



TOWN OF ACTON MUNICIPAL QUARTERLY JANUARY 1, 2018



Photo courtesy of Acton Resident

TOWN RECEIVES AWARD AS A GREEN COMMUNITY

The Town of Acton was awarded for its outstanding leadership as a designated Green Community, having fulfilled the goal of Green Community Designation Criterion Three by reducing its municipal energy consumption by at least 20 percent after five years of implementing its Energy Reduction Plan in accordance with the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program, established pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 25 A, §10.

The Board of Selectmen and members of the Green Advisory Board accepted this certificate presented by Kelly Brown, Regional Coordinator, Department of Energy Resources, at their November 27, 2017 meeting.



Pictured left to right: Kate Crosby, Chingsung Chang, Andrea Ristine, JD Head, Eric Hudson, Janet Adachi, Steve Ledoux, Kelly Brown, Joanne Bissetta, Peter Berry, Katie Green and Joan Gardner

ACTON NURSING SERVICES

NEW MEDICARE CARDS ARE COMING!

Medicare will mail new Medicare cards between April 2018 and April 2019. Your new card will have a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, instead of your Social Security Number. This will help to protect your identity.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR NEW MEDICARE CARD:

- You don't need to take any action to get your new Medicare card.
- The new card won't change your Medicare coverage or benefits.
- Medicare will never ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.
- There's no charge for your new card.

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

Scam artists may try to get your current Medicare Number and other personal information by contacting you about your new Medicare card. They often claim to be from Medicare and use various scams to get your Medicare Number including:

- Asking you to confirm your Medicare or Social Security Number so they can send you a new card.
- Telling you there's a charge for your new card and they need to verify your personal information.
- Threatening to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your Medicare Number or other personal information.

If someone calls you and asks for your Medicare Number or other personal information, hang up and call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

IT'S THE LAW! DON'T SIT IN YOUR CAR WITH THE ENGINE RUNNING FOR MORE THAN 5 MINUTES!

Massachusetts has an Anti-Idling Law that has been in place since 1972 and most people are not aware of this. The law is designed to improve the air that we breathe and prevent idling of our vehicles for more than 5 minutes. Idling vehicles create pollution and environmental concerns. Our vehicles use gasoline and diesel that produce carbon monoxide and dioxide, VOC's and Nitrogen Oxides which can cause respiratory problems that affect our population and ozone layers. This is especially true for our vulnerable population that includes the elderly, children and our residents with weakened immune systems.

The law states that penalties can range from \$100 (G.L. Chapter 90, Section 16A) to as much as \$25,000 (G.L. Chapter 111, Section 142A). Drivers and/or companies can be held responsible for paying the fine and local police have the authority to enforce the law, as do health officials or other officials who hold enforcement authority.

For more information and to access the fact sheet provided by the Massachusetts Department of Protection (D.E.P.) visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/air/anti-idle-faq.pdf>

ACTON SENIOR CENTER/COA

The new Senior Center/Council on Aging offices, housed in the Town's Human Services Center, opened in September at 30 Sudbury Road. It is a large, bright space where the Council on Aging offers services and activities to Acton residents age 60 and up. There is a vast array of exercise classes, lifelong learning programs, informational presentations, wellness programs, and drop in groups and activities. Lunch is served weekdays in the large and bright dining room space and Meals on Wheels are sent out from a brand-new kitchen. The Senior Services Coordinator helps seniors and their families with a variety of assistance, including referrals to home care agencies, rides from volunteer drivers, and applying for fuel assistance. We have a library with a book swap and computers for seniors to use, a lounge to relax and read, do puzzles or chat with friends, and a gym with exercise equipment appropriate for seniors.



Call the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652, email us at seniorcenter@acton-ma.gov or check out our latest newsletter at www.actoncoa.com.



Human Services Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Pictured left to right: Janet Adachi, Sharon Mercurio, Rich Burrows, Laura Ducharme, Steve Ledoux, James MacRae, Senator Eldridge, Heather York, Doug Halley

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

WINTER PARKING BAN: Residents are reminded that a winter parking ban is in effect from November 1 until April 1. On street parking is not allowed between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. The parking ban also includes the Municipal Parking areas located behind the W. Acton Fire Station (258 Central St), S. Acton Fire Station (54 School St), and the Railroad Street Parking Area. Vehicles that are illegally parked will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense if they interfere with snow removal operations. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

WINTER MAINTENANCE: Please remember that our crews have to travel on snow covered, slippery untreated roads to get here at any hour of the day or night. Please be patient as the crews will be out as soon as possible to begin the snow & ice operations.

FIRE HYDRANTS: Fire Hydrants are under the control of the Acton Water District. The Water District asks residents with hydrants in front of or near their property to please clear the snow away from the area so that in an emergency the hydrant will be accessible. Questions regarding snow removal near hydrants should be directed to the Acton Water District at (978) 263-9107.

MAILBOXES: Mailboxes installed in the Town right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the Town. It is the responsibility of the owner of the mailbox to clear the snow around the mailbox to assure mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Department. If the snow banks are too high to shovel, place a temporary box beside the road until the snow has melted enough to allow access to the mailbox. The Town does not replace mailboxes if damaged by snow being discharged by the snowplow. The Town only assumes responsibility if a Town plow comes into contact with the mailbox or post.

SAND AND SALT: A mixture of sand and salt is available to residents (no contractors) at the designated area located at the Highway Department, 14 Forest Road. Please use caution while entering and exiting as vehicles and equipment are prevalent. Please bring your own shovel and container.

More information is available in the Winter Maintenance publication that can be found on the Town of Acton website or picked up at the Town Clerk's office.

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS

www.actonmemoriallibrary.org

A great deal can be learned on the library's website! View our online calendar, news and social media outlets for children's events and additional activities including technology classes. To sign up for programs, learn about our offerings or sign up to receive email notices, please visit our website.

WANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THINGS?

The library recently added a microscope to its collection. The kit includes an AmScope microscope model SE306R-P-LED, instruction manual, and 25 prepared slides. Samples on the slides include a pine leaf, sunflower stem, sections of a hydra, connective tissue, and muscle.

In addition, three Reflector Tabletop Telescopes with 8-24mm zoom eyepieces are available for loan. Each includes a carrying case, instruction manual, and pocket guide to the constellations.

Both the microscope and the telescopes can be checked out for two weeks by adults with a library card; ask at the circulation desk for more information.

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.

- *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand, Tuesday, January 16
- *A God in Ruins: A Novel* by Kate Atkinson, Tuesday, February 20
- *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt, Tuesday, March 20

FRIENDS OF THE ACTON LIBRARIES BOOK SALE

- Preview Sale for Friends, Friday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Book Sale, Saturday, January 27, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Half-Price Day, Sunday, January 28, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

The snow dates for the book sale are the following weekend.

TECHNOLOGY CLASSES FOR AGES 14 AND UP

- **Navigating Windows 10 (No Registration Required)**
Tuesday, January 30, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Explore Windows 10;
- **OverDrive Digital Library (Registration Required)**
Tuesday, January 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Bring your device to this hands-on class and learn how to download e-books or digital audiobooks.

- **Hoopla Digital Content App (Registration Required)**

Wednesday, January 17, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Instantly borrow e-books, audiobooks, music, and movies! Bring your questions and your device to this hands-on class. Due to licensing restrictions, this resource is only available to Acton residents.

REGISTER FOR CLASS ONLINE
WWW.ACTONMEMORIALLIBRARY.ORG
OR CALL 978-929-6543



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT IS NOW LOCATED AT 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. We are 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.

WINTER CLASSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

We are excited to be able to offer a variety of classic favorites and new programs this winter! Our new Recreation Center has opened a new door for Acton Recreation to run recreational programs and special events all year long! We look forward to your suggestions for new recreation offerings, so please send us your feedback. If you are interested in offering a class, please contact us. E-mail recreation@acton-ma.gov or call us at 978.929.6640 and press 0.

SLEDDING AT NARA PARK

Sledding at NARA Park (Ledge Rock/Quarry Rd.) is available free of charge during daylight hours. Please note that sledding is done at your own risk. We request that no sledding jumps be made. Please do not sled toward the pond as the ice may not be safe. Do not sled toward the amphitheater. We recommend that you sled toward the field area.

ISLAND NIGHT! (Geared for Ages 6-12)

Friday, January 19 from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Acton Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Drive.

Who says you can't have some summer fun in the middle of a New England winter? Pack your lawn chair, beach towel or blanket, flip flops, and sunglasses! Fun movie (see the clue) on a big screen, themed games and treats! CLUE! We're sure you'll say thanks for this fun night out... our reply will be "You're Welcome!" This is a drop-off program. Register at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/register>



WINTER CARNIVAL

Saturday, February 3 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at NARA Park, 25 Ledge Rock Way. Snow or no snow it's a go!

Join us for a Frozen Dance Party and wintertime fun! Bring your own sleds and skates (pending conditions), marshmallow toasting over a warm fire, Acton Minuteman, Acton Fire Department, Food Vendors and More! Visit our website as we get closer to the event! Community groups are welcome to come and do an activity! Please contact us if you are interested at: recreation@acton-ma.gov.



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.



ACTON DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Did you know that there are over 1,900 registered dogs, and over 1,600 dog owners in Acton? Acton's Dog Park Committee was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to consider the construction of an enclosed, accessible dog park. We believe Acton and its residents would benefit from a designated park where owners can bring dogs for exercise, socialization, and the kind of play dogs need to be the best possible neighbors.

Did you know that many communities with enclosed dog parks have fewer incidents of dog aggression, higher property values, and better-informed dog owners? **DOG OWNER OR NOT, WE NEED YOUR INPUT!** PLEASE TAKE OUR BRIEF SURVEY: [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/ADPCSURVEY1](http://TINYURL.COM/ADPCSURVEY1)

With your input and ideas, we'll build a dog park that fulfills the needs of dogs, their owners, and the community at large.

Would you like to be more involved?

Email us at ADPC@acton-ma.gov
Follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ADPCActon/>
Join us at a meeting: alternative Tuesday nights STARTING AT 7:30 PM.
Learn more at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/604/Dog-Park-Committee>

