NOVEMBER 2021

TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS
MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

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TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

DIAL

978-929-6600

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

TOWN HALL & HUMAN SERVICES HOURS OF OPERATION

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 - Sunday: Closed

Town Offices will be closed:
Nov. 11, Veterans Day
Nov. 25-26, Thanksgiving Holiday

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

Mondays & Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 2:00 - 5:00 PM

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

The Town of Acton will receive $7,072,733 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. On October 18th, the Select Board approved an investment plan of $5,010,000 to be spent over the next two fiscal years that focuses on the core purposes of public health and community assistance programs as well as one-time costs related to community projects, technology and infrastructure. The remaining funding has been reserved as we continue to recover from the pandemic.

To view the approved investment plan, please visit actonma.gov/ARPA

Preparation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Recommended Budget and Capital Plan is well underway. Departments have submitted their budget requests adhering to the following objectives:

- Improve coordination on priority programs and services
- Consider customer service needs and ways to leverage technology to enhance services
- Target investments that align with Select Board goals
- Identify programs that advance efforts related to equity and mental health

On November 15th, the FY2023-2032 Capital Improvement Plan will be presented to the Select Board and Finance Committee. The Town Manager's Recommended Budget will be presented to the Select Board on December 6th.

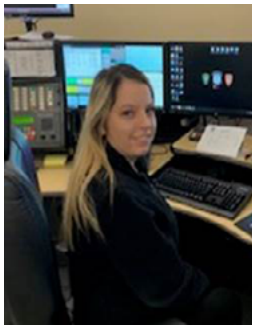
Did you know Acton offers subsidized taxi rides? We've partnered with a local taxi company to offer supplemental transportation for Acton residents. For more information, please contact Austin Cyganiewicz by emailing acyganiewicz@actonma.gov.

Sincerely,
John S. Mangiaratti
Town Manager

Select Board Chair David Martin and Town Manager John Mangiaratti attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for Stage Center Music in North Acton.

Town Manager John Mangiaratti hosted an in-person "Java with John" at the Acton Human Services Building last month.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



PUBLIC SAFETY

Please welcome the department's newest part-time dispatcher, **Ilana Pliner**. Ilana has prior dispatching experience from working at Action Ambulance and also has Emergency Medical Dispatch certification. Ilana graduated from UMass Lowell in May of this year with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. We are excited to have Ilana working in the Communications Center and welcome her to the team!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you want to get involved in making Acton a better place to live? There are many volunteer boards and committees in Town in need of new members. This is your chance to make a difference! There are both Ad Hoc and ongoing committee slots available. There is sure to be a board that can use your knowledge and skills. There is no better way to give back to your community than volunteering.

To submit an application, please visit actonma.gov/volunteer

PLANNING DIVISION

Joy is in the Architectural Details - *Barbara Rhines, Cultural Resource Planner*

Architecture is enjoyed for its overall presentation, functionality, and relationship to the land. But sometimes it is fun to zero in on a particular architectural detail. Take cupulas, for example. A brief walk around the Acton Town Common turns up multiple examples of cupulas. The term "cupula" dates from the Italian Renaissance and is defined as "a small dome or polygonal structure set atop a roof." The cupula straddles the roof ridge and is not flush with the building's façade as a steeple or large bell tower might be. Cupulas were originally intended to provide ventilation and/or light into the space below. That is why they are so commonly found on old New England barns. But as they became ingrained in the New England landscape, cupulas grew to become decorative elements evoking a Colonial heritage. Now one can find cupulas gracing municipal buildings and even mid- 20th century shopping plazas and gas stations. They are also recognized by residential architects as a way to add classic elegance to a large roof span. Drive around Acton and surrounding towns, and start to count old and new cupulas. You may be surprised at how many you find!

Two Acton Center examples of barn cupulas

Acton Central Fire Station, circa 1952

Is the 1860s Acton Town Hall bell tower technically a cupula?

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FREE Wellness Series for All Ages - Sponsored by Acton Nursing Services

Acton Residents Only - Join Pam Saarinen for an evening of meditation, gentle yoga and stretching
During this 2 series session, Pam will help to promote relaxation through guided meditation and chair yoga
You will leave each session feeling lighter, calmer and rejuvenated!

When: Tuesdays November 9th & 16th
Time: 6:00pm-6:45pm
Location: Human Services Facility & Senior Center, 30 Sudbury Road

Take one or both sessions!
To register please call 978-929-6650

SPREAD JOY AND 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. Please contact Laura Ducharme, Community Services Coordinator @ 978-929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov for more information.

ACTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

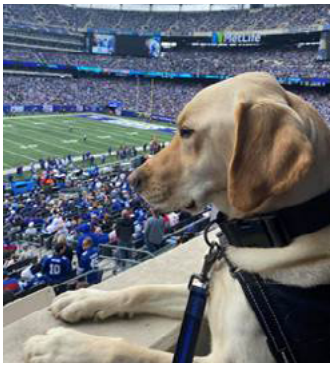
Community Circle Keeper Training

Last month Acton PD began a collaboration with the Acton-Boxborough United Way and Acton-Boxborough Racial Justice Collaborative called Community Circle Keeper. Sergeant Scott Krug of our Family Service Unit (FSU) has been participating in these meetings over the last few weeks. This is a great opportunity to connect with our residents in a safe and encouraging space. The group's focus is to understand and communicate around racial justice, equity, and other critical community issues impacting the well-being and sense of belonging of all residents.

This important program came from a generous CHNA15 grant and private support. Pathways to Restorative Communities provides this free virtual training to the volunteer group.

K9 Zane Trip to New York

This month, K9 Zane and his partner Detective Jon Stackhouse, along with 6 other Puppies Behind Bars department service dog teams all attended the Giants vs Panthers game at MetLife Stadium. The teams were invited and hosted by Giants owners, the Mara family, as a way to honor law enforcement and the hard work and dedication their K9 partners have provided not only to first responders, but their respective communities as well.



K9 Zane is our first service dog that was donated by Puppies Behind Bars, a non-profit organization based out of New York. Puppies Behind Bars (PBB) trains prison inmates to raise service dogs for first responders and wounded war veterans. Zane's duties include first responder wellness, victim support services, and community relations.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Acton Senior Center/Council on Aging continues to offer in-person and virtual events in November. The Senior Center hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 am to 5 pm, Tuesday 8 am to 7:30 pm, and Friday 8 am to 12 noon. Visit our newly designed website www.actoncoa.com for the latest information, to view our newsletter, or to sign up for notifications. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook @actoncoa! The COA is following state and local guidelines concerning COVID-19 precautions.

November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and the COA is offering What is Normal Aging vs. Dementia on November 22 at 11:00 a.m. and Dementia: Can I Still Have a Meaningful Relationship with my Loved One on November 23 at 6 p.m. with Kris Wuerdeman of Cooperative Elder Services, an adult day program.

November Program Highlights:

- Paolo Di Gregorio is presenting the History of Thanksgiving via Zoom (at home or at the Senior Center) on November 16 at 1:00 PM
- Poets Live Forever seminar taught by Val Walker concludes this month at 1:00 PM with Emily Dickinson on November 3, Robert Frost on November 10, and Edgar Allan Poe on November 17
- Town Manager John Mangiaratti will address your questions and concerns over a cup of coffee at Java with John, November 16, at 10:00 AM
- Staff from Acton's Assessor's office are presenting a Senior Property Tax Primer where you can learn about various tax relief programs on November 17 at 1:00 PM
- Sivan Etedgee's Listening to Four Centuries of Music program will focus on the Romantic Era, November 18 at 12:30 PM
- Jane Oneail will present Art & WWII: Hitler's Cultural Ambitions and Nazi Theft on December 1 at 1:00 PM via Zoom (from home or at the Senior Center)
- Let's Talk: Our Fondest Holiday Memories discussion group, December 2 at 1:00 PM

There are also 12 in-person fitness classes a week, weekly movies, a gym with senior-friendly equipment, line dancing, and various groups including Computer Club , chess, Mah Jongg, bridge and genealogy. Get in touch with your creative side by joining watercolor classes, a greeting card workshop or the needle arts group.

Medicare Open Enrollment runs through December 7, which is the time to review your insurance plan and make changes if needed. Don't miss Medicare Check Up: Is Your Medicare Plan Still Right for You, presented by Elaine Miller from Minuteman Senior Services' SHINE program on November 9 at 1:00. The COA offers appointments with a SHINE insurance counselor; call us to make an appointment.

The Minuteman Senior Service dining site offers in-person lunches Monday through Thursday at noon. Grab and Go lunches continue to be offered Monday through Friday. Sign up at least 24 hours in advance with John in person or call 781-221-7098. In addition, the COA is holding a breakfast for Veterans on November 12, Benchmark at Robbins Brook is providing a Thanksgiving lunch on November 16 (eat in or take out), and there is pizza night on November 23.

For seniors and their family members seeking information on area social services, please contact COA Senior Services Coordinator Beverly Hutchings at 978-929-6652. She provides information on home care agencies, elder day programs, housing options, food and fuel assistance, and a variety of other services.

To be added or removed from the paper newsletter mailing list please contact us. You can reach the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652 and seniorcenter@actonma.gov.

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

Temporarily, starting on November 3, the library will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 1 p.m. on Fridays. Hours on other days will remain unchanged. More information can be found at actonmemoriallibrary.org. The library will be closed on November 11th (Veteran's Day), 25th and 26th (Thanksgiving) and closing early on the 24th.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

AML has several great (and free!) events coming up in November! Learn more and register at ActonMemorialLibrary.org/Calendar

CHILDREN

Outdoor Baby/Toddler Storytime
Tuesdays at 9:30 AM - Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30
Drop-In; Registration recommended. Located on the library lawn, canceled in bad weather

Preschool Storytime
Thursdays at 10 AM - Nov. 4, 18
Drop-In; Registration recommended. Located on the library lawn, canceled in bad weather

Read to Zora (the therapy Golden Retriever)
Thursdays at 4 PM
15-minute sessions; Registration required. Located on the library lawn, canceled in bad weather

TEENS

Dungeons and Dragons
Saturdays at 10 AM - Nov. 6, 20
Grade 7 and up; Registration required. Located on the library lawn, canceled in bad weather

ADULTS

New Traditions for Thanksgiving - Side Dishes: A Virtual Cooking Demo
Wednesday, November 3 at 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Join chef Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast as she shares delicious twists on traditional side dishes.

Curious About Induction Cooking? Virtual Cook Plate Kit Demonstration
Thursday, November 4 at 6:30 - 7:30 PM
We'll talk "Why Induction Cooking?" with a live demonstration!

Living History: Thoreau reads "Autumnal Tints" and takes questions
Saturday, November 6 at 10:30 AM
Historian Richard Smith (as Thoreau) reads selections from the famous essay and takes questions to discuss life in 19th century Concord

Wanda Null: Etchings of Arthur Davis, his life and works
Sunday, November 14 at 2:30 PM
Wanda Null delivers remarks about "Acton's Artist" Arthur Davis, his life and works. Davis' etchings are on view at the library.

Craft Night: Felted Fall Scene with Kit
Wednesday, November 10 at 7 PM
Join Pop-Up Art School for a fun night of needle felting. Learn how to "paint" a seasonal landscape with wool.

AML Book Group
Tuesday, November 16 at 7:30 PM
This month, the Acton Memorial Library Book Group will discuss the book *Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World* by Simon Winchester. All are invited to join in discussion. Registration is required. Zoom program.

Friends of Acton Libraries

Thank you to the Friends of Acton Libraries for a terrific book sale in October! Check out the Friends of the Acton Libraries to learn more about this important organization!
https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/about-the-library/friends-of-the-acton-libraries/

STAY CONNECTED WITH AML

Stay up-to-date with announcements and library info by following on Facebook (@ActonMemLibrary) and Instagram (@ActonLibrary) and Twitter (@ActonMemLibrary), or by visiting actonmemoriallibrary.org

Email Newsletter: Sign-up to get the latest news! - https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/about-the-library/newsletter/

AML E-Resources: Check out our wide array of e-resources, available anytime remotely - https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/resources-research/e-resources/

2022
ANNUAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Annual Town Election - Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Nomination papers for the March 29, 2022 Annual Election are available December 1, 2021. Please email clerk@actonma.gov to request Nomination Papers.

Last day to obtain nomination papers - Friday, February 4, 2022

Last day to file nomination papers with Board of Registrars - Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Last day to for candidates to object / withdraw - Thursday, February 24, 2022

Last day to Register to Vote - Wednesday, March 9, 2022

TOWN OFFICIALS OFFICES TO BE ELECTED

Moderator

1 Member – 1 year term

Acton Board of Selectmen

2 Members - 3 year term

School Committee

2 Members - 3 year term

Trustee- Memorial Library

1 Member - 3 year term

Acton Housing Authority

1 Member – 5 year term

Water Supply District - Acton

1 Water District Commissioner – 3 year term

Absentee / Vote by Mail Applications for the Election are available at the link below.
Mail application to Town Clerk, 472 Main St, Acton Ma 01720
MailMyBallotMA.com

Annual Town Meeting - Monday, May 16, 2022

TRUSTEES - TO BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MUST BE NOMINATED AT TOWN MEETING

Temporary Moderator

1 Member - 1 year term

Trustees, West Acton Citizen's Library

1 Member – 3 year term

Trustees, Charlotte Goodnow Fund

1 Member – 3 year term

Trustees, Elizabeth White Fund

1 Member– 3 year term

Trustees, New Fireman's Relief Fund Acton

1 Member- 3 year term

WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE?

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MAY BE CALLED UPON TO HELP.

PLEASE JOIN US IN SAYING YES TO SAVING A LIFE.

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

teaches three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life.

As a QPR-trained Gatekeeper you will learn to:

- Recognize the warning signs of suicide
- Know how to offer hope
- Know how to get help and save a life

Monday, November 22, 2021

9:30am-11:30am

Sargent Memorial Library

Hager Hill, 427 Massachusetts Ave, Boxborough, MA

AB Cares

AB CARES IS A COMMUNITY-BASED COLLABORATIVE EFFORT THAT SEEKS TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN AND SUPPORT ALL WHO ARE IMPACTED BY SUICIDE.

ACTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATES

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN BLUEPRINT WORKSHOP

MAPPING OUR ACTIONS

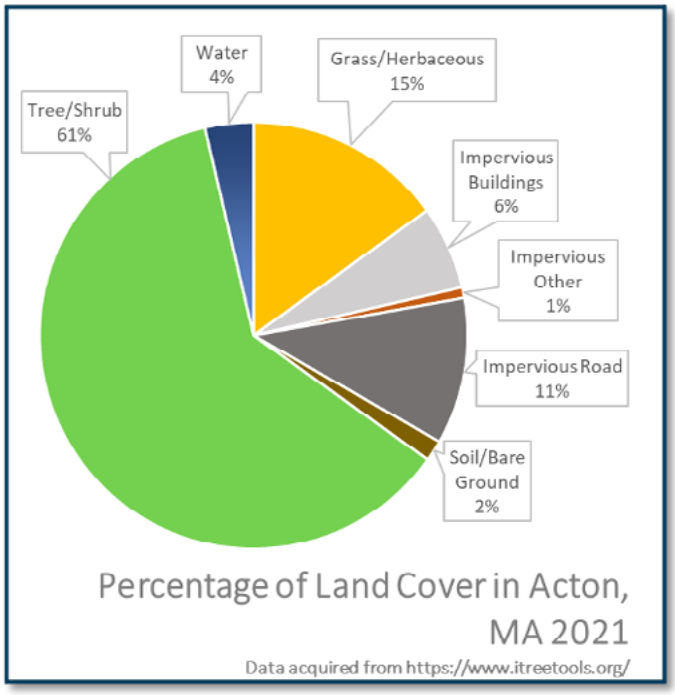
With your input during the last four months we have developed a draft set of Climate Action Plan goals and strategies (check them out here) and now we need to figure out how we're going to achieve our targets. Haven't had a chance to take part? Please join us next time! Save the date for the final public workshop, happening via Zoom on **Thursday, November 18th, 12:00-1:30PM**. The final CAP will map the pathway and strategies to reduce Acton's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Mobility, Buildings & Energy, and through Nature-based solutions. Please register here: https://bit.ly/3CCKxNq

Questions? Email sustainability@actonma.gov, call 978-929-6611, or click here for more information about the Climate Action Plan process.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION... WHAT IS THAT?

by Mel Anderson, Sustainability Fellow

We learn in school that trees breathe in the air we breathe out, but what does that really mean? Well, the air that we breathe out is full of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) and this is a vital component for healthy, growing trees. All plants, not just trees, have this vital ability to pull CO2 out of the atmosphere and store it as biomass. The atmospheric CO2 we emit for electricity, heat, and transportation is one of the main contributors to climate change . In addition to transitioning to a clean energy future, our trees and plants play a critical role in helping to capture (or offset) these emissions. A tool developed by the USDA Forest Service and partners called i-Tree allows for cities and towns to estimate the canopy cover and carbon sequestered annually from the trees within its boundary. Based on a statistical estimate using a randomly selected points method, Acton has a 61% tree/shrub canopy cover, which translates to 9,050 Metric Tons of Carbon that is sequestered annually.



DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE - (978) 929-6600

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