

MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

AUGUST, 2020

COVID-19 INFORMATION CENTER

ACTON TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

DIAL

978-929-6619

TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

As we find ourselves more than halfway through this unprecedented year, the Town of Acton continues to provide high-quality service for the community. As many of you know, many of our public buildings are closed to the public, which can make conducting the daily business activities with our various departments challenging. Thanks to the efforts of our Finance and Land Use departments, we are now offering Walk-Up Window Service behind Town Hall, Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 12 PM. Members of the community can interact with Town staff for various activities, including paying tax bills, accessing building permits, and much more. For more information, please contact each department at the information provided on page 8.

We are also continuing to operate the Acton Town Services (ATS) Hotline. This service is staffed by trained Town employees available to answer questions related to Town services, guidelines or policies in effect, and more. The hotline is available during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, and can be accessed by calling 978-929-6619. The Town is also providing an online COVID-19 Information Center, which provides the latest information related to COVID-19 from local, state and federal sources, and can be found at actonma.gov/covid19.

There will be a State Primary election Tuesday, September 1st, and a State General Election Tuesday, November 3rd. The polls will be open at RJ Grey Junior High School located at 16 Charter Road from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Early voting is available for both elections. For more information, or to receive an early voting application, please contact the Clerk's office at 978-929-6620, or visit actonma.gov/election.

Last month, the Board of Selectmen established its annual goals for the upcoming year. There are nineteen short and long-term goals, ranging from the establishment of an Equity and Diversity Advisory Commission to creating a town-wide climate action plan. Many of the work required for these goals are well underway by Town staff and our boards and commissions. To view the Selectmen's goals, please visit actonma.gov/BOS.

On June 29th, more than 240 voters attended Annual Town Meeting. This year's meeting was held inside and outside and was very successful. All 31 warrant articles were passed. Thanks to the efforts of Assistant Town Manager Mark Hald and Town Moderator Jo-Ann Berry, along with many other Town staff and volunteers for putting this together. The results of the Town Meeting can be viewed by visiting actonma.gov/townmeeting.



Outside and Inside Annual Town Meeting held on June 29th.

Acton Police Department's Youth Policy Academy Day 1: A visit from the State Police Helicopter.

TOWN HALL AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING HOURS OF OPERATION

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

NEW WALK-UP WINDOW HOURS ARE NOW 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

CONNECT WITH US!

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



@ActonMAGov

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

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

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NARA PARK IS NOW OPEN

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.

- **Beach:** Open - Daily hours of operation are 9AM - 6 PM. Please visit actonma.gov/beach for more information.
- **Walking Perimeter:** One way only, counterclockwise from the Bathhouse.
- **Playground and Upper Fields:** Open, fields soon for organized play, **Volleyball Courts:** Open
- **Picnic Rentals:** Rentals now available (limited group size). Application can be found online at actonma.gov/recreation.
- **NARA Summer Camp:** In operation from June 29 through August 28. You may enroll for NARA Camp for youth ages 4-15 online at actonrec.com. Weekly themed sessions are offered with pre and post care options.

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-Uses 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 remotely and is able to assist you. Any forms may be dropped off at the Town Hall 24/7 mail-drop located at the outside ground floor entryway.

NARA SUMMER CAMP

At NARA Park now through Aug. 28 from 8AM - 4PM, M-F.

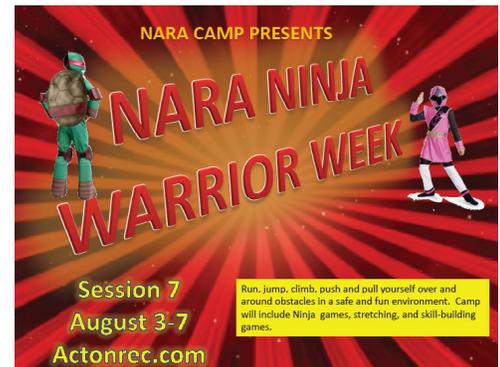
MIGHTY MINIS: AGES 4-5 - AM or PM or Full Day

NARA YOUTH: AGES 6-13 - Full Day

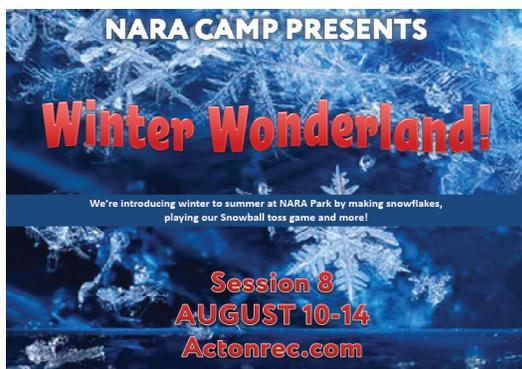
NARA COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING (CIT): AGES 14-15 - Full Day

Camp weeks are limited in size. Please register now as week are filling up. Pre and Post Care Option Available. Sibling discount available.

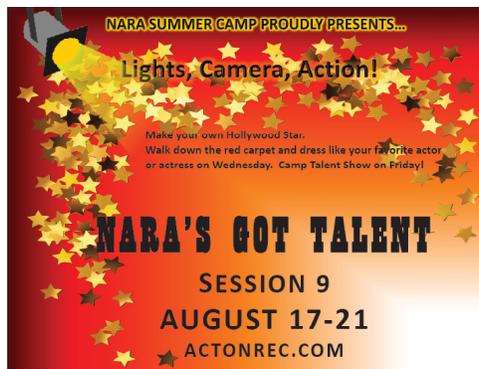
REGISTER ONLINE AT ACTONREC.COM



Session 7, Aug. 3-7



Session 8, Aug. 10-14



Session 9, Aug. 17-21



Session 10, Aug. 24-28

COUNCIL ON AGING

Although the Senior Center/Council on Aging continues to be closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff is available to offer assistance and we have a variety of virtual programming opportunities.

Upcoming virtual programs include: History of 1950s Folk Music, baseball show with Howie Newman, "At the Piano with Sivan" a classical music concert/lecture, new session of watercolor classes, a lecture on the history of Prohibition, continuation of chess classes, Computer Club meetings, Tuesday Tips with Terri at Ten, a new daytime Laugh for Your Health/Laughter Yoga. There are several new exercise class recordings, for a total of 12 exercise/movement classes with COA instructors available through ActonTV's cable and YouTube channels.

There are two drive-through events this month: a shredding truck and brunch by VSO James MacRae and COA staff. Last month's drive-through BBQ prepared by members of the Acton Fire Department was a big success! We loved seeing so many familiar (and masked!) faces. Please view our August newsletter at www.actoncoa.com for details on upcoming events.

Meals continue to be delivered through the Meals on Wheels program and pick-up options for lunch are also available. You can reach Council on Aging staff at 978-929-6652 or seniorcenter@actonma.gov.



Above photos taken at July's Drive-through BBQ prepared by members of the Acton Fire Department and signs made by the staff to our great citizens of Acton!



NARA Beach, July 28, 2020



NARA Campers Social Distance Water Fun!

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.](#)

POLICE DEPARTMENT

YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY: On July 17th the Acton Police Department held a graduation ceremony for the cadets who participated for this year's annual Youth Police Academy. The kids worked hard for a full week and learned a lot about how their hometown police do their jobs. Congratulations to this year's Cadets!! A big thank you to the School Resource Officers Det. Campbell, Det. Penney, and Det. Russell, for coordinating and organizing the youth academy! #ActonMa



VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

[facebook.com/ActonMAPolice](https://www.facebook.com/ActonMAPolice)

- Traffic Alerts
- Fraud Alerts
- Missing Persons
- Department Updates and More!

**DUE TO THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

**ALL REMAINING 2020
CONCERTS AND SPECIAL
EVENTS AT NARA PARK
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED
THROUGH 2020.**

**2020 CONCERTS ARE
BEING RESCHEDULED
TO 2021!**

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY CURBSIDE PICK UP

STEP 1



SEARCH FOR MATERIALS AT
FIND.MINLIB.NET

Items must be available at Acton Memorial Library

Need help or don't know what to read?

Call 978-929-6543 (Adult)

Email: reference@acton-ma.gov

978-929-6655 Option 4 (Children & Teen)

Email: ACTChildrens@minlib.net

Do not place a hold online - you must call the library to place holds

STEP 2



CALL CIRCULATION AT

978-929-6655 OPTION 2

TO PLACE YOUR HOLD & SCHEDULE A PICKUP TIME

Call between 10:30 am and 5:30 pm Monday-Friday or
10:30 am and 1:30 pm on Saturdays

Tell library staff members the materials you would like
to check out - up to 5 Adult, Teen, or Media items
and 5 Children's books

STEP 3



PICK UP YOUR MATERIALS
AT YOUR DESIGNATED TIME

Materials will be in a paper bag 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

The first 4 letters of your last name

Please pick materials up on time



WE ASK FOR CONTINUED PATIENCE

Please be patient with us while we work
out the details of contactless pick up

We are looking forward to offering this
service to our library users!

ActonMemorialLibrary.org

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

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



KRISTIN GUICHARD, AICP - PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Kristen is the Senior Planner for the Town of Acton, MA. Her primary focus is implementation of the Town's Comprehensive Community Plan, Acton 2020. She served as local project manager for federally funded transportation projects, Assabet River Rail Trail and currently for the complete streets project in Acton's main center, Kelley's Corner. Kristen works closely with the Regional Housing Services Office, which assists eight communities, including Acton, with the municipal function of affordable housing. She enjoys working collaboratively to advance public participation and education about the connection between housing, transportation and economic development. She has been working in Planning and Community Development in the Metro-West Boston Region for over ten years. Kristen holds a master's degree in Public Administration and a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Clark University.



JAMES BYRNE - ACTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jim was born and raised in Maynard and graduated from Springfield College with a degree in Emergency Medical Services Management (EMSM). Jim and his wife Michelle have a six year-old son named Tofer and a three year-old daughter Savannah. He has worked for the Acton Fire Department for the past 11 years; the past two of which as a Lieutenant.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



SCOTT ROBB -ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

"Acton has been my home for over 27 years and I value the community and the strong commitment to education. My family and I have benefited from being in Acton and I want to contribute to the town's future success. I feel my business experience can be applied to the economic development needs of the town and am optimistic I can contribute to strengthen our community"



DAN MALLOY - ECOMONIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

"Acton has been my home for over 27 years and I value the community and the strong commitment to education. My family and I have benefited from being in Acton and I want to contribute to the town's future success. I feel my business experience can be applied to the economic development needs of the town and am optimistic I can contribute to strengthen our community"



JUDY HODGE - ACTON COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

"I am happy to serve on the Acton Community Housing Corporation as we work to increase the variety of affordable housing options to make Acton a more inclusive community. Having worked for 30 years as a social worker who sometimes was able to help people with housing needs, including homeless people, I am committed to reducing the stress that housing problems bring to lives."



Town of Acton Massachusetts

IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

The Board of Selectmen, on July 20, 2020, voted to change the polling locations for the 2020 Elections. All precincts will vote at the RJ Grey Junior High School located at 12 Charter Road, Acton, MA 01720.

Vote by Mail

Please consider the option to vote early by mail. The application can be found at the link provided. <https://www.acton-ma.gov/598/Elections-Voting>

Last day to register to vote and change party enrollment for the State Primary:

Saturday, August 22, 2020

Last day to apply for an Absentee or Early Vote Ballot **BY MAIL** before the State Primary:

Wednesday, August 26, 2020 – 5 PM

View Sample Ballot: <https://www.acton-ma.gov/598/Elections-Voting>

In-Person Early Voting

Town Hall ~ 472 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720

In Person Early Voting prior to State Primary:
Saturday, Aug. 22, 2020 – Friday, Aug. 28, 2020

Hours:

Saturday, August 22 & Sunday, August 23 from 9 AM to 1 PM
Monday, August 24 – Friday, August 28 – 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Vote on Election Day – Tuesday, September 1, 2020

RJ Grey Junior High School located at 12 Charter Road, Acton.

Hours from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

There are three ways to apply for an Absentee or an Early Vote by mail ballot:

<https://www.acton-ma.gov/598/Elections-Voting>

Fill out an Absentee / Early Vote by Mail ballot application, sign and return:

by mail to Town Clerk's Office, 472 Main Street, Acton Ma 01720

Fax to (978) 929-6340

e-mail to clerk@actonma.gov

Thank You and Stay Safe!

Eva K. Szkaradek, CMMC, Town Clerk

472 Main Street, Acton Ma 01720 Phone: 978-929-6620 Fax: 978-929-6340 Email: clerk@actonma.gov

DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Department	Phone Number	E-Mail
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	coa@actonma.gov
Fire Department	978-929-7722	fire@actonma.gov
Health Division (Board of Health)	978-929-6632	health@actonma.gov boh@actonma.gov
Human Resources	978-929-6613	hr@actonma.gov
Information Technology	978-929-6612	it@actonma.gov
Memorial Library	978-929-6655	aml@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	mpto@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 (Board of Selectmen)	978-929-6611	manager@actonma.gov bos@actonma.gov
Transfer Station	978-929-7742	
Veterans' Services	978-929-6614	vso@actonma.gov
Water District	978-263-9107	Visit: www.actonwater.com