

# Town of Hamilton

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## Town Manager's Office

### **Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

I am pleased to be able to offer the following report on programs and initiatives that are on-going in the Town of Hamilton, as well as some updates on a variety of things that have happened since our last report.

**Local COVID case counts amidst the Delta variant surge** – Public Health Nurse Rachel Lee reported this past weekend that the current case count for active COVID cases in Hamilton is at 7, with five of those among unvaccinated people. Of the two vaccinated people who have contracted the virus, one is asymptomatic and had tested due to travel plans. Hamilton remains at approximately 72-73 percent of the local population being vaccinated against COVID-19.

The highest number of unvaccinated people in the community remains in the 20-30 year old age group, which continues to be vaccine hesitant across all states, cities and towns.

By contrast, the town's employees are close to 95 percent vaccinated across all departments (not including schools).

The Hamilton Board of Health continues to recommend vaccination for all who are eligible to receive the vaccines and also is endorsing CDC and Mass. DPH guidance regarding masking when indoors or unable to practice social distancing, regardless of vaccination status.

**Garden Tea Party for Seniors this Saturday** – Selectboard member Rosemary Kennedy and her cast of volunteers are collaborating with the COA Board and putting the finishing touches on a delightful afternoon garden tea party for seniors at the Patton Homestead this coming Saturday, Sep. 11 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Residents interested in attending this event are encouraged to contact Rosie or the Council on Aging, as space is limited.

Residents aged 65 and older are welcome to attend and enjoy tea, finger sandwiches and entertainment; the weather forecast is currently looking very good for this event.

**HW Shop Local Fall Festival on Sep. 19** – We also want to remind residents of the upcoming HW Shop Local Fall Festival event, which is taking place on Sunday, Sep. 19 from 12 to 5 p.m. on Railroad Ave in Hamilton and at the Wenham Museum in Wenham.

There are lots of fun events and entertainment planned around supporting our local businesses in both communities and residents are encouraged to bring their families and make a day of it.

**Continuing to fill openings** – The summer hiring freeze continues to thaw as the town has been busy interviewing candidates for a number of open positions.

We'd like to welcome Kerrin Nixon to the town staff as the new Board of Health Clerical assistant, Kerrin began in her new position on Tuesday.

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The town has also begun interviewing candidates for the outreach and program coordinator at the Senior Center and for the new Health Director position.

We will also be looking to interview candidates for the Patton Homestead Coordinator position in the next week or so and for an open position in the Finance department.

Residents interested in working locally and supporting their town should check out the job openings on the town website, before all the positions get filled.

**North Shore Water Resiliency Task Force** – Senator Bruce Tarr's North Shore Water Resiliency Task Force, which brings together municipal officials from several of our surrounding towns and members of IRWA, the legislature and state agencies, will be meeting next week to discuss next steps in finding a way toward more sustainable water supplies for Ipswich, Hamilton and our neighbors.

**Bi-weekly e-newsletter to return soon** – We in the Town Manager's office are working to return the bi-weekly e-newsletter which we began putting out over the winter, but which was interrupted by the loss of some key staff in the spring.

We are hoping to have the next installment of the e-newsletter out before the end of September. Please keep an eye on your inboxes and remember to sign up for it on the town website if you are not already on our list.