

Village Meeting Schedule

Second Wednesday of the month
unless otherwise posted.
Hoags Corner Ambulance Bldg.
7 p.m.



Village Elections

Village elections take place
Tuesday, March 19th from Noon to
9 PM at the Hoags Corners
Volunteer Ambulance Garage

Village of East Nassau • 19 Town Garage Road • PO Box 268 • East Nassau, NY 12062

Village of East Nassau March 2024 Update

www.villageofeastnassau.org

Village Elections

Village elections are **Tuesday, March 19th from Noon to 9 PM** at the Hoags Corners Volunteer Ambulance Station, 19 Town Garage Road. The deadline for submitting nominating petitions to the Village Clerk was February 13th and five individuals accepted nominations for the four open positions. Elisa Martin is running for the two-year mayor's position. There are 2 two-year Trustees seats up for election and three candidates: Lydia Davis, Nick Atchinson, and Matthew Benesch, Jr. Finally, Trustee Gerald (Jerry) Tremblay is running to be elected to a one-year term as a

Trustee (Jerry was appointed to fill a vacant Trustee seat last year and must run for election to complete the two-year term of office).

With the pandemic and the fact that many of the recent village elections did not involve any competition, turnout at elections has been pretty minimal. With the pandemic in the rearview mirror and there being some competition this year hopefully village residents will have more interest in participating in this year's election.

Isn't it expensive to have a village?

It is often asked why we need yet another layer of government – isn't the village just another layer that costs us money? The reality for our village is that our small and efficient municipality saves our residents in reduced tax bills. The village board is still working on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year which starts on June 1, but the tentative 2024-2025 budget has a tax rate of about \$1.84 per \$1,000 in assessed property. That's about the same rate as 10 years ago in the 2015-2016 budget. So the village has been able to keep the tax burden fairly constant. And, maybe more significantly, it is about half of the tax rate paid by residents of the

Town of Nassau who live outside of our village **just for** the town highway department. Village residents do not pay into the town's highway fund. This year, the Town Highway line on the tax bills charged \$3.585 per \$1,000 (village residents do not have that line on town tax bills). So we actually **save** about \$1.75 per \$1,000 that we would have been taxed if the village did not exist. The reason the village was formed in 1998 was to have local control over land use issues. In addition to accomplishing that goal, and providing other local programs and resources, our village has saved residents hundreds of dollars in reduced property taxes each year.

New Village Treasurer

Please welcome Ruth Whaley, the Village's new Treasurer and Tax Collector. Ruth joined the Village administration last September. Retired now, Ruth has a degree in information technology. She has a background working in accounts payable at a hospital for 10 years. Ruth then worked for 10 years as an Information Systems Manager at that same hospital. She is an experienced book keeper and currently is the book keeper for the Nassau Free Library. Getting settled into the village Treasurer

position and getting up to speed has taken some time as there is much more to the position than just paying the bills. Ruth has met the challenges of figuring out and completing the reports that the village needs to provide to the State Comptroller's Office in addition to other reports for other entities. She has also worked with the mayor in updating the Revenue and Expense reports the village needs to appropriately manage the taxpayers' money.

Climate Smart Committee Update

Your Village's Climate Smart Committee (<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/clean-energy-communities> and <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>) has a number of projects planned for 2024, both continuing the work of previous years and initiating new ventures.

We will be putting "hardscape" into the Old Tavern Park--a picnic table, benches, and signage--and we will also continue developing the planted beds. Our thoughts for the central part of the park, presently two mounds of mulch--what a neighbor calls the Twin Peaks--is to plant a "sampler" of native ground covers and low-growing sedges to demonstrate alternatives to turf lawns. This is part of our "unlawning" project; i.e., promoting ways to reduce and/or replace traditional lawns which are the least healthy form of planting in these climate precarious times. There is a lot that needs doing at Old Tavern Park so contact climatesmart@villageofeastnassau.org to lend a hand and get involved.

We are also looking to schedule a community volunteer, invasive-plant removal effort at the Albert Family Community Forest, working in collaboration with forest steward Fred McCagg and the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance.

Once again we will host a Repair Cafe at the Hoags Corners Firehouse on Route 66 on June 8th. Bring your broken but beloved items for fixing or diagnosis by volunteers. No charge, but donations welcome.

We are looking into inviting speakers from the Clean Energy Hub and/or from the Beyond Plastics organization. One of our newest ventures is working with Beyond Plastics to encourage alternatives to the ever-increasing plastics that show up in ocean life and even in our own bodies (in the form of micro-plastics).

Another new project this year will be to work with the Cornell Cooperative Extension on a Heat Emergency Plan. We have worked with them each of the last few years, and their partnership has been invaluable.

Lastly, we are looking to devise an inventive and eye-catching way to participate in some local parades to help spread the word about reducing greenhouse gases and caring for the environment--which we depend on for our own safety and survival.

**REMEMBER TO COME OUT AND VOTE
IN THE VILLAGE ELECTIONS TUESDAY, MARCH 19th from Noon to 9 PM!**

****** For more news of East Nassau & surrounding area towns ****
consider subscribing to the Eastwick Press (Rensselaer County's Community Newspaper).
Call 518-203-7574 on Monday or Tuesday 11 AM – 5 PM.**