

TOWN OF ACTON

MUNICIPAL



MONTHLY

AUGUST 1, 2019

ACTON, MA

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

We are continuing to have a very busy summer in Acton. In this month's edition of Municipal Monthly we are introducing a new "Employee Spotlight". Check it out on Page 4 to meet some of our new staff.

The Town of Acton has earned state approval to establish a Veterans' Services District in partnership with the Town of Boxborough. The new Acton-Boxborough Veterans' Services District will be overseen by District Director James MacRae, who had previously served as Acton's Veterans' Services Officer.

Last month the Board of Selectmen voted to update the parking rules and regulations to establish a fee schedule that is consistent with other communities. The Board also set the parking fees for the parking lot property that the Town acquired on July 1st located at 19-21 Maple Street. More information may be found online at <http://www.actonma.gov/parking>



A second public forum was held in July for the proposed new North Acton Fire Station. The public asked many great questions. The Design Review Board also provided input on the design for the proposed building which will be located at 66 Harris Street. Here is a rendering of the design and additional details including the date for the next public forum are available online at <http://www.actonma.gov/firestation>

If you come to Town Hall or the Memorial Library this month you may notice activity at the Asa Parlin House. At the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Community Preservation Act funding was approved for phase one of the rehabilitation of this structure which will include selective demolition of non-historic parts of the building. As part of this project, the Town has hired a professional abatement contractor to remove the hazardous building materials that are inside this structure. The work will last for approximately two weeks. Any questions about this work please contact our office.



In August, our public meetings on various topics will continue so please stay tuned to our website and social media to find the latest news.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2nd Annual
ACTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

4:00-7:00 p.m.
Public Safety Facility
371 Main Street, Acton

- Meet the police staff
- Tour the facility
- Explore police vehicles
- Visit the 911 Communications Center
- See the booking process and visit the jail cell
- Learn the day-to-day operations at the Acton Police Department
- Complimentary refreshments from our local restaurants!



New Police Electric Motorcycle



The Police Department received this electric motorcycle from the company Zero Motorcycles, donated by Jeff and Cheryl Bursaw of Bursaw Gas & Oil. This motorcycle will make it easier for Police to respond to incidents on the Rail Trail, patrol NARA Park, and areas for police to respond where there is limited access for cruisers and SUV's.

KELLEY'S CORNER INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN LANDSCAPE DESIGN WORKSHOP



**THURSDAY
AUGUST 15TH
7:00PM**

**ACTON TOWN HALL
472 MAIN STREET**

ROOM 204

For more information please visit:
<https://www.actonma.gov/kc>

Please join us for a presentation and interactive outreach session with the Town's consulting engineer, GPI and MassDOT to provide your feedback and input on the landscape design.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

On Tuesday, July 16th, the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) and Metrowest Legal Services in Framingham provided a workshop on housing, tenant rights and homelessness resources. Residents, town employees, community agencies and state delegation came together to learn about the variety of programs and services offered and how they can assist those in need.



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Massachusetts General Law authorizes communities, to exempt certain citizens from part or all of their property tax obligations. Listed are the most common of these exemptions. For detailed information regarding all available exemptions, please contact the Assessor's office at 978.929.6621.

Surviving Spouse, Minor Children, Elderly Persons Exemption
Citizen must meet the personal and property legal findings.

Hardship – Exemption can be any amount. Must be aged, infirmed and impoverished. To be determined by the Board of Assessors.

Blind - \$500 minimum exemption. Must supply blind certificate, be a legal resident of MA and own the property. Elderly \$1000 minimum exemption. Must be 65 years old or older. Income and assets are considered.

Veterans – Amount of exemption varies. Legal findings vary. Must be a MA resident. Documentation is needed in most cases. Please contact the Assessor's Office for details.

Tax Deferral – Must be 65 years old or older. Gross annual income not to exceed \$40K.

Circuit Breaker – Must have been eligible for and received an exemption under the State Circuit breaker exemption. Exemption can be any amount.

Senior Work Program – Work for the Town to help assist with paying a portion of your real estate property taxes.

CPA - Community Preservation Surcharge exemption. – Income based on age and size of household.

STAC – Senior Tax Aid Committee - Exemption can be any amount. Must be aged, infirmed and impoverished. At the discretion of the Senior Tax Aid Committee.

TOWN HALL HOURS OF OPERATION

Sunday: Closed	Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Saturday: Closed
Monday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	
Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM	Friday: 8:00 AM - Noon	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Acton's first-ever Restaurant Week will take place September 16-22. Restaurants are still signing up, but Rapsallion, True West, Red Raven, Le Lyonnais, El Huipil, Holy Grail and Not Your Average Joes have agreed to participate.

This event is co-sponsored by the Acton Economic Development Committee and the Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce.

Look for updates in the next Municipal Monthly (Sept. 1).

RECREATION DEPARTMENT ENROLL NOW FOR NARA SUMMER CAMP IN AUG.



NINJA WARRIOR WEEK
AUG. 5-9



HARRY POTTER WEEK
AUG. 12-16



NARA'S GOT TALENT
AUG. 19-23



COLOR WARS WEEK
AUG. 26-30

REGISTER ONLINE AT ACTONREC.COM



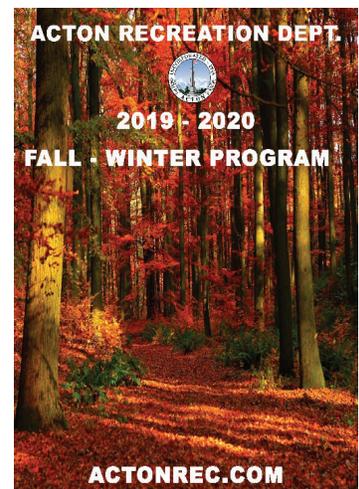
UPCOMING CONCERTS AT NARA PARK!

Wed., Aug. 7, 6:30 PM: Don't Tell Jack, Free
 Friday, Aug. 9, 8:00 PM: [Tusk-Fleetwood Mac Tribute](#), \$20
 Wed., Aug. 14, 6:30 PM: Loose Connection Band, Free
 Wed., Aug. 21, 6:30 PM: Tony Funches, Free
 Friday, Aug. 23, 8:00 PM: [Foreigners Journey](#), \$15
 Sat., Sept. 7, 7:00 PM: [Food & Floyd Fest-Gilmours Breakfast](#), \$15

**Gate ticket prices listed above.
 Children 10 and under free!
 Save money and buy online in advance at:
www.actonrec.com**

FALL - WINTER PROGRAM COMING SOON!

The Fall-Winter Program Booklet will be available online beginning Tuesday, August 20. Classes may be available online prior to August 20 as programs are being finalized for print.



The Recreation Dept. is located at 50 Audubon Dr.

NATURAL RESOURCES

ARBORETUM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Acton Arboretum Volunteers needed. Summer workdays are Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Fall workdays are Tuesdays 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to noon. No experience or tools necessary, just a willingness to work hard outside and tend our town treasure. Mulch, weed, water, plant, rake, prune.

THE ASSABET RIVER BLUE AND GREEN TRAIL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Assabet River Blue and Green Trail is a one-mile trail that runs from Old High Street in South Acton to Maynard along the river bank. It's an "out and back" trail, and is adjacent to two historic waypoints: Powdermill Dam and Pine Hawk Native American site. Volunteers are building boardwalks and maintaining the trail.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please contact Bettina Abe, Natural Resources Assistant babe@actonma.gov or call the Conservation office 978-929-6634.



Photo: Volunteers building boardwalk on Assabet River.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. John Norton of Acton for their many years supporting the Selectman's Classical Concert at NARA Park!



Photo: Selectman's Annual Concert featuring a quartet from A Far Cry who performed at NARA on June 26.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Richard Annese

The Building Division hired Richard Annese as a part time Local Building Inspector this past winter. Rich has been involved in construction for over 30 years and previously worked as a part time inspector in Andover.



Richard Flannery

The Building Division also hired Richard Flannery as a part time alternate Plumbing Inspector last month. Ritchie grew up in Acton and has over 30 years of experience as plumber.



Maribeth Burgess

Please join the Town Manager, Human Resources and Payroll offices in welcoming Maribeth Burgess! Maribeth holds her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and is a Society of Human Resources Management Certified Professional.



Austin Cyganiewicz

Please join the Town Manager in welcoming our new Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Austin Cyganiewicz. Among various other duties, this position will be taking on the responsibilities of the transportation coordinator position previously held by Doug Halley. Austin's office is in Town Hall next to Room 121. Click [here](#) to view ActonTV's interview with Austin.



Ryan Hunt

Please join the Department of Public Works in congratulating Ryan Hunt. Ryan has been promoted to the Tree Warden / Foreman for our Trees/Grounds Division.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Join us for new programs at the Senior Center this month! For more details on these and other programs, classes and services offered, please view the current newsletter at actoncoa.com or call the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652. Most offerings are free of charge to Acton residents age 60 and up.



ICE CREAM WITH JOHN Thursday, August 1, 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy a summer treat and conversation with Town Manager, John Mangiaratti. ABRSD Superintendent Peter Light will be joining John at this event which is the summer version of Java with John. **Acton residents only.**

LEARN ABOUT MEMORIAL LIBRARY RESOURCES

Tuesday, August 6, 1:00 p.m.

Learn more about the vast resources available to residents. In addition to traditional books, periodicals, and DVDs, the library offers online databases, e-books, audio books, tech classes, book clubs, museum passes and much more.

PROTECTING YOURSELF AGAINST CYBER THREATS

Thursday, August 8, 1:00 p.m.

It's less a matter of IF you will become a victim of cyber fraud and more a matter of WHEN you will become a victim. Guest Speaker: Meaghan Lally-McGurl Operational Risk Director, SVP Enterprise Bank. Register by e-mail: HR@actonma.gov or call Human Resources at 978-929-6613.

AARP SMART DRIVER PROGRAM

Tuesday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Be a smart, safe driver and brush up on your driving skills! There is no written exam or driving test. Pre-registration and nominal fee is required payable in advance.

HEALING CONVERSATIONS-BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Wednesday, August 14, 1:00 p.m.

This is a free adult bereavement support group offered by Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice. If you have any questions or would like to know other locations, please contact Kathy Benson (or Lucia Camara) at 978-425-6675 or e-mail kbenson@nashoba.org.

RIDING THE POST ROAD: TRAVEL ADVENTURES IN COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND

Tuesday, August 20, 1:00 p.m.

This talk by Paolo DiGregorio, the Artifactual Scholar, will cover how people traveled in colonial New England, where they went, and the important role that taverns played. Along the way, we will meet intriguing characters, virtually partake in unusual food and drink, and witness colorful sights.

IDENTITY THEFT & FRAUD PREVENTION

Tuesday, August 27, 1:00 p.m.

This presentation will include information about what the Office of Consumer Affairs does, how to spot and avoid scams, and how to prevent identity theft presented by Robin Putman from the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

LINE DANCING WITH KARI MCHUGH

Wednesdays through August 28, 3:00 p.m.

Funded by an Executive Office of Elder Affairs grant, which requires the COA to ask Acton seniors for donations--\$1/class suggested. The fee for out-of-town seniors is \$20 for the full summer session.

COMMUTER PARKING LOT

NEW PARKING RATES

On Monday, July 15, the Board of Selectmen voted to increase the cost of Acton resident stickers, commuter lot parking meters and reserved parking.



BEGINNING ON AUG. 1

Resident sticker prices will increase from \$100 to \$200 per year and the Central Street Commuter lot daily rate will increase from \$5 per day to \$6 per day.

BEGINNING ON SEPT. 1

The reserved parking at the 1 Maple St. and 19-21 Maple St. lots will increase from \$100 per month to \$175 per month. Jones Field Reserved parking will remain the same at \$100 per month.

The annual lottery as previously planned will not be held. Instead all current renters will retain their spots indefinitely, assuming they accept the new terms and prices by submitting a new application.

Vacant spots will be assigned via a lottery on August 1, 2019 for use starting September 1, 2019.

Going forward applications will be accepted year-round and a lottery will be held monthly, or as needed, to fill vacant spots.

The website has been updated.

You can find details and application at:

www.actonma.gov/parking



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HELPFUL TIPS TO PREVENT TICK BITES!

- Ticks are most active when the weather is warm and live in wooded areas and high grass.
- Treat clothing with .5% permethrin. You can purchase clothing that is already treated or you can do it yourself. If you decide to treat yourself, read directions and spray clothing outside and allow to air dry.
- Use Insect repellents that contain “DEET, Picardin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol or 2-undecanone.” (Check labels for use on children under 3)

ONCE YOU COME INSIDE:

- » Remove clothing.
- » Tumble dry on high heat for 10 minutes or if washing use hot water cycle.
- » Shower
- » Do a full body check.

PETS

- » It is also important to check your pets, especially after coming inside.

TICK REMOVAL

- » Don't panic but remove as soon as possible with tweezers.
- » Pull upward to ensure no parts of the tick break off.
- » Thoroughly clean area with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- » Place live tick in alcohol or in a sealed bag.



Pictures of the most common ticks that bite people.
Clockwise from top left: Brown Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick,
Blacklegged Tick, American Dog Tick

This information was gathered from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website.
For more information please see <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>



Photo: July 26, Yellow Brick Road - Elton John Tribute at NARA Park

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>

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS!

WHY?

- Do you have a son or daughter college bound? He or she may want to submit an **ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION**.
- If you're new to Town or have recently moved, you want to make sure you are **ELIGIBLE TO VOTE** at your new address.
- Your **POLITICAL PARTY** will determine your ballot options during a primary election.
- If you haven't exercised your right to vote in a while, it's always a good idea to make sure you are on the **ACTIVE VOTER LIST**.

HOW?

You can look up your status on the Massachusetts Secretary of State's website directly or you can contact the Clerk's Office: clerk@actonma.gov.

Massachusetts Secretary of State's website - <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm>

To check your voter status, change your address or party, register to vote, or to obtain an Absentee Ballot Application, visit the Town Clerk's website - <http://www.acton-ma.gov/381/Town-Clerk>
You will also find links to the state's website, poll locations and election results.

IMPORTANT DATES: UPCOMING...

November 27 – Voter registration deadline for Special Town Election

November 30 – Voter registration deadline for Special Town Meeting

December 10 - Special Town Meeting

December 17 - Special Town Election

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2020...

March 3 – Presidential Primary

March 31 – Annual Town Election

April 6 – Annual Town Meeting

September 15 – State Primary

November 3 – Presidential Election

If you plan to vote via absentee ballot, you can fill out the absentee ballot request application in advance and the ballot will be mailed to you as soon as it is available!

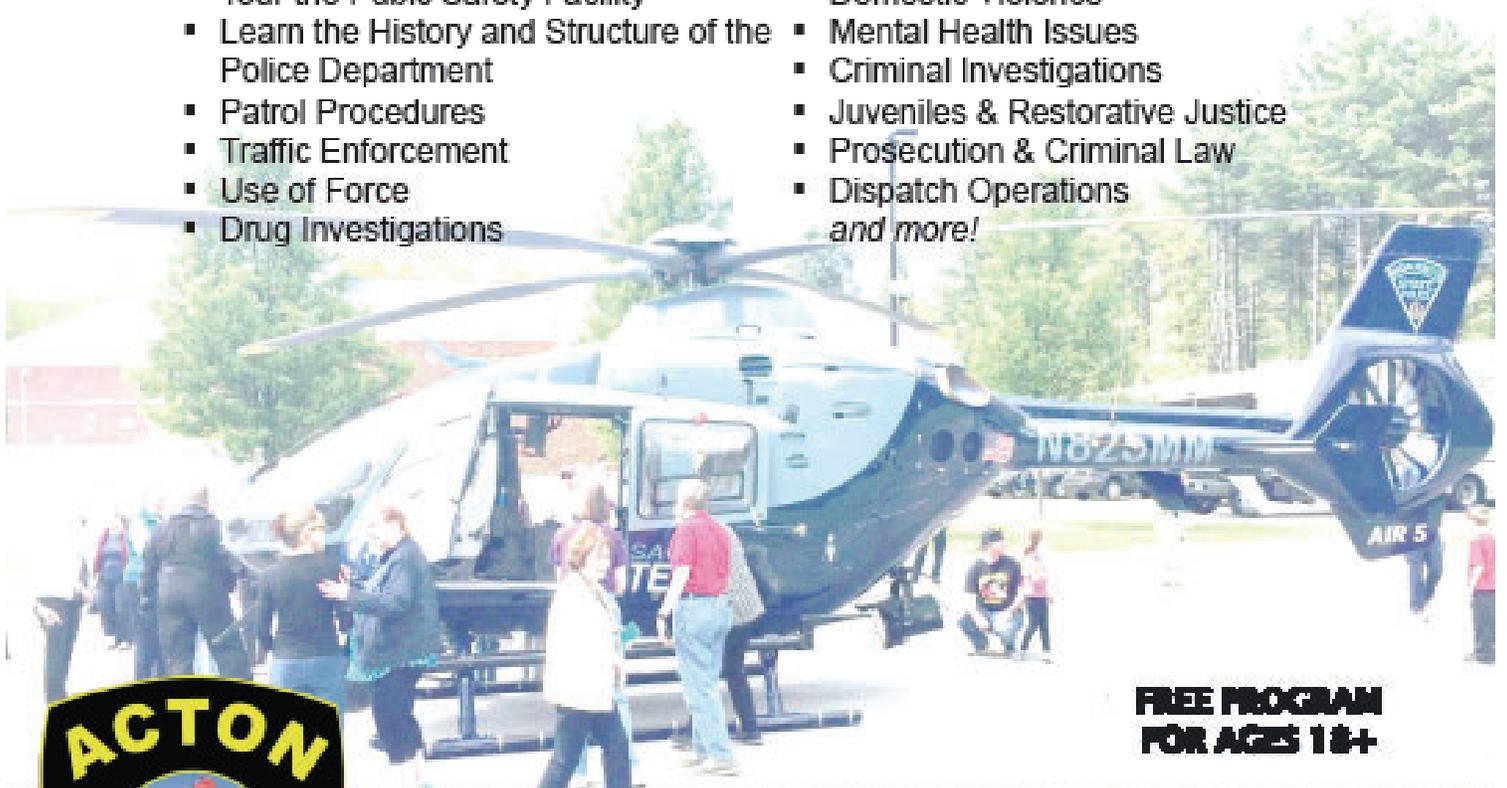
ACTON CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

An 8-week program held each Wednesday beginning September 4 – October 23 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 be able to ask questions and give feedback.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Tour the 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@acton-ma.gov**



**Fight
fraud—
shred
instead!**

Join us for a free shredding day.

Acton Council on Aging - Human Services Building
30 Sudbury Rd. (rear) Acton, MA 01720
Tuesday, August 13, 2019 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Documents shredded on-site. Bring your unwanted documents and files to be shredded. Limit 3 boxes or bags.
No newspapers or cardboard boxes!

The event will take place until 3:00 pm or earlier if the truck fills up. This event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is encouraged: call 877 926 8300 or sign-up online aarp.cvent.com/actonshred



aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork

The Town of Acton Wellness Initiative Network Committee
presents



**Protecting Yourself
Against Cyber Threats**

FREE SEMINAR





Guest Speaker:
Meaghan Lally-McGurl
Operational Risk Director, SVP
Enterprise Bank

It's less a matter of IF you will become a victim of cyber fraud and more a matter of WHEN you will become a victim. The first step to protecting yourself against becoming a victim of cyber fraud is awareness of the types of scenarios, schemes, tools, and scams, and the action you can take to protect your information.

**Thursday, August 8, 2019
1:00 PM-2:00 PM**

Council on Aging
30 Sudbury Rd., Acton, MA

Register online by emailing
HR@actonma.gov or contact
Human Resources at 978-929-6613