



TOWN OF ACTON MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

December 2025

EVENT CALENDARS

[COUNCIL ON AGING](#)

[LIBRARIES](#)

[RECREATION](#)

[TOWN HALL](#)



CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

- **Dispatcher (full-time & part-time)**
- **Firefighter/Paramedic**
- **Police Officer**
- **Per Diem Health Inspector**
- **Seasonal Snow Plow Contractors**
- **Truck Driver/Skilled laborer (temp.)**
- **Craftsperson**
- **Librarian 1**
- **Human Resources Generalist**

Interested in serving on a **Town Committee, Commission, or Board**? Find a full list of open volunteer positions [here](#).

KEEP IN TOUCH!

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

(978) 929-6600

TOWN DIRECTORY

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Facebook** @actonmagov
- **Instagram** @actonmagov
- **LinkedIn** @Town of Acton, MA
- **Twitter** @ActonMaGov

Subscribe to our [NEWS FLASH](#) to receive Town news and updates via email or text!

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Thank you for reading the Municipal Monthly and for checking out the other newsletters and calendars published for the community. Acton is filled with events and programs again this December, including the following special events:

- On December 13th from 9am to 3pm, Acton Fire Local 1904 will host its annual Santa Ride. Stay tuned on Acton social media channels for updates on stops and schedules.
- On December 17th at 6pm there will be Menorah Lighting in the Town Center next to Town Hall at 468 Main Street.

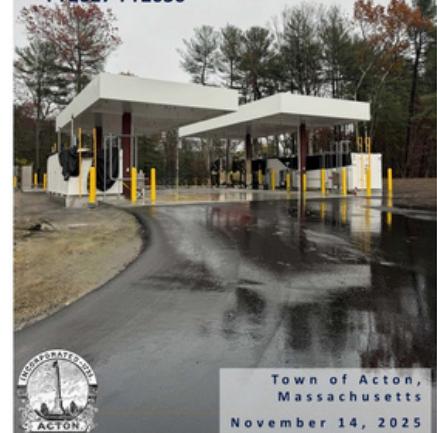
The Town is also hard at work finalizing the budget recommendations that will be presented at the May 2026 Annual Town Meeting. Later this month we will be publishing the Town Manager's Recommended Municipal Budget for the Select Board and Finance Committee to consider.

In November, we published our 10-year capital plan outlining capital needs for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2036. This document is used as a primary source during budget deliberations as it contains useful data about town infrastructure and assets. You may view the capital plan at

www.actonma.gov/manager or by clicking on the image to the right.

Capital Improvement Plan

FY2027-FY2036



TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Did you know that we still have an historic fire alarm system in operation in our community? You may have noticed a fire alarm pull box in your neighborhood. The Fire Department has begun the process of modernizing this system. More details are found later in this newsletter.

Do you follow @actonmagov on Facebook or Instagram? Check out the latest posts to learn about Elfie! All month long, Elfie will be sneaking around town, popping into our municipal buildings, saying hi to our employees, and giving all her Acton friends a behind-the-scenes peek at what the Town is up to. Be sure to follow her adventures on the Town's social media pages! In addition to being a stellar Town employee, Elfie is also excellent at hide-and-seek. She has taken up temporary residence at the Acton Memorial Library, where she's stirring up a little daily mischief and causing all sorts of good trouble among the shelves. She won't stay in one spot for long, though. If you think you can track her down, we need your help! Stop by the Library anytime before December 24th to aid the search, and take a #SelfiewithElfie!

Lastly, thank you to Vivian Kobusingye Birchall and Marc Duci at Acton TV for hosting me to do our annual cooking show. The photo below was taken during the recording. See you in 2026!

Sincerely,
John Mangiaratti
Town Manager

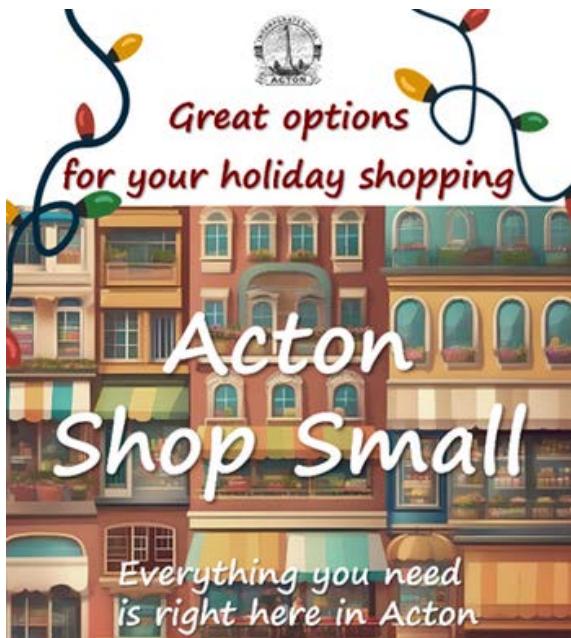


NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



NAOMI QUANSAH
ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Check the list of stores at actonma.gov/business

brand-new showroom and retail space. Dawn marked the occasion with her team in the presence of loyal customers, neighboring businesses, State Representative Dan Sena, Senator Jamie Eldridge, and Economic Development Director Patricia Costa. Offering a wide selection of tiles, cabinetry, and exclusive hardware, the store reflects Dawn's 16 years of experience, including eight years proudly serving the Acton community. This expansion underscores Great Spaces' ongoing growth and commitment to delivering exceptional design solutions.

LOCAL BUSINESSES ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER AT BUSINESS FRONT DOOR

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has recently launched The Business Front Door, a new online portal to make it easier for business owners to access state programs, grants, and guidance. By registering through the portal, your business can stay informed about funding opportunities, training programs, and economic development initiatives—helping you

save time and grow with confidence. To register, access <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/business-front-door>.

ACTON SHOP SMALL

Support our local small businesses this holiday season! They offer unique gifts and personalized service that make shopping special. While Small Business Saturday is November 29, exploring local shops is a great way to celebrate the season all month long. Find a list of Acton's small businesses by category at actonma.gov/business to discover local options.

RIBBON CUTTING AT GREAT SPACES INC.

Great Spaces, led by the talented Dawn Willis, recently celebrated the expansion of its West Acton location at 245 Arlington Street with a



FIRE DEPARTMENT

DECOMMISSIONING OF THE MUNICIPAL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Originally installed decades ago, the municipal fire alarm box system allowed residents to report fires by pulling a lever on a red street- or building-mounted box, which sent a telegraph signal directly to the fire department. Widely used throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, these systems have largely been replaced by enhanced 911 networks. Each alarm box was connected to a central office through telegraph circuits. When activated, the box transmitted a coded signal identifying its location, enabling dispatchers to alert the appropriate fire companies. Street boxes were publicly accessible, while master boxes—located in schools, factories, and municipal buildings—automatically transmitted alarms from internal fire alarm systems.

These systems were valued for their speed, reliability, and ability to automatically identify the alarm's location. However, they lacked voice communication, were susceptible to false alarms, and required extensive maintenance. Today, nearly all emergency calls are received through the 911 system, which provides real-time voice communication, GPS location, and detailed information for responders. Modern central monitoring stations can now transmit building alarm signals that specify the exact location and type of activation (such as smoke, heat, or sprinkler flow), further improving response accuracy and efficiency.

While the municipal fire alarm system played a vital role in the pre-telephone era, its use has steadily declined. Acton's system, installed in 1930 by Earl Hayward, began with a connection from South Acton Square to the Woolen Mill at 53 River Street and eventually expanded to more than 450 boxes.

Beginning this fall, and over the next two to three years, the Town of Acton will decommission its municipal fire alarm system due to obsolete technology, increasing maintenance costs, frequent false alarms, vandalism, and redundancy with modern 911 and building alarm systems. The process will start with street boxes, followed by master boxes, allowing property owners time to make necessary adjustments.

For residents, **911** remains the primary method for reporting fire or medical emergencies, and most residents do not need to take any action.

Property owners with direct connections to the fire alarm system have been notified and advised on the necessary upgrades

NG911 FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

How Fire Departments Benefit from Next Generation 911

Next Generation 911-related technologies will provide new opportunities to keep firefighters and communities safer. The following scenarios provide a non-technical depiction of how new technologies will provide information leaders need to ensure safe, efficient and effective responses to a variety of incidents.

More Accurate Scene Information

NG911 will allow dispatchers to receive video and photos from victims and bystanders at the scene, providing more vital pre-arrival information. Environmental conditions – such as area density – and other details such as smoke color and structure involvement will help identify the appropriate response.



Public Safety Communications Center

Information to 911

Information from 911



Redundancy & Multi-Agency Interoperability

During a natural disaster or other large-scale emergency, the NG911 system protects against call overload by re-routing calls, texts and data to alternative call centers. The system also allows for better coordination with first responders, allowing for better coordination between other emergency services and agencies.



Accurate Pre-Arrival Data

Monitoring technology worn by patients will automatically alert 911 within seconds of a medical event. Pre-arrival responder access to time-sensitive patient and incident information will help improve patient outcomes and survival.



Improved Firefighter Safety

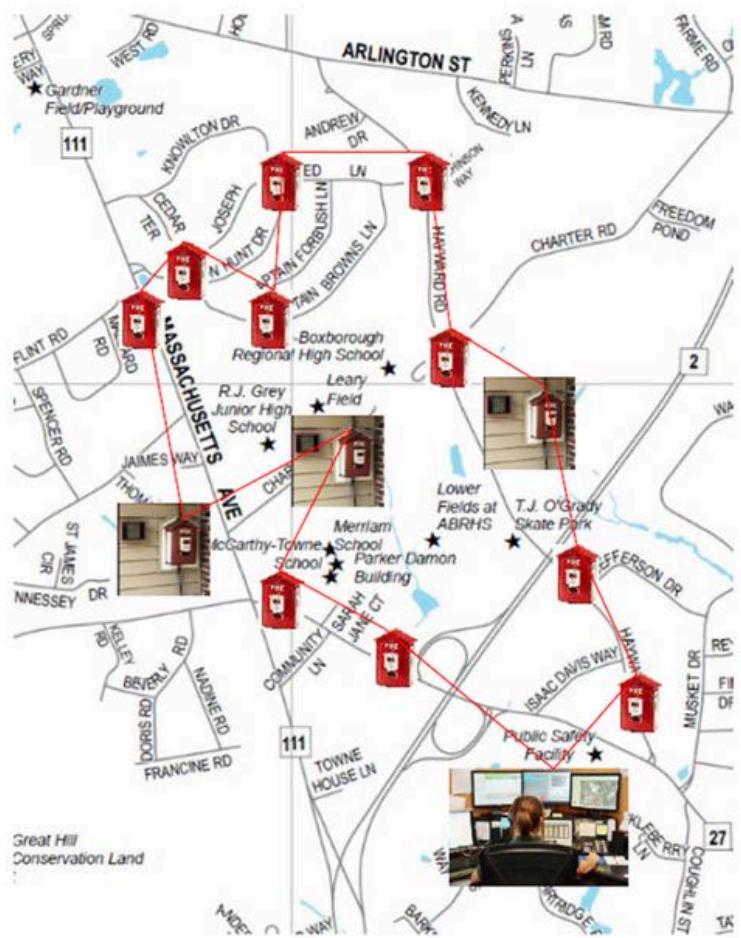
New and emerging technologies in the NG911 environment will provide information to improve firefighter safety. Dispatch can access building sensors and video feeds, helping to identify hazardous materials or potential victim location. Other technologies will provide more precise caller, responder and resource location accuracy.



Better Crash Data

Telematics, now integrated into many vehicles, notify 911 with precise location information and crucial details like speed at impact, airbag deployment, number of occupants, seatbelt use and more. This data, available at dispatch, helps fire services prepare appropriate equipment and provides medical key information to plan for transport to the appropriate hospital or trauma center.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



PLEASE JOIN US

AT THE
BADGE PINNING & SWEARING-IN
CEREMONY FOR OUR NEW FIREFIGHTERS!

CALVIN SHIMANSKY
ISAAC DASSEL
VICTORIA BOUTIN



DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: 68 HARRIS STREET
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

NORTH ACTON FIRE STATION #4

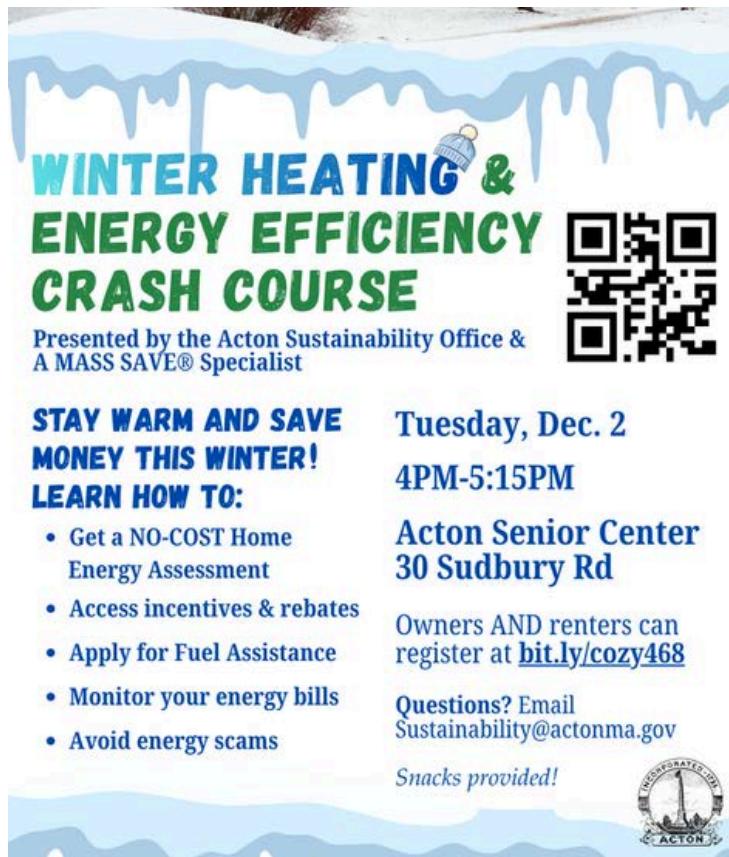
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS ARE HERE!



SUSTAINABILITY



WINTER HEATING & ENERGY EFFICIENCY CRASH COURSE

Presented by the Acton Sustainability Office & A MASS SAVE® Specialist

STAY WARM AND SAVE MONEY THIS WINTER!

LEARN HOW TO:

- Get a NO-COST Home Energy Assessment
- Access incentives & rebates
- Apply for Fuel Assistance
- Monitor your energy bills
- Avoid energy scams

Tuesday, Dec. 2
4PM-5:15PM
Acton Senior Center
30 Sudbury Rd

Owners AND renters can register at bit.ly/cozy468

Questions? Email Sustainability@actonma.gov

Snacks provided!

QR Code:



JOIN THE GREEN ADVISORY BOARD



The Green Advisory Board (GAB) is in need of new members! Want to contribute to the community on climate and sustainability issues? Visit bit.ly/ActonVCC to apply through the Volunteer Coordinating Committee.

Join us for Meetings at 6pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Visit ActonMA.gov/100/Green to learn more!

QUESTIONS?
Reach out to the Sustainability Office at sustainability@actonma.gov or call 978-929-6515.



PUBLIC WORKS



SALT SMARTLY

FOR CLEAN PATHS, CLEAN DRAINS, & CLEAN WATER

Shovel as soon as possible. Before applying road salt, clear snow & break up ice. Less ice will form & less salt will be needed!



Use salt according to instructions - a little goes a long way! Once snow & ice is melted, sweep up excess salt for reuse.



Make sure storm drains are clear & free of snow & debris. When piling snow, avoid areas near storm drains. Instead, use vegetated areas where melted snow can soak into the ground.



RECYCLING'S MOST UNWANTED



Item: String lights
Offense: Gets tangled in and jams equipment.
What to do: Donate only if in good condition. Otherwise, put in trash. Do not recycle.



Recycle Smart



PLOW CONTRACTORS WANTED



ACTON DPW
(978) 929-7740

COUNCIL ON AGING

ABOUT

LOCATION

Human Services Building, 30 Sudbury Road rear

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8am-4pm

Tuesday: 8am-6pm

Friday: 8am-12pm

Closed December 25

CONTACT

seniorcenter@actonma.gov or 978-929-6652.

The Council on Aging at the Senior Center offers services, meals and activities for residents age 60+. Most activities are FREE with a nominal charge for meals.

The Assistant Director provides older adults and their families with information on area social services including home care agencies, elder day programs, housing options, food and fuel assistance.

Each month there are multiple meal opportunities: special lunches, an evening dinner, daily lunch provided by Minuteman Senior Services, the Wednesday lunch Bistro open to all ages, frozen grab & go lunches provided by Open Table and Meals on Wheels.

The Bistro will be closed Dec. 24 & 31.

ACTON SENIOR CENTER

30 Sudbury Road Rear

December Events 2025

December 2	Winter Heating & Energy Efficiency Crash Course
December 3	When Life (and the Holidays) Feel Overwhelming: Simple Skills for Challenging Days with Dr. Jenn Staples
December 10	Deep Ocean Life Lecture with Dr. Peter Girguis
December 17	Holiday Line Dancing with Paul Hughes
December 18	The Hapsburgs Royal Family Lecture with Paolo Di Gregorio
December various days	A variety of music programs all month long!

*For details: www.actoncoa.com
978-929-6652 seniorcenter@actonma.gov*

Visit our website www.actoncoa.com to view our newsletter for details on services, meals and activities. Follow us on Facebook @actoncoa. To sign up for newsletter or notifications from the COA visit: www.actoncoa.com/list.aspx



The annual holiday tea at the senior center is always a popular event!

COUNCIL ON AGING

Navigating Grief Group via Zoom

facilitated by Julie Norstrand, PhD, MSW

First Thursday Each Month
3 pm to 4 pm

Next meeting: December 4

Group offered by the Acton Council on Aging
Free and open to all age 60+

For registration and inquiries contact the Acton Council on Aging :

978-929-6652

seniorcenter@actonma.gov



Songs & Stories
Holiday Music by
guitarist/vocalist
Matt York
Tuesday, Dec. 16,
1:00 pm

Classical Music
Lecture/
Performance
with Pianist
Sivan Etedgee
Thursday, Dec. 4,
12:30 pm



30 SUDBURY ROAR REAR, ACTON

For details, see our newsletter at actoncoa.com or contact 978-929-6652; seniorcenter@actonma.gov

MONTH OF MUSIC!

at the Acton Senior Center

Holiday Music of
the 50s & 60s
presentation with
John Clark
Thursday, Dec. 11,
1:00 pm

Ukulele Play
Along
Friday, Dec. 19,
10:00 am

Holiday Sing-
Along
with Ed Knights
Tuesday, Dec. 23,
1:00 pm

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

 JOIN US FOR A FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY 

Adult Mental Health First Aid Training

 **Wednesday, September 24th, 2025**
 **9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**
 **Westford Town Hall
55 Main St, Westford, MA 01886**

What is Adult Mental Health First Aid ?
Adult Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training that teaches participants how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

Why attend this training?

- ✓ Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use issues
- ✓ Reduce stigma in your workplace and community
- ✓ Learn how to support someone in crisis and connect them to care
- ✓ Gain skills through the 5-step action plan (ALGEE) to respond safely and effectively

Who should attend ?

- Community Members
- Employers
- Police Officers
- Hospital Staff
- First Responders
- Anyone who cares about mental health

Register by September 19, 2025
To register or for more information, contact:
Nicole Laviollette, Community Wellness
Coordinator, 978-399-2503 or
nlaviollette@westfordma.gov



NURSING



Be a Good Neighbor!

Small acts of care make our community stronger. Here are simple ways you can help take care of your neighbors year-round!

Acton Health Department

Everyday Neighborliness

Introduce yourself and exchange phone numbers with nearby neighbors. Offer help with errands, rides, or small tasks.

- Share community news, resources, and upcoming events. Respect differences, listen with kindness, and look out for one another.

In Times of Emergencies

Please check in on neighbors who may need extra support (older adults, people living alone, families with young children, or residents with health concerns).

Heat Advisory: Check on elderly neighbors, those with chronic health conditions, and families without AC.

Severe Winter Storms: Make sure neighbors have heat, food, and medication. Offer to shovel, help with groceries, or share storm updates.

Power Outages: Share flashlights, phone chargers, or a warm place to stay if safe to do so.

General Safety: If something doesn't seem right, check in or call for help.

Remember: Being a good neighbor doesn't require big gestures, even a quick check-in can make a huge difference!



HAT AND MITTEN TREE

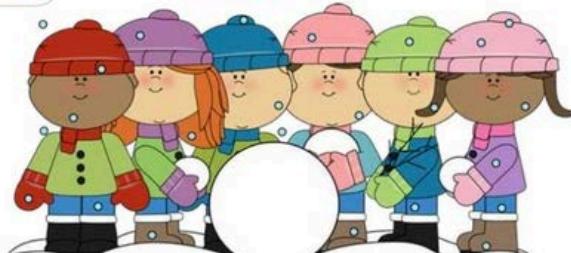
Help keep children and families in our community warm during the winter months by donating new winter hats and mittens!! All children and adult sizes accepted!!

Come decorate our Hat and Mitten tree in the

Acton Nursing Services Offices

Town of Acton Human Services & Senior Center

30 Sudbury Road, Rear



waterproof kids
mittens/gloves
appreciated



Take action to stop respiratory viruses from spoiling holiday cheer

Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different respiratory illnesses.

Stay at home.

If you are sick, stay home to avoid putting others at risk. You should also avoid others in the household to lessen their risk. If you have severe or worsening symptoms, call your healthcare provider.



Clean your hands.

Handwashing often with soap removes most germs, including respiratory viruses, from your hands.

If soap and water are not available, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can kill many germs.

Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread easily this way.



Get Vaccinated.

Vaccination is the most important step you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones.



Many viruses spread more during the holiday season, so it is important to get all recommended vaccines, including flu, COVID-19 and RSV, as soon as possible.

Wear a mask.

Masks can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses. Wearing a high-quality mask while you travel, for example, can help protect you and others.



Improve Air Quality

Viral particles in the air spread between people more easily indoors than outdoors.



Any way you can improve air quality, such as opening windows or using air purifiers, can help reduce the amount of virus you are exposed to.



Acton Health Department



Friends and relatives visiting for the holidays?



Acton Nursing Services (ANS) has a variety of loaner equipment, subject to availability, for residents' (and their guests') use free of charge.

walkers
wheelchairs
crutches
shower chairs
commode chairs

Call to inquire: ANS 978-929-6650

Call us early. ANS is the Town's home health care agency.

We may be able to save your visitors and you inconvenience and travel hassle during these busy times.

LAND USE

SUBDIVISION RULES & REGULATIONS

Planning Board Meeting - 12/16 - 7:05PM
in Room 204 of Acton Town Hall or on Zoom

Last May, Town Meeting voters overwhelmingly approved a zoning amendment that made cluster development the default method of subdivision in Acton, meaning all new subdivisions are required to preserve 60% of the land as Resource Land. Join us on 12/16 to provide input on amending Acton's Subdivision Rules and Regulations, which are complementary to the zoning. They specify design criteria and certain technical standards. This is the final step in the 'Habitat For All' initiative!

<https://zoom.us/j/96275905703>

Click here to view the updated Subdivision Rules & Regulations:
<https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18896>

LIBRARIES

Investment for Retirement with CFA Society Boston

Wednesday, Dec 3,
6:00—7:00 PM,
AML Meeting Room

Sign up
on the
program
page on
our
website



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

See more important library updates
and our schedule of events here:
<https://conta.cc/49IJdw1>

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request by emailing library@actonma.gov.



LIBRARIES

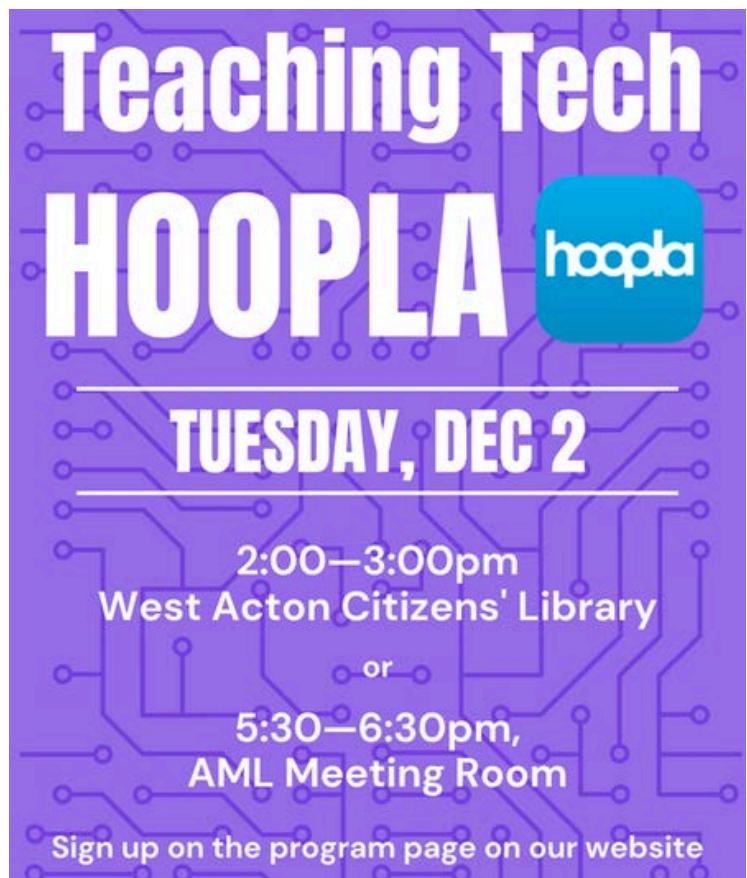
Teaching Tech HOOPLA

hoopla

TUESDAY, DEC 2

2:00–3:00pm
West Acton Citizens' Library
or
5:30–6:30pm,
AML Meeting Room

Sign up on the program page on our website



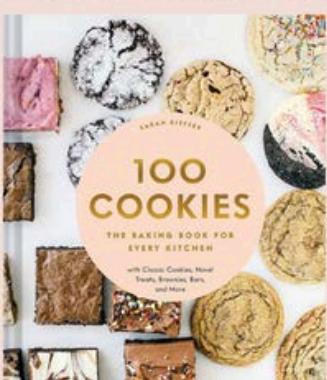
Sewing and Embroidery Club Reusable Wrapping! Drawstring Bags

Thursday, December 11, 2:00–3:00 PM,
West Acton Citizens' Library

or
Thursday, December 11, 6:00–7:00 PM,
AML Meeting Room

Cookbook Club COOKIE SWAP!

Monday, Dec 8 at AML from 6–7pm
or
Tuesday, Dec 9 at West Acton Citizens' Library from 2–3pm



100 cookies: the baking book for every kitchen with classic cookies, novel treats, brownies, bars, and more by Sarah Kieffer

Sign up for either time on the program page on our website!



Winter Concert Series **MADRIGALS**

Sunday, December 7, 2:00–2:45 PM.
2nd Floor Piano Room, Acton Memorial Library

Register on the program page on our website

