

TOWN OF ACTON



MUNICIPAL



MONTHLY



DECEMBER 4, 2018

ACTON, MA

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Welcome to the second edition of our online monthly newsletter. We hope you find this informative and encourage you to spread the word to help the Municipal Monthly reach more residents through our website and email subscription at <http://actonma.gov/list.aspx>.

A Special Town Meeting was held on December 3rd at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School to discuss four articles related to marijuana. There were 1,097 voters in attendance. Voters approved Article 1 which established a bylaw to prohibit any marijuana establishments (except medical marijuana) in Town as defined in Chapter 94G, Section 1 of the General Laws of Massachusetts. The affirmative vote on Article 1 at Special Town Meeting was the second step in a two-step process that was required for Acton to prohibit marijuana establishments. Voters took no action on Articles 2 and 3 and voted in favor of Article 4. The affirmative vote on Article 4 extends the existing temporary moratorium on marijuana establishments to ensure that a prohibition is in place while the Attorney General's office is reviewing and approving our two-step process. The complete summary of the meeting is available in the Abstract of the Special Town Meeting which posted online at www.actonma.gov/townmeeting.

Thank you to our Town Clerk's office and Technology Department staff whose extensive preparations and planning made for a very smooth check-in process considering the large crowd. A photograph of the Technology staff along with a photograph showing the view of the meeting from my seat on the stage is shown below.

On the last page is a few examples of how Town staff are helping families in need this holiday season. The photograph on the right is the "Mitten Tree" located in the Acton Nursing Services Office to collect items to be distributed to local families.

I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2019!

Sincerely,
John Mangiaratti



Photograph from the stage at the 12/3/2018 Special Town Meeting



Technology Department staff at the control center during Special Town Meeting (from left to right) Matt Frost, Aaron Green, Bryan Cote, Kristin Alexander, Justin Flynn, Assistant Town Manager Mark Hald

Mitten Tree located at the Acton Nursing Services Office at 30 Sudbury (more info on pg. 6)



PUBLIC MEETING PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PLAN THURS., DECEMBER 6 AT 7:00 P.M.

Conceptual layouts for potential improvements to the Main Street (Route 27) at Prospect Street intersection will be presented. The community is invited to provide input to determine the preferred design that will enhance the intersection.

The existing unconventional layout of the intersection can often present challenges to motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists due to the sharp angles of the roadways, high-speed turns, and insufficient lines of sight. The objective of this forum is to present some conceptual layouts and seek public input to determine the preferred design that will enhance safety, operation, and aesthetics of the area. We invite the community to join us on Thursday, December 6th to help us improve the intersection making it safer, more efficient, and more accessible for all roadway users.



Public Infrastructure Improvement Plan
Thursday, December 6, 2018, Room 204, Town Hall - 7PM

COUNCIL ON AGING

SOUTH MIDDLESEX OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL (SMOC) LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY FUEL ASSISTANCE

Need help paying your heating bill? The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible households, including households whose cost of heat is included in the rent pay a portion of winter heating bills. Applications for 2018/19 fuel assistance have started. Eligibility is based on gross annual income of household members 18 and older, and family size. Look below to see if you may qualify for fuel assistance as well as discounts on other utility bills. If you are over the income guidelines you may be eligible for other fuel assistance programs. Call the Human Services Center at 978-929-6652 for more information.

Family Size	Estimated State income
1	\$35,510
2	\$46,437
3	\$57,363
4	\$68,289



AARP TAX AID VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities available for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide offers free tax filing help to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who cannot afford a tax preparation service. To learn about our volunteer opportunities contact Paul Motyka at paul@pmotyka.com or 978-263-2612.

WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS 101

Wednesday, December 12 from 10:00-11:00 p.m., Acton COA

Open to out-of-town seniors/free~

It does not matter if you lost your spouse this year or 20 years ago, we have all encountered similar circumstances when a loved one dies. This self-led group will allow us to discuss our experiences and share solutions to issues we have encountered. Let's have a cup of coffee together, share a few laughs and realize that we are not alone.

WINTER SCAM AWARENESS: A CONVERSATION WITH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY MARIAN RYAN

Tuesday, January 15 from 1:00-1:45 p.m., Acton COA

This forum will educate participants about common scams that target seniors during the winter months. District Attorney Ryan will discuss what consumers need to be aware of around home heating, snow removal, roof service, chimney cleaning, furnace cleaning, vehicle maintenance, and tree service.



MEET THE AUTHOR: DON EYLES TO SPEAK ABOUT HIS APOLLO MEMOIR

Tuesday, January 22 from 1:00-2:00 p.m., Acton COA

Join us for lunch, entertainment, and meet new friends, in a supportive, social, stigma-free atmosphere. This is a special time set aside for individuals with memory impairment and their care partners/caregivers. Right At Home of Bedford sponsors the event at the Acton Senior Center. Space is limited, RSVP at 978-929-6652.

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS CLASS WITH ALAN HORVITZ

Tuesdays, January 15 - February 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Acton COA

If you would like to learn to play bridge, but do not know the rules and have no experience playing, this is the course for you. Alan Horvitz will teach you the rules and introduce you to the fundamentals of bidding, play of the hand and defense. Instruction will be balanced with an opportunity to play the game under experienced supervision. Students will acquire new skills and have fun! Call the COA at 978-929-6652 to register.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CONGRATULATIONS Kevin Larsen, Dispatcher, for graduating the State 911 Dispatch Academy!

COFFEE WITH A COP

Tues, December 11 from 9-11:00 a.m.
Starbucks, 411 Mass Avenue, Acton



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

DO YOU KNOW THE LATEST?

Join our *E-newsletter mailing list* for information and updates that include concerts, events, sports fields, beach information, recreation programs, bus trip information, project updates and more! **To sign-up, e-mail us at: recreation@actonma.gov.** Our goal is to keep you informed--and not inundate your inbox! You can also find us on Facebook: NARA Park, Acton Recreation, NARA Camp, TJ O'Grady Skate Park.

STUDIO TWO INVADES ACTON!

Saturday, February 9 from 7:30-10:00 p.m.

at the Acton Rec. Center. Limited tickets are now available for \$35 per person which include the concert and complimentary appetizer bar. Beverages including soda, beer and wine will be available for purchase. Purchase your tickets for this very special engagement before it's too late: actonrec.com.



HOLIDAY BOSTON POPS SHOW!

We've planned one of the best holiday shows to see in Boston! Acton Rec. is offering a memorable bus trip on **Wednesday, December 12** that includes tickets to the 4:00 p.m. Holiday Boston Pops with the Boston Symphony Orchestra following a delicious lunch at the Living Room Restaurant, with a meal choice of Boston Scrod, Chicken Marsala or Yankee Pot Roast before the show, and round-trip deluxe motor coach transportation. Cost is \$110 per person and you can register online at actonrec.com or in person at the Rec. Center. The bus will depart from Littleton Parks and Recreation, 33 Shattuck Street, Littleton.

DROP & HOLIDAY SHOP--PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

Kids ages 5 & up, stay and play while parents take a night to shop or dine!
Friday, December 14 from 5:00-10:00 p.m. at the Acton Rec. Center - Cost is \$40 per child. Pre-Registration is required: actonrec.com. Limited enrollment!

DECEMBER SCHOOL VACATION BREAK PROGRAM! HAVE YOU MADE YOUR CHILDCARE PLANS YET?

Acton Recreation is now offering affordable school vacation programs for youth ages 5-12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., \$50 per child, per day. In addition to these programs, we are also offering Action and Adventure Day Trips for ages 9-13.

**REGISTER AT:
ACTONREC.COM**

December School Vacation Program



Come play with us at our recreation center!

We'll have arts & crafts, active games, team building games, theater games, outdoor play, and more!

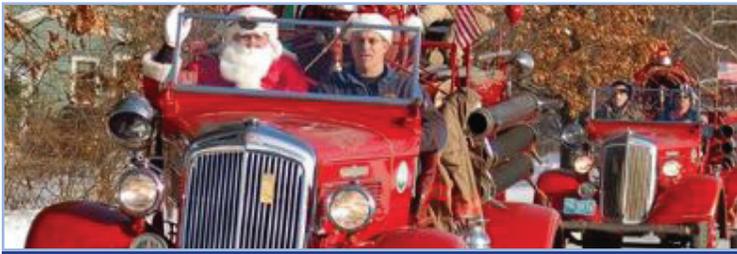
Location: Acton Recreation Center
50 Audubon Drive, Acton, Ma

December 24-31
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
\$50.00 per Child per Day
Ages 5-12



Register Online:
www.actonrec.com





FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL SANTA RIDE & FOOD DRIVE!

Saturday, December 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Santa is coming to Town on a vintage 1936 REO Fire Truck! Santa's team of Acton Firefighters! Santa's REO Fire Truck will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Acton Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

To arrange a special visit or to obtain more information, call the Acton Fire Department at 978-264-9648 or e-mail acton11904@verizon.net. Look for us on Facebook @ Santaride.

Santa will be traveling to these locations:

- 9:00 A.M. Oakwood Road and Fernwood Road
- 9:10 A.M. 32 Parker Street, Cucurbit Farm
- 9:30 A.M. Faulkner Hill Road at High Street
- 9:40 A.M. Robbins Street at Heron View Road
- 9:50 A.M. Beverly Road at Doris Road
- 10:00 A.M. Lothrop Road at Spencer
- 10:10 A.M. Joseph Reed Lane at Capt. Forbush Lane
- 10:20 A.M. Ethan Allen Drive at Black Horse Drive
- 10:30 A.M. Duggan Road at Townsend Road
- 11:20 A.M. Nashoba Road at Huron Road
- 11:30 A.M. Seneca Road at Seminole Road
- 11:40 A.M. Jackson Drive at Washington Drive
- 11:50 A.M. Musket Drive at Fife & Drum Road
- 12:00 P.M. Acton Memorial Library, lower lot
- 12:15 P.M. Acorn Park Drive at Walnut Street
- 12:30 P.M. Northbriar Road at Sawmill Road
- 12:40 P.M. Strawberry Hill Road at Pope Road
- 12:45 P.M. Bayberry Road at Magnolia Drive
- 12:50 P.M. Hosmer Road at Alcott Street

WINTER SAFETY

As the weather gets colder the extra demand on heating appliances increases. Be sure your heating equipment is operating properly by having it serviced by a qualified technician.

Be sure to clear away the snow that piles up near low level heating exhaust. This will prevent the blockage and danger of carbon monoxide from entering the house.

Fireplaces and wood burning stoves provide an excellent source of heat for your home. Fireplaces can be pleasing to watch while enjoying the warmth. However, there could be hidden dangers that can go unchecked for months or years. The buildup of creosote from the incomplete combustion of wood that can accumulate within the chimney walls that could result in a chimney fire. The Acton Fire Department suggests an annual cleaning and inspection of your chimney by a qualified professional to help prevent chimney fires.

Never start your vehicle in a garage to warm up. The buildup of carbon monoxide from your vehicles engine can be deadly. Have a working carbon monoxide detector near all bedrooms and on each floor of living space.

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives.....they also make a great gift!

HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY FROM THE ACTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK ACTON NEEDS TO DO TO BE A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY?

Please complete a brief survey that you can obtain by e-mailing the Health Department at health@actonma.gov.

We conducted a similar survey approximately 8 years ago and received 800 responses! We would love to hear from more of you this time! We have taken strides to implement improvements based on those results. Now we want to know if we should still be working on those items or if there are different needs that you can identify to improve the health of our community.

Please e-mail the Health Department at health@actonma.gov to have a link sent to you and be added to our mailing list or visit <https://tinyurl.com/healthyacton>. Thank you for sharing your input!

2019 RABIES CLINIC

Saturday, January 26

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Dogstar Activity Center

310-B School Street, Acton

Cost: \$15 Per Animal

(cash only)



With Special Thanks to: Dr. Jonathan Kelman, Great Road Veterinary Hospital and Dogstar Activity Center

Owners must bring the most recent vaccination certificate (tag not sufficient). Animals without certificates will receive vaccines good for one year only. All dogs must be leashed and cats in carriers. Animals with current wounds of unknown origin cannot be rabies vaccinated.

Please contact the Acton Health Department for additional information @ 978-929-6632.

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!

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@actonma.gov.

James MacRae Veteran Services Officer speaking to large crowd that gathered for a Veterans Day ceremony on the common on November 11, 2018.



NATURAL RESOURCES

2019 COMMUNITY GARDENS



The Town of Acton Natural Resources Division currently has Community Garden plots available to rent at three locations: Morrison Farm at 116 Concord Road, North Acton Community Garden at 845 Main Street and the Hebert Farm Community Garden located at 88 Prospect Street. Residents and non-residents are eligible. There is a limit of one plot per household. The 2019 gardening season runs from Saturday, April 6 through Sunday, November 2, 2019. Gardeners are required to follow Acton Water District watering policy.

Registration for all garden plots are by walk-in only. Forms will be provided at the Kennedy Building, located at Woodlawn Cemetery, 104 Concord Road, Acton, MA 01720.

Available plots for the 2019 season will be assigned on a first-come first-serve basis beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 7. For more information including rates, please contact Kim at Natural Resources at 978-929-6642 or e-mail cemetery@actonma.gov.

DOG PARK SURVEY--Hurry! Survey Closes Dec. 8

[The Acton Dog Park Committee](#) is considering six possible sites and is looking for community input as to which would be the best location for our Town's park. Please look over the [site descriptions](#), and let us know your opinions by taking this very [short survey](#) no later than December 8th. Acton's Dog Park Committee: adpc@actonma.gov Click [here](#) to visit our facebook page.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

MAILBOX REPLACEMENT POLICY



The Highway Department would like to remind residents about the **Mailbox Replacement Policy** that was adopted by the Board of Selectmen in 2014.



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. 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. The Town will not be responsible for damage to any mailbox or post if the front of the box extends past the curb line and/or is within 6-inches from the curb line.

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 complete Mailbox Policy may be viewed under the Highway link on the Town Website: www.actonma.gov.



NEW ROOF INSTALLATION AT THE ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

NO SHAVE NOVEMBER WRAP-UP

MAILBOX REPLACEMENT POLICY

Deputy Chief Jim Cogan was one of 24 Acton Police Officers that participated in the 4th annual "No Shave November" month. The No Shave November campaign supports the Home Base's mission to help Veterans and families heal from the invisible wounds such as post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. Each officer donated \$100 to Homebase.org to be part of the program, and the Acton Police Association has matched all the donations.

At the end of the month many officers attended a special ceremony at Fenway Park.



PHOTO: DEPUTY CHIEF JIM COGAN WITH WALLY AT FENWAY PARK



NEW! MASSHIRE CAREER CENTER

The Town of Acton has recently established a partnership with the MASSHIRE Metro South/West Career Center to provide career resources to residents. The MASSHIRE Metro South/West Career Center is part of a statewide network of workforce locations serving 43 cities and towns. Available services to residents include career counseling, resume writing assistance, interview preparation, job leads and referrals, job skills workshops and more.

The Mission of the MASSHIRE Career Centers is to help job seekers overcome barriers to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Residents can access services on Tuesdays from 8:30-3:30 at the Human Services Facility located at 30R Sudbury Road

To schedule an appointment please contact:

Heather Laudani-Mobile Career Advisor
508-782-0956
hlaudani@MassHireMSW.com
www.MassHireMSW.com



COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Do you want to get involved in making Acton a better place to live? There are many boards and committees in town run by volunteers, and many of them are in need of new members.

A comprehensive list may be found on the Town website at: www.actonma.gov/jobs.



TOWN OF ACTON ~ CONNECT WITH US!

Join our online community and stay in the know with exclusive news and updates on:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ActonMAGov/>

Follow us on **Twitter** @ActonMAGov:

<https://twitter.com/ActonMAGov>



Sign up for **Town notifications**, emergency alerts and general alerts - subscribe, unsubscribe or manage your subscriptions: <https://www.acton.ma.gov/list.aspx>

'TIS THE SEASON

DECEMBER HOLIDAY HOURS

**Town offices will be closed:
Wednesday, Dec. 25 &
Tuesday, January 1**



Wishing you and yours a warm, memorable and safe holiday season!



HAT AND MITTEN TREE

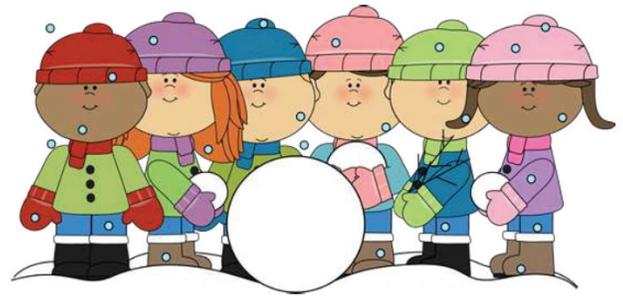
Help keep children and families in our community warm during the winter months by donating **new winter hats and mittens!!** All children and adult sizes accepted!!

Come decorate our Hat and Mitten tree in the

Acton Nursing Services Offices

Town of Acton Human Services & Senior Center

30 Sudbury Road, Rear



**Thank you to all who have
donated to Toys for Tots at our
collection centers.**

**Donations are being collected
until December 7th.**



The Town of Acton will have collection boxes for

TOYS FOR TOTS in the following locations until

December 7th

Town of Acton Public Safety Facility at 371 Main St.
Town of Acton Human Services & Senior Center at
30 Sudbury Road Rear – Acton Nursing Services
Acton Town Hall, 472 Main Street - Health Dept.

**Donations will benefit local
children!! Thank you!**

TOWN OF ACTON FOOD DRIVE



**Please join us in making a
donation to Acton Buxboro Food
Pantry**

November 19th to December 17th

Please make donations of Non Perishable Food
Items to
Town of Acton – Land Use Wing, 472 Main Street
or
Human Services Building, Acton Nursing Service,
30 Sudbury Road

Contact Sheryl Ball 978-929-6632 or Heather York 978-929-6650 for
more information