

TOWN OF ACTON

MUNICIPAL



MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 1, 2020

ACTON, MA

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Last month, United States Senator Ed Markey addressed more than 900 attendees at a Town Hall event in the RJ Grey Junior High School Auditorium alongside Congresswoman Lori Trahan, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, and State Representative Tami Gouveia. The delegation engaged the audience on Markey's Green New Deal legislation and other environmental issues.



Senator Ed Markey answering questions from the public at his Green New Deal event in Acton.
Source: twitter.com/SenMarkey

Environmental sustainability and green energy efforts are values held closely by the Town of Acton. To that extent, the Board of Selectman recently approved the [Town Manager's Revised Budget](#), which among other important priorities, invests more than \$200,000 in sustainability efforts, including acquiring additional hybrid police cruisers, installing more EV charging stations in priority community locations, a contractor to serve as Sustainability Coordinator, and additional street tree planting.

The Board of Selectmen also recently established an Agricultural Commission. Consisting of five members within the community with a passion for farming or agricultural-related activities, this commission will promote and develop resources within the community, and provide education on agricultural issues, among many other exciting responsibilities. If you are interested in serving on this commission or would like more information, please contact the Town Manager's office at (978) 929-6611 or email manager@actonma.gov

In other good news, the Town recently received a \$150,000 grant from the Community Compact IT Grant Program to upgrade the aging dispatch software within our dispatch center and police cruisers. This update will provide improved data reporting capabilities and efficiencies to the day-to-day operations of the very busy department.



Acton Police Chief Richard Burrows receiving the grant award from Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito

Lastly, the Town recently engaged CGI Communications to produce five short videos highlighting everything the community has to offer to residents, visitors and business owners. In advance of these videos, staff recently published a short survey asking the public what makes Acton a unique and special place to work, play, and live.

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 - 12:00 PM
Saturday: Closed

CLOSED: Monday, Feb. 17, 2020

TOWN OF ACTON - CONNECT WITH US!

FACEBOOK ~ TWITTER ~ INSTAGRAM

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.actonma.gov/subscribe>

EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



STEVE POWELL - PUBLIC WORKS - HIGHWAY

Please welcome Steve Powell to the DPW Highway Division. Steve joined the Highway Division in late December. Before joining us here in Acton, he was employed for 2 ½ years at the Town of Hudson in their Highway Department. Additionally, he has over 20 years in the construction field. We look forward to Steve applying his experience and skills to his new role here in Acton.



LEO FOCHTMAN - BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Leo Fochtman has lived in Acton for over 22 years. He is a quantitative analyst with Boston Partners, specializing in financial strategies. Leo believes that his experience working with and analyzing large and varied data sets, will allow him to positively contribute to the Board of Assessors.



ANN CHANG - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ann has served on many boards in Acton, both inside and outside local government. Because of her long history of service, she was named one of the inaugural Volunteers of the Year by the Board of Selectmen. She presently serves as an Acton Memorial Library Trustee, on the Economic Development Committee, the Town Meeting Improvement Committee, the Morrison Farm Reuse Committee, and the West Acton Sewer Action Committee.



JOAN BURROWS - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Joan is an active member of the Commission on Disabilities; currently her duties include Archivist, Coordinator of Publicity, and all AAB reviews/complaints. Joan is uniquely qualified in these roles as she, along with her partner Walter Kiver, worked in 1987 to found Acton's original Commission. The Acton COD considers itself fortunate to have a member with such knowledge and perspective on its board.

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 many of them in need of new members. This is your chance to make a difference! There are both Ad Hoc and ongoing committee slots available. Examples include the Volunteer Coordinating Committee, the Planning Board, the Historic District Commission, and the Recreation Commission. There is sure to be a board that can use your knowledge and skills. To learn more, visit the Volunteer Coordinating Committee page on the Town website: <http://www.acton-ma.gov/111/Volunteer-Coordinating-Committee>. There is no better way to give back to your community than by volunteering.

Applications may be filed online from the Town's website at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/formcenter/town-managers-office-5/volunteer-application-43>.



TOWN CLERK

VOTER REGISTRATION



**Wednesday,
February 12th**

**8:00AM TO 8:00PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

MARCH 3, 2020

SPECIAL STATE PRIMARY (37TH DISTRICT ONLY)

MARCH 3, 2020

Early Voting

March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary

DATES AND TIMES

AVOID THE LINES ON ELECTION DAY!

Monday, February 24, 2020	8AM - 8PM
Tuesday, February 25, 2020	8AM - 8PM
Wednesday, February 26, 2020	8AM - 8PM
Thursday, February 27, 2020	8AM - 7PM
Friday, February 28, 2020	8AM - 5PM

Town Hall, 472 Main St., Acton, MA

Voting is now more convenient than ever for all voters.



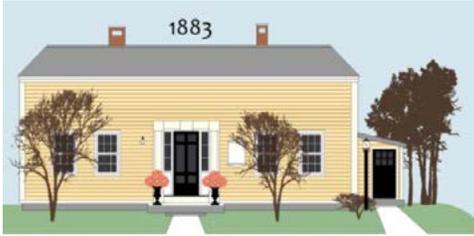
For more information: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele>
Or contact the Town Clerk's Office: clerk@actonma.gov

**LOOKING FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON VOTER
REGISTRATION OR VOTING?**

For more information visit:
<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele>

or contact the Town Clerk's Office
clerk@actonma.gov

WEST ACTON CITIZENS' LIBRARY



West Acton Citizens' Library

Thank you to everyone who responded to our community survey. We really appreciate your input. While we haven't finished analyzing all the data yet, there were a few suggested improvements we have decided to address immediately. Many people responded that they would like the library to be open more evening and weekend hours. In response, we will be changing our hours as of February 1 (see below for new schedule).

We hope the added Wednesday evening and Saturday hours will allow more people to use the library regularly.

The second suggestion we are acting on is the addition of regular adult programs.

1. We would like to invite members of the community interested in forming a monthly Wednesday Book Club to attend a start-up meeting on February 12 at 6:00 PM.
2. We would also like to invite anyone interested in forming a Documentary Club to attend a meeting on February 19 at 6:00 p.m. Like a book club, documentaries will be watched at home and discussed at the club meeting.

For more information, please contact Jennifer at 978-929-6654.

Finally, there was an overwhelming consensus that the West Acton Library needs a better online presence. We are happy to unveil our new website www.actoncitizenslibrary.org and invite you to follow us on our new social media sites:

facebook.com/ActonCitizensLibrary

instagram.com/actoncitizenslibrary/

twitter.com/ActonCitLibrary

STAY TUNED FOR MORE CHANGES TO COME!

New Hours as of Feb. 1, 2020

Sunday: Closed

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 11:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

NATURAL RESOURCES

2020 COMMUNITY GARDENS

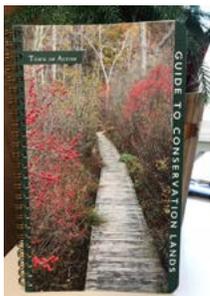
The Town of Acton Natural Resources Division currently has a limited number of Community Garden plots available to rent at three locations:

1. Morrison Farm at 116 Concord Road (pictured)
2. North Acton Community Garden at 845 Main Street
3. 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 in Acton, during regular business hours.

For more information including rates, please contact Kim at Natural Resources at 978-929-6642 or e-mail cemetery@actonma.gov.



GUIDE TO CONSERVATION LANDS

This wonderful 56 page guide was produced by the Land Stewardship Committee of Acton. The aim of this field guide is to facilitate an accessible and enjoyable experience for Acton's residents on the more than 1,650 acres of conservation land the now now owns.

The booklet can be purchase for \$10 (cash or check) at the Acton Recreation Department, 50 Audubon Drive during business hours.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

2020 SPRING~SUMMER PROGRAM

Spring is just around the corner! The upcoming Spring-Summer Program will be mailed to all homes in Acton and Boxborough at the end of February.

It's not too late to sign up for some late winter programs still being offered. As new spring-summer classes are finalized, they will be made available online at actonrec.com. You can also come to the Acton Recreation Department located at 50 Audubon Drive to sign up for programs or to purchase tickets for events.

VALENTINES DAY DANCE FOR KIDS - JONES PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER

Friday, February 14, 7:00-9:00 PM at the Acton Rec. Center. This special event is for youth ages 8 and up. Parents are not required to stay during the event. Pre-registration is required in advance. There is a fee of \$5 per child. All monies collected will be donated to the playground fund. Register at: actonrec.com

FEBRUARY & APRIL SCHOOL VACATION BREAK RECREATION KIDS CLUB

Registration is open for children ages 5-12 for the upcoming February and April school vacation breaks. The program is \$50 per day-per child, and is offered from 9:00 AM. to 4:00 PM. There is a pre and post care option available. Participants must be pre-registered. actonrec.com

NARA SUMMER CAMP

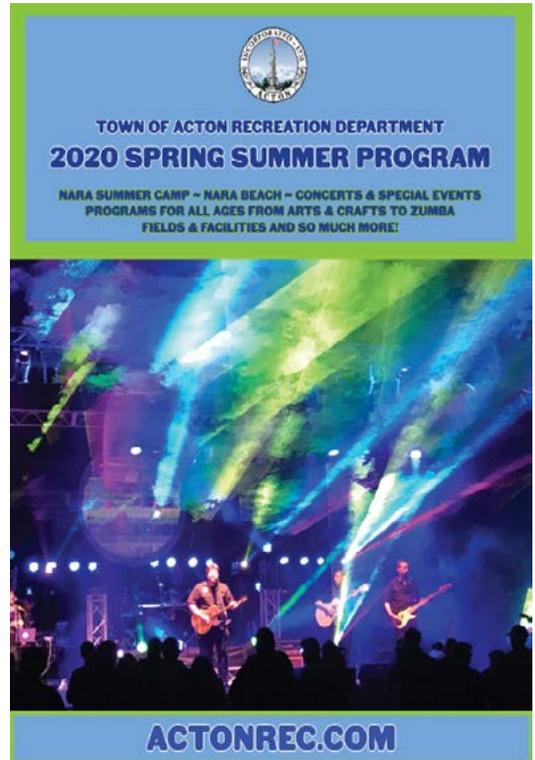
Registration is now open for NARA Summer Camp for children ages 4-15. For more information and/or to enroll visit actonrec.com.

2020 CONCERTS & EVENTS

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

RECREATION DEPARTMENT E-NEWSLETTER

Do you receive our e-newsletter? Our e-news helps keep you posted on the latest happenings with Acton Recreation. You'll be one of the first to know the latest news and updates about our fields, facilities, events and programs. E-mail recreation@actonma.gov and ask to be added. We won't share your e-mail and you can easily unsubscribe at any time.



NARA SUMMER CAMP

- Session 1: June 22—June 26: Animal Planet Week
- Session 2: June 29—July 3: Party in the USA Week
- Session 3: July 6—10: Pirate Week
- Session 4: July 13—17: Superhero Week
- Session 5: July 20—24: Olympics Week
- Session 6: July 27—July 31: Carnival Week
- Session 7: August 3—7: NARA Ninja Warrior Week
- Session 8: August 10—14: Winter Wonderland Week
- Session 9: August 17—21: NARA's Got Talent Week
- Session 10: August 24—28: Color Wars Week

Mighty Mini – Ages 4-5
NARA Youth – Ages 6-13
Counselor in Training (CIT) Program – Ages 14-15

New in 2020: Sibling Discount Offered

Field trip fees are included with registration.

EASY ONLINE REGISTRATION
ACTONREC.COM

STUDIO TWO

THE BEATLES BEFORE AMERICA

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

7:30-10:00 p.m.

ACTON RECREATION CENTER
50 AUDUBON DRIVE, ACTON

Experience The Beatles Before America

Special Event!
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!
\$35 per person - Includes appetizer buffet and soft drinks.
Beer/wine available for purchase.

Buy now before it's sold out!
actonrec.com

Feb. 8th ... The eve before... Feb. 9th ...
February 8, 1961 - The Beatles made their debut at The Cavern Club in Liverpool, England. They would then go on to play the basement club 292 times!
"The Cavern was sweaty, damp, dark, loud and exciting," recalled Paul McCartney in the 1983 book The Beatles Anthology. "As usual, we didn't start out with much of an audience, but then people began to hear about us. We could always entertain them."
February 9, 1964 - The Beatles first performance on the Ed Sullivan Show was airtel!

February School Vacation Program

Come play with us!
Tuesday-Friday
February 18 - 21

Program Info:
Times: 9AM-4PM
Post Care Option: 4-6:30PM
Price: \$50 per child per Day
Ages: 5-12

Enrichment programs including arts & crafts, active games, team building, theater games, outdoor play, and more!

Location:
Acton Rec Center
50 Audubon Drive
Acton, MA

Register Online:
www.actonrec.com

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RABIES CLINIC

**Saturday, February 29, 2020
2:00-3:30 PM**

**DogStar Activity Center
310B School Street, Acton**

**COST: \$15 PER ANIMAL – CASH ONLY
CATS & DOGS ONLY
CATS MUST BE IN CARRIERS AND DOGS ON LEASHES**

Animals will receive a one year rabies vaccine certificate unless owners bring in a valid (Massachusetts) three-year rabies certificate or any rabies certificate demonstrating a rabies vaccine given within the last 9 to 12 months. Animals with current wounds of unknown origin cannot be rabies vaccinated.

Special thanks to Dr. Jonathan Kelman, Great Road Veterinary Hospital and John & Julie Seeley, DogStar Activity Center.



Please contact the Acton Health Department
for additional information:
978-929-6632 or health@actonma.gov



Photos from Ted Vigil's Tribute to John Denver concert held at the Recreation Center on January 17th to a sold-out audience. Visit actonrec.com for upcoming ticketed concert information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Acton Police Department Presents Youth Police Academy

For ages 12-15

Monday, July 13 - Friday, July 17

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



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

Led by the Acton Police Youth Officers

Youth Police Academy

Includes:

- Crime Scene Investigation
- Special Enforcement Unit
- Traffic Safety
- Special Guest Visitors!
- Self-Defense
- Physical Fitness
- Arrest Process
- K-9 Unit
- Police Vehicles/Units
- Graduation Ceremony

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

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

ACTON CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

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

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

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- 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@actonma.gov



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
8:00-10:00 A.M.
BLACKBIRD CAFÉ
342 GREAT ROAD, ACTON**



THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN PRESENTS

2020 LITTLETON POLAR PLUNGE

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

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

Be Bold. Get Cold.

FOR MORE INFO:

<https://specialolympicsma.donordrive.com/event/Littleton2020>

or call 508-485-0986



COUNCIL ON AGING/SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center/Council on Aging is a great place to ward off cabin fever! We are located in the Town's Human Service 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 PM on Monday, February 3.



WELCOME TOURS FOR NEWCOMERS

Wednesday, February 12, 1:00-2:30 PM

Whether you are new to Town, recently retired or just haven't taken the plunge to check out your Senior Center, please come for a tour! If there is inclement weather, please call in advance.

NORMAL AGING VS. MEMORY IMPAIRMENT

Thursday, February 6, 1:00 PM

Memory loss has symptoms that can be difficult to distinguish from normal aging. Join us to discover the differences – from warning signs and symptoms to how memory loss is diagnosed and what can possibly be done to prevent it. Free, open to all.

HISTORY OF 1950s MUSIC: ROCK & ROLL

Thursday, February 27, 1:00 PM

In this multimedia presentation, John Clark will consider the major rhythmic sources (boogie woogie, swing, rockabilly, etc.) of this raucous new musical trend, focusing on Bill Haley, Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Gene Vincent, Ricky Nelson, Everly Brothers, Pat Boone & Connie Francis. Open to out-of-town seniors for \$5.

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE 101

Tuesday, February 25, 1:00 PM

Long Term Care Insurance can be a confusing product. This workshop will help you with understanding how benefits are paid, how your health affects eligibility, who the major Insurers are in Massachusetts, how to design a plan, and whether or not it is even something you should seriously consider. Open to all/free.

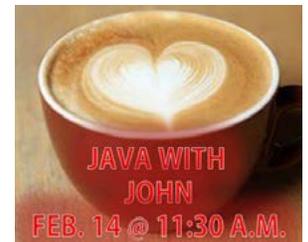
SHOPPING TRIPS

Transportation is offering two shopping trips for seniors this month: To the **Natick Mall on Monday, February 10**, and to **The Mall at Whitney Field on Friday, February 28**. Round trip cost is \$5.00. Bus leaves the Senior Center at 10 AM and returns at 2 PM Call Cross Acton Transit (CAT) at 978-844-6809 to book.

JAVA WITH JOHN

Friday, February 14, 10:00 AM

Acton's Town Manager, John Mangiaratti, will be here to give updates on things going on around Town and to answer any questions you may have.



MEMORY CAFE

Friday, February 14, 11:30 AM

Memory Café is a special time set aside for individuals with memory impairment and their care partners. Join us, enjoy lunch and meet new friends, in a supportive, social, stigma-free atmosphere. This event is free. Please let the COA know you will be coming: 978-929-6652.

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT REAL ESTATE TAXES

Tuesday, February 11, 1:00 PM

Staff from the Town Assessor's Office will discuss the options for real estate tax abatements, deferrals and exemptions. The filing deadline for most exemptions for FY20 is April 1, 2020. If you can't make the presentation, please call the Assessor's Office at 978-929-6621 for more information. Some of the most common exemptions are: Hardship; Blindness; Veterans; Senior Work Program; Tax Deferral; Committee Senior Tax Aid; Community Preservation Act Surcharge Exemption; Circuit Breaker; Surviving Spouse and Elderly Persons Exemption.

ASK THE ASSESSOR

Tuesday, February 11, 2:15-3:00 PM

Staff from Acton's Assessor's Office will be at the Senior Center to meet with you individually. They can answer your questions about your property tax bill and inform you about the various tax assistance programs available in Acton. Please call the COA office, 978-929-6652, to schedule a 15-minute appointment.

CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES

Thursday, February 13, 1:00 PM

Pianist and teacher Sivan Etedgee leads this monthly series combining lecture, live performance and sound recordings. This month's subject is Romeo and Juliet in Classical Music. Attendees are sure to come away with a greater understanding and appreciation of classical music. Open to out-of-town seniors for \$5.