



**November 2022 Newsletter**

RuthAnn Speer Loveless, Mayor 824-2024  
Russ Lura, Deputy Mayor 750-0222  
Julie Dudrick, Trustee 825-5525  
Chris Henke, Trustee 723-9002  
Samanthi Martinez, Trustee

Melanie Vilardi, Administrator 436-8305  
Kim Taranto, Village Clerk 824-1111  
Nancy Mitchell, Operations Director 824-1111  
Mary Ann Henderson, Treasurer 824-1111  
Gerard Snow, Codes Enforcement 750-0497

**FROM THE HAMILTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION**



**MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES ASSOCIATION DONATION**

Every year the Municipal Electric Utilities Association (MEUA) President designates a charity to be the recipient of the organization’s basket raffle proceeds. This year’s president, Hamilton’s Village Operations Director, Nancy Mitchell, selected the Hamilton Food Cupboard. Nancy recently presented a check for \$1,180 to Suzanne Collins, Director of the Hamilton Food Cupboard. The Village greatly appreciates the volunteers in this organization and all they do for those in our community.

***Pictured L to R:** Hamilton Municipal Utilities Commissioner Jerry Fuller, Suzanne Collins, Mayor RuthAnn Loveless, Nancy Mitchell, Village Electric Department Lineman Jake Palmiter*

**TO OUR VILLAGE UTILITY CUSTOMERS:** The cost of electricity is likely to be higher this winter season. Due to certain downstate system conditions, electricity costs in New York State are highly dependent on natural gas prices, which are projected to be significantly higher this winter. As a customer of Hamilton’s municipally-owned electric system, the majority of your electricity is low-cost hydro power from the New York Power Authority’s Niagara Hydroelectric Project. The balance, however, is supplied from New York State’s competitive energy market. Therefore, you will still see higher overall bills compared to last winter in part due to the increase in natural gas prices. The New York State Public Service Commission has projected that electricity bills statewide will increase by up to 50% this winter. By comparison, Hamilton residential customers’ electric bills for the winter should only increase 2-12% based on our projections for normal winter weather. Of course, should this winter be colder than normal, the cost increases will be higher. While the Village is in a better position compared with many other utilities in the State, some cost increases are still unavoidable. As the temperature drops, it will be more important than ever to have energy saving procedures in place such as turning the thermostat down, inspecting and replacing your furnace filter regularly, using devices efficiently, choosing the correct lights and appliances. Additional Energy Saving programs and rebates are available through the Independent Energy Efficiency program (IEEP). For further information, go to: <https://hamilton-ny.gov/government/village-forms-and-documents>

If you experience difficulties paying energy bills, you may be eligible to receive funds credited directly to your utility bill through the State’s [Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (“HEAP”). In addition, if your heating system is off or is scheduled to be shut-off, you may be eligible for HEAP’s [emergency benefits](#). You can apply for HEAP benefits at: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/apply/#heap>

## From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Neighbors –

According to the experts, we are experiencing the warmest early November weather in twenty years! I clearly remember a major snowstorm on Halloween and subsequent snow day about 25 years ago and realize how lucky we are this year! Enjoy!

We were honored to have the NY Conference of Mayors' leadership team visit our village and tour our extensive facilities: natural gas, DPW, electric, water, wastewater, HPD, airport, library, and village office. Not surprising, they were very impressed with our staff and, as with most people, they were surprised by the breadth and complexity of our services which is very unusual for a village our size. It was a proud day for Hamilton, and I am grateful to all who contributed.

Special thanks to the many people and organizations who made Halloween such a special event! It is always great fun to see the happy faces of the children as they experience it all!

You can't go into any store without seeing signs of the holidays to come and we look forward to "Hamilton for the Holidays" activities. Join us on December 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Village Green for the "Night of Lights" that includes the tree lighting, Santa, carols, food and more. Experience a horse-drawn carriage ride on Dec. 2,3,10, and 17 and watch for announcements about late night shopping and other special events. Most importantly ---- PLEASE BUY LOCAL!

IT is also important for us to think about those less fortunate. The Food Cupboard is seeking frozen turkey donations, many churches and organizations provide food baskets, and the 65th Holiday Sale (Dec. 3 at First Baptist Church) raises money for the hospital.

We have much to be thankful for and I wish you a special Thanksgiving with family and friends.

All the best, RuthAnn

**GARBAGE AND RECYCLING** - A friendly reminder to cover your garbage to prevent night critters such as skunks from making a mess. Please be considerate of our DPW workers and their safety when putting your garbage and recyclables out for pickup. The Village Code requires that all cans, bags, and bundled refuse be placed within three feet of the curb. Recycle your household batteries by placing them in a sealable zip-bag and leaving them in the labeled bucket on the front porch of the Village office or inside the public entrance facing the library. To order a dumpster for your major cleanings, please call the DPW at 315-824-2590. If you need a recycling bin, just email [info@hamilton-ny.gov](mailto:info@hamilton-ny.gov) with your name and address and we will drop one off at your home or apartment! For questions about recycling, visit the Madison County website at [www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2376/Recycling](http://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2376/Recycling)

**VILLAGE OFFICE HOURS AND GARBAGE PICK UP FOR THANKSGIVING** - All Village Departments will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 24<sup>th</sup>. The Village Office will be closed all day on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. If your trash/recyclables are usually picked up on Thursday, for this week only your trash/recyclables will be picked up on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. All other trash/recyclables schedules will remain the same.

### NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING CALENDAR

11/15/22	Board of Trustees	6:00 pm	60 Montgomery St.
11/16/22	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm	60 Montgomery St.
11/17/22	Planning Board	7:00 pm	60 Montgomery St.

Please go to: [www.hamilton-ny.gov](http://www.hamilton-ny.gov) for updates to the monthly meeting schedule.

**LIBRARY FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES** As always, there's plenty of exciting, educational, and FREE programming coming your way from the Hamilton Public Library! Are you a knitter? Crocheter? Into needlepoint or embroidery? Beginning in November, you are welcome to join us at the library for a Handwork Group. The group will meet monthly with the first meeting on November 16th from 5:30 to 6:30 in the community room. Bring a current project, one you're about to begin or ideas to share! This is an opportunity to share your creative passions and socialize with others. The first group will work together to create a name for the group - come with ideas! And since it's never too early to think about the holidays, come channel your inner elf and join us at the library to create a beautiful "stained glass" Christmas ornament! This event takes place on November 26<sup>th</sup> and is open to patrons 16 and older. We hope to see you there! For a full list of our programs and events, be sure to visit the library website, sign up for our monthly newsletter, and follow us on social media. Thanks for reading!

**COLGATE CRUISER BUS STOP CHANGE** – The bus stop has been moved from in front of the Colgate bookstore to just around the corner on Lebanon Street. Thank you for your patience through the transition.