

# TOWN OF ACTON

## MUNICIPAL



## MONTHLY

**DECEMBER 1, 2019**

**ACTON, MA**

### TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

With a busy holiday season ahead, the Town of Acton is preparing for an especially busy December. There are three important Tuesdays to remember this month relating to several proposed projects in the community:

- **Tuesday, December 3rd - 7 pm at ABRHS Auditorium - Special Town Meeting**
  - Article 1: Non-Binding Citizens' Petition Resolution to "prepare comprehensive build-out and traffic analyses within West Acton."
- **Tuesday, December 10th - 7 pm at ABRHS Auditorium - Special Town Meeting**
  - Article 1: Douglas/Gates Twin School Design and Construction
  - Article 2: North Acton Fire Station Design and Construction
  - Article 3: Sewer District Expansion - West Acton
- **Tuesday, December 17th - Special Town Election (Polls open 7am to 8 pm)**
  - Ballot questions for approval of Twin School, Fire Station and Minuteman High School debt exclusions

**Town Meeting Preview**

**December 10th, 2019**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (One Article)**  
Tues. December 3rd @ 7pm - AB High School

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (Three Articles)**  
Tues. December 10th @ 7pm - AB High School

**SPECIAL ELECTION**  
Tues. December 17th @ Your Local Precincts

For more information on the upcoming Town meetings and election, please visit [actonma.gov/townmeeting](http://actonma.gov/townmeeting), which includes detailed information for each proposed project, and a 7-minute video produced by ActonTV.

Town staff is also very busy preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2021. Starting in September, staff convened a budget workshop, commonly referred to as "The Hill," which was held at the Recreation Department on 50 Audubon Drive (photo shown to the right). This event includes a presentation and peer review of departmental operating budgets, in addition to capital, personnel and project proposals. Since then, regular departmental meetings have been held to discuss and revise the budget, leading to the Town Manager's Recommended Budget, which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on December 2nd. For more information, please visit [actonma.gov/townmanager](http://actonma.gov/townmanager).



*Pictured L-R: Town employees Town Planner Robert Hummel, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Theresa O'Leary, and Library Director Danielle Savin*

Thanks to the efforts of the Public Works Department, Acton was awarded \$12,500 from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Public Access Charging program. This grant will cover the cost for the Town to acquire two new electric charging vehicle stations to be installed at the Town Hall/Memorial Library/Goward Field Playground complex.

On behalf of all Town staff, I wanted to take a moment to wish everyone a safe, and happy holiday season. It has been a very productive year for the community. I could not be prouder of the exceptional work that has been accomplished in 2019, and I look forward to the continued successes in 2020.

Thank you,  
John S. Mangiaratti

#### **PROVIDE YOUR INPUT**

[Town Meeting Improvement Committee Survey](#) - Page 4  
[West Acton Library Survey](#) - Page 10  
[Housing Production Plan Survey](#) - Page 10

## TOWN CLERK'S 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.

The warrant for the Special Town Meeting will be posted at [www.actonma.gov/Town-Meeting](http://www.actonma.gov/Town-Meeting) on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **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](http://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](mailto:clerk@actonma.gov).

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](http://www.actonma.gov/Absentee-Ballot).

A sample ballot for the Special Town Election is posted to our Elections web page: [www.actonma.gov/Elections-Voting](http://www.actonma.gov/Elections-Voting).

Please call the Town Clerk's Office at 978-929-6620 or e-mail [clerk@actonma.gov](mailto: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**



## **DID YOU KNOW THE CAT IS FREE?**

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

Track the CAT: [crossactontransit.com](http://crossactontransit.com)

[actonma.gov/transportation](http://actonma.gov/transportation) | @ActonTransit

## **EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**



### **BRENDAN GRAY - POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Please welcome the Town of Acton's newest full-time Public Safety Dispatcher, Brendan Gray. Brendan is a lifelong resident of Stow and has a passion for public safety. Brendan holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from UMass Lowell and is excited to start his career in public safety. Brendan previously worked in a customer service role and he is looking to apply his skills in the communications center. When Brendan is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends.



### **AARON GREEN - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

Please join the Information Technology Department in congratulating Aaron Green. Aaron has been promoted to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician I. Aaron attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst and majored in Environmental Design. He enjoys sports, geography and is an avid Scrabble player. Aaron updates and maintains Town of Acton maps and the GIS, and provides customer service to staff and the public. Aaron has been working in the GIS Office since January 2017.

## **COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT**



### **RYANNE FLYNN - ACTON BOXBOROUGH CULTURAL COUNCIL**

Ryanne Flynn is the Clark Fund Engagement Officer at Clark University and a freelance trumpet player. Prior to her current role, Ryanne has served local arts organizations for the last three years and continues to perform across New England. She looks forward to serving her community by helping to enable local arts events and education opportunities.



### **ALISSA NICOL - COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

Alissa Nicol has lived in Acton since 2001, and has enjoyed participating with her family in Acton Recreation, Community Education, Acton Conservation Trust programs, the Acton Minutemen, and Iron Work Farm. She looks forward to working with the Community Preservation Committee to support projects that preserve open space and historic structures and create or enhance recreation opportunities and community housing.



### **JOAN RUBIN-DEUTSCH - ACTON BOXBOROUGH CULTURAL COUNCIL**

After a long career as a psychotherapist, I am now a working artist. I chose to be a volunteer on the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council as I am most interested in creative programs that will enrich my community. I look forward to being a part of a group that is committed to this endeavor.

## **VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT**

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

There are many boards and committees in town run by volunteers, and many of them need new members. This is your chance to make a difference! There are both ad hoc and ongoing committee slots available. Examples include: Volunteer Coordinating Committee, Cable Advisory Committee, 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. Applications may be filed online from the Town's website at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/formcenter/town-managers-office-5/volunteer-application-43>.

Your application can be mailed or hand-delivered to the Town Manager's Office at 472 Main St., e-mailed to [manager@actonma.gov](mailto:manager@actonma.gov) or faxed to 978-929-6350.

## **TOWN MEETING IMPROVEMENTS SURVEY**

The Town Meeting Improvements Committee (TMIC) is seeking input from the public on ideas to increase participation and other improvements to the Town Meeting format that can be implemented as early as 2020 Annual Town Meeting or for possible future study.

An anonymous, online survey is available by visiting [www.actonma.gov/TMICSurvey](http://www.actonma.gov/TMICSurvey). You may also provide your ideas via e-mail to [TMIC@actonma.gov](mailto:TMIC@actonma.gov).

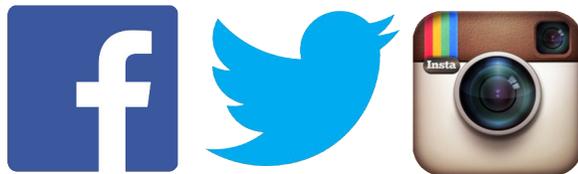
You are also invited to attend a TMIC public forum in Room 204 of Town Hall on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:30 PM.

Members of the Town Meeting Improvement Committee thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this survey and to share your thoughtful feedback with us.



## **TOWN OF ACTON - CONNECT WITH US!**

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



**@ActonMAGov**

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



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY HERO OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Congratulations to Detective Marc Symington for earning the Traffic Safety Hero of the Year award! The award was presented by AAA Northeast at Patriot Place, Foxborough.



### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN**

Detective Jon Stackhouse participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run Opening Ceremonies at the Flag Football State Games held at Gillette Stadium on November 16.



### **NO SHAVE FUNDRAISER**

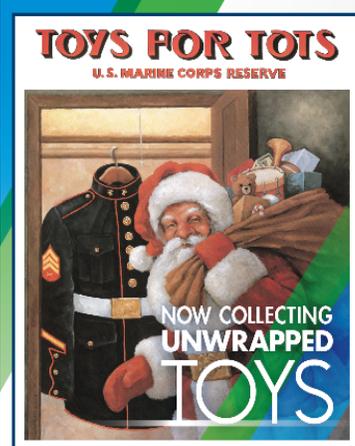
Almost twenty officers from the Police Department participated in the November "No Shave" fundraiser that benefitted the Home Base Program which helps veterans and families heal from invisible wounds. The fundraiser was extended into December to fundraise for the Domestic Violence Services Network which provides services to residents of Acton. Each participating officer has donated \$100 to each organization.



### **MASS POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDAL OF VALOR**

Congratulations to Officer David Joachim who received the Mass Police Association Medal of Valor on October 30 for his actions in the line of duty on October 4, 2018. Officer Joachim responded to a tragic situation and risked his life to ensure the safety and well-being of others. His professionalism, courage and dedication to the safety of our Acton community is held in the highest regard.

Joining Officer David Joachim from left to right are Det. Chris Browne, Lt. Ed Lawton, Deputy Chief Jim Cogan, Det. Luke Penney, Lt. Doug Sturniolo and Det. Jon Stackhouse



**TOYS FOR TOTS:** The Public Safety Facility located at 371 Main Street, and the Health & Human Services Center at 30 Sudbury Road, will be collecting new unwrapped toys on behalf of Toys for Tots. The last day to drop off donations will be December 12. Please call 978.929.7514 or email [records@actonma.gov](mailto:records@actonma.gov) with any questions.

If you would like to make a fiscal donation online, visit: [toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org)



## **NURSING SERVICES**



**Acton Nursing Services was named the Top Agency of the 2019 HomeCare Elite.**

Acton Nursing Services was named a Top Agency of the 2019 HomeCare Elite, in recognition of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States. This is the seventh time Acton Nursing Services has received HomeCare Elite status.

The agency made 3,071 home visits from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, including 1,031 for skilled nursing, 755 for physical therapy, 70 for occupational therapy and 1,215 for certified home health aide.

For 14 years, HomeCare Elite has annually identified the top 25 percent of Medicare-certified agencies and highlighted the top 100 and top 500 agencies overall. The ranking is developed by ABILITY Network, a leading information technology company helping providers and payers simplify the administrative and clinical complexities of healthcare.

Acton Nursing Services continuing high-ranked patient satisfaction scores show a true reflection of the compassion, teamwork and high standards held by the nursing staff in delivering exemplary care to its patients. In addition, continuity of care is a main reason for the agency's consistently high patient satisfaction scores.

HomeCare Elite agencies are determined by an analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, best practices implementation, patient experience (HHCAHPS), quality improvement and consistency, and financial health.

In order to be considered, an agency must be Medicare-certified and have data for at least three outcomes in Home Health Compare. Out of 8,818 agencies considered, 2,207 are recognized on the 2019 HomeCare Elite winners list overall.



## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **Spread Joy & Cheer This Holiday Season**

Make a difference in a child's life. Opportunities are available to sponsor local children and 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](mailto:lducharme@actonma.gov)



## **HAT AND MITTEN TREE**

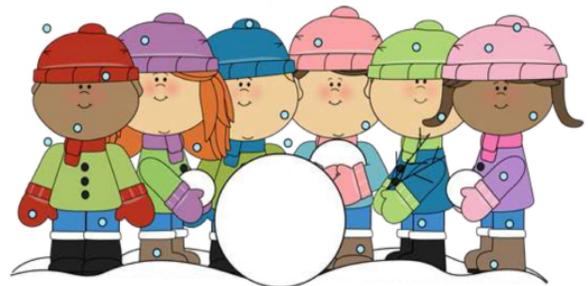
Help keep children and families in our community warm during the winter months by donating new winter hats and mittens!! All children and adult sizes accepted!!

Come decorate our Hat and Mitten tree in the

Acton Nursing Services Offices

Town of Acton Human Services & Senior Center

30 Sudbury Road, Rear



# **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 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 found on the Town of Acton website.

## MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

Registration is required for these adult programs.

Please call the Reference Desk at 978-929-6543 to sign up.

- **Intro to Excel**, Thursday, December 5, 3:30 p.m.
- **Kanopy Streaming Video**, Thursday, Dec. 19, 3:30 p.m.

### **TEEN PROGRAMS** (teens grade 7 & up)

- **Dungeons & Dragons**, Saturdays Dec. 7 and Dec. 21, 2 p.m.

### **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

We offer **story times** on the following days:

- Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. for children up to 23 months and their caregivers
- Tuesdays at 11 for children 24 to 36 months old and their caregivers
- Thursdays at 10 for children ages 3-7

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT:** Dora and the Lost City of Gold, Friday, Dec. 20, 7:00 p.m.

**ED THE MUSIC MAN:** Monday, Dec. 2 at 3:30 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 16 at 3:30 p.m.

### **SONGS OF THE SEASON**

The Acton Boxborough Regional High School Madrigals will perform on **Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2:30 p.m.** on the upper floor of the library. Garbed in traditional dress, they will serenade listeners with seasonal melodies.

### **HOLIDAY MINI-FAIR**

Non-profit organizations serving the Acton area will offer a wide range of gift items at the Holiday Mini-Fair on **Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The snow date is Dec. 14.

The Mini-Fair is a great place to pick up hostess gifts, Yankee swap items and remembrances of the season for friends or neighbors who lend a hand during the year. Items available include baked goods, books, pewter snowflakes and ornaments, bird house kits, jewelry, Acton magnets, mugs, glasses, knitted and quilted items, notecards, t-shirts, Christmas ornaments and cards, calendars, and Arthur Davis giclees.

A great deal can be learned on the Library's website: [www.actonmemoriallibrary.org](http://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 -Thurs: 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.

### HOLIDAY HOURS

#### Closed

Wed, Dec. 25 and Wed, Jan. 1

#### Early Closure

Tues, Dec. 24 and Tues, Dec. 31

**Please call ahead for hours**

**978-929-6655**

## **COUNCIL ON AGING**

The festive holiday season is a great time to explore what the Town's Senior Center has to offer! The Senior Center/Council on Aging offers services, meals, and a variety of programs including 15 exercise classes a week, lifelong learning lectures, informational presentations, classes, 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+. We are located in the Town's Human Service Center at 30 Sudbury Road Rear. View the current newsletter at [actoncoa.com](http://actoncoa.com). For programs that require registration, please call the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652 beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2.

### **SHOPPING TRIPS**

Transportation is offering two shopping trips for seniors in December. Round trip cost is \$5.00. Call TransAction (CrossTown Connect) at 978-844-6809 to book.

- Solomon Pond Mall, Friday, December 6. Leave the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m., return at 2:30 p.m.
- Walmart in Hudson, MA, Monday, December 16. Leave the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m., return at 2:30 p.m.

### **WEST ACTON SEWER PROJECT**

**Monday, December 2, 11:00 a.m.**

Paul Campbell, the Town Engineer, will be here to answer your questions about the proposed sewer project for West Acton. All Acton Residents are welcome.

### **THE CONCORD PLAYERS TRAVELING TROUPE**

**Tuesday, December 3, 1:00 p.m.**

Join the Concord Players Traveling Troupe for a program of staged readings and skits, featuring amusing views of seniors as we age "gracefully" and with a little pizzazzzzz! Open, and free, to out-of-town seniors.

### **AGATHA CHRISTIE CHRISTMAS STORY DRAMATIC READING**

**Wednesday, December 4, 1:00 p.m.**

Stephen Collins presents dramatic readings of two holiday short stories: Agatha Christie's The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding and William Dean Howell's Christmas Every Day. Open to out-of-town seniors for \$5.

### **CAPTIONCALL INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

**Wednesday, December 4, 1:00 p.m.**

Learn the health benefits of treating hearing loss and how to qualify for a complimentary captioning telephone. Open to all/free

### **THE GIANTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE: EMILY DICKINSON**

**Tuesday, December 10, 1:00 p.m.**

Dr. Lawrence Lowenthal concludes this series with a look at Emily Dickinson, certainly the greatest female poet in American literature and one of the greatest poets in world literature. Open to out-of-town seniors for \$5.

### **HOLIDAY TEA PARTY**

**Thursday, December 12, 2:00 p.m.**

Come celebrate the season in style! Join us for tea, mulled cider, and a plentiful array of tea, sandwiches and sweets. The party is free for all Acton seniors, thanks to the support of the Friends of the Acton Council on Aging. This event is for Acton seniors only and registration is required! Call 978-929-6652 to reserve your spot.

### **MEMORY CAFE**

**Friday, December 13, 11:30 a.m.**

A Memory Café is a special time set aside for individuals with memory impairment and their care partners/caregivers. This event is free. Please let the COA know you will be coming: 978-929-6652.

### **HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH THE ACTON COMMUNITY CHORUS CHAMBER GROUP**

**Tuesday, December 17, 1:30 p.m.**

The chorus will sing a variety of holiday music plus a selection of favorite songs from recent and upcoming concerts. Open, and free, to out-of-town seniors.

### **OPTICIAN HOURS AT THE SENIOR CENTER**

**Thursday, December 19, 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

Trish Finlay, ABOC-certified optician with LOOK Optical of Maynard, will hold monthly hours at the Senior Center for minor repairs and adjustments. Trish will be happy to help you out at no charge. Open to out-of-town seniors/free.

**JAVA & HOLIDAY COOKIES**  
  
**WITH JOHN!**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 10:00 a.m.**  
Our Town Manager, John Mangiaratti, will be here to give you updates on things going on around town and to answer any questions you may have.



Family Service Detective Mike Eracleo checks in with seniors at a recent lunch.

## **CITIZENS' LIBRARY**

### **PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY**

The West Acton Citizens' Library needs your input! Please help us to decide how we can best serve you in the future. Our Strategic Planning Community Survey will take less than 5 minutes and will help us decide what materials to collect, what hours to be open, what kind of programs to run and much more.

Click on the link here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B7TMTBD> to take the survey. Paper copies are also available at the COA, Citizens' Library and Memorial Library.

**Thank you so much for your input!**



## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **2020 COMMUNITY GARDENS**

The Town of Acton Natural Resources Division currently has Community Garden plots available to rent at three locations: Morrison Farm at 116 Concord Road, North Acton Community Garden at 845 Main Street and the Hebert Farm Community Garden located at 88 Prospect Street. Residents and non-residents are eligible. There is a limit of one plot per household. The 2020 gardening season starts on Saturday, April 11.

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

- All available plots will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 6.

For more information including rates, please contact Kim at Natural Resources at 978-929-6642 or e-mail [cemetery@acton-ma.gov](mailto:cemetery@acton-ma.gov).

## **PLANNING DIVISION**

### **HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN SURVEY**

The Town of Acton is in the process of updating its Housing Production Plan (HPP). This document evaluates the housing needs of a community, ensuring a mix of housing types for different income levels, and helping to work toward a minimum of 10% of year-round housing stock being designated as affordable.

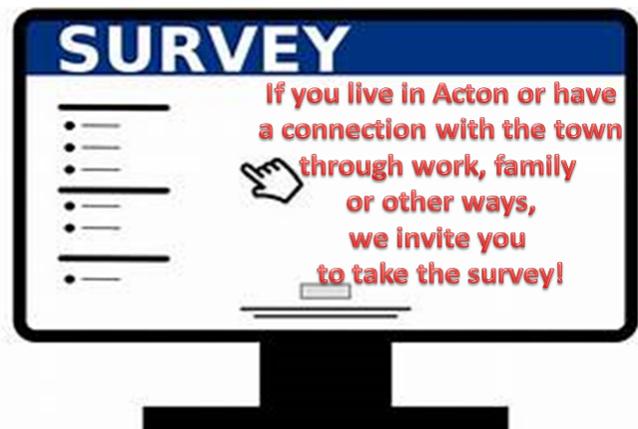
By establishing a production goal for affordable housing and demonstrating progress, Acton can maintain its "safe harbor" status, even if it has not met the 10% subsidized housing threshold. This status allows the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals to deny 40B development if it does not meet local needs.

As part of this process, JM Goldson LLC is working with the Regional Housing Services Office to update the plan. To support this effort, the project team has developed a short survey which will capture opinions on who needs housing, barriers to owning or renting in Acton, and the types of housing that will help meet the community's needs over the next five years.

If you live in Acton, or have a connection with the Town through work, family, or in other ways, we invite you to take the survey at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZRLKK7S>

**The survey will close on Dec. 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** Please feel free to share with other members of the Acton community.



## 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. The Acton Recreation Department is located at 50 Audubon Drive.

**YOUTH CLASSES:** Music Therapy Group, Young Artists, Kiddie Soccer Weekdays, Super Soccer Stars Saturday, Amazing Athletes Sunday, 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

**UPCOMING FALL/WINTER EVENTS:** 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)

**DECEMBER SCHOOL VACATION PROGRAM:** We'll have arts and crafts, team building games, theater games, outdoor play and more! December 25 from 9-noon, Dec. 26, 27, 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Dec. 31 from 9-noon. Price is \$50 for each full day program and \$23 per day for Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Post-care option is available from 4-5:30 p.m. for \$20 per day. Pre-registration required.

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT - WHERE KIDS STAY AND PLAY!** Drop the kids off at the Acton Recreation Department from 6-10 p.m. so you can have an enjoyable night out! Upcoming dates: Friday nights Dec. 6, January 10, February 14 and March 13. \$25 first child, \$15 per sibling. Must pre-register! [actonrec.com](#)



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

*Hot Chocolate and Caroling, Ugly Sweater Contest  
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 yellow bell. The dog is looking towards the camera. The photo is framed by a decorative wreath of green holly leaves and red berries.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **ACTON - SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN ON DECEMBER 14!**

Santa will visit the neighborhoods of Acton on Saturday, December 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The jolly fellow will ride in a vintage 1936 REO fire truck, escorted by the Acton Fire Department. Come one, come all! Be sure to bring your wish list. Santa's helpers will also collect non-perishable food items for the Acton Food Pantry.

#### **Santa will be traveling to these locations\*:**

9:00 A.M. Oakwood Road and Fernwood Road  
9:10 A.M. 32 Parker Street, Cucurbit Farm  
9:30 A.M. Faulkner Hill Road @ High Street  
9:20 A.M. 15 Hillcrest Road  
9:40 A.M. Robbins Street @ Heron View Road  
9:50 A.M. Beverly Road @ Doris Road  
10:00 A.M. Lothrop Road @ Spencer  
10:10 A.M. Joseph Reed Ln. @ Capt. Forbush Lane  
10:20 A.M. Ethan Allen Drive @ Black Horse Drive  
10:30 A.M. Duggan Road @ Townsend Road  
11:20 A.M. Nashoba Road @ Huron Road  
11:30 A.M. Seneca Road @ Seminole Road  
11:40 A.M. 29 Jackson Drive  
11:50 A.M. Musket Drive at Fife & Drum Road  
12:00 P.M. Acton Memorial Library, lower lot  
12:15 P.M. Acorn Park Drive @ Walnut Street  
12:25 P.M. 47 Nonset Path (Nagog Woods Post Office)  
12:30 P.M. NARA Park Bathhouse, 25 Ledge Rock Way  
12:40 P.M. Strawberry Hill Road @Pope Road  
12:45 P.M. Bayberry Road @ Magnolia Drive  
12:50 P.M. Hosmer Road @ Alcott Street



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM THE  
ACTON FIRE DEPARTMENT!**

If your child is unable to meet Santa outside, Mr. Claus will make special visit to your house. To arrange a special visit or to obtain more information, call the Acton Fire Department at 978-264-9648 or email [acton11904@verizon.net](mailto:acton11904@verizon.net). Look for us on Facebook @ Santaride.

\* Times are subject to change.

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

Be sure to clear away the snow that piles up near low level heating exhaust. This will prevent blockage and the danger of carbon monoxide entering the house. Fireplaces and wood burning stoves provide an excellent source of heat for your home.

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



Never start your vehicle in a garage to warm up. The buildup of carbon monoxide from your engine can be deadly. Have a working carbon monoxide detector near all bedrooms and on each floor of living space. **Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives.....they also make a great gift!**

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

### **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](mailto: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.

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

##### **1. Can retailers use thick plastic bags after Jan. 1, 2020?**

Reusable bags must meet all of the following requirements as described in the bylaw passed at April 2019 Town Meeting: sewn bag with stitched handles; made of cloth or natural fibers that are machine-washable and designed for multiple use; made of plastic other than polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride more than 4 mils thick (approximately the thickness of 4 sheets of paper)

##### **2. What needs to be displayed on the outside of recyclable paper bags after Jan 1, 2020?**

“Recyclable paper bag” - means a paper bag that is 100 percent recyclable including the handles; contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper content; and displays this information re recyclability and content on the bag surface.

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](mailto:health@actonma.gov) or 978-929-6632.

## JONES FIELD PLAYGROUND:

A community initiative for a fully accessible, inclusive, universal-design playspace located at 54 Martin Street in Acton.



For many years, Acton Recreation has championed the replacement of the playground at Jones Field. The existing structure (installed in 1996) is run down and in need of replacement; therefore, the creation of a new playground is essential.

However, our goal is not just to build an ordinary playground (which only accommodates able-bodied individuals). We want to create a space for EVERYONE to play, learn, invent, develop, and grow! In keeping with the Town's recreation goals in Acton 2020 and the Open Space and Recreation Plan, a fully accessible playground is greatly needed and desired by the community.

### WHO CAN YOU CONTACT ABOUT THIS PROJECT?

Melissa Rier, Acton Recreation Director, can be reached for additional information regarding the playground design and implementation at (978) 929-6640 ext. 0 or [mrrier@actonma.gov](mailto:mrrier@actonma.gov).

---

---

## 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**

**Christmas Day**

Wednesday, December 25

&

**New Year's Day**

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

