

TOWN OF ACTON

MUNICIPAL



MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 1, 2019

ACTON, MA

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

In September, Acton's legislative delegation, town staff, and members of the community recently celebrated the Town taking ownership of 19-21 Maple Street, next to the South Acton MBTA Commuter Rail station. For more than 40 years, Gordon Richards operated his family concrete forms business on the property. Thank you to Mr. Richards, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, Representatives Jen Benson and Tami Gouveia, and Town Meeting for supporting this crucial acquisition as the Town seeks to provide more parking inventory for our very busy commuter rail station. See the ActonTV recording of the event [here](#). A photo of the ceremony is shown to the right.



Thanks to the efforts of the Historical and Cemetery Commissions, Forest Cemetery, on North Street, was recently designated as a historic landmark to be included in the National Registry of Historic Places. Established in 1735, the same year Acton was incorporated as a Town, the cemetery has lasted for 284 years. A photo of the attendees is shown to the right. See more information on Page 13.



Acton was recently awarded \$139,461 from the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Grant program. This funding will provide LED lighting to the Public Safety and Recreation buildings, in addition to Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. Acton has been a Green Community since the inception of the program in 2010, and has since received more than \$1.4 million to support various environmentally sustainable capital projects and initiatives for the community.

Thanks to the efforts of Public Works Director Corey York, and the Public Works staff, Acton was awarded \$9,000 from the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, a sub-program of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Dividends Program. This grant will support Acton's various recycling initiatives, such as the Food Waste Diversion and At-Home Compost bin programs.

Finally, a reminder that a Special Town Meeting will be held on December 10th at 7:00 pm in the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Auditorium (36 Charter Road). There will be several important projects to be voted on, including the North Acton Fire Station, West Acton Sewer Project, and the new Douglas-Gates Twin Elementary School. For more information visit actonma.gov/townmeeting, contact the Town Manager's office at (978) 929-6611, or email manager@actonma.gov. For additional project information, we have created pages for the Fire Station (actonma.gov/firestation) and Sewer project (actonma.gov/westactonsewer).

Please be sure to subscribe to our News Flash on actonma.gov, and follow us on social media for updates on Town events and projects.

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

There will be a Special Town Meeting and Special Town Election in December.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Special Town Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10 at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Auditorium. Check-in will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

You must be registered to vote by Saturday, November 30 to be eligible to vote at the Special Town Meeting. The Town Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, November 30, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to accommodate the voter registration deadline. You can also register online at www.sec.state.ma.us.

The warrant for the Special Town Meeting will be posted at www.actonma.gov/Town-Meeting on November 26th.

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION

The Special Town Election will be held on Tuesday, December 17.

- **Precincts 1, 2 & 6 will vote at the Conant School.**
- **Precincts 3, 4 & 5 will vote at the R.J. Grey Junior High School.**

Polling locations will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 p.m. Visit the Secretary of State's website, www.sec.state.ma.us, and click on "Where do I vote?" to find your polling location, or e-mail the Town Clerk at clerk@actonma.gov.

The voter registration deadline for the Special Town Election is Wednesday, November 27. The Town Clerk's office will be open until 8:00 p.m. that day to accommodate the voter registration deadline. You can also register online at www.sec.state.ma.us.

If you would like to receive an absentee ballot for the Special Town Election, you must submit an Absentee Ballot Application to the Town Clerk's office. You can find the application on our web page: www.actonma.gov/Absentee-Ballot.

A sample ballot for the Special Town Election will be posted to our Elections web page on Tuesday, November 26: www.actonma.gov/Elections-Voting.

Please call the Town Clerk's Office at 978-929-6620 or e-mail clerk@actonma.gov with any questions.

Dates to Remember for 2020...

- Tuesday, March 3: Presidential Primary
- Tuesday, March 31: Annual Town Election
- Monday, April 6: Annual Town Meeting
- Tuesday, September 15: State Primary
- Tuesday, November 3: Presidential Election



IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Special Town Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 10**

**Special Town Election
Tuesday, Dec. 17**



Douglas/Gates/Preschool Building Project



Why and where are we building a new twin school?

-  The new building is being designed to accommodate three school programs: Douglas, Gates and the Carol Huebner Early Childhood Program (CHECP). By combining these programs into a single building we will have a solution for the two elementary schools and CHECP in 3 years rather than 10–15 years.
-  The proposed new Douglas/Gates/CHECP building is a product of years of planning and community input. It's designed for 990 elementary and 120 preschool students.
-  The new building will allow educators to deliver 21st century instruction in a safe and welcoming environment.
-  Will be located in West Acton on the current Gates property.

Some highlights of the new school:

-  Updated STEAM Labs
-  Expanded Media/Library Center
-  More Indoor Gymnasium Space
-  Additional Play Spaces
-  Separate Identities for Douglas, Gates and CHECP
-  Design considered cost-effectiveness, education design, and construction timeline



Current cost estimates:

-  Current MAXIMUM Estimated Cost: \$117.3M
-  Minus Feasibility Study (already paid): \$1.3M \$116M
-  Estimated MSBA reimbursement: \$38.0M
-  Estimated AB Share: \$78.0M
-  Estimated Acton Share: \$66.3M (Estimated Single Family Tax Impact: \$452 - \$509/yr.)
-  Estimated Boxborough Share: \$11.7M (Est. SF Property Tax Impact: \$314 - \$354/yr.)

Upcoming events:

-  Monday, November 4th – Tour of Douglas at 6:30pm followed by forum at 7:00pm
-  Thursday, November 14th – Forum at 7:00pm in Boxborough Grange Hall
-  Monday, December 2nd – Tour of Douglas at 6:30pm followed by forum at 7:00pm
-  Tuesday, December 10th – Special Town Meetings in Acton and Boxborough at 7:00 pm

Follow us for updates!

@_ABSBP

@abschoolbuildingproject

Acton-Boxborough School Building Project

 Our web site: https://www.abschools.org/district/superintendent_s_office/school_capital__space_planning

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Bernice Nicoll

BERNICE NICOLL - ACTIVITY ASSISTANT - COUNCIL ON AGING

Bernice Nicoll joined the COA staff in April as our new Activity Assistant. Bernice grew up in Acton and worked at the Merriam School before joining us. She currently resides on a Christmas tree farm in Lunenburg with her husband.



Beth LaGoy

BETH LAGOY - HUMAN SERVICES RECEPTIONIST - COUNCIL ON AGING

We'd like to welcome Beth LaGoy as the new Human Services Receptionist. Beth recently moved back to Massachusetts after living in Hawaii for the past 30 years. Beth was employed as an Office Manager and was an active volunteer for various PGA and LPGA and Champion Tour events.



Ed Clapp

ED CLAPP - BUILDING MAINTENANCE CREW LEADER - MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

Please welcome Ed Clapp as our new Building Maintenance Crew Leader! Ed will be an extremely beneficial asset to the Town of Acton holding more than several licenses and certifications for plumbing, sheet metal, pipe fitter, pipe welding, hot works, oil burner technician and construction supervisor.

He previously worked for Brighton Marine Health Center as Mechanical Systems Supervisor, was owner/partner of Metrowest Mechanical, owned his own company Ed Clapp Plumbing & Heating and also worked for Mass Eye & Ear managing building mechanical systems and building maintenance.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT



Ben Patterson

BEN PATTERSON - S. ACTON TRAIN STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ben Patterson has lived in Acton for 10 years and has made the routine journey into Boston throughout that time. He loves the environment Acton creates for his family and is excited to join the SATSAC as a member. The train station has changed an incredible amount in the last decade and Ben is looking forward to playing a part in that ongoing evolution.



Michael Brandt

MICHAEL BRANDT - VOLUNTEER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Michael Brandt: "My wife and I moved to Acton five years ago and have found many ways to connect in the community. Having recently retired from a forty-two year career in Human Resources, I looked into finding the right opportunity to volunteer within Town government. I am appreciative of the opportunity to serve as a member of the Volunteer Coordinating Committee and utilizing my work experience for the benefit of the community."



Christopher Hardy

CHRISTOPHER HARDY - RECREATION COMMISSION

Christopher Hardy works as a senior software engineer at IBM. "I feel that the Recreation Department is an integral part of the community which I am most passionate about. My family and the community of Acton rely on the Recreation department to provide safe, educational and fun year-round activities. I volunteered for the omission to aid ongoing projects and to share the ideas for future endeavors."

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN MAKING ACTON A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

There are many Town boards and committees run by volunteers, many 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 Recreation Commission, Sidewalk Committee, 53 River Street Master Plan Special Committee and the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council. A more comprehensive list may be found on the Town website at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/jobs.aspx>. There is sure to be a board that can use your knowledge and skills.

Download a Volunteer Application from the Town website at:
<http://ma-acton.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/375>.

Your application can be mailed or hand-delivered to the Town Manager's Office at 472 Main St., e-mailed to manager@actonma.gov or faxed to 978-929-6350. There is no better way to give back to your community than volunteering.



DID YOU KNOW THE CAT IS FREE?

Acton's fixed-route bus with service to shops and MBTA station

Track the CAT: crossactontransit.com

actonma.gov/transportation | [@ActonTransit](https://twitter.com/ActonTransit)

TOWN MEETING IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE (TMIC)

The Town Meeting Improvements Committee is seeking input from the public on ideas to improve participation. There are several ways to communicate with the committee.

PUBLIC FORUMS

Saturday, November 2

2:00 p.m.

Acton Town Hall, Room 204

Wednesday, December 4

7:30 p.m.

Acton Town Hall, Room 204



- We will be conducting a survey in December, both online and in hardcopy form.
- Please send an e-mail with your ideas to TMIC@actonma.gov.
- Come to a meeting. Our next one is Wednesday, November 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall, Room 9.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Richard Burrows is pleased to announce that Detective Jon Stackhouse attended the 2019 [Law Enforcement Torch Run \(LETR\)](#) Conference for Special Olympics in September.

The conference took place Sept. 18-21 in Aurora, Colorado. Over 1,200 officers attended from around the world, including 16 officers from Massachusetts. While at the conference, attendees went to an opening session each morning, heard

from and met Special Olympics athletes and their families, received awards for fund-raising efforts and attended breakout sessions. The sessions offered attendees the opportunity to learn about topics such as the history of the LETR and Special Olympics organizations, how to interact with residents with special needs, creative ways to raise money for the organization and how to host a Torch Run event.

Detective Stackhouse was also selected to be a Guardian of the Flame Miners Lamp Escort. Known as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the Miners Lamp, which holds the [“Flame of Hope.”](#) into Opening Ceremonies of local competitions. The Flame is meant to symbolize the law enforcement profession which represents everything that is principled, fair and decent. The Flame also represents a vision, the future hope for athletes and their families.



Photo: An officer from each state was selected to be a Guardian of the Flame during the 2019 International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference in Aurora, Colorado.



COFFEE WITH A COP

TUESDAY, NOV. 12
8:00-10:00 AM
DUNKINS'
315 MAIN STREET

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To celebrate Manufacturing Day on October 4, students from Minuteman High School visited Acton's three largest manufacturing companies: Haartz Corp., Associated Environmental Systems, and Insulet Corp. The students on the tour were sophomores and seniors studying Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, Robotics and Metal Fabrication. The purpose of Manufacturing Day was to expose students to myriad jobs available in the manufacturing industry and to connect them with co-op opportunities. The MFG Day tours were organized by Matthew "Selby", Land Use and Economic Development Director. Click the bottom image to see the ActonTV video.



Photo: Minuteman High School - Manufacturing Day, Oct. 4



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Spread Joy & Cheer This Holiday Season

Make a difference in a child's life. Opportunities are available to sponsor local children & families in need this holiday season. If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity please contact Laura Ducharme, Community Services Coordinator @ 978-929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov.

NURSING SERVICES

Have you gotten your flu shot yet?

For more information visit www.mass.gov/flu

Flu Facts
What you need to know

Lower your chances of getting or spreading the flu:

- Get a seasonal flu shot.** (Image: A person's arm being injected with a vaccine.)
- Cover your mouth** when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands. (Image: A woman coughing into her elbow.)
- Wash your hands often** with soap and warm water, or use an alcohol-based hand gel. (Image: Hands being washed in a sink.)
- Stay home** if you are sick. (Image: A person being attended to by another person.)

For more information, please visit: www.mass.gov/flu

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE 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 Municipal Parking areas located behind the W. Acton Fire Station (258 Central St.), S. Acton Fire Station (54 School St.), Railroad Street, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail terminus at Maple Street, and at the end of Sylvia Street. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



WINTER MAINTENANCE

Please remember that our crews have to travel on snow-covered, slippery/untreated roads to get to the Highway Department at any hour of the day or night. Please be patient as the crews will be out as soon as possible to begin snow and ice operations.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Fire hydrants are under 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 Service. 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 damaged by snow 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 present. 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.

MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library will be closed on Monday, November 11 for Veterans' Day and on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

ADULT PROGRAMS

For programs requiring registration, call the Reference Desk at 978-929-6543 to sign up.

- Piano Concert with pianist Sivian Etedgee, Sunday, November 17, 3:00 p.m.
- Hoopla Digital Content, Thursday, November 7, 3:30 p.m., registration required
- Libby by Overdrive, Thursday, November 21, 3:30 p.m., registration required

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- Family Movie Night—The Lion King, Friday, November 15, 7 p.m.
- Beginning Origami, Saturday, November 16, 2 p.m., for ages 7-10, registration required. Call the Children's Department at 978-929-6655 x4.
- Ed the Music Man, Monday November 18, 3:30 p.m.

A great deal can be learned on the Library's website: www.actonmemoriallibrary.org

Watch the online calendar and news and social media outlets for children's events, additional activities and technology classes, or sign up to receive email notices of library activities.



LIBRARY HOURS

Mon.-Thursday: 9 a.m.- 9 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Sunday: 2 - 5 p.m.

Phone: 978-929-6655

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE SAFETY THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

- Wood stoves and fireplaces become very popular in the winter. Be sure to keep combustibles a safe distance from these heat sources.
- The use of candles are attractive and add a nice scented ambiance to any room. Be sure to keep them out of reach of young children and never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep Christmas trees at a safe distance from fireplaces and wood stoves. Give them plenty of water. A tree can turn into an inferno in seconds if it comes in contact with an open flame.
- Always a good time to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to be sure they work.
- Stay Safe

COUNCIL ON AGING

If you haven't been to the Senior Center, we are offering **Newcomer Tours on Thursday, November 14, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.** The Senior Center offers services, meals and a variety of programs including 15 exercise classes weekly, lifelong learning lectures, informational presentations, drop-in activities and special interest groups. There is a gym, library with computers, and a lounge. There is no membership fee and most programs are free of charge to Acton seniors age 60 and up. 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, November 4.

CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR THE NOVICE LISTENER

Thursdays, November 7, 14, 21, 1:00 p.m.

In these three classes taught by Sivan Etedgee, students will explore the following: How to listen, What to listen for, and Why we listen. Through listening to musical examples, you will learn about the basic building blocks of music.

TAKING BETTER PICTURES WITH YOUR DIGITAL CAMERA

Thursdays, November 7, 14, 21, December 5, 19, 3:00 p.m.

Are you still getting to know your digital camera? Here's an opportunity to learn from photographer Steve McGrath in this seminar for beginners. Bring your camera and learn when and how to use its special features. Space is limited-call the COA to register.

MEMORY CAFE

Friday, November 8, 11:30 a.m.

A Memory Café is a special time set aside for individuals with memory impairment and their care partners/caregivers. Join us, enjoy lunch and meet new friends in a supportive, social, stigma-free atmosphere. Please let the COA know you will be coming.

JAVA WITH JOHN!

Friday, November 15, 10:00 a.m.

Come have a cup of coffee with the Town Manager, John Mangiaratti. He'll keep you up to date on what is going on around Town, answer your questions and listen to your feedback. He may even bring a guest!



THE MUSIC OF WORLD WAR II

Wednesday, November 13, 1:00 p.m.

In this patriotic presentation by John Clark you will explore the stories behind the songs, their impact on the folks back home and the war effort itself, illustrated by many enjoyable audio and video clips.

CLASSICAL PIANIST SIVAN ETEDGEE PERFORMANCE AT ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Sunday, November 17, 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of compositions performed by classical pianist Sivan Etedgee. This performance is offered jointly by the Acton Memorial Library and the Acton Council on Aging.

NORTH ACTON FIRE STATION PRESENTATION

Monday November 18, 1:00 p.m.

Chief Robert Hart will be here with a presentation on the proposed new North Acton Fire Station and to answer your questions.

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Tuesday, November 19, 11:00 a.m.

Superintendent of Schools Peter Light will be here to discuss the school building project and to answer your questions.

MASTERPIECES OF NEW ENGLAND ART PRESENTATION

Tuesday, November 19, 1:00 p.m.

Join art professors Allyson Scheckler and Suzanne Scanlan of MetroArtLinks for a presentation of familiar masterpieces as well as undiscovered gems in our midst on a virtual tour of New England's best art and architecture. We will pass around several examples of New England's best decorative arts for you to see for yourself!

CHRISTMAS DECOR CLEAN-OUT

If you have Christmas decorations you no longer use, consider dropping them off at the Senior Center to be passed onto someone who could use them! Please bring decorations that are clean and in good condition (no large items such as artificial trees or outdoor decorations) to the Senior Center from December 2nd to 5th. On Friday, December 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Center will offer these decorations to people to come in and select items that will be new to them!

COUNCIL ON AGING

PRESCRIPTION LABELS FOR PEOPLE WITH VISION LOSS

Tuesday, November 26, 11:00 a.m.

John Usinas will explain types of accessible prescription labels for people who cannot read the standard labels. He will demonstrate the ScripTalk audible labels. As a user, John Usinas is knowledgeable about assistive technology devices. He is a founding member of the Marlborough Commission on Disabilities and is blind.

The Friends of the Acton COA

HOLIDAY FAIR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

A variety of items for sale including:

Ceramics

Indian Treasures

Boutique Items

Gift Basket Raffle

Bird Houses & Kits

Needlework

Baked Goodies!

Greeting Cards

Jewelry

Painted Slates - Vintage Roof Slates From the Acton Town Hall!

Breakfast & Lunch Cafe Will Be Open

**The Friends of the Acton Council on Aging is a non-profit group
that raises funds to support programs at the Senior Center.**

ACTONCOA.COM

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

WINTER PROGRAMS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

To view our program booklet online, click [here](#). You may register online at actonrec.com as well as get details for all programs.

YOUTH CLASSES: Gymnastics for Toddlers and Preschoolers, Music Therapy Group, Young Artists, Kiddie Soccer Weekdays, Super Soccer Stars Saturday, Amazing Athletes Sunday, Origami Fun, Woodworking, LEGO® Civics Project, Business Sharks, Expert Architects, Metrocraft, Parents Night Out, Martial Arts, Schools Out Program-Recreation Kids Club

OLDER TEENS/ADULT CLASSES: Line Dancing, Ballroom Dancing, Mat Pilates & Stretch, Tai Chi and Qigong, Martial Arts, American Red Cross CPR/First Aid/AED Certification, Co-Ed Pick-up Dodgeball, Intro to Golf and Advanced Golf, Winter Nature Walks, Floral Arrangement Workshop (Winter Woodland Arrangement)

Bus Trips: NYC Bus Trip - Saturday, December 7, \$74 per person, Holiday Pops Boston - Wednesday, December 11, \$116 per person. These trips are filling up, so don't delay.

Community Gardens: Current plot holder renewals are due by Wednesday, November 13. New applications for the 2020 garden season open Monday, January 6. All garden plot registrations are conducted through the Cemetery Department. Questions? Contact Kim Clark at kclark@actonma.gov or call 978.929.6642.

Upcoming Fall/Winter Events: Marionettes - Cinderella (10/27), Pancakes with Santa (12/8), Very Merry Hollyday Celebration at NARA (12/13), Caroling with Canines (12/18), Creature Feature-Birds of Prey (1/12), John Denver Tribute (1/17), Marionettes - Sleeping Beauty (1/25), Winter Carnival at NARA Park (2/1), Studio Two - Beatles Tribute (2/8)



REGISTER ONLINE AT ACTONREC.COM
The Recreation Dept. is located at 50 Audubon Dr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

PANCAKES WITH SANTA!

Sun, Dec. 8, 9:00-11:30 A.M.
Acton Rec. Center, 50 Audubon Dr.

Register early
to guarantee
your reservation!
www.actonrec.com

\$10 PER CHILD AGES 3 & UP*
\$15 PER ADULT
In Advance
Add \$2 per person at the door.
Includes Pancake Breakfast
Visit with Santa & Friends
Decorate a Cookie!
Hot Chocolate Bar
*Under 3 Free



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

1ST ANNUAL
**VERY MERRY HOLLYDAY
CELEBRATION!**

FREE!
FRIDAY, DEC. 13
5:30-7:00 P.M.
NARA PARK BATHHOUSE!
25 LEDGE ROCK WAY, ACTON
Sponsored in part by Crystal Entertainment Services

Sing-a-long, festive games, prizes & special visitor!

A cartoon illustration of four children standing in a row, wearing winter hats and jackets. The background is blue with white snowflake patterns.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

CAROLING WITH CANINES

Wednesday, Dec. 18
5:30 p.m.
NARA Park
Bathhouse Pavilion
25 Ledge Rock Way, Acton
Biscuits & Cookies, Ugly Sweater Contest
Hot Chocolate and Caroling
Take Your Photo With Santa's Helper
Hosted by the Acton Recreation Department: actonrec.com

A photograph of a dog, possibly a beagle, wearing a black Santa hat with a red pom-pom and a gold bell. The dog is looking towards the camera. The photo is framed by a decorative wreath of green holly leaves and red berries.

NORTH ACTON'S FOREST CEMETERY DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC PLACE

Forest Cemetery in North Acton is now included on the National Register of Historic Places, following a special ceremony to mark the designation on Thursday, Oct. 17 attended by many community members.

Forest Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Acton. Established in 1750, it contains 96 gravestones, including at least seven Revolutionary War and two Civil War soldiers' graves.

"This is a tremendous honor for the cemetery, and for the Town," Mangiaratti said. "This type of recognition doesn't happen without the hard work of many local groups and individuals, including members of our Board of Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee and Natural Resources team."

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historic places worthy of preservation.

Funding for the National Register application was provided through the Community Preservation Act and the application was completed by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Acton citizens were interred at the Cemetery between 1758 and 1948.

Ben Haley, Preservation Planner/National Register Assistant with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, was a featured speaker at the ceremony.

Haley went on to give a history of the site, saying it likely originated as a burial ground for the Heald family. The oldest extant marked grave, he said, belongs to Mary Heald, from 1758, and that there are probably earlier unmarked burials from her family and others.

Also speaking at the event was Acton native, State Sen. Jamie Eldridge. Thanks to the Historical and Cemetery Commissions for their efforts in seeking the historical designation.

[Click here to view the ceremony filmed by ActonTV.](#)

Photo-Left: Acton native State Senator Jamie Eldridge speaks at a ceremony at Forest Cemetery Thursday, Oct. 17, marking the cemetery as a National Historic Place.

Photo-Right: Ben Haley, Preservation Planner/National Register Assistant with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, was a featured speaker at a ceremony held Thursday, Oct. 17, marking Acton's Forest Cemetery as an official entry on the National Register of Historic Places.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BRING YOUR BAG.

**NO MORE
PLASTIC BAGS.**



PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAG BAN GOES INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2020

Town Meeting voted a new bylaw that will go into effect on January 1, 2020.

The purpose of the bylaw is to eliminate the use of Thin-Film single use plastic checkout bags. This ban will have a positive impact on the environment by reducing solid waste, minimizing litter, protecting local waterways and reducing the carbon footprint. You can help by bringing your own reusable bags to the retail shops you frequent. For more information or to donate reusable bags you can also contact BantheBagActon@gmail.com.

**SEE BELOW FOR ASSISTANCE IN UNDERSTANDING THIS BYLAW AND THE
TYPES OF BAGS THIS BYLAW INCLUDES**

CHECKOUT BAG

Means a carryout bag provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale. Checkout bags shall not include bags, whether plastic or not, in which loose produce or products are placed by the consumer to deliver such items to the point of sale or check out area of the store.

“Thin-film single-use plastic checkout bag” means those bags typically with handles, intended for single-use transport of purchases and made of film less than 4.0 mils (the thickness of four pieces of paper).

REUSABLE CHECKOUT BAG

Means a sewn bag with stitched handles: (1) made of cloth or natural fibers that is machine-washable and designed for multiple use; or (2) made of plastic other than polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride; and (3) is durable, non-toxic and generally considered a food-grade material that is more than 4 mils thick, (the thickness of four pieces of paper). Ban the Bag Acton is providing free reusable bags to those who need them.

RECYCLABLE PAPER BAG

Means a paper bag that is: (1) 100 percent recyclable including the handles; (2) contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper content; and (3) displays this information regarding recyclability and content on the bag surface.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT

Means any business facility (whether for-profit or not-for-profit) that sells goods directly to the consumer, including, but not limited to, retail stores, restaurants, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, liquor stores, and seasonal or temporary businesses.

In the months since Town Meeting the Acton Health Division has been notifying all of our retail stores so that they can properly prepare for this ban. For more information please feel free to contact the Acton Board of Health at health@actonma.gov or 978-929-6632.

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>

Instagram: @actonma.gov

<https://www.instagram.com/actonmagov/>

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VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



Our ceremony will be observed on Monday, November 11TH at 11:00 a.m. on the Town Common. The Acton Minutemen will present the "History of the US Flag". All are encouraged to attend. Please park behind Town Hall or behind the Fire Station. The Ceremony will take place outdoors (weather permitting) by the Isaac Davis Monument on the Common. In the event of inclement weather, we will move the ceremony inside Town Hall. Contact James MacRae, Acton's Veterans' Service Officer at 978.929.6614 or vso@acton-ma.gov with any questions.

TOWN HALL HOURS OF OPERATION

Sunday: Closed
Monday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - Noon

Saturday: Closed



TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:

Veteran's Day

Monday, November 11

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, November 28

Friday, November 29

