

TOWN OF ACTON MUNICIPAL QUARTERLY



OCTOBER 1, 2017

ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS



ACTON POWER CHOICE PROGRAM

Acton Power Choice program to provide more renewable energy for less than Eversource Basic Service

Beginning with September electricity use, Acton residents and businesses currently enrolled with Eversource Basic Service will begin receiving an increased amount of renewable energy in their electricity through the launch of the Acton Power Choice electricity aggregation program. Using the negotiating power of the entire community's electricity needs, the Town has been able to increase the renewable energy in the community's electricity supply while offering a price that is lower than the current Eversource Basic Service price. Acton has signed a 24-month contract with Dynegy to serve as the Town's first electricity supplier within the program. The program will impact the supply portion of participants' Eversource electric bills.

As provided by state law, Eversource Basic Service customers in Acton will be automatically enrolled in the program's Power Choice Standard option. Power Choice Standard includes 5% renewable electricity, over and above the 12% minimum required by the state. This option is available for the fixed, 24-month price of 10.720 cents/kWh for all customer types. For comparison, the current Eversource Basic Service residential rate is a six-month rate of 10.759 cents/kWh and will change in January 2018.

Residents and businesses also have the option of upgrading to Power Choice Green, which provides 100% renewable electricity, all generated by renewable energy projects in New England. Power Choice Green is available for the fixed, 24-month price of 12.712 cents/kWh for all customer types.

"The Town conducted an extensive review and due diligence process before launching this program, and it had to pass muster with state regulators as well," said Acton Town Manager Steve Ledoux. "I am pleased to be able to offer a trustworthy, fully transparent alternative to the electricity supply options currently available in the market, a program that moves us toward our sustainability goals, offers savings at launch, and protects Acton residents and businesses from seasonal utility rate changes."

The Acton Power Choice program is open to all metered electricity customers in Acton, including both residential and non-residential customers. Those who are eligible for automatic enrollment will receive a letter in the mail with program information in August. Program enrollment will occur with September meter reads, and participants will see evidence of enrollment on their October Eversource electric bills. Electricity customers who have already established a contract with their own electricity supplier will not be automatically enrolled and will not receive a letter, but they may join the program by calling the Acton Power choice electricity supplier, Dynegy, directly at 1-866-220-5696 and asking to enroll.

Eversource remains Acton's electric utility, even after the launch of the Acton Power Choice program. Acton Power Choice participants will continue to be Eversource customers, will continue to receive just one electric bill from Eversource, and will continue to call Eversource to address power outages. The program impacts only the supply charges on participants' Eversource electric bills. Electricity customers who are eligible for a low-income discount will continue to receive that benefit as a participant in the program. Those with solar panels on their property will continue to receive net metering credits as a participant in this program, and those credits will continue to be calculated based on the Eversource Basic Service rate, not on the program rate.

Residents and businesses that do not wish to participate may opt out of the program before launch or any time after launch with no penalty or fee. Those who choose to opt out before program launch will remain on Eversource Basic Service for the supply portion of their Eversource electric bill. Those who do not opt out by September 15 retain the right to opt out at any time in the future. Opt out requests may be submitted by calling Dynegy at 1-866-220-5696, online at actonpowerchoice.com.

Additional information is available from the program website at actonpowerchoice.com and also by contacting the Town's program consultants at 1-844-379-9933 or e-mail: service@actonpowerchoice.com.



CAN WE GET A BARK FOR A DOG PARK?

Acton residents have spoken and the Board of Selectmen has responded by creating a Dog Park Committee to consider construction of an enclosed accessible dog park. There are over 1,600 dog owners in Acton. Many would benefit from a contained area where their dogs can safely exercise, socialize, and just be dogs! Communities with dog parks have realized better behaved dogs. Dog parks also provide positive social experiences for all folks who enjoy dogs.

Several town owned locations are being evaluated. The committee of seven Acton dog owners will cull information from other towns and organizations to find the best practices and designs that may be adapted to the needs of Acton. Private and public funding opportunities will be researched. Once complete, the plan will be presented to the Board of Selectmen. Bark for a Park! Submitted by: Cathy Fochtman, CPRP, CPSI, Director, Acton Recreation Department

CrossActon TRANSIT - CAT

Shuttle services provided by the CrossActon Transit (CAT) are available Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The CAT's fixed route has residential stops at Sachus Way, Avalon, Nagog Woods, Great Road Apartments and Windsor Green.

It has business stops at Dollar Tree, Donelan's, Roche Brothers, Kmart and West Acton Center. In addition it also has stops at Acton Town Hall/Memorial Library and South Acton train station.

More information regarding the schedule and route can be found at <http://www.crossactontransit.com>.

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS



Hours of Operation

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sunday: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
The Library is closed on legal holidays and the day after Thanksgiving.

Please visit the library's online calendar for dates, times, recommended ages, and registration requirements at:
www.actonmemoriallibrary.org

ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMS

Sponsored by the Friends of Pine Hawk

- Thoreau's "Indian Stride," Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.
- Adult Archaeology Walk, Saturday, October 14, 10:00 a.m. Rain date: October 21, 10:00 a.m. Meet at the end of Wheeler Lane, off Route. 27 in North Acton.
- From Hills to Islands: Ancient Adaptations by Native Americans in Boston Harbor, Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Children's Program: 'A Look into a Native American Toolbox,' Thursday, October 19, 3:00 p.m.
- Edward Lodi on His New Book, The Pequot War, Saturday, October 21, 2:00 p.m.
- Book Discussion: American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America by Colin Woodard, Monday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.
- Nashoba Hill: Vision Quest & Nashoba Plantation, Wednesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.
- Stone Prayers: Native American Stone Constructions of the Eastern Seaboard, Saturday, October 28, 1:00 p.m.
- Movie Great Falls with filmmaker Ted Timreck, Thursday, November 2, 7:00 p.m.

NON-PROFIT BAKERS WANTED!

The library is looking for non-profit organizations which serve Acton to hold occasional bake sales in the lobby to complement the Memorial Café. Details, including bake sale guidelines, are on the library's website at: www.actonmemoriallibrary.org.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

All meetings are at 7:30 p.m. Copies of the titles will be available for loan at the Circulation desk a month before the discussion date.

- Walden Warming by Richard Primack and Thoreau and the Language of Trees by Richard Higgins, Tuesday, October 17
- The Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming by Naomi Oreskes and Eric Conway, Tuesday, November 21

FRIENDS OF THE ACTON LIBRARIES BOOK SALE

Preview Sale for Friends, Friday, October 13, 7-9 p.m.
Book Sale, Saturday, October 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Half-Price Day', Sunday, October 15, 2-3:30 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY CLASSES FOR AGES 14 AND UP

- **Get Started with Excel (Registration Required)**
Wednesday, October 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **OverDrive Digital Library (Registration Required)**
Wednesday, October 11, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Bring your device to this hands-on class and learn how to download e-books or digital audiobooks. Registration required.
- **AML Website Overview**
Wednesday, October 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Explore the wide range of services and resources available through the Acton Memorial Library's website. No devices required.
- **Hoopla Digital Content App (Registration Required)**
Wednesday, October 25, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Instantly borrow e-books, audiobooks, music, and movies – no holds, no waiting! Bring your questions and your device to this hands-on class.

REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.ACTONMEMORIALLIBRARY.ORG
OR CALL THE REFERENCE DEPT. AT
978-929-6543

Watch the library's calendar and news and social media outlets for Fall/Winter activities and technology classes, or sign up on the library's website to receive e-mail notices of library activities.



VETERAN SERVICES

Attention Acton Veterans and surviving spouses! **Do you know what benefits you are entitled to?**

Please contact James MacRae, Acton Veterans' Service Officer, if you are curious and would like an overview of State and Federal Benefits.

Potential financial, medical and additional benefits for those who meet the criteria. Please call 978-929-6614 or e-mail at vso@acton-ma.gov.



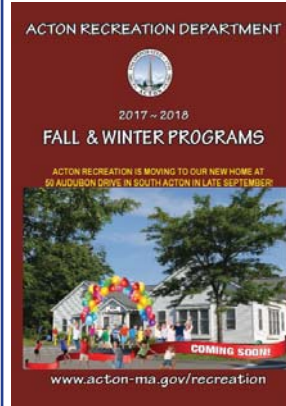
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED TO 50 AUDUBON DRIVE IN SOUTH ACTON (OFF HIGH STREET). We look forward to utilizing our new location (formerly the Acton Senior Center) to help meet your needs. Regular office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed on legal holidays and the day after Thanksgiving. To contact us, our office number is 978.929.6640 Ext. 0 or e-mail recreation@acton-ma.gov.

YOU'RE INVITED!
TO OUR RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
OF OUR NEW REC CENTER!
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT NOON!

FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS/CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE

We are excited to be able to offer a variety of new programs this coming season as we adjust to our new space that can accommodate indoor programs for all ages. Visit www.acton-ma.gov/register to see the variety of programs offered now through March 15th. You can register online, in-person, or by mail. If you would like a booklet sent to you via e-mail or postal mail, please contact our office.



HALLOWEEN CEMETERY TOUR!

Sunday, October 29
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Woodlawn Cemetery Chapel, Concord Road. "Tales from the Grave," stories about the residents of the Ridge Above Rocky Guzzle. Tour by your Ghost Host, Bill Klauer. This is a free event!

MONSTERBASH AT NARA PARK

Friday, October 20 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the NARA Amphitheater. Admission is \$5 per person at the door for all ages (over 2), Black light DJ dance party, fun, games, prizes, flashlight candy hunt (bring your flashlights), costumes are optional. www.acton-ma.gov/events. Rain cancels.

DO YOU KNOW THE LATEST?

Join our E-newsletter mailing list. To sign-up e-mail us at: recreation@acton-ma.gov.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - BE INFORMED, MAKE A PLAN, MAKE A KIT AND GET INVOLVED!

The recent weather in Texas and Florida has got us wondering how many families in Acton are prepared for an emergency? Here are some tips to help you prepare:

Family Plan: Establish a meeting location. Choose one spot close to home to meet if you become separated and one further away if you can't return to the area. Make sure all family members are aware of the chosen location(s).

Emergency Contact: Add a contact in all cell phones called I.C.E. (in case of emergency) and use the designated contact person's phone number. It's helpful to choose a person that does not live in the immediate area because chances are they won't have the same impact.

Food/Pet Food: Three days supply of non-perishable pre packaged/canned food and three day supply of water (one gallon of water per person/animal per day).

Heat: Blankets and Sleeping bags, Wood for fireplaces
Other: Have a fresh supply of batteries on hand, cash on hand

Medication: Prescribed and OTC

Important Documents: Drivers License, passport, SS card, bank account info

Radio: Battery and crank operated

First Aid Kit

For complete list of preparedness items see
<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/be-prepared/plan/>

Want to Help Others? Acton has an active Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and is looking for medical and non-medical residents who would like to volunteer their time to help out in the event of an emergency. If you are interested in being a part of this volunteer organization contact the Acton Health Department at 978-929-6632. Thank you!