

MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER, 2020

COVID-19 INFORMATION CENTER

ACTON TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

DIAL

978-929-6619



Having Fun at NARA Summer Camp 2020

TOWN HALL AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING HOURS OF OPERATION

ALL TOWN BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE -

WALK-UP WINDOW SERVICE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN HALL, MONDAY - THURSDAY, 10-NOON

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 Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7

CONNECT WITH US!

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@ActonMAGov

Sign up for Town notifications, emergency alerts and general alerts - subscribe, unsubscribe or manage your subscriptions:

<https://www.actonma.gov/subscribe>

TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Next Tuesday, September 8th at 6:00 pm, there will be a Special Town Meeting at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Upper Gymnasium and the adjacent parking lot. There will be nine articles presented on the warrant, including a Citizens Petition to declare a climate emergency. To view the articles and supplemental information, including videos prepared in advance by the article sponsors and ActonTV, please visit actonma.gov/townmeeting.

Thanks to the efforts of the Town Clerk staff and volunteers, the Special State Primary election held on September 1st was successful. The Board of Selectmen has designated RJ Grey Junior High School (16 Charter Road) as the polling location for the November 3, 2020 general election. In-person early voting for the general election will be held October 17-30. As a reminder, early voting by mail is also available. If you have not requested a ballot by mail already, applications will be accepted until Wednesday, October 28th. For additional information, including location and hours for in-person early voting, or to download a vote by mail application, please continue to check actonma.gov/election or contact the Town Clerk's office.

Organized by Acton resident Sahana Purohit to commemorate the 74th anniversary of India's Independence, a flag-raising ceremony was held on the front steps of Town Hall. The Indian flag was raised alongside the American flag as a symbol of solidarity and friendship. Guest speakers included the Indian Association of Greater Boston President Sanjay Gowda, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, State Representatives Gouveia and Sena, and Selectmen Benson (shown right) and Charter.



The Board of Selectmen has also recently accepted Acton Police Department's newest service dog "Zane." Donated by an organization "Puppies Behind Bars," which trains prison inmates to raise service dogs for wounded war veterans and first responders, Zane is a fully trained service dog with two years of training, including ninety-two different commands. Zane is assigned to Detective Jon Stackhouse and provides support for the community, recently visiting election workers after the State Primary, and was also featured on an episode of "Java with John." Welcome, Zane!



Finally, the Acton Town Services Hotline remains in operation. The hotline is operated by trained Town staff that can answer questions related to town services, COVID-19 related information, and much more. Please call 978-929-6619 during normal business hours that Town Hall is open.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Application Period Extended: Applications are still being accepted for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program on a first come first serve basis. This program will provide temporary rental assistance in the form of a grant and will be administered through a collaboration with the Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO). The intent of this program will be to provide eligible households support to maintain their housing stability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Acton Residents who are at or below 100% of the area median income (AMI), which is \$119,000 for a family of four, are eligible to apply. Application assistance such as printing, copying and scanning will be available through the Community Resources Office.

To learn more about this program or to request application assistance please visit rhsousing.org or contact Laura Ducharme by emailing lducharme@actonma.gov.

Back to School Drive

Donations are currently being accepted to assist local children through the Community Services Office and can be dropped off by appointment at the Human Services Facility located at 30R Sudbury Road.

The following are current needs for the upcoming school year: Back packs for all age groups, water bottles, lunch boxes, elementary supplies (for home projects) and supplies for middle and high school students.

Please contact Laura Ducharme at **978-929-6651** or lducharme@actonma.gov for more information.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Acton's MinuteVan transportation services have remained in operation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents who need a ride can call CrossTown Connect Dispatch (978-844-6809) during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30PM) to schedule a ride. Please provide at least 24-hours notice to allow for dispatch to book your trip. The buses are cleaned and sanitized regularly, and only 2-3 riders are scheduled on the bus at one time.



PHOTOS: Construction is well underway at the TJ O'Grady Memorial Skate Park. The final phase is almost complete and the Park should be finished by the end of September. This project has been funded by CPA funding with support by the citizens of Acton as well as partial funding from the Town of Boxborough.



Town of Acton - Household Hazardous Waste Day

Saturday, September 19th, 2020 @ Acton DPW Building—14 Forest Road
9:00-11:30AM



COVID-19 Safety Information

- All residents must stay in their vehicles at all times. Clean Harbors has a policy that anyone who attempts to exit their vehicle will be asked to leave.
- Waste accepted from truck bed, trunk of car, or back hatch of SUV. Materials will not be accepted from seats or when handed from residents.
- Clean Harbors will not be returning any containers (gas containers, storage totes, etc.). Please plan accordingly.
- Face coverings are required per Governor's Order.
- If possible, make one trip to Household Hazardous Waste Day.

Bring to Household Hazardous Waste Day:

- Oil paints, stains, paint strippers & thinners
- Solvents, varnishes
- Adhesives, glues, resins
- Waste fuels, contaminated waste oil
- Engine degreaser, brake fluid
- Transmission fluid
- Antifreeze
- Insecticides, weed killers, pesticides
- Wood preservatives
- Hobby/art supplies
- Photo chemicals
- Chemistry sets
- Cleaners, spot removers
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Aerosol cans
- Fire extinguishers

Not accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Day—bring to Transfer Station:

- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Television's and CRT's -\$25 per unit.
- Uncontaminated waste oil
- Lithium ion, Nickel-Cadmium, Lead acid batteries
- Car batteries
- Sharps, Hypodermic Needles, Medication (Alternate locations when reopened to public: Public Safety Facility, 30 Sudbury Road)

Bring to Town Hall when reopened to public:

- Hearing Aid/button cell batteries

Other items accepted at Transfer Station:
<http://www.acton-ma.gov/documentcenter/view/350>
If you have hazardous waste not listed, contact Acton Health Division: health@acton-ma.gov or 978-929-6632

Do NOT bring:

- Dispose of in household trash:
- Alkaline Batteries
 - Latex Paint—open, add hardener to expedite drying. Dispose after dry.
 - Smoke Detectors
 - Oil filters-punch hole in dome, drain for 24 hours, save oil for recycling

Contact licensed specialty disposal company:

- Asbestos
- Compressed gas cylinders
- Ammunition, fireworks, explosives
- Commercial or industrial waste
- Infectious & biological waste
- Radioactive waste

Hazardous Waste Day Safety:

- Drive **SLOW** through site and follow cones to avoid an accident.
- Tighten all caps and lids.
- Pack containers in sturdy upright boxes and pad with newspaper.
- Sort and pack separately: paint, pesticides, household cleaners.
- Avoid spills and do not place in a garbage bag.
- Never mix chemicals, and never smoke while handling chemicals.
- Pack your vehicle and go directly to the site.

Presentation & Discussion on Loneliness & Isolation

Come join us for this free live and online presentation and discussion!

Loneliness can increase as you age due to losing friends and loved ones and losing connections like those you had while working. Health concerns can make socializing more difficult. Join us to learn ways to stay connected and healthy during the pandemic.

Monday, September 14 at 11am
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91982087170?pwd=TVZPT1ZKaEYd2E3MzR1cjRYd0h1Zz09>
Passcode: 820463
Or Dial US: +1 646 876 9923
Presented by Carolyn Melbye, LMHC

Funding for CHNA 15 is provided from Lahey Hospital and Medical Center and Winchester Hospital through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need (DoN) process.

For more information, please email sball@actonma.gov or call 978-929-6453

Summer is almost over, feeling bitter?

You will feel better if you clean up your leaf litter!

Leaf litter and grass clippings are safety hazards and can pollute stormwater and waterways.

Yard debris which ends up in streets could clog storm drains, causing localized flooding of streets, yards, septic systems and wells.

Yard debris which finds its way to wetlands via storm sewers or direct dumping can act as a pollutant, change the chemistry of a waterbody, and make it difficult for certain species to live.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP!

- Bag leaves and grass clippings for proper disposal
- Compost leaves and grass clippings to use as a natural fertilizer
- Clear storm drains you notice are blocked

For more information, please visit: www.actonma.gov/stormwater

FIRE DEPARTMENT

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Director David C. Evans announced the completion of the 283rd class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-day Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program.

Congratulations to Acton Firefighters Stacey Meade and Shawn Desjardins for successfully completing the rigorous 50-day training program that provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their job effectively and safely. Students practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

Today's firefighters do far more than fight fires. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to a gas leak. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those who are trapped in vehicle crashes. They test and maintain their equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
Recruit Class #283 Graduation • August 14, 2020

Firefighter Stacey Meade



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
Recruit Class #283 Graduation • August 14, 2020

Firefighter Shawn Desjardins

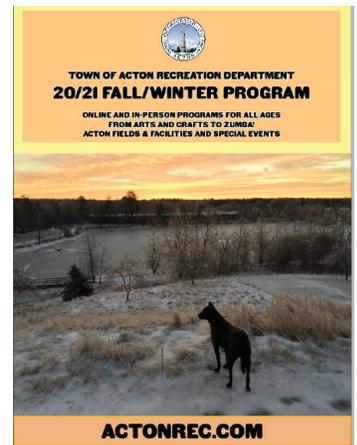


PHOTOS: Members from Rescue 34 Paramedic Alek Pouliopoulos and Patrick Douglass are inspecting ABRHS as part of annual safety inspections completed at all schools to ensure compliance with safety regulations.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The 20/21 Fall/Winter Program booklet is now available and should be delivered to you home the first week of September. Registration is available online and offers a fantastic variety of classes for all ages, most of which are being offered virtual. Visit actonrec.com



NARA PARK

All patrons are required to follow Social Distancing Guidelines: Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people; do not gather in groups. Face coverings or masks are required where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. No gatherings of more than 12 people.

**NARA BEACH WILL REMAIN OPEN
THROUGH LABOR DAY
OFFERING LIMITED DATES/TIMES**

HOURS OF OPERATION: 10AM-4PM

Saturday, Sept. 5

Sunday, Sept. 6

Monday, Sept. 7

Please visit actonma.gov/beach for more information.



- **Walking Perimeter:** One way only, counterclockwise from the Bathhouse.
- **Playground and Upper Fields:** Open
- **Volleyball Courts:** Open
- **Picnic Rentals:** Rentals now available (limited group size). Application can be found online at actonma.gov/recreation.
- **NARA Summer Camp:** NARA Camp has been extended two weeks due to late start of school.

UPDATE ON OTHER TOWN RECREATION AREAS

Town Fields including School Street, Great Hill, Little Great Hill, Jones, NARA, Robbins Mill, Veteran's, Hart, MacPherson, Elm Street and Concord Road are open with restrictions. Fields will be opening soon for organized play.

Elm Street Tennis Courts: Open - Reservations are required for use. To reserve a court visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044CABAD29AAFC1-elmstreet> Court use is by reservation only. Reservations are free. Court times are reserved by 2 hour increments, from 7AM and 9PM.

Elm Street Basketball Courts: Open for conditioning training only.

Town Playgrounds: All playgrounds are now open.

TJ O'Grady Memorial Skatepark: Open

Camp Acton: Open. Accepting Permit Applications.

Community Gardens Open-Users must follow the Acton Water District's Watering Policy.

Please email recreation@actonma.gov with any questions or call (978)929-6640. The office staff is working hybrid and is able to assist you during normal business hours. If you need to see a staff person, an appointment can be made. Any paperwork may now be dropped in the new Recreation Department mail-drop box located outside the double door entryway at the Recreation Department located at 50 Audubon Drive.

**NEW: Recreation Dept.
Drop Box**
Located at the front
double door entry -
50 Audubon Drive, Acton



COUNCIL ON AGING

The Acton Senior Center/Council on Aging continues to offer programs virtually and as drive-through events this month. COA staff can be reached at (978) 929-6652 and/or by email: seniorcenter@actonma.gov. We are also available to meet with you outside the Human Services/Senior Center located at 30 Sudbury Road or give you a regular phone call to check-in if that is something you'd like. A group of Acton-Boxborough students want to connect with seniors via phone or Zoom. They can walk you through technical issues such as using Zoom or just chat. For the latest news from the COA, follow us on Facebook (@actoncoa)!

Fall is the application season for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), commonly called Fuel Assistance, which provides eligible households help in paying a portion of their heating bills (November through April). Homeowners and renters including those whose cost of heat is included in the rent, can apply. Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every adult household member. Household income cannot exceed 60% of estimated State Median Income. For those aged 60+ contact Beverly Hutchings, Senior Services Coordinator at (978) 929-6652 or email bhutchings@actonma.gov. Under 60 years of age contact Laura Ducharme, Community Resources Coordinator at (978) 929-6651 or email lducharme@actonma.gov.

This month, the Acton Boxborough United Way will be joining the COA to offer drive-through ice cream to Acton seniors on Tuesday, September 22 - National Ice Cream Cone Day! Household Goods will have a van available at 30 Sudbury Road to collect smaller gently used items on Wednesday, September 30.

Some live virtual programs this month include an afternoon of harp music, history of 1950s Jazz music, a presentation and discussion on loneliness and social isolation, a digital photography class, and At the Piano classical music with Sivan Etedgee. Ongoing virtual programs include watercolor class, chess lessons, Computer Club, Terri's Tuesday Tips at 10:00 AM, and Laugh for Your Health. September brings the return of "Ask the Lawyer" with Attorney Cathleen Summers via telephone and Memory Café in a virtual format. A large selection of exercise and movement classes taught by COA instructors continues to be offered by ActonTV on its cable and YouTube channels. Please see our September newsletter at www.actoncoa.com for details!



PHOTO: ABRHS Honors Students volunteered their time to help at a recent drive-through Council on Aging shredding event for Acton Seniors.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

The Transfer Station & Recycling Center has adjusted operating hours and is open Monday – Saturday 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM (excluding public holidays). The first hour is open to seniors only (65+). We ask that residents maintain social distancing while using the facility.

The Transfer Station office is closed to the public. The Swap Shop remains closed.

The following stickers can now be purchased online:

- **First Household**
- **Senior (65+)**
- **Recycling Only**
- **Non-Resident Stickers**



Second stickers and replacement stickers must be purchased directly through the Acton DPW.

The new stickers effective September 2020-September 2021 will be available for purchase September 1, 2020.

Questions may be directed to the Acton DPW/Highway Division (978) 929-7740 or the Transfer Station (978) 929-7742.

MAILBOXES: The DPW would like to remind residents to inspect their mailboxes and posts prior to the winter season. The mailbox policy can be viewed at [by clicking here.](#)

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 below are the most common of these exemptions. For detailed information regarding all available exemptions, please contact the Assessor's office at (978) 929-6621 or email assessor@actonma.gov.



- **Surviving Spouse, Minor Children, Elderly Persons Exemption** - 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** - Must supply blind certificate, be a legal resident of MA and own the property.
- **Elderly** - 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** – Can defer any amount. Must be 65 years old or older. Gross annual income not to exceed \$40K. Recovery agreement with the Board of Assessors places a tax lien on the property.
- **Circuit Breaker** – Must qualify and have filed with the State Form Schedule CB.

The Assessor's will be available for appointments in the parking lot on September 8, 10, 15, 17, 24, 29 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SERVICE UPDATE

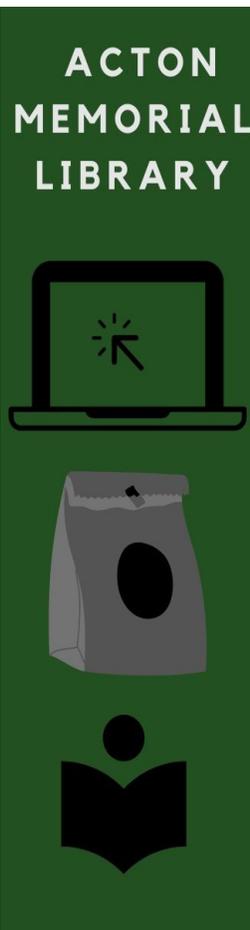
Acton Memorial Library remains closed to the public, but we are offering curbside contactless pick up for library materials. The outdoor book drop is open for returns. Returned items will be quarantined and may remain on your account for up to 7 days.

You can request library materials by searching the catalog at <http://find.minlib.net>

If you need help or would like suggestions on what to read you can contact the Reference Department at (978)929-6543 or email reference@actonma.gov

Once your materials are ready for pick up you can make a contactless curbside appointment by going to www.actonmemoriallibrary.org or calling (978)929-6655 option 2 between 10:30AM - 5:30PM Monday - Friday and 10:30AM - 1:30PM on Saturdays. Please note there are 482 appointment slots per week and they can fill up quickly. In July almost 10,000 materials were picked up this way!

When you come to pick up your materials at your designated time they will be located on a table in front of the library's main doors. Look for a bag with the last 4 digits of your library card number and the first 4 letters of your last name.



CURBSIDE PICK UP

Go to find.minlib.net
and request Acton items

You will get an email when your holds are Ready for Pickup

When your holds are ready schedule your appointment online at ActonMemorialLibrary.org or call the library

Pick up your holds at your appointment time

You must make an appointment to pick up your items

Holdings will take longer than usual due to high demand, delayed delivery, and quarantine procedures
Thank you for your patience!

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 Historic District Commission, The agricultural 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>.



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

DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

<u>Department</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Acton Nursing Services	978-929-6650	nursing@actonma.gov
Assessors	978-929-6621	assessor@actonma.gov
Building Division	978-929-6633	building@actonma.gov
Cemetery Division	978-929-6642	cemetery@actonma.gov
Citizens' Library	978-929-6654	wacl@actonma.gov
Collector/Treasurer	978-929-6622	collector@actonma.gov
Community Resources	978-929-6651	lducharme@actonma.gov
Council on Aging	978-929-6652	seniorcenter@actonma.gov
Engineering Department	978-929-6630	engineering@actonma.gov
Fire Department	978-929-7722	fire@actonma.gov
Health Division	978-929-6632	health@actonma.gov
Highway Department Transfer Station	978-929-7740 978-929-7742	highway@actonma.gov
Human Resources	978-929-6613	hr@actonma.gov
Information Technology	978-929-6612	it@actonma.gov
Memorial Library	978-929-6655	Visit: actonmemoriallibrary.org
Municipal Properties	978-929-7744	mpo@actonma.gov
Natural Resources Division	978-929-6634	NR@actonma.gov
Planning Division	978-929-6631	planning@actonma.gov
Police Department	978-929-7711	police@actonma.gov
Public Facilities	978-929-7744	mpo@actonma.gov
Public Works	978-929-7740	highway@actonma.gov
Recreation Department	978-929-6640	recreation@actonma.gov
Town Clerk	978-929-6620	clerk@actonma.gov
Town Manager	978-929-6611	manager@actonma.gov
Veterans' Services	978-929-6614	vso@actonma.gov
Water District	978-263-9107	Visit: www.actonwater.com