

# Town of Hamilton

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## Town Manager's Office

### **Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen Monday, December 6, 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.

**Advice from the Hamilton Health Department and Public Health Nurse – COVID**, we're all sick of it! But...we don't want you to get sick from it, so if you are eligible, please get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19.

If you are 18 or older and it's been 2 months since your Johnson and Johnson vaccine or 6 months after your last Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, you are eligible to get a booster shot of your choice.

Vaccine clinics for those 12 and older are held at the Hamilton Senior Center on Wednesdays from 3:30-6:30pm. Pediatric Pfizer clinics for those 5 through 11 years of age are held at the Hamilton Senior Center on Saturdays from 2pm-5pm. Please sign up for an appointment at [capeannclinic.com](http://capeannclinic.com) or go to [vaxfinder.mass.gov](http://vaxfinder.mass.gov) to find another vaccination location.

Besides encouraging vaccination against COVID-19, the Board of Health continues to strongly advise everyone to wear a mask while indoors in public. Feeling sick? Get tested and stay home until you get the results. More helpful info is at <https://www.hamiltonma.gov/government/board-of-health/>.

Celebrate the holidays by spreading peace, love and joy, not COVID!

**Health Advice for town buildings** – In light of the strong advice shared by the Board of Health and Public Health Nurse above, we are reminding all staff and visitors that you are **encouraged** to wear a face mask and practice social distancing when you are indoors in any Town building, unless you are working at your work space.

The Town Hall Memorial Room and other public spaces such as the Council on Aging building and portions of the Recreation Center, etc., continue to be under a mask advisory for large public meetings and gatherings and board or committee members or members of the public who refuse to comply with the mask request may be encouraged to participate remotely.

We thank you for working with us to help keep everyone as safe as possible during this time.

**2021 Stuff a Cruiser** – This is a reminder that the Hamilton Police Department is once again supporting the Shriner's Hospital for Children and local families in need with their annual Stuff-a Cruiser Toy Drive. The event will be this Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Hamilton Public Safety building at 265 Bay Road. Toys will be delivered to the Shriners Hospital in Boston.

# Town of Hamilton

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## Town Manager's Office

**Dance Performance and Pizza Party for Seniors** – The Town of Hamilton and BoSoma School of Dance are partnering to provide a holiday dance performance for Hamilton seniors at the Council on Aging on Friday, Dec. 10 from 4 to 6 p.m., with a pizza party immediately following. Space is limited so anyone wishing to attend should contact Rosie Kennedy at 978-468-5595 or via email at [rkennedy@hamiltonma.gov](mailto:rkennedy@hamiltonma.gov) in order to reserve space.

**Welcome Theresa Woodbury as new COA Director** – We are very excited to announce that the town has hired an experienced and certified Council on Aging Director who will begin in the role on Monday, Dec. 20.

Theresa comes to us with 16 years of experience in West Newbury and is a Massachusetts Council on Aging certified COA Director. She was hired through a process that included a screening committee comprised of the Human Resources Director, a member of the COA Board of Directors and Town Clerk Carin Kale. That committee put forward two very well qualified finalists, who were interviewed by me and Council on Aging consultant Kristen Crockett. Theresa was the unanimous first choice of the interview committees and even met jointly with the Wenham COA Director to begin discussions around how the two towns' Councils could collaborate on programming and outreach going forward.

**Cell phone tower update** – According to the tower owner and developer, Everest Infrastructure, Verizon officials have indicated that they expect to install their signal equipment on the tower “before the end of the year.”

The town was notified of this intent at the end of November and is expecting to be contacted at any time by Verizon crews seeking access to the site. We will be sure to share additional information with the public as soon as we have it going forward.

This news, though welcome, is by no means a guarantee that Verizon equipment will definitely be installed prior to the end of the year, but it is an indication that Verizon has our site on its list of projects to be completed. Like our residents, we continue to wait with our fingers crossed for this project to be completed.

**Regional Public Health Grant and Regional Health Nurse hiring** – I am pleased to announce that the Town of Hamilton, on behalf of our three partners – the towns of Essex, Rockport and Wenham – in the Eastern Essex Health Support Services Collaborative has offered the position of Regional Public Health Nurse to Rachel Lee, who will be transitioning from her part-time role as Hamilton's public health nurse to the new fulltime, grant funded position supporting all four towns in the region, beginning on Dec. 27, 2021.

The town is already preparing to interview candidates to replace Rachel in the part-time position and hope to be able to announce a hiring in that role shortly as well.

On the heels of adding Kerrin Nixon as the part time Health Clerk and Dennis Palazzo as the part time Health Director, this marks a very exciting time for the town and its ability to provide for the public health needs of our residents here in Hamilton and in collaboration across the wider region.

Rachel's exemplary work on behalf of Hamilton under very difficult and demanding circumstances amidst the pandemic and our response to it, was a key reason that we are

# Town of Hamilton

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confident that Rachel is the right person to work across town borders to ensure that we are maximizing all available state and local resources to better provide for our residents.

**Town Holiday party for staff and volunteers** – I also wanted to let you know that the Town Hall and other town offices will be closing to the public at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, so that employees and volunteers can gather for our annual Holiday Celebration.

The Holiday Celebration this year will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on School Street.

All town employees are invited to attend if they are able and town volunteers, including board and committee members are welcome to stop by and celebrate with the staff. However, we ask that volunteers call 978-626-5202 and speak with Laurie Wilson, as space is limited at the Legion Hall and we want to be sure that all attendees know to follow precautions when attending large indoor gatherings – such as following social distancing guidance and wearing masks when not seated and eating or drinking.