

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Mayor's Newton Update

Two weeks ago, we lost a beloved resident of our City from domestic violence.

I want to share opportunities in the coming days to honor Nancy Hanson, and learn more about recognizing unhealthy relationships, talking to children about traumatic events, and accessing resources.

Step Forward, End the Silence: Walk to Honor Nancy Hanson, Saturday, July 29

Friends and students of Nancy Hanson are inviting the community to join them this evening, Saturday, July 29, to “Step Forward, End the Silence” and walk in honor of the Newton mother murdered in her home two weeks ago and to shed light on the urgency of addressing domestic violence.

Nancy’s husband, Richard J. Hanson, has been charged with her murder.

“We gather to remember her life, mourn her tragic loss, and raise awareness about the devastating impact of domestic violence,” wrote her former students who organized the walk.

“As our instructor and friend, she supported us through life’s challenges. In her honor, we gather to remember the beautiful person she was.”

The walk begins at 7:00 p.m. at 135 Wells Ave., Newton, where Nancy inspired so many and touched countless lives as a fitness instructor at the West Suburban YMCA. Please wear red, Nancy’s favorite color, as a symbol of unity and remembrance.

City of Newton Virtual Community Forum, Monday, July 31, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

We know that relationship violence is amongst us in Newton and beyond. Join the City of Newton’s Community Forum on Zoom in a virtual safe space to learn more about domestic abuse and about resources available to find help.

Sydney Carter, Community Engagement Coordinator from REACH Beyond Domestic Violence and Gabriela Wells, Director, Prevention, Intervention & Education at The Second Step will join Newton Director of Social Services Meghan Kennedy to discuss:

- Types of abuse and warning signs
- How to support someone you believe is in an unsafe relationship

Call the City of Newton Health and Human Services Department at 617-796-1420 for more information. Click [here](#) for a full list of resources.

Join the meeting by following the link at newtonma.gov/forum or through the QR code.



Talking to Children/Teens about Trauma

Newton Middle School Principal John Harutunian from Oak Hill and Newton Elementary School Principal Tom Morris from Memorial Spaulding hosted a zoom meeting with Julia Champion, Senior Manager of Trauma Informed Care at Riverside Trauma Center, a number of days ago.

Julia provided useful information for parents and caregivers about typical reactions that young people who have witnessed or heard about a traumatic event may experience.

You can watch the zoom recording of the presentation [here](#) (passcode: @Y3@.SS9) and see the slides [here](#).

With a heavy heart,

Ruthanne



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