



# TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

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## TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

The Town Manager's Recommended FY23 Budget and Capital Plan was presented at a joint Select Board and Finance Committee meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The next milestone in this process is presentations from departments on their respective budgets to the Select Board and Finance Committee on January 20<sup>th</sup>. View the budget and capital plan online at [actonma.gov/manager](https://actonma.gov/manager).

The Finance Team has completed their work on the "Annual Comprehensive Financial Report" (ACFR) for Fiscal Year 2021. The ACFR also serves as the independent audit that is required for municipalities to conduct at the end of each fiscal year. This year's ACFR has recognized the continued strong financial position of the community, especially as we recover from the pandemic. View the ACFR online at [actonma.gov/budget](https://actonma.gov/budget).

Town of Acton, Massachusetts



Town Manager's Recommended  
Fiscal Year 2023  
Municipal Operating Budget  
And Capital Plan

John S. Mangiaratti  
Town Manager  
December 6, 2021

## 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:  
Jan 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day***

## 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

Masthead background photo provided courtesy of Raymond Merkh, Jr.  
Submit your photos to [photos@actonma.gov](mailto:photos@actonma.gov)

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Acton was recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources "Leading by Example" program (see photo at right) for our efforts related to climate action. The program highlighted Acton's leadership including declaring a climate emergency at Town Meeting, completing a greenhouse gas inventory, launching a Climate Action Plan process, procuring 100% renewable energy for all municipal buildings, and much more.



[Pictured L-R] Select Board Vice Chair Dean Charter, Sustainability Director Andrea Becerra, Acting Green Communities Director Joanne Bissetta, Town Manager John Mangiaratti, Select Board Chair David Martin, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, and Select Board Clerk Jim Snyder-Grant

Sustainability Director Andrea Becerra presented the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Blueprint to the Select Board on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The Blueprint maps out the strategies for the Town to prioritize over the next 5-10 years to curb community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in our buildings, and transportation, and methods to adopt nature-based solutions. In collaboration with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the strategies were developed with input collected through a survey and across eight virtual public workshops, one in-person open house, two advisory group meetings, a staff meeting with division heads, an Acton-Boxborough High school student-led workshop, a comment period, and interviews with over 20 staff members, members of boards and committees, and various organizations across Town. To learn more visit the Sustainability Page at [actonma.gov/sustainability](https://actonma.gov/sustainability).

Sincerely,  
John S. Mangiaratti  
Town Manager

# #MaskUpActon



**Thank you for keeping our  
community safe.**



**[actonma.gov/COVID19](https://actonma.gov/COVID19)**

## **FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED IN ACTON AS OF DECEMBER 22, 2021**

All members of the public entering any public business premises, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, home improvement or retail stores and the like must cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering, unless exempted by MDPH guidance <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements>

All members of the public entering a restaurant or food establishment premises for purposes of picking up food for takeout must cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering, unless exempted by MDPH guidance <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements>

All members of the public when entering an indoor municipal property or building, including but not limited to the Acton Public Safety Facility, Acton Town Hall, Acton Memorial and Citizens Library and Acton Fire Stations, must cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering, unless exempted MDPH guidance <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements>





# Mammals of New England

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

**Via Zoom—Pre-registration is required**

[https://actonma.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0JWZdKBWT9mrNgvDIYNISQ](https://actonma.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0JWZdKBWT9mrNgvDIYNISQ)

There is a wide range of mammals found around New England, from the woods, fields and suburbs to the seashore. From the shy fisher to the comical chipmunk, rabbits, foxes, deer, coyotes and even black bear might visit neighborhoods, sometimes under the cover of night. Learn about mammal behavior, tracks and signs to help figure out who is in your neighborhood! But what about the shore? There we might see harbor, gray or even harp seals, or dolphins and whales off shore. Learn more about our New England marine mammals and tricks for telling them apart.

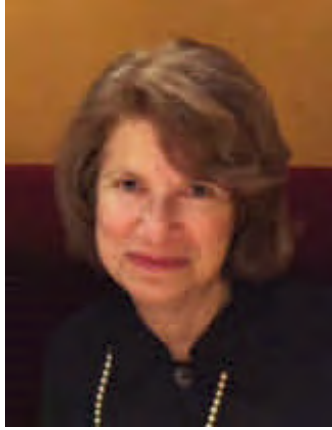
**Presenter: Joy Marzolf of The Joys of Nature**

Joy has been offering a variety of animal-related education programs for over 20 years. She has worked with a wide range of animals including marine mammals in rehab/rescue programs in Massachusetts, and a wide variety of captive and non-releasable rescued animals in Oregon. She has worked with reptiles in the wild, and in captivity, for over 20 years. Most recently, she was a Naturalist and Educator at Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary. Joy offers programs to a wide range of ages from pre-school to seniors.

For more information please contact Sheryl Ball at the Acton Health Division at [sball@actonma.gov](mailto:sball@actonma.gov)

or call 978-929-6453

Funding for CHNA15 is provided from Lahey Hospital and medical Center and Winchester Hospital through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need (DON) process



*Ellen Feinsand, Chair, Acton Council on Aging Board*

### **Free In-Person or Virtual Workshop**

#### **Aging: Planning for Yourself & Your Family**

**January 11, 2022 at 1 PM Room 204 , Acton Town Hall, 472 Main St or  
zoom link that will be provided during registration– see below link to  
register**

**[https://actonma.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gUWrtJnOTEuxUSGgbH3saQ](https://actonma.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gUWrtJnOTEuxUSGgbH3saQ)**

This Workshop aims to educate seniors and their families about the plans and decisions to make after retirement. The focus is on health care, benefits, being prepared in case of any emergency and resources available to meet seniors' needs. Ellen will help you create your own "Go Bag" if you have to leave home quickly (for any reason) and a special "Grab-n-Go" Kit if you have a medical emergency.

#### **Biography of Ellen Feinsand**

Ellen Feinsand spent her career in the financial services industry helping people save for, transition to, and living in retirement. In 2014, she expanded her work to include advocating for seniors and earned a Certification in Gerontology, management of Aging Services, from the University of Massachusetts in 2015. Prior to that, Ellen founded D & G Consulting, Inc. in 1997, worked at Fidelity Investments from 1986 – 1997, and previously for a division of Traveler's Insurance. Ellen has an MBA from Boston University, an MA from Tufts University and a BS from State University at Albany.

***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](mailto:sball@actonma.gov) or call 978-929-6453***



**JULIE PIERCE ONOS**

**TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Please welcome Julie Pierce Onos, MBA to her new position as Economic Development Director in the Town Manager's Office! Julie holds a B.A. in Sociology from Yale University where she was a Mellon Research Fellow. She continued her studies with an MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management in Organizational Finance. Julie's career started in Connecticut where she worked on a research study analyzing the social and economic impacts of addiction on individuals, families and communities. She then moved to Massachusetts and began working for the Social Security Administration where she held a variety of roles including assisting the public with their retirement and disability claims, building public-private partnerships, creating and deploying training and auditing local field offices. After many years with SSA, she moved on to Middlesex Community College where she founded their STEM internship program. This work involved recruiting and supporting employers, interviewing and matching students with employers and creating the foundational policies and procedures to sustain the program for year to come. We are thrilled to have Julie working in her new position and look forward to increasing engagement with the business community!



**ROBERT CARTER**

**MEMORIAL LIBRARY:** Please welcome Robert Carter, the new Head of Children's Services at the Memorial Library! Robert has served as a librarian in several local communities, including Tyngsborough, Weston, Sudbury, and Winchester. He has also worked as a graphic designer, a stay-at-home father, and a makerspace manager. Robert loves working with children, discussing books, Dungeons & Dragons, teaching, and crafting. Robert holds a B.A. in Architecture from Lehigh University and a Masters in Library Science from Rutgers University. Robert's agenda is bursting with ideas for programming, and he would love to hear from the Acton community about children's activities you'd like to see at your library. Please introduce yourself when you're in the Children's Room (ask him about his dog and 3 cats) or send him an email ([rcarter@actonma.gov](mailto:rcarter@actonma.gov)).



**LEO MERCADO**

**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE:** Please welcome Leo Mercado, the new Deputy Town Clerk! Leo comes to Acton after working multiple years in the Marlborough City Clerk's office, serving as Senior Vital Records Clerk and then Principal Elections Clerk. Leo enjoys learning local history and traveling to historical locations. Leo is looking forward to working with residents of Acton to assist them with their election or vital record needs. Say hello to Leo next time you visit Town Hall!



# 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](mailto: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 Select Board**

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](https://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**

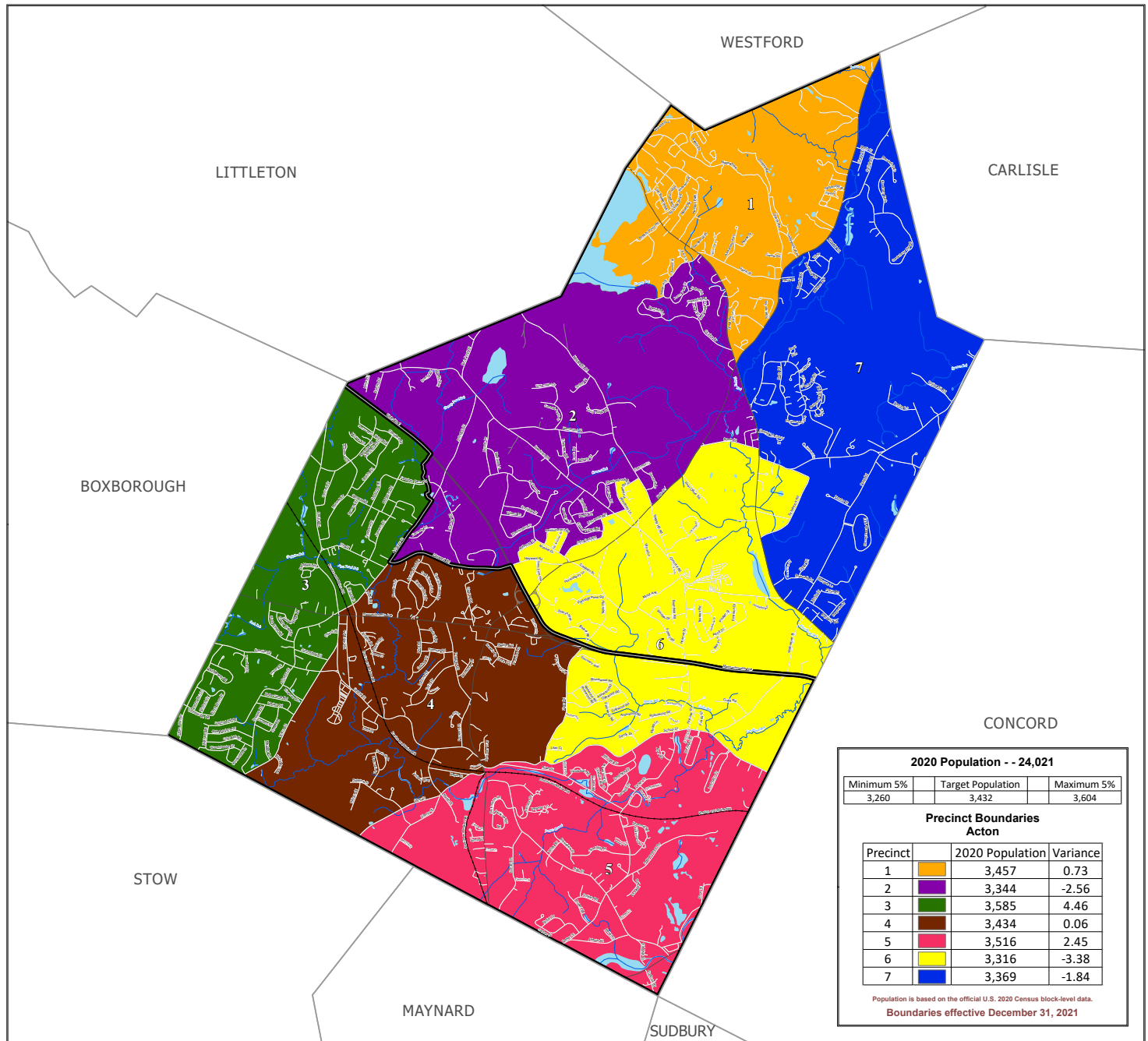
1 Member – 3 year term

#### **Trustees, Elizabeth White Fund**

1 Member– 3 year term

#### **Trustees, New Fireman's Relief Fund Acton**

1 Member- 3 year term



## ACTON'S UPDATED PRECINCT BOUNDARIES

As part of the US Census process, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Secretary of State's office is tasked with re-districting the legislative boundaries for municipalities. The 2020 Census has determined Acton's population is now 24,021. Given Acton's population increase, there is now seven (7) precincts in Acton, effective December 31, 2021. By law, there can not be more than 4,000 voters per precinct, thus creating the need for an additional precinct in Acton.

### *What does this mean?*

Voters *may* have been shifted into a new precinct. However, the Select Board has recently voted to hold all elections at a single polling location, the **RJ Grey Junior High School Gymnasium located at 16 Charter Road**. As voters arrive, staff will be available to assist voters with finding their voting precincts.



## ACTON RECYCLES



**Metal Food  
& Beverage Cans**  
*Empty and rinse*



**Plastic Bottles, Jars, Jugs  
& Tubs**  
*Empty and replace cap*



**Glass Bottles  
& Jars**  
*Empty and rinse*



**Paper & Cardboard**  
*Empty and flatten*



**NO TEXTILES IN  
THE TRASH**



**USE DONATION PROGRAMS:**  
Tears and holes in your clothes?  
No problem! Fabrics are recycled  
through special programs.



**NO PLASTIC BAGS  
IN THE RECYCLING**

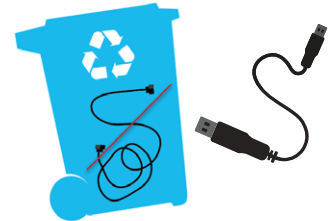


**DO NOT  
BAG  
Recyclables**

Collecting recyclables in a bag?  
Empty the contents into the cart.  
**Return plastic bags to retailers.**



**NO TANGLERS IN  
RECYCLING (SUCH AS  
HOSES OR WIRES)**



Tanglers catch in the machinery  
which is dangerous for workers.

## THINK BEYOND THE BIN

**Even if you can't put it in your  
bin at home...  
someone else can put it to  
good use**

Search the item at Beyond the Bin  
for more info:  
[bit.ly/TABeyondTheBin](http://bit.ly/TABeyondTheBin)



### Additional Resources:

Search the item you want to  
recycle:  
[bit.ly/TAREcycleSearch](http://bit.ly/TAREcycleSearch)



For more recycling details visit the  
Acton Public Works site:  
[bit.ly/TAREcycles](http://bit.ly/TAREcycles)



**Questions? Contact [abecerra@actonma.gov](mailto:abecerra@actonma.gov)**



## FALL STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

Raking leaves onto a stormwater inlet creates more pollution of local streams and waterways. Not only do leaves contribute to stream pollution, they can cause localized flooding if they clog storm drains and pipes. Help protect nearby waterways from excess nutrients and never rake leaves into a storm drain.



## WINTER STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

Start shoveling early! The more snow you remove, the less salt and sand you'll need. Below are some dos and don'ts when shoveling or plowing snow.

### DO

- Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity to infiltrate into the ground.
- Pile snow in areas where water does not pond.
- Clear away any snow that may have been thrown onto the storm drains.

### DON'T

- Do not pile snow on top of storm drains or near water bodies and wetlands.
- Do not pile snow in storm water detention basins, rain gardens or bioretention areas.

## TIPS TO AVOID USING SALT AS A DE-ICER

More salt does not equal more melting snow. Follow product instructions when spreading deicing material and give it time to work. Salt can be harmful to pets and our waterways. Sweep up any material remaining after the snow/ice melts.



When temperatures hit 15° F or below, salt is not effective. Consider using traction materials such as cracked cornmeal, sand or kitty litter. If you're using traction materials that contain an acetate, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, please read the product instructions to understand the pros/cons of these alternative traction measures.

Pay close attention to places that may have eroded during the snow melt. Plan to improve these areas in the spring by using native grasses, meadow plants, or native trees and shrubs.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Leaves can be a great source of nutrients for your property, so consider mulching them into fertilizer for your yard or garden. However, a decaying mat of leaves on your lawn can expose it to mold and disease. If your lawn is covered with more than 50 percent of decaying leaves, consider bagging or composting leaves, rather than mulching.

Normal snow accumulation does not pose a threat to rain gardens, so there is no need to shovel a rain garden. However, heavy snow loads can weigh down and saturate your garden and hurt plants. Pile snow uphill from the rain garden so when the snow melts the rain garden can do what it is designed to do.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Acton Boxborough United Way (ABUW) Assist Grants

If you are a resident and need emergency help to pay rent and other essential bills, we can help. Emergency grants up to \$1,000 are available to eligible residents.

### Rental Assistance Programs

The Housing Consumer and Education Center (HCEC) through South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) in Framingham is the agency that administers state and federally funded homelessness prevention grants including:

- Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency grant (FEMA)
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

### Eligibility Requirements

- Households of any size or composition at risk of being displaced or forced to leave their home due to an unforeseen housing emergency or a COVID-19 related employment loss.
- The household income must be below 80% of the area median income (AMI)
- Restrictions apply on rental assistance for families residing in subsidized housing or who have a rental voucher
- For most of this funding, citizenship or immigration status is not an issue.
- Financial assistance is limited based on funding, eligibility, and service area. To apply for any of the above programs please visit: <https://www.smoc.org/housing-consumer-education-center.php>

### Fuel Assistance Programs

**Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is a government-sponsored program that is administered through SMOC in Framingham.

- Households must have income at or below 60% of the state median income
- Benefit covers heating costs such as oil, propane, electric, and natural gas for both renters and homeowners for the winter heating season

**Good Neighbor Energy Fund** - The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is sponsored through the Salvation Army.

- Assists households with incomes within 60-80% of the state median income
- Applicants must not be eligible for other fuel assistance programs
- Benefit covers oil, propane, electric, and natural gas and provides a one-time grant of \$500 for both renters and homeowners

For more information or to apply for any of these programs please contact the Community Services Office at 978-929-6651 or [lducharme@actonma.gov](mailto:lducharme@actonma.gov).

## LOCAL & GOVERNMENT RESOURCE SUPPORTS

Area of Need	Contact:
Food Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Acton Food Pantry</b>, <a href="http://actonfoodpantry.org">actonfoodpantry.org</a>, (978) 635-9295, open every week: 10:00AM–7:00PM Wednesdays, and 9:30AM – 11:30AM Thursdays</li> <li><b>Mt. Calvary Community Supper</b>, <a href="http://www.mtcalvaryacton.org">www.mtcalvaryacton.org</a>, (508) 263-5156, Dinner served on Wednesdays from 4:45-5:45</li> <li><b>Open Table</b>, <a href="http://www.opentable.org">www.opentable.org</a>,</li> <li><b>Stow Food Pantry</b>: <a href="http://www.stowfoodpantry.com">www.stowfoodpantry.com</a>, E-mail: <a href="mailto:stowfoodp@gmail.com">stowfoodp@gmail.com</a>, Distribution of food by appointment to families in need.</li> <li><b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b>: <a href="http://www.Mass.gov/SNAP">www.Mass.gov/SNAP</a></li> <li><b>Women Infants and Children (WIC)</b>: <a href="http://www.Mass.gov/WIC">www.Mass.gov/WIC</a></li> </ul>
Health Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MA Health Connector</b>: <a href="https://mahealthconnector.optum.com/individual/">https://mahealthconnector.optum.com/individual/</a></li> </ul>
MA Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)</b>: <a href="https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/">https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/</a> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC)</li> <li><b>Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) Mobile App</b>: <a href="https://www.mass.gov/how-to/download-the-dta-connect-mobile-app">https://www.mass.gov/how-to/download-the-dta-connect-mobile-app</a> -you can download the app and apply from your phone.</li> </ul>
Housing Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MA State Aide Housing</b>: <a href="https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/">https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/</a></li> <li><b>MA Centralized Waitlist</b>: <a href="http://www.section8listmass.org/How_to_Apply.php">http://www.section8listmass.org/How_to_Apply.php</a></li> <li><b>Acton Housing Authority</b>: <a href="http://www.actonhousing.net">www.actonhousing.net</a>, E-mail <a href="mailto:office@actonhousing.net">office@actonhousing.net</a></li> <li><b>Rent Assistance</b>: <a href="https://www.smoc.org/housing-consumer-education-center.php">https://www.smoc.org/housing-consumer-education-center.php</a></li> </ul>
Medical Attention or Answers to Health Questions	<p><b>IF THERE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call your primary care physician.</li> <li>Go to the Emergency Room: Emerson Hospital, 133 Old Rd. to Nine Acre Corner, Concord</li> </ul>
Coronavirus Questions or Concerns & Other Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Acton</b>: <a href="https://www.actonma.gov/704/COVID-19/">https://www.actonma.gov/704/COVID-19/</a> (978) 929-6632</li> <li><b>MA Department of Public Health, Epidemiology</b>: (617) 983-6800</li> <li><b>Statewide 2-1-1 Helpline</b>: Dial 2-1-1 from a phone or visit <a href="http://www.mass211.org">www.mass211.org</a> for info on COVID-19 prevention, testing, and referrals.</li> <li><b>Acton Boxborough United Way</b>: <a href="http://abuww.org">abuww.org</a>, Emergency Grants for Acton residents and families in crisis (rent, food, mortgage...) and critical local service providers.</li> <li><b>Danny's Place Youth Services</b>: E-mail <a href="mailto:info@dannys-place.org">info@dannys-place.org</a></li> <li><b>Domestic Violence Services Network (DVS)</b>: E-mail <a href="mailto:dvvap@concordma.gov">dvvap@concordma.gov</a>, for anyone who needs help with a controlling partner or family member.</li> <li><b>First Connections</b>: E-mail <a href="mailto:lmattthews@iri.org">lmattthews@iri.org</a>, Offering virtual support groups for new parents, postpartum depression and anxiety. Weekly Facebook Circle Times.</li> <li><b>Metrowest Legal Services</b>: E-mail <a href="mailto:intake@mwlegal.org">intake@mwlegal.org</a> Free legal and eviction diversion services for residents</li> <li><b>Minuteman Senior Services</b>: Visit <a href="http://www.minutemansenior.org">www.minutemansenior.org</a> or call (888) 222-6171</li> <li><b>Minuteman Arc for Human Services</b>: <a href="http://www.minutemanarc.com">www.minutemanarc.com</a>, Most programs running with telemedicine capability.</li> <li><b>Neighborhood Brigade</b>: <a href="mailto:actonboxboroughma@neighborbridge.org">actonboxboroughma@neighborbridge.org</a>, Coordinates the needs of families in crisis with volunteers who want to help.</li> <li><b>Town of Acton Dept. of Veterans Services</b>: E-mail James MacRae at <a href="mailto:vso@actonma.gov">vso@actonma.gov</a></li> <li><b>Town of Acton Council on Aging</b>: E-mail <a href="mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov">seniorcenter@actonma.gov</a></li> <li><b>Town of Acton Community Services Coordinator</b>: E-mail Laura Ducharme at <a href="mailto:Lducharme@actonma.gov">Lducharme@actonma.gov</a> or call (978) 929-6651, Information on a variety of resources such as food, fuel, financial etc.</li> </ul>
Mental Health Support	<p><b>IF THERE IS A MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</b>: 1-800-273-8255</li> <li><b>Call2Talk</b>: 1-508-532-2255 or Text "C2T" to 741741 or Samaritans: 800-252-TEEN (8336)</li> <li><b>SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline</b>, 1-800-985-5990 This is a 24/7 multilingual free hotline for immediate crisis counseling for people experiencing emotional distress re: the pandemic.</li> <li><b>NAMI (North Alliance on Mental Health Illness)</b>, 781-982-3318: <a href="http://www.namimass.org">www.namimass.org</a>, <a href="http://www.namicentralmiddlesex.org">www.namicentralmiddlesex.org</a></li> <li><b>Eliot Community Human Services</b>, E-mail <a href="mailto:dgarfield@eliotchs.org">dgarfield@eliotchs.org</a>, Provides outpatient mental health and substance abuse services for all ages.</li> </ul>



# MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

AML will be closed January 1st and 17th. AML has several great (and free!) events coming up in January! Learn more and register at [ActonMemorialLibrary.org/Calendar](https://actonmemoriallibrary.org/Calendar)

### CHILDREN

#### ZOOM Bedtime Stories

*Mondays at 7 PM - Jan. 3, 10, 24, 31*

End your child's day with a calming story. Content will be audio only. Registration required.

#### ZOOM Baby/Toddler Storytime

*Tuesdays at 9:30 AM - Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25*

Stories, songs, rhymes and movement! Registration required.

#### ZOOM Singalong Storytime

*Wednesdays at 10:30 AM - Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26*

Join Mr. Robert and his guitar as we sing, dance, and read the best books ever! Registration required.

#### ZOOM Early Release Programs

*Wednesdays at 2 PM - Jan. 12, 19, 26*

Different program each Wednesday: STEM & STEAM, book club, chess club, Minecraft and Pokemon, etc. Registration required.

#### ZOOM Preschool Storytime

*Thursdays at 10 AM - Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27*

Geared toward aged 3 and up. Picture books, singing and movement! Registration required.

#### ZOOM Preschool Crafting

*Thursdays at 11 AM - Jan. 13, 20, 27*

Online crafting, materials provided Friday before. Registration required.

### TEENS

#### ZOOM Dungeons and Dragons

*Saturday at 10 AM - Jan. 15*

Grade 7 and up; Registration required.

#### ZOOM Nature Connection Program

*Wednesday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 PM*

Reading the Landscape - Make observations, create, and tell stories based on animal tracks and signs. Provides a chance to explore nature through hands-on engagement and mindful practices. Best for youth ages 11-18. Registration required.

### ADULTS

#### Book Discussion Group

*Tuesday, Jan. 18th at 7:30 PM*

This month, AML Book Group will discuss the book *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. Registration required.

#### Movie Nights on Kanopy and Zoom

*Wednesdays at 7 PM - Jan. 12, 26*

Movie nights are free evening movie discussions. *The Tree* (2010) on Jan. 12th and *Last Train Home* (2009) on Jan. 26th.

#### Faith and Folktales: Russian Storytelling Through Image

*Thursday, Jan. 13th at 7 PM*

Join us over Zoom as Laura Garrity-Arquitt from the Museum of Russian Icons guides us through Russian visual language that tells stories and teaches tradition through picture.

### STAY CONNECTED WITH AML

Stay up-to-date with announcements and library info by following on Facebook ([@ActonMemLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/ActonMemLibrary)) and Instagram ([@ActonLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/ActonLibrary)) and Twitter ([@ActonMemLibrary](https://twitter.com/ActonMemLibrary)), or by visiting [actonmemoriallibrary.org](https://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/>

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Town of Acton has hired Julie Pierce Onos to the position of Economic Development Director. She will be dedicated to attracting, retaining and growing businesses and employment to Acton. The work will include efforts to improve the overall economic environment, supporting the needs of current commercial and industrial businesses to increase the value and desirability of the Acton community and promoting the appropriate development, redevelopment and renewal of commercial property. Are you a current or prospective business owner? Call 978-929-6611 or email [jpierceonos@actonma.gov](mailto:jpierceonos@actonma.gov) – Julie wants to hear from you!



The Senior Center offers in-person and virtual activities and is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 am to 5 pm, Tuesday 8 AM to 7:30 PM, and Friday 8 AM to 12 noon. Visit our website [actoncoa.com](http://actoncoa.com) for the latest information, to view our newsletter, or to sign up for notifications. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/ActonCOA>) The COA is following local guidelines concerning COVID-19 precautions which currently include a mask mandate. Acton Board of Health is also reminding people to social distance.

Acton Pharmacy is offering a COVID-19 Moderna booster clinic at the Senior Center on Tuesday, January 18 from 3:00-6:30 pm for Acton residents. See our website for the link to register.

A new caregiver support group via Zoom begins this month for anyone caring for an older adult, something made all the more challenging during the pandemic. The group will meet virtually each Tuesday at 2:00 under the guidance of Julie Norstrand, PhD, MSW.

### January Program Highlights:

- A new session of **Words Galore** class begins via Zoom on Thursday, January 6 at 9 am
- COA staff conduct an **informal training on becoming a Dementia Friend** on Thursday, January 6 at 10 am
- **Aging: Planning for Yourself & Family**, Tuesday, January 11 at 1 via Zoom from home or Room 204 at Town Hall
- **Poets Live Forever with Val Walker**, begins Wednesday, January 12 at 1:00; a discussion on the work and lives of Edna St. Vincent Millay, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Maya Angelou, and Walt Whitman
- **Line dancing with Sam O'Clair** is meeting at a new time, Wednesdays at 2:00 pm, starting January 12
- John Clark brings a multimedia **presentation on Famous Jewish Entertainers**, Thursday, January 13, at 1:00
- Registered Dietician Catherine York is offering **Spice Up Your Cooking** on Tuesday, January 18 at 11 a.m.
- **Historian Paolo Di Gregorio presents on the Medici Dynasty** via Zoom on Tuesday, January 18, at 1:00
- Sivan Etedgee continues the **Four Centuries of Music** series with a focus on Modern Classical Music, Thursday, January 20 at 12:30 pm
- **Community Building Circle**, Tuesday, Jan 25 at 6 pm
- LitLovers begins a new series on **Bestsellers: The Books That Shaped America** with an introduction on Tuesday, January 25 at 2:30 pm
- **Java and Muffins with John**; Town Manager John Mangiaratti will offer an update on town happenings and answer your questions, Friday, January 28 at 9:30 am

There are also 12 in-person fitness classes a week, a weekly movie, a gym with senior-friendly fitness equipment, and various groups including Talk and Tea via Zoom and virtual as well as in-person book groups.

Ask the Lawyer appointments are offered on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 25 with Attorney Cathleen Summers; call the COA at 978-929-6652 starting January 10 to reserve 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 by phone 781-221-7098. In addition, Benchmark at Robbins Brook is providing lunch on January 18 (eat in at noon; grab & go at 12:30) and the COA will serve a Chili dinner on Tuesday, January 25 (eat in at 5; grab & go at 5:30). Sign up for these two meals with the COA.

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. If you're turning 65 in the near future, call Bev to book an appointment with a SHINE counselor to go over your Medicare plan options.

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](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov).

## RECREATION DIVISION

Acton Recreation provides a variety of programs for everyone. We recently partnered with Stage Music Center and Think for Fun to add interesting and stimulating new classes to our schedule. Registration is open now at [actonrec.com](http://actonrec.com) for these and more.

We are already busy reserving field and facility rentals for 2022. Please submit your application soon to secure your preferred date.

We can be reached Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, by telephone: 978-929-6640 ext. 0, or email [recreation@actonma.gov](mailto:recreation@actonma.gov).

***Stay active, make new friends, connect with the community and enjoy winter!***

### **Featured Programs**

#### **Nature Walks with Tom**

Explore Acton's trails with Natural Resources Director, Tom Tidman. Each walk will introduce a different local conservation area. Learn about the native plants and wildlife habitats that make Acton unique! First class meets at the Arboretum. Fridays, January 28 through February 25, 10:30am to 12:15pm Fee: \$50.00



#### **Belly Dance with Carolisa - ONLINE**

No prior experience necessary to participate in this beautiful, joyous dance. Carolisa welcomes all ages and fitness levels in her friendly class.

Session 3: Wednesdays, January 26 through March 3, 6:30 to 7:30 pm Fee: \$63.00

Session 4: Wednesdays, March 9 through April 13, 6:30 to 7:30pm Fee: \$63.00

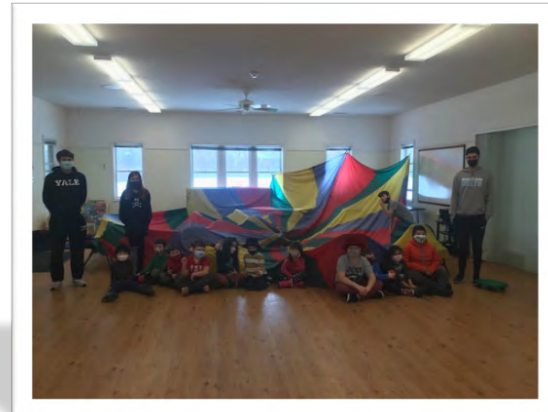


#### **2022 February School Vacation Program**

Come play with us at the Recreation Center! Our program includes arts and crafts, active games, team building, music, theater, outdoor adventure and more. Location: Acton Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Drive, South Acton Tuesday through Friday, February 22-25, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Ages 5-12 Fee: \$50.00 per child/day; Optional After-Care: 4:00-5:30 pm, Fee: \$20 per child/day

#### **2022 April School Vacation Program**

Come play with us at the Recreation Center! Our program includes arts and crafts, active games, team building, music, theater, outdoor adventure and more. Location: Acton Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Drive, South Acton; Friday, April 15 and Tuesday through Friday, April 19-22, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Ages 5-12 Fee: \$50.00 per child/day; Optional After-Care: 4:00-5:30 pm, Fee: \$20 per child/day





# RECREATION DIVISION

## **NEW! 2022 Camp Hill Top - Ages 4-7 and CIT Ages 14-15**

We're excited to make our new Camp Hill Top available to children ages 4-7, with CIT option for ages 14-15. Located at the Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Drive in South Acton, Camp Hill Top offers a wide range of fun, age-appropriate activities including arts & crafts, drama, sports, group challenges, nature, and special activities based on the weekly theme (Camp Hill Top operates separately from NARA Camp and with different themes). On Thursday afternoons campers are bussed to NARA Beach for swimming. Other days there is water play at Camp Hill Top home base. All health and safety protocols are followed. Register now at [actonrec.com](https://actonrec.com).

**June 27-July 1:** Building and Engineering Week

**July 5-July 8:** Mad Scientists Week

**July 11-15:** Superheroes Week

**July 18-22:** Olympics Week

**July 25-29:** Community Helpers Week

**Aug. 1-5:** Exploration Space Week

**Aug. 8-12:** Travel around the World Week

**Aug. 15-19:** Camp Hill Top's Got Talent Week

**Aug. 22-26:** Creepy Crawlers Week



## **2022 NARA Summer Camp - Ages 4-15**



NARA Summer Camp creates an environment that encourages children to grow both physically and socially. Our dedicated staff works with peer groups to engage children in healthy outdoor activity along with enrichment opportunities that are challenging and fun. Additional special activities and field trips are based on the weekly theme. All health and safety protocols are followed. Register now at [actonrec.com](https://actonrec.com).

**June 27-July 1:** Disney Week

**July 5-July 8:** Mystery Week

**July 11-15:** Pirate Week

**July 18-22:** Superhero Week

**July 25-29:** Olympics Week

**Aug. 1-5:** Carnival Week

**Aug. 8-12:** NARA Ninja Warrior Week

**Aug. 15-19:** Star Wars Week

**Aug. 22-26:** NARA's Got Talent Week

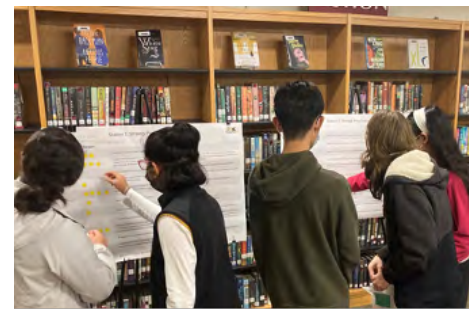
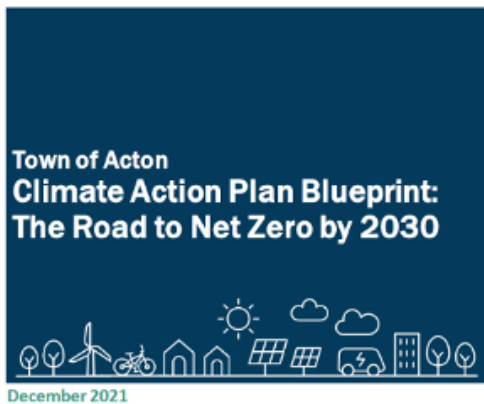


## ACTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATES



### CLIMATE ACTION PLAN BLUEPRINT NOW AVAILABLE

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) Blueprint is here! Together with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Sustainability Office presented the report to the Select Board on December 20th. The Blueprint contains a list of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our buildings, energy, transportation and through nature-based solutions. You can find the Blueprint [here](#).



How worried are residents of Acton\* about climate change?  
"0 = not at all" and "10 = most urgent."



\*based upon weighted average from community-wide survey



Building on the overwhelming support for the Climate Emergency Declaration witnessed at the Special Town Meeting on September 8, 2020, the Town kicked off the CAP process in June 2021. This Blueprint is a living document that we will continue to build on during Phase II of the Climate Action Plan process. Phase II will take place in the winter and spring of 2022 — the Town received funding from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program to hire experts to conduct technical analysis on the strategies to prioritize action based on potential GHG reductions, costs, and benefits of each strategy.

Community engagement will continue to play a key role during this phase and will eventually lead to a CAP that will guide the Town on a path to its net zero by 2030 goal. Are you subscribed to the Climate Action Plan newsletter? Please click [here](#) to subscribe or email [sustainability@actonma.gov](mailto:sustainability@actonma.gov) to be added to the email list.

# DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

**TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE - (978) 929-6600**

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

**VISIT US ONLINE AT [ACTONMA.GOV](http://ACTONMA.GOV)**