



MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

DECEMBER 2024

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TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

978.929.6600

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

TOWN HALL-HUMAN SERVICES

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday: 8AM-5PM
Tuesday: 8AM-7:30PM
Wednesday: 8AM-5PM
Thursday: 8AM-5PM
Friday: 8AM-12PM
Saturday-Sunday- Closed
Closed: Dec. 25, Jan. 1

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY and WEST ACTON CITIZENS LIBRARY

Hours of Operation are listed in this bulletin.

**Subscribe to our News Flash for news,
agendas and meeting postings delivered by
email or SMS text
message.**

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TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

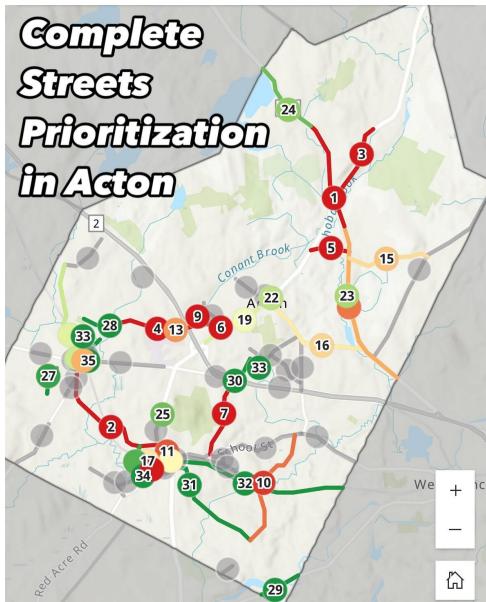
On November 25th, a Special Town Meeting was held for 5 articles, purchase of land at 19 and 35 Wetherbee Street, approval of Collective Bargaining Agreements (2 articles), approval of purchase of Ambulance, and approval of Veterans Tax Abatement Annual cost of living increase. 364 residents attended the Special Town Meeting and voted overwhelmingly to approve all articles. While this was a quick session, it was an important one. I want to thank the residents who attended the November 25th session during a holiday week to provide feed back and take part in the governmental process of Town Meeting.

DPW BUILDING DESIGN PROGRESS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

On November 7th, the DPW Building Committee (DPWBC) held a public meeting where the current design and cost estimates were presented and discussed. The project's designer, Weston & Sampson, provided updates and details on spaces identified within the schematic design. The Committee reviewed and discussed the most recent cost estimates, which indicated construction and soft costs are estimated at \$46,960,456. This is a starting point and where the Town and DPWBC begin to work with the project team to identify possible areas for cost savings. During the meeting, members of the Finance Committee and abutters provided valuable feedback on the cost estimate, concerns along Forest Road, and the design. The DPWBC is hosting their next meeting on Thursday December 12th at 7pm in room 204 at Town Hall and over zoom. For up to date project information including presentations, upcoming meetings and zoom links, please visit - **Public Works Facility Project** www.actonma.gov/dpwfacility



Designers rendering of front of proposed new DPW Facility



The Acton Transportation Advisory Committee recently held a meeting to review the results of the complete streets prioritization effort led by our DPW with assistance from consulting firm GPI. The full presentation may be viewed here: <https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18716>. There is also an interactive map that may be viewed here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/eee9f3cf018f4819bc7f988097d2deab/page/Top-35-Priority-Projects/?views=View-3>.

PRESENTATION OF TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS AT NOVEMBER 18TH

During the November 18th Select Board meeting, our Principal Assessor CJ Carroll provided a presentation on tax exemption programs currently offered by the Town of Acton. The programs included senior exemptions; disabled veterans and surviving spouse exemptions; exemptions for those who are legally blind; hardship exemptions and a number of other exemptions. To view the presentation and learn more about available exemptions, please click [HERE](#). The presentation begins at 33:38. If you would like more information on how to apply for an exemption, please contact the Assessors office via email - Assessor@actonma.gov

Principal Assessor CJ Carroll presenting tax relief program review to the Select Board

GARDNER FIELD IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE



As you travel through West Acton Village you might have noticed some big improvements to Gardner Field. Recently, the Town's contractor JAM Construction has been working their way through a number of improvements to the park, including new landscaping, installation of stairs to the playground, paving of walkways, and most noticeably, installation of an archway. The new archway sits on two granite posts and provides a formal entrance to the park. I am excited to see the completed project and invite you to visit Gardner Field and to see these improvements.



JAVA WITH JOHN

On November 15th, the Council on Aging hosted the monthly Java with John. Joining me were the Principal Assessor CJ Carroll, and DPW Director Corey York. The event was well attended and hosted by Acton TV. To watch this event, please click [HERE](#). Prior to this event, the Council on Aging recognized Veterans that were in attendance. I was honored to have had an opportunity to meet and speak with a number of local veterans who attended and learn more about their service. Thank you to all our residents who served our country.

Director of DPW Corey York with John Mangiaratti speaking at Java with John



Thank you for reading this month's Municipal Monthly. There is some great information from Town Departments on upcoming events, programs and initiatives I invite you to take part in.

I hope you and your family have a great holiday season and wonderful New year!

John S. Mangiaratti
Town Manager

This month's select photo was submitted by Debra Simes and is a beautiful shot of Ice House Pond in early November. Please submit your photo to Manager@Actonma.gov by December 23rd for a chance to be featured in next months edition!





**SENIOR REAL ESTATE
TAX RELIEF**

There are numerous ways you might qualify for tax relief if you are:

- Over 65 with a financial hardship -- i.e. income and assets that are low-to-moderate
- Veteran or surviving spouse
- Disabled
- Tax deferral
- Ask us about the *Circuit Breaker Credit*!

To find out if you qualify, visit the Acton town website at www.actonma.gov and click on the "Quick Link" for Property Tax Relief Programs or call the Assessor's office for more details at 978.929.6621 or e-mail assessors@actonma.gov.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION OFFICE



TOWN OF ACTON DEI OFFICE ANNOUNCES

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITY**

DECEMBER 3, 2025

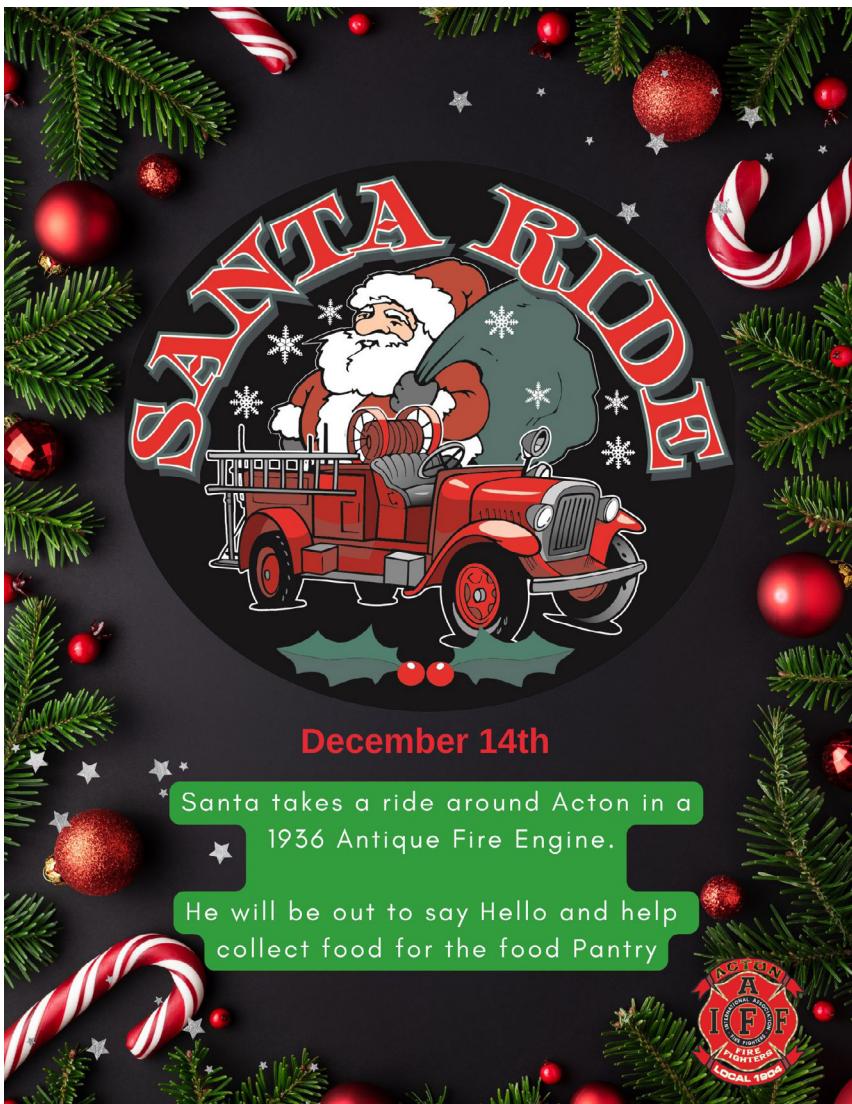
**PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND!**

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT: A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL



SANTA RIDE! SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

Please follow us on Facebook @santaride santa



The Acton Police Department will be hosting a "Coffee with a Cop" event at the new Stop & Shop located at 252 Main Street on Friday, December 13 from 9 AM -11AM. This is also Stop & Shop's grand opening.

WINTER PARKING BAN

Residents are reminded that a winter parking ban is in effect from November 1 until April 1. On-street parking is not allowed between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. The parking ban also includes the Municipal Parking areas located behind the W. Acton Fire Station (258 Central St.), S. Acton Fire Station (54 School St.), Railroad Street, rail trail terminus at Maple Street, and at the end of Sylvia Street. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



WINTER MAINTENANCE

Please remember that our crews have to travel on snow covered, slippery untreated roads to get here at any hour of the day or night. Please be patient as the crews will be out as soon as possible to begin the snow & ice operations.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Fire hydrants are under the control of the Acton Water District. The Water District asks residents with hydrants in front of or near their property to please clear the snow away from the area so that in an emergency the hydrant will be accessible. Questions regarding snow removal near hydrants should be directed to the Acton Water District at (978) 263-9107.

SIDEWALKS

Normally, sidewalks are plowed during the storm and scraped in the following days if needed. Sidewalks in the school zones are given first priority. We ask that you do not block sidewalks with snow shoveled or plowed from your driveway.

MAILBOXES AND BASKETBALL POSTS & NETS

Mailboxes installed in the Town right of way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the Town. It is the responsibility of the owner of the mailbox to clear the snow around the mailbox to assure mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service, not the DPW or its plow contractors. If the snow banks are too high to shovel, place a temporary box beside the road until the snow has melted enough to allow access to the mailbox. Please check that your mailbox and post are secure and in good condition prior to the snow season. When installing a mailbox choose a suitable location. If you are unsure, check with the postal carrier. Please remove your basketball posts & nets away from the edge of the road before the snow & ice events. These can cause damage to Town vehicles and also interferes with snow removal operations. The Town cannot be held responsible for damage caused to them.

SUMP PUMPS/FOUNDATION DRAIN PIPES

The DPW would like to remind homeowners to be mindful of where sump pumps and/or foundation drain pipes are placed. Please DO NOT place pipes that collect rainwater or groundwater directly onto the roadways. Water freezes easily during the winter months and creates a hazardous condition.

DONATE ITEMS WITH BAY STATE TEXTILES!

Did you know you can donate used shoes, pillows, stuffed animals, and more with Bay State Textiles? Just visit one of Acton's two Bay State donation bins to give any items in the list below a second chance!

BAY STATE TEXTILES BIN LOCATIONS:

- 15 Charter Rd, Acton, MA (Acton-Boxborough Public Schools Building)
- 193 Massachusetts Ave, Acton, MA (Acton Transfer Station)
-

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Mattresses
- Mattress Pads
- Foam Products
- Couch Cushions
- Lawn Furniture Cushions
- Carpet Remnants Rugs (larger than 2ft x 4ft)



ITEMS ACCEPTED INCLUDE:

- **Clothing Items:** Tops, Sweaters, Sweatshirts, Dresses, Tank Tops, Blazers, Pants, Jeans, Sweatpants, Skirts, Shorts, Slacks, Undergarments, Socks, T-Shirts, Slips, Pajamas, Coats
- **Shoes:** Shoes, Heels, Pumps, Sandals, Boots, Work Boots, Dress Boots, Winter Boots, Sneakers, Cleats, Slippers, Flip Flops
- **Hats:** Pocketbooks, Belts, Gloves, Duffle Bags, Ties, Scarves, Totes, Bathrobes
- **Sheets:** Blankets, Draperies, Pillows, Towels, Table Linens, Comforters, Throw Rugs, Placemats, Stuffed Animals

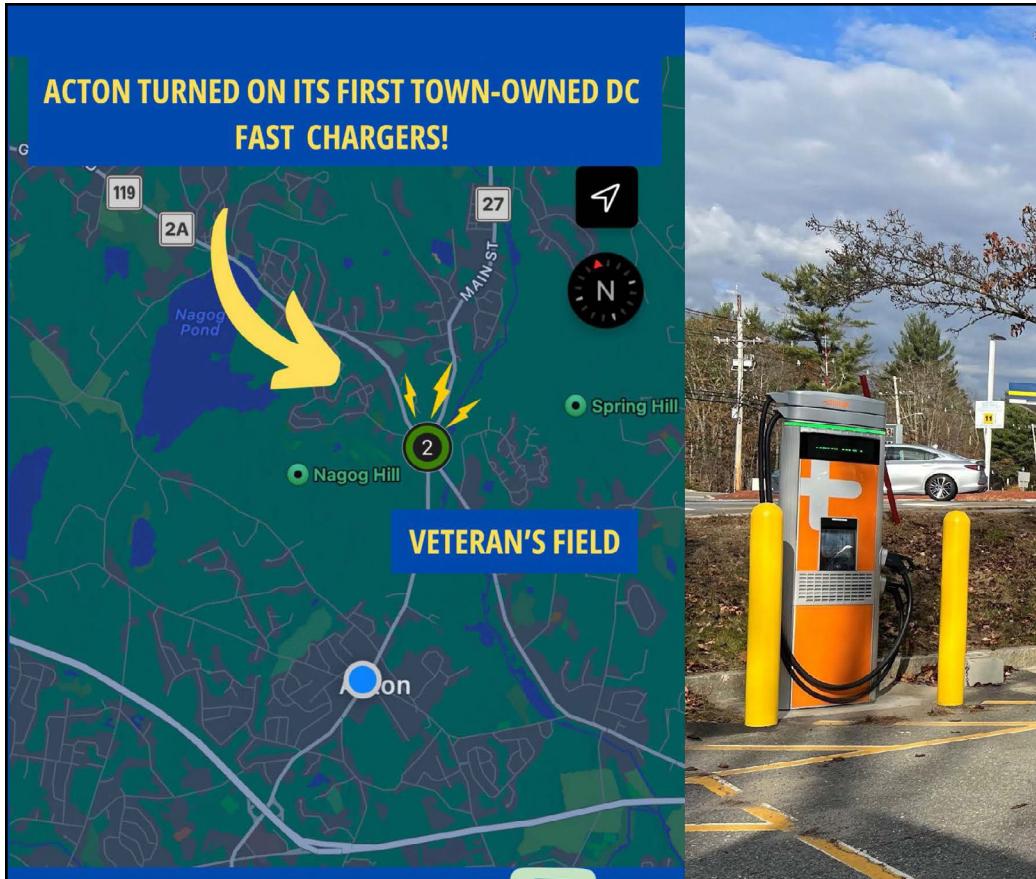
LAND USE DEPARTMENT



Please consider stopping by the Land Use Department to say hello to Jenn and Jessica! We are collecting TOYS FOR TOTS. Last day is December 12th.

Please donate new, unwrapped toys to support the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots.

Last day to drop-off your donation is Thursday, December 12 at 5 p.m.



New DC Fast Charger at Veteran's Field!

The Town has officially turned on its first DC Fast Chargers located at Veteran's Field! Stop by to try them out or visit bit.ly/ActonEVCharging to learn more about public EV chargers in Acton!



MVP
Municipal Vulnerability
Preparedness

MVP 2.0 Resilience Priorities
Visit bit.ly/actonmvp to review our updated resilience priorities and actions for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan! E-mail the Sustainability Office at sustainability@actonma.gov or call 978-929-6515 to share your feedback.

ACTION LIBRARIES

Click [here](#) to view the full list of calendar events including recurring monthly events, please visit our program calendar: [Acton Memorial Library Calendar](#).

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY HOURS

(Closed: Dec 25, Jan 1)

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

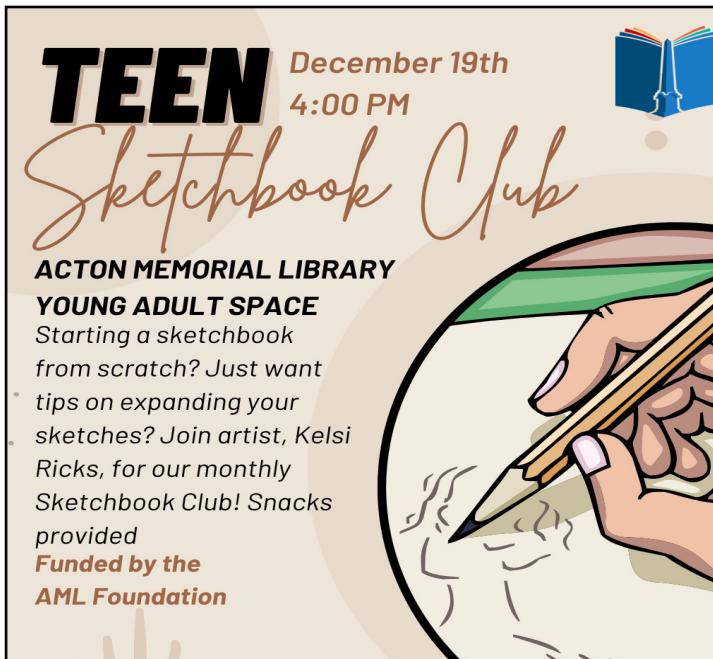
WEST ACTON CITIZENS' LIBRARY HOURS

(Closed: Dec 25, Jan 1)

Tuesday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Monday, Friday, Sunday: CLOSED



TEEN Sketchbook Club December 19th 4:00 PM

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

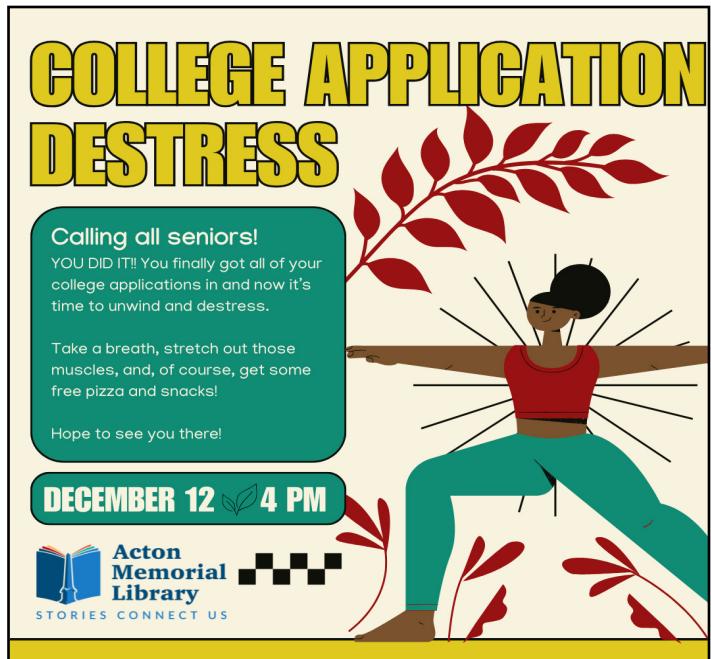
YOUNG ADULT SPACE

Starting a sketchbook from scratch? Just want tips on expanding your sketches? Join artist, Kelsi Ricks, for our monthly Sketchbook Club! Snacks provided

Funded by the AML Foundation

A hand holding a pencil is sketching a face on a piece of paper. A small blue book icon is in the top right corner.

Want to start a sketchbook or get tips on one you already have? Join Kelsi Ricks for our monthly Sketchbook Club on the third Thursday of each month! Funded by the AML Foundation. **No registration required.**



COLLEGE APPLICATION DESTRESS

Calling all seniors! YOU DID IT!! You finally got all of your college applications in and now it's time to unwind and destress.

Take a breath, stretch out those muscles, and, of course, get some free pizza and snacks!

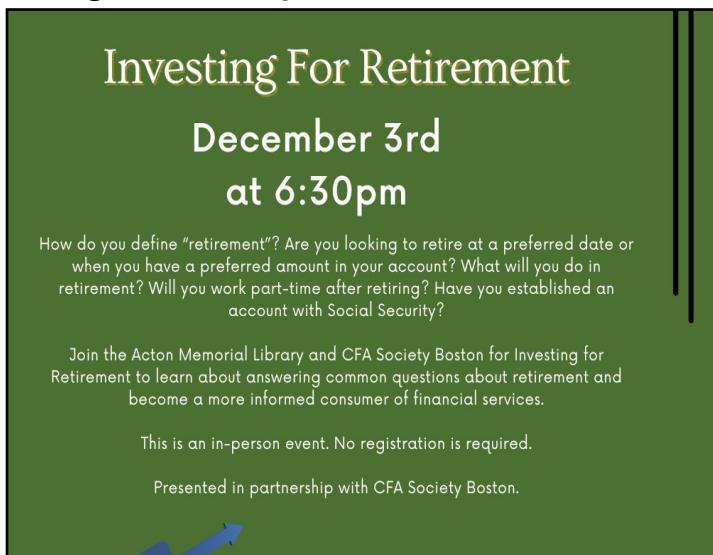
Hope to see you there!

DECEMBER 12 4 PM

Acton Memorial Library STORIES CONNECT US

A woman sitting on a mat with a red leafy branch above her.

Calling all high school seniors! Now that college applications are in, come unwind with free pizza and snacks. Funded by the Friends of the Acton Libraries. **No registration required.**



Investing For Retirement

December 3rd
at 6:30pm

How do you define "retirement"? Are you looking to retire at a preferred date or when you have a preferred amount in your account? What will you do in retirement? Will you work part-time after retiring? Have you established an account with Social Security?

Join the Acton Memorial Library and CFA Society Boston for Investing for Retirement to learn about answering common questions about retirement and become a more informed consumer of financial services.

This is an in-person event. No registration is required.

Presented in partnership with CFA Society Boston.

Upward arrow graphic in the bottom right corner.

Learn about answering common questions about retirement. In partnership with CFA Society Boston. **No registration required.**



Celebrating our 90th Anniversary

Acton Garden Club

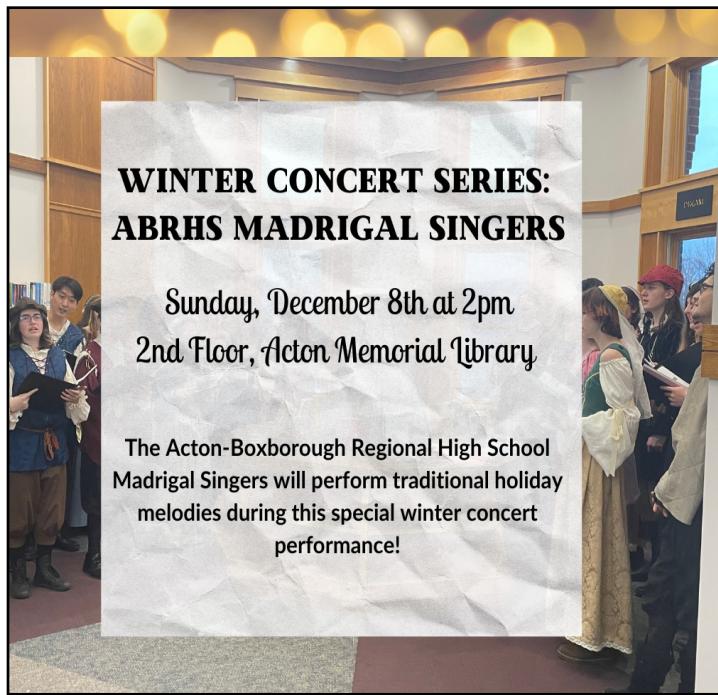
Books in Bloom

December 5, 2024 6:30-8:00PM

Designers Discuss Floral Designs

Reception and display of floral interpretations of books published in 1934, the year the Garden Club was organized.

For more details and/or register - click [here](#).



WINTER CONCERT SERIES: ABRHS MADRIGAL SINGERS

Sunday, December 8th at 2pm
2nd Floor, Acton Memorial Library

The Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Madrigal Singers will perform traditional holiday melodies during this special winter concert performance!

Sunday, December 8, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Performance of traditional holiday melodies on the 2nd floor of Acton Memorial Library.
No registration required.

Author Visit: Fred Kinch



Thursday, December 12th | 7pm - 8pm

Listen to Fred Kinch tell stories from his new book, The Business of Secrets, about his adventures selling cryptographic equipment to the intelligence organizations worldwide. [Register here](#)

TOWN CLERK

2025 Dog License Renewal

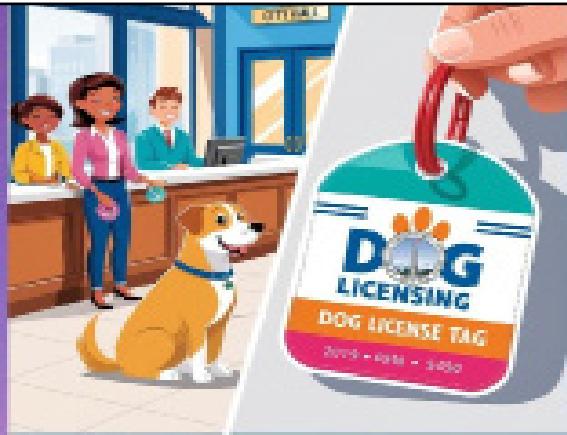
Dog license renewals letters
will be mailed out the third
week of December.

2025 Dog Licensing Fees

Unaltered Dog(s): \$22.00

Spayed or Neutered Dog(s): \$17.00

Late Fee (After March 1st): \$25.00



Massachusetts General Law (Chapter 140, Sec. 137 and 137A) and Town By-Law (Animal Control E22 through E25) require any dog six months of age and older to be licensed. All dogs must be licensed by March 1st of every year. Dog licenses are valid for a calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Failure to license your dog will result in a fine along with the fee to license the dog.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging at the Senior Center offers services, meals and activities for residents age 60 and up; most activities are free of charge.

- Location:** We are located in the Human Services building at 30 Sudbury Road Rear. Visit our webpage at actoncoa.com or [facebook page](#) or contact us at 978-929-6652 or by email seniorcenter@actonma.gov
- Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- For seniors and their family members seeking information on area social services, please contact 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.

ACTON COUNCIL ON AGING AT THE SENIOR CENTER

About Us
The COA offers services, meals and activities for residents age 60 and up; most activities are free of charge, with a nominal fee for meals

Services
We provide older adults and their families with information on area social services including home care agencies, elder day programs, housing options, food and fuel assistance.

December Highlights

- A Christmas Carol performance
- Holiday Scam Awareness
- History of the Byzantine Empire
- Holiday Music of the 50s & 60s
- Bistro 30, special meals including Noon Year's Eve lunch, breakfast & Holiday Tea
- Holiday Decor Swap
- Prison Dogs Documentary/Pizza

CONTACT US
Located in the Human Services Building
30 Sudbury Road Rear
www.actoncoa.com
978-929-6652
Follow us on Facebook [@actoncoa](#)



Acton Residents Age 60+. You're Invited!

Holiday Tea Party

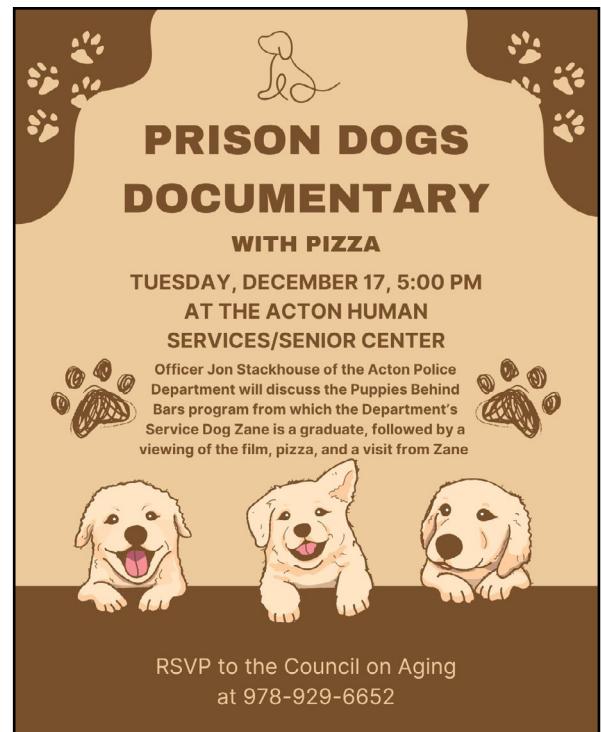
at the Acton Senior Center

Tuesday, December 10, 2:00 pm

Catered by Vintage Tea & Cakes

Funded by a Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs

Reservation with the Council on Aging Required | 978-929-6652



PRISON DOGS DOCUMENTARY WITH PIZZA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 5:00 PM
AT THE ACTON HUMAN SERVICES/SENIOR CENTER

Officer Jon Stackhouse of the Acton Police Department will discuss the Puppies Behind Bars program from which the Department's Service Dog Zane is a graduate, followed by a viewing of the film, pizza, and a visit from Zane



RSVP to the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652



ACTON RECREATION

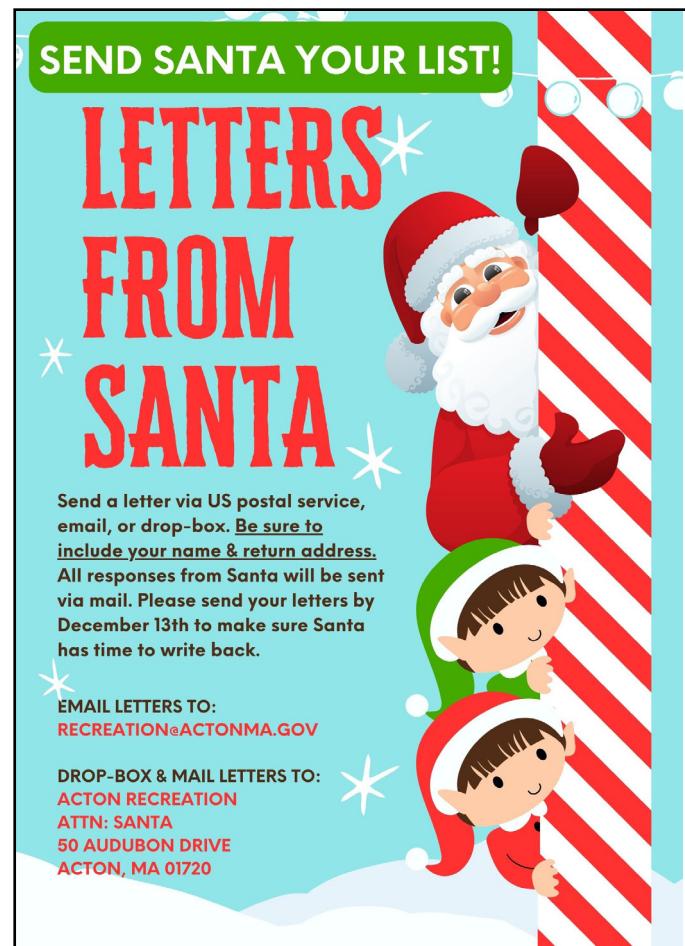
FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS

Easy Online Registration
WWW.ACTONREC.COM

No added fee for non-Acton residents
Programs and fees listed on website.

We continually add programs throughout the year.
Office Location: Acton Rec Center, 50 Audubon Dr., Acton

UP-COMING PROGRAMS:
LETTERS FROM SANTA
ARCHERY
HILL TOP SCHOOL VACATION DAYS!
GARDEN THERAPY
WILD SPORT WEDNESDAYS!



SEND SANTA YOUR LIST!

LETTERS FROM SANTA

Santa is here to receive your letters! Send a letter via US postal service, email, or drop-box. Be sure to include your name & return address. All responses from Santa will be sent via mail. Please send your letters by December 13th to make sure Santa has time to write back.

EMAIL LETTERS TO:
RECREATION@ACTONMA.GOV

DROP-BOX & MAIL LETTERS TO:
ACTON RECREATION
ATTN: SANTA
50 AUDUBON DRIVE
ACTON, MA 01720

Santa and two elves are shown on a snowy background with a candy cane.



SCOOP THE POOP

CMRSWC

Help Stop Pointless Poo-llution! If you have a dog in the family, you can help prevent contamination of local parks and waterways by picking up after your pet.

SHOP SMALL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!
VISIT ACTONMA.GOV/BUSINESS FOR SHOP SMALL SPECIALS OFFERED NOW
THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2025



**Please visit our web page at actonma.gov/economicdevelopment
or click on links below for more information on:**

- [How to Do Business in Acton Guide](#)
- [Acton Business Directory](#)
- [Public Art in Acton](#)
- [View Acton's Business Boost archives.](#)
- [A Visual Guide to Acton's Sign By-Laws](#) - READ this before you spend money on signs for your business!
- [How can a business owner best leverage Town Hall? \(video\)](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Help us provide essential hygiene items and diapers to people in need.

Through December 31 we're collecting the following **new, unopened, and unexpired** products in the Discovery Museum lobby:

What's needed?

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Uni-sex deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo (especially sulfate-free)
- Menstrial products
- Diapers (especially size 3-6)
- Unscented wipes
- Training pants

Personal hygiene products will be donated to Hope & Comfort, a Boston area organization committed to improving the health, self-esteem, and hygiene education of children and young adults in need. [Learn more at hopeandcomfort.org](http://hopeandcomfort.org).

Diaper supplies will be donated to First Connections, a non-profit family support and education agency serving families in our community. [Learn more at firstconnections.org](http://firstconnections.org).



177 Main Street (Route 27)
Acton, MA 01720
discoveryacton.org

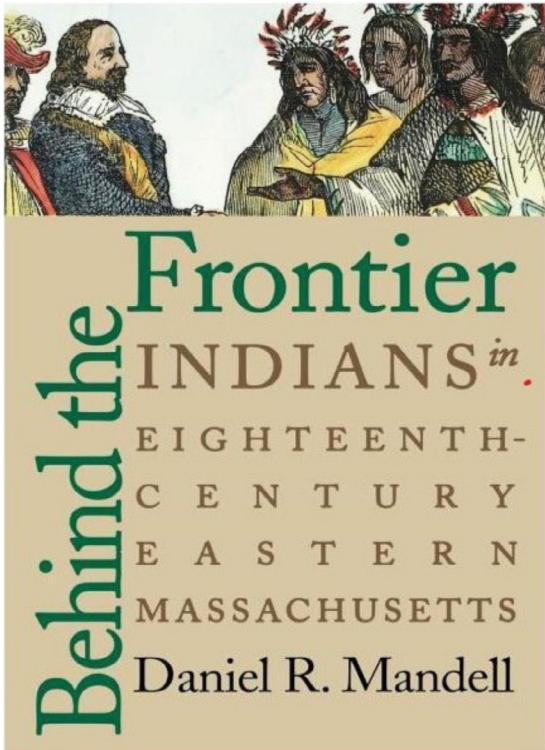


COVID TESTS AND NARCAN KITS

FREE Covid tests and FREE Narcan opioid overdose kits are available at the Health Department located in the Acton Town Hall and at the Council on Aging located at 30R Sudbury Road, during business hours. There is a limit of two Covid tests per person and two doses per person for Narcan.



ACTON'S 250TH COMMITTEE - UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



BEYOND THE FRONTIER
The times are exceedingly altered:
Native Americans in Southern New England and
the Revolution

THURS, DEC. 5

7-8:30 PM

Rm. 204, Acton Town Hall

472 Main Street, Acton

The Acton 250 Committee and the Friends of Pinehawk proudly present: The times are exceedingly altered: Native Americans in Southern New England and the Revolution.

Over a 30-year career, Professor Daniel Mandell has produced a body of work that tells the story of New England Native Americans from the time of first European contact through the formation of the United States and its expansion. He will discuss their experiences during the upheavals of the American Revolutionary period.

Remote Participation:

You can watch live at ActonTV <https://actontv.org/>



- Click [here](#) to access the event on ActonTV.
- Click [here](#) to visit the Acton250 Revolution webpage for more upcoming events and information on how you can obtain Acton 250 Revolution commemorative merchandise.

DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE - (978) 929-6600 | VISIT US ON-LINE AT ACTONMA.GOV

Department	Phone Number	E-Mail
Acton Nursing Services	978-929-6650	nursing@actonma.gov
Assessor's Office	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 Office	978-929-6622	collector@actonma.gov
Community Resources Office	978-929-6651	lducharme@actonma.gov
Conservation Office	978-929-6634	conservation@actonma.gov
Council on Aging	978-929-6652	seniorcenter@actonma.gov
Economic Development	978-929-6611	economicdevelopment@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	Library@acton-ma.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 Office	978-929-6640	recreation@actonma.gov
Sustainability Office	978-929-6611	sustainability@actonma.gov
Town Clerk's Office	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