie Folsom.

## MEETING September 25, 2023

Attendance: 60.8% - 56 in person, 20 Zoom, plus 7 guests

CART \$25.00, Raffle \$41

Club Membership: 140

President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting and after thanking Jackie for her piano music, she called on Jeffrey Hagy to lead the song and Pledge of Allegiance. He chose *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. Asha Ellen offered the prayer.

Stephanie then welcomed our guests, including the two CASA representatives, GRSP student Vendela Danfors, three potential members, and Billie Abbott who came with her husband, Gary.

Three Rotarians celebrate birthdays this week, and there are five club anniversaries including Asha Ellen's first and Howard Holleman's 29<sup>th</sup>.

It was then time for CART brags, but we only had two! Please remember that all money goes to support Alzheimer's research, and you don't have to make a brag to put money in the blue buckets.



Stephanie reminded the club that we sponsored a ShelterBox, and she invited Kathy McCollum to share information on that. Kathy showed a PowerPoint that included a video (available at [https://youtu.be/3S9iUA\\_9l4M?si=DtXGe\\_yU6sZV4Aoj](https://youtu.be/3S9iUA_9l4M?si=DtXGe_yU6sZV4Aoj)). It provided an overview of how ShelterBox provides essential shelter and tools to those displaced by natural disasters. Kathy also showed club member Nancy White's picture of a ShelterBox in use which Nancy spotted on a recent trip to Pakistan.

Kathy then spoke about Read for the Record which will take place Thursday, October 26; 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Burdell Hunt Elementary School (972 Fort Hill St, Macon, GA 31211). Our club needs volunteers to read to

the children. Signup sheets will be available at each meeting and you can also register online at <https://tinyurl.com/26oyeuzt> You will need your DACdb credentials to sign up online. The book we are reading is entitled *Sharing the Love*, and Kathy left copies on the tables for the members to preview.

**HELP US BE READY.**

**HYGIENE KIT | \$25**

**SOLAR LIGHTS | \$30**

**COOKING SET | \$50**

**CLEAN WATER KIT | \$75**

**SHELTER KIT | \$100**

**FAMILY BEDDING | \$275**

**FAMILY RELIEF TENT | \$525**

**COMPLETE CUSTOM SHELTER PACKAGE \$1,000**

**STOCK THE BOX**

Stephanie came back to announce that the Rotary Club of St. Simons is having their 12th annual Meet the RSM Pros, which occurs on Friday, November 10th from 5-7, before the RSM Golf Classic. This gives participants the opportunity to get up close and personal with participating RSM Tournament Pros. This event is an exclusive partnership with the Davis Love Foundation with all proceeds from the event benefit children and family charities in the Golden Isles. Meet the RSM Pros tickets available online at [www.ssirotary.org/mtp-2023](http://www.ssirotary.org/mtp-2023)

Charles Olson then came up to introduce our speaker, Susanna Patterson, who is Executive Director of Central Georgia CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children). Their mission is to support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy so that every abused or neglected child can be safe, establish permanence and have the opportunity to thrive. Since assuming the position in 2013, she has helped triple the organization's annual budget and increased the number of foster children in the Macon Judicial Circuit served by CASA volunteers from less than 5% to over 60%. She received a Masters in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center and earned her JD from Mercer's Walter F. George School of law. Prior to assuming her position at CASA she was an attorney with Sell & Melton.

Susanna began by relating the story of four brothers, the oldest of whom she called Adam. He entered foster care shortly after Susanna assumed her position in 2013, along with three of his brothers. The youngest was an infant who had his leg broken in suspicious circumstances. All four boys were wild and had obviously received no parenting. After several years they became legally available for adoption and the youngest was adopted quickly, as is often the case with young children. Adam was nine at the time and has since had 37

foster home placements. At 17 years old he had no high school credits. During all this time he has never started and finished at the same school. After help from CASA, Adam is finally in a family home after living in hotels for a while, and is starting 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

The overburdened child welfare system means that 300 children will find themselves in foster care in Bibb, Crawford and Peach Counties this year, and statewide 15,000 children will be in foster care. On average, a child in the Macon Judicial Circuit will spend nearly two years in foster care, versus 18 months for the state. Each child here will change homes an average of five times, versus the state average of four times. Susanna said that DFACS case workers do a tremendous job, but have twice the recommended caseload.

Central Georgia CASA is the local affiliate of a national organization. A judge in Seattle came up with the idea in the 1970's and the national group formed in the early 1980's. Middle Georgia began in 1997. 55 local volunteers serve 59.4% of the children in care, but 60 more are needed to be able to serve all the cases. The following graphic gives a good explanation of what CASA volunteers do:



As is often the case with our excellent speakers, Susanna covered much more than can be summarized in this newsletter. If you want to see her full presentation, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2855h8pm>

Our members had many insightful questions and comments. Gene Dunwoody spoke of his wife, B.J., who is a CASA volunteer and has handled some really challenging cases. Gary Abbott's wife, Billie is also a CASA volunteer and came for the program.

The raffle pot was up to \$259. Charlie Jay drew the winning ticket but the pot will roll over since the Queen of Hearts is still in hiding. As always, the meeting ended with recitation of the Four Way Test.



The Macon Beer Fest, a “health fair disguised as a beer festival” was started by Steve Bell and the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon in 2010 and is now a Top Ten Georgia craft beer event. In addition to the variety of beers, the festival offers health screenings and education on prostate cancer. Volunteers are needed! Learn more, and sign up to help at <https://www.eventeny.com/events/maconbeerfest-7804/>

Meet fun folks while you pour them a beer, then go enjoy the festival for free! As long as your table is covered by at least two people at all times, you can each come and go as you like. Visit the volunteer area for pizza any time during your shift (as long as your table is covered!)



Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have you or your organization won an award or otherwise been recognized? We want to know, and to recognize your achievement at a meeting. Please email Gary Wheat, our Vocational Service Chair, at [gwheat@visitmacon.org](mailto:gwheat@visitmacon.org)

## Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online line using credit cards or EFT. These can be made in memory of, honor of, or personal donations. They can be setup as recurring or one-time. Follow these easy steps:

**The Rotary Foundation:** Go to <https://rotary.org/> If you have never signed in you will need to register so it credits your Paul Harris Fellow account and our club. You may need our District number 6920 and club number 4202. Once registered you can SIGN IN to MY ROTARY then click DONATE button in upper right. Check the area ANNUAL FUND, DISASTER RELIEF FUND, or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

**CART FUND:** <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> follow the online instructions. You will need our **Club number 4202** and **District number 6920**.

## Vocational Spotlight

See <http://maconrotary.com/vocational-spotlight.php> to read more information on Rotarians featured monthly on our website <http://maconrotary.com> If you would like to be included in a Vocational Spotlight, please contact Gary Wheat, [gwheat@visitmacon.org](mailto:gwheat@visitmacon.org)

## Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events

### Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting

Anytime Meeting                      Rotary Project or Rotary Committee  
Anytime                              Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic  
Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past *Throbs* link

## HOW TO MAKE UP MISSED MEETINGS

Please make up missed meetings to help our club's attendance percentage rank with District 6920 and Rotary International. Our attendance is reported each month to the district and is required to be reported before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. **Members are required to maintain an attendance average of 60%.**

Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss.**

See list above of approved makeups. You can make up from the comfort of your home or office online at <http://rotaryclubone.org/> They will email a notice of the makeup to the Club Administrator and you will be credited. Also, attendance at another Rotary Club is a great option when you are traveling!

When you make up using the **Zoom link** of our meetings listed in meeting summary above or makeup in person at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, [steve@eggmedia.com](mailto:steve@eggmedia.com) so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club you visit to report to our club.

## Excused Absences

Members have the opportunity to receive a board approved Excused Absence during a long-term family, health, or business crisis. When a member realizes they have a situation that will keep them from attending Monday meetings for an extended period they can contact the Club Administrator or President with the reason. This contact needs to be immediate and not after the crisis. The board can approve a beginning and ending date and attendance is excused on club and district level. Short term absences are best made up online.

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### *Club Membership Applications*

*We are purpose-driven leaders of influence and action. To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Charles Olson [EOlson200@msn.com](mailto:EOlson200@msn.com) or any member of the Board of Directors to ensure a vocational classification is available for your candidate. Once the Classification Committee approves the classification, invite your new member candidate to a weekly meeting. If the candidate expresses interest in joining our club, then ask Membership Chair Charles to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Once the new member candidate completes the application, Board members review the application. Then, new member candidates are presented for formal approval at the monthly Board meeting. Once approved by the Board, new member candidates are announced in Throbs. Unless there is objection by any existing member, the new member is scheduled for orientation and formal induction. All members of our club need to think about who would make good Rotarians!*

**[www.maconrotary.com](http://www.maconrotary.com)**

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