TOWN MANAGER’S UPDATE

The Town Meeting Improvements Committee presented their final report to the Board of Selectmen on February 24th. The report contained many recommendations of improvements for the Town to consider. Thank you to the committee and community members who participated in this important effort to increase participation in Town Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, April 6th. There are currently forty-four articles in the proposed warrant. The Board of Selectmen will hold two public meetings to discuss the warrant on Monday, March 2nd and Monday, March 16th. For more information on Town Meeting, please visit actonma.gov/townmeeting.

The Town of Acton recently received a $112,500 grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, an initiative of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The grant funding will provide the funds necessary to advance the engineering and begin the permitting process for the dam removal and stream restoration at 53 River Street property. Town officials attended a ceremony in New Bedford alongside other local officials and environmental advocacy groups.

In February, Acton received its Tree City USA designation from the Department of Recreation and Conservation (DCR) and the Arbor Day Foundation. Thanks to Department of Public Works Director Corey York and Tree Warden Ryan Hunt for their efforts.

We are proud to announce the Town is one of 19 communities accepted into the 2020 ICLEI Sustainability Planning Cohort. ICLEI was founded 30 years ago to assist local governments with their environmental and energy sustainability needs.

Several Town employees attended the annual Women Leading Government (WLG) conference held on February 27th. WLG is an initiative of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association with an interest in encouraging and supporting women working in all levels of local government to pursue positions in management. Speakers included Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and Worcester Polytechnic Institute President Laurie Leshin, among others.

Finally, each month the Council on Aging hosts “Java with John,” which is an opportunity for residents to hear from the Town Manager the latest news of projects and initiatives happening within Town Hall and the community, in addition to asking any questions residents may have. The next event will be held Friday, March 27th at 10:00 AM in the Senior Center.
EMPLOYEE & VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

SARAH KINGHORN, BSN, RN, CFCN - NURSING DEPARTMENT
Sarah joined Acton Nursing Services in January 2020 as a per diem nurse. She graduated with a BSN from Northeastern in 1999 and spent nine years in hospitals both in the US and Scotland. The last 12 years Sarah has worked as a Public Health Nurse, most recently in Tewksbury, MA. Sarah became a Certified Foot Care Nurse in 2014, which is how she first heard of Acton Nursing Services. Sarah and two of the nurses who work for her through her business, Footcare Focus, provide weekly Podiatry Clinics at the Human Services and Senior Center Building, 30 Sudbury Rd., Rear. Sarah will now provide home health care visits, a perfect transition from her public health background! We are so pleased Sarah has decided to join our team in a larger capacity and will be a familiar face to patients who have met her at our clinics.

BRIAN BANFIELD - NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
The Town of Acton Natural Resources Department welcomes back Brian Banfield. Brian worked for Natural Resources from 2015 through 2017. He was employed at Mount Sinai Memorial Park in California until April 2019. We look forward to working with Brian again.

BILL KLAUER - HISTORICAL COMMISSION & CEMETERY COMMISSION & 53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN SPECIAL COMMITTEE
Bill Klauer currently serves on the Historical Commission (since 1971!), the Cemetery Commission, and the 53 River Street Master Plan Special Committee. He has lived in Acton for 69 years, and began volunteer service to the town in 1961 with the restoration of the Town clock. Bill is especially interested in researching antique homes and other architectural structures.

CHUNSHENG (BILL) FU - COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD
Chunsheng (Bill) Fu, PhD, serves on the Council on Aging Board. Bill began his service to the COA by leading a volunteer translator group to assist minority seniors beginning in 2017. He works as a principal software engineer. Bill has served on his condominium board and the board of directors for his church, and says he “loves serving the community.”

LORI COONEY - CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD
Lori presently serves on the Cable Advisory Committee and the Council on Aging Board. She moved to Acton seven years ago, and is a self-described “joiner.” She is a member of the Acton Conservation Trust, Iron Work Farm, the Acton Historical Society, and Acton TV. Lori is also the Voter Services Chair of the Acton League of Women Voters.
At last year’s annual Town Meeting, Acton voters overwhelmingly supported the funding for the appraisal services and additional design funds by a vote of 89%. Following the Town Meeting vote, MassDOT announced they would commit to funding completion of the design, saving the Town about $450,000.

Due to the support shown by the community, MassDOT was confident in the Town’s commitment to the project.

Please join us on Thursday, March 19th at 7:00 PM, Acton Town Hall in Room 204, to hear more project updates and information about the upcoming Kelley’s Corner funding article to proceed with right of way acquisitions.

VISIT: WWW.ACTONMA.GOV/KC FOR MORE INFORMATION.

The Human Services and Senior Center Facility at 30 Sudbury Road will have new hours effective Monday, April 6, 2020.

Housed within the building are: Acton Nursing Services, Community Services Coordinator, Council on Aging, and Veterans Service Officer.

The new hours will be:
- Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 8:00 AM – 7:30 PM
- Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The new hours will give flexibility to residents who work during normal business hours, the ability to attend an activity at the Senior Center, meet with the Veteran Services Agent and Community Services Coordinator or pick up medical equipment from Acton Nursing Services. The Human Services and Senior Center Facility business hour change aligns with the change that went into effect at The Acton Town Hall in July 2019, which has received positive feedback from residents.
**ACTON CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

An 8-week program held each Wednesday beginning April 1st through May 20th from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. at the Public Safety Facility, 371 Main Street, Acton.

Here is a great opportunity to find out what your Police Department and Dispatch Center does on a daily basis. Classes will be taught by officers specializing in each of the subject areas giving participants the opportunity to meet many members of the Acton Police Department and to be able to ask questions and give feedback.

**TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:**

- Officer and Public Safety Facility
- Learn the History and Structure of the Police Department
- Patrol Procedures
- Traffic Enforcement
- Use of Force
- Drug Investigations
- Domestic Violence
- Mental Health Issues
- Criminal Investigations
- Juveniles & Restorative Justice
- Prosecution & Criminal Law
- Dispatch Operations
  and more!

**FREE PROGRAM FOR AGES 18+**

For more information or to enroll, contact Police Chief Rich Burrows at 978.929.7512 or e-mail rburrows@actonma.gov

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**THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN PRESENTS**

**2020 LITTLETON POLAR PLUNGE**

**APR 4, 2020 | 10:00 AM | LONG LAKE — LITTLETON**

Presented by the Littleton & Acton Police Departments & Littleton High School

*Be Bold. Get Cold.*

For More Info:

https://specialolympics.ma.donordrive.com/event/littleton2020

or call 508-485-0586

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**The Town of Acton Police Department Presents**

**Youth Police Academy**

For ages 12-15

Monday, July 13 - Friday, July 17

9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Youth Police Academy will be held at the Elm Street Fields & the Public Safety Facility

Led by the Acton Police Youth Officers

- Physical Fitness
- Arrest Process
- K-9 Unit
- Police Vehicles/Units
- Graduation Ceremony

Fee: Free
Limited Enrollment
Register Online Beginning January 29
www.actonrec.com

This is a program for students who are interested in how officers perform their duties. Students will learn what it takes to be a police officer.
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

2020 SPRING-SUMMER PROGRAM IS NOW AVAILABLE

Spring is here and we are ready! The Spring-Summer Program has been mailed to all homes in Acton and Boxborough and all programs are available.

Click [here](http://actonrec.com) to view the program booklet or visit our online registration site at [actonrec.com](http://actonrec.com). You can also come to the Acton Recreation Department located at 50 Audubon Drive to sign up for programs, bus trips or to purchase event tickets.

APRIL SCHOOL VACATION BREAK
RECREATION KIDS CLUB

Registration is open for children ages 5-12 for the upcoming February and April school vacation breaks. The program is $50 per day per child and is offered from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There are pre and post care options available. Participants must be pre-registered. [actonrec.com](http://actonrec.com)

NARA SUMMER CAMP

Registration is now open for NARA Summer Camp for children ages 4-15. For more information and/or to enroll visit [actonrec.com](http://actonrec.com).

To obtain the forms to mail-in or hand deliver, click [here](http://actonrec.com) for Mighty Mini’s (ages 4-5), click [here](http://actonrec.com) for NARA Youth (ages 6-13) or [here](http://actonrec.com) for our Counselor in Training Program (ages 14-15).

2020 CONCERTS & EVENTS

To view a calendar listing of this years events, visit [actonma.gov/events](http://actonma.gov/events). Events listed included free and ticketed concerts, July 4th and more!

NARA BEACH MEMBERSHIPS AND RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS

You may now purchase your 2020 Beach Membership for NARA. Early Bird rates are available through May 31. Membership options include: Couple, Family, Individual and Senior (age 60+). Click [here](http://actonrec.com) to obtain a membership registration form. You may register for Red Cross Swim Lessons at NARA Park online at actonrec.com or by completing the registration form by clicking [here](http://actonrec.com).

RECREATION DEPARTMENT E-NEWSLETTER

Do you receive our e-newsletter? Our e-news helps keep you posted on the latest happenings with Acton Recreation. You’ll be one of the first to know the latest news and updates about our fields, facilities, events and programs. E-mail recreation@actonma.gov and ask to be added. We won’t share your e-mail and you can easily unsubscribe at any time.
LIBRARY HOURS
Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

In the event of extreme weather, please speak directly to a staff member before setting out for the library.

A great deal can be learned on the library’s website, www.actonmemoriallibrary.org; people who wish to receive e-mails reminding them of library events may sign up for the free service on the website.

ADULT PROGRAMS

TINA CASSIDY AUTHOR TALK
Celebrate the Women’s Suffrage Centennial with a talk from Tina Cassidy, author of Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait? The book examines the complex relationship between suffragist Alice Paul and President Woodrow Wilson, revealing the life-risking measures that Paul and her supporters endured to gain voting rights for American women. Saturday, March 14 at 2:30 PM

MOVIES AT AML
Judy, Rated PG-13 Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 PM
Joker, Rated R, Thursday, March 5 at 7:00 PM
Parasite, Rated R, Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM
I Am Big Bird, Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 PM

CONCERT: NATE ARONOW NEXTET
The Nate Aronow Nextet will perform on the upper level of the library, bringing its unique brand of original and cover fusion, contemporary jazz, funk and Latin styles. Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 PM

ORGANIC GARDENING
Learn natural and effective techniques for the cultivation of a variety of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers with John Root. Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 PM

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: FROZEN 2
Elsa the Snow Queen has an extraordinary gift -- the power to create ice and snow. But no matter how happy she is to be surrounded by the people of Arendelle, Elsa finds herself strangely unsettled. After hearing a mysterious voice call out to her, Elsa travels to the enchanted forests and dark seas beyond her kingdom -- an adventure that soon turns into a journey of self-discovery. Rated PG; Duration 103 minutes. One adult must remain at the library with each family group for the duration of the program. The library is not open for other services Friday, March 20, 7:00 PM.

STORYTIMES
Under Two Storytime: Tuesdays at 9:30 AM for children up to 23 months and their caregivers
Tremendous Twos Storytime: Tuesdays at 11 AM for children 24 to 36 months old and their caregivers
Preschool Storytime: Thursdays at 10 AM for children ages 3-7
Pajama Storytime: Thursdays, March 12 and 26 at 7:00 PM Best for ages 3-7

FUN THURSDAYS
Family Games - Thursday, March 5 at 2:30 PM
Lego Club - Thursday, March 12 and 26 at 2:30 PM
Bingo Games - Thursday, March 19 at 2:30 PM

READ TO A DOG
Young readers can make a 15 minute appointment to practice reading aloud to a therapy dog!
Read to Molly: Wednesday, March 11, 16, and 25 at 4:15 PM
Read to Luna: Saturdays, March 14 and 28 at 10:00 AM
To make an appointment contact the Children’s Room 978-929-6655, opt #4

ED THE MUSIC MAN
Join the fun with this singing and dancing session for kids ages 1-99. Mondays, March 2 and 16, 3:30 PM
New Book Club at Citizens’ Library and the Seed Library is open for the season!

The West Acton Citizens’ Library has a new book group that will be meeting one Wednesday night a month from 6:00-7:00 PM, starting on Wednesday, March 18. The first several books will be Boston themed and everyone is welcome to join. On March 18, we will be discussing Dark Tide: The Great Molasses Flood of 1919 by Stephen Puleo, and on Wednesday, April 22 we will discuss The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant.

The Seed Library and Exchange is up and running for the spring season! We have expanded our seed collection to include over 30 varieties of plants and vegetables! We also encourage local gardeners to bring in extra seeds they may have to share. In addition to seeds, we have plenty of books on planting gardens and starting and saving seeds. Seeds are available for free and we hope that after you’re done growing your flowers and vegetables, you will harvest seeds return them to the library to share with your neighbors next season.

For more information on the book club or seed library, check out our website at www.actoncitizenslibrary.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Fuel Assistance Programs

Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a government sponsored program that is administered through South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) in Framingham. Residents must meet income guidelines at or below 60% of the state median income level.

Good Neighbor Energy Fund-The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is sponsored through the Salvation Army. This program assists households with incomes within 60-80% of the state median income and are not otherwise eligible for other fuel assistance programs.

To inquire about eligibility for either of these programs or to schedule an appointment please contact the Community Services Office at (978) 929-6651 or e-mail lducharme@actonma.gov.

Starting the Conversation:
College & Your Mental Health

A Panel Discussion for Students & Parents

March 16, 2020
7:00 - 8:30
Open to the Public

The Gallery at Villageworks
525 Mass. Ave.
Acton, MA
2nd floor/accessible

Mental health issues have become more prevalent in college settings.
What are some mental health-friendly signs to look for when applying to college?
What kind of mental health support is available on college campuses?
How do you access help if you or a friend need it?

Panel Members:

Melissa Wall, M.A.,
Director of Student Mental Health & Wellness, UMass Lowell

Stacey G. Harris, J.D.,
Associate Director of Disability and Access Services, Boston University

Jennifer Morello, LCSW, Ph.D., Director, Disability Policy Consortium

For Information (including snow date) call 978 892-2906
www.namicentralmass.org
Stormwater Solutions: Spring Edition

Spring is coming!

Don’t forget to practice good stormwater management habits!

- Test the soil first to understand pH and fertilizer needs.
- Leave grass clippings to fertilize lawn naturally.
- Don’t trash grass clippings and leaves.
- Use leaves as mulch to boost soil health.
- Water once a week in the morning, no more than 1”.
- If you need to fertilize, use according to package instructions.
- Adjust your mower to cut your grass 2” to 3” tall.
- Keep your equipment blades sharp.
- Know your state and local regulations. Limit use of phosphorous and nitrogen in lawn care.
- Don’t mow wet grass.

For more information, please visit: www.acton-ma.gov/stormwater
The Council on Aging offers a large selection of classes, groups and presentations, daily lunch, monthly breakfast, and a variety of services. We are located in the Town’s Human Services Center at 30 Sudbury Road Rear. View the current newsletter at actoncoa.com. For programs that require registration, please call the Council on Aging at 978.929.6652 beginning at 1:00 on Monday, March 2.

**KELLEY’S CORNER UPDATE**
Wednesday, March 4, 1:00 PM
Join members of the Kelley’s Corner Steering Committee, Derrick Chin and David Manalan, for an update on the plans to improve this busy area (the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue/Route 111 and Main Street/Route 27).

**REAL ESTATE SEMINAR: FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN BUYING OR SELLING**
Wednesday, March 11, 9:30 AM
Heather Murphy, Realtor® with Keller Williams, and Robin Seidman, a Morgan Stanley Financial Planning Specialist, will discuss how to buy and sell simultaneously, tips on keeping your equity, and typical mistakes that can cost a fortune.

**IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO BEGIN AGAIN: DISCOVERING CREATIVITY AND MEANING AT MIDLIFE AND BEYOND**
Wednesdays, March 11 and April 1 through June 17, 10:30 AM
A 13-week program is for those who are transitioning into their “next act,” leaving one life behind, and heading into one yet to be created. Workshop is based on Julia Cameron’s book, It’s Never Too Late To Begin Again. Please purchase and bring the book with you to the first class. Joan Rubin-Deutsch is an MSW and author of “Why Can’t I Ever Be Good Enough?”

**MEMORY CAFE**
Friday, March 13, 11:30 AM
Memory Café is a special time set aside for individuals with memory impairment and their care partners. Join us, enjoy lunch and meet new friends, in a supportive, social, stigma-free atmosphere.

**TRANSPORTATION 101**
Tuesday, March 17, 11:00 AM
Austin Cyganiewicz, the Town’s Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, oversees the Town’s van transportation. Did you know the Town has a fixed route shuttle as well as door-to-door van service? Find where the vans run, the hours of operation, how to book a ride and what the future of transportation may look like here in Acton.

**TOSCA OPERA CLASS**
Tuesdays, March 17 through April 7, 1:00 PM
This series offered by Ben Sears will look at the intricate plot and how Puccini’s music elevates the story of Tosca.

**SENIOR CHARLIECARD EVENT**
Thursday, March 19th, 1:00-2:30 PM
If you are 65 or older, you are eligible for reduced MBTA fares with a Senior CharlieCard. Visit the Sr. Ctr. to apply for a card! Please bring a government-issued license or photo ID, fill out a short form, and COA staff will take a photo of you. The MBTA will send the card to your home within six weeks. This service is free and for new cards only.

**BUTTERFLY MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**
Tuesday, March 24, 11:00 AM, at the Butterfly Place, Westford & Thursday, March 26, 1:00 PM, Acton Senior Center
Join professional wildlife photographer and teacher Steve McGrath in this Macro/Close Up Photography Workshop being held at the Butterfly Place ($11 admission). Second meeting at the Senior Center will be to view everyone’s images and critique them.

**MASSDEP WASTE REDUCTION GOALS AND HOW TO GET CLOSER TO ZERO WASTE**
Thursday, March 26, 1:00 PM
Julia Greene, Municipal Assistance Coordinator for Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), will give an overview of the issues with waste in Massachusetts, MassDEP’s new master plan and goals for reducing waste, and how towns can implement waste reduction strategies through grants and other economic incentives and how you can help.

*REGISTRATION REQUIRED: CALL THE COA AT 978.929.6652*
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

A limited number of FREE tickets are being offered to see the musical “Into the Woods” performed by Open Door Theater by Acton’s Commission on Disabilities to individuals with disabilities and accompanying others for the Sunday, March 29, 1:00 PM matinee showing.

To order a ticket, call 978-263-0843. Free public transportation to and from the R.J. Grey Junior High School will be offered. To schedule a ride, call 978-844-6809. The Theater has wheelchair seating.

Into the Woods is a musical that intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault fairy tales. The main characters are taken from “Little Red Riding Hood”, “Jack and the Beanstalk”, “Rapunzel”, and “Cinderella”, as well as several others.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ACTON’S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES.

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH CULTURAL COUNCIL PRESENTS

TWELFTH ANNUAL OUR WORLD FILM SERIES

Four successive Friday nights at 7:00 PM at the Acton Town Hall. All events are free and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible. Light refreshments provided. All screenings conclude with a discussion of the film(s) shown. More information is available at https://abccourworld.wixsite.com/abccourworld. Like us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/ABCCOurWorld.

APRIL 24: MASSACHUSETTS FILM SCHOOLS SHORT NIGHT - Boxborough’s own filmmaker and professor of film, Todd Davis introduces a selection of short films by students from Massachusetts colleges. The filmmakers are invited to attend and discuss their work with the audience.

MAY 1: THE FAREWELL - Written and directed by Lulu Wang and released in 2019, this film was a 2020 Golden Globe nominee for Best Motion Picture in a Foreign Language. Its star, Awkwafina, won the Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress. The matriarch of a Chinese family is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Her family decides not to tell her, but to stage a wedding as a way to bring the far-flung family together one more time before she dies. Rated PG.

MAY 8: TASUMA - Directed by Kollo Sanou, released in 2004. Sogo, a veteran of Burkina Faso’s colonial-era military, is trying to claim his veteran’s pension. Convinced he will receive it the next day he buys a mill, for use by his village, on credit. The bureaucracy fails him. Sogo is arrested. The women of his village take matters into their own hands and demand his release. Unrated, but adult language abounds.

MAY 15: BILLY ELLIOT - Directed by Stephen Daldry, released in 2000. Nominated for three Oscars and two Golden Globes, this hit film tells the tale of the 11 year-old title character’s obsession with ballet. Set against a backdrop of the ruinous and violent 1984 coal miner’s strike in County Durham, Billy has to overcome obstacles within and without to obtain an audition for the prestigious Royal Ballet School. Rated R.

Photos from Winter Carnival held on February 1 at NARA Park. Courtesy of Acton Resident Steve Repucci.
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 MANY OF THEM IN NEED OF NEW MEMBERS. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! THERE ARE BOTH AD HOC AND ONGOING COMMITTEE SLOTS AVAILABLE. EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATING COMMITTEE, THE PLANNING BOARD, THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, AND THE RECREATION COMMISSION. THERE IS SURE TO BE A BOARD THAT CAN USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. TO LEARN MORE, VISIT THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATING COMMITTEE PAGE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE: HTTP://WWW.ACTON-MA.GOV/111/VOLUNTEER-COORDINATING-COMMITTEE. THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY THAN BY VOLUNTEERING.