

TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS
MUNICIPAL MONTHLY
COVID-19 SPECIAL EDITION

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Dear Acton residents,

Thank you for reading this special edition Municipal Monthly that is being mailed to all households to help provide updated information and resources related to COVID-19.

I hope everyone is staying safe and keeping spirits up during this difficult time. Some of us are experiencing loss and are being tragically impacted by this terrible virus. All of us are feeling stressed and wanting to know when things will be back to normal. During this stressful time, I hope you all are finding time to take care of yourselves. Please know that several resources are available to assist you and your family and you may find information about these resources on page 4. In April, households were mailed a letter from the Board of Health to inform all residents about how to lower risk of coronavirus infection and what to do if you think you have it. View this letter as well as daily updates posted to our COVID-19 Information Center online at: actonma.gov/covid19.

All residents should be aware of Governor Baker's stay home advisory and only leave home for essential matters. Effective Wednesday, May 6, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Order requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. Full details are outlined in the [May 1 Order](#).

In Acton, we have continued to take measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help our community during this pandemic. Thank each and every one of you for practicing social distancing in an attempt to stop the spread. I would also like to thank everyone who has donated supplies to our Public Safety Departments and to Acton Nursing.

The Board of Selectmen and Board of Health declared a local state of emergency in Acton. All town and school buildings and recreation facilities including NARA Park are closed. Our Board of Selectmen and Board of Health have been meeting virtually each week to discuss protective measures and make policy decisions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Annual Town Election and Special State Election for the 37th Middlesex Representative District have been delayed until June 2nd, 2020 in accordance with recently passed state legislation. The Board of Selectmen, on April 28, 2020, voted to change the polling locations for the June 2nd Local Election and Special State Election for State Representative in the 37th District, to have all six precincts vote at the RJ Grey Junior High School located at 12 Charter Road, Acton. Voters are encouraged to consider the option to vote early by mail.

An application for early voting is included as the last page of this Municipal Monthly. Return a completed application to the Town Clerk's office (Town Hall, 472 Main Street) or by emailing it to clerk@actonma.gov. For more information, please visit actonma.gov/elections.

The Annual Town Meeting has also been postponed. The Board of Selectmen and Town Moderator will work with staff to decide a new date. Please stay tuned for additional information about Town Meeting in the weeks ahead.

This is an important notice. Please have someone translate.
Este es un aviso importante. Por favor, que alguien traduzca
Это важное замечание. Пожалуйста, попросите кого-нибудь перевести.
这是重要的通知。请有人翻译。
Este é um aviso importante. Por favor, alguém traduza.



CONNECT WITH US



@ActonMAGov

The Board of Selectmen voted to extend the fourth quarter tax bill due date until June 1st, 2020. If such tax bills are unpaid after June 1st, all fees and interest shall be waived as long as the amount due is paid by June 30th. Please contact the Collector's office with questions by emailing collector@actonma.gov.

The transfer station increased operating hours to 7am to 3pm Monday through Saturday. The first hour each day starting at 7am is dedicated for seniors. Some services requiring in-person transactions are temporarily restricted so please call ahead if you have questions.

We have also started to broadcast local updates and additional information on our local FM radio station 94.9. WAEM. Many public meetings are broadcasted live as well as other PSAs and programs. A weekly live broadcast of the Senior Center's Java with John program is aired on the radio and also on the ActonTV youtube channel.

The Land Use and Economic Development Office is partnering with local businesses for a Take Out Selfie social media campaign. Use the hashtag #TakeOutSelfie along with a photo (wearing a mask) while picking up your order. Visit actonrestaurantweek.com for a list of participating establishments.

As we continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to share with all residents that our town departments have been effectively adapting the services we provide through innovation and the use of technology. Our public works, facilities, and natural resources employees continue to maintain our public properties and infrastructure. Our nursing and public health staff have been working non-stop to track cases and implement measures adopted by the Board of Health. Our dedicated public safety personnel and first responders are out there 24-hours per day every day executing their emergency response duties with concerns regarding the virus present at all times. I am proud of the work of our employees.

As we move forward and start to phase back to normal, I expect that many of you will may have questions or concerns about changes to local services or impacts to our community. We have established a central customer service hotline called the Acton Town Services hotline to provide one number to call that can provide answers to various questions related COVID-19 and also connect callers to resources about questions about town services in general.

The Acton Town Services hotline number is 978-929-6619.

Also, you are always welcome to contact my office by emailing manager@actonma.gov.

Thank you for your help and please be safe.

Sincerely
John S. Mangiaratti, Town Manager

COVID-19 INFORMATION CENTER
ACTON TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE
DIAL
978-929-6619

- Live-operators during Town Hall business hours
- Quickly access updated information from critical services
- Ask Town officials questions
- Translation services available

For more information, please visit actonma.gov/COVID19
@ActonMAGov

Face Covering Do's and Don'ts:

DO:

- ✓ Make sure you can breathe through it
- ✓ Wear it whenever going out in public
- ✓ Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- ✓ Wash after using

DON'T:

- ✗ Use if under two years old
- ✗ Use surgical masks or other PPE intended for healthcare workers

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html> for additional information.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Board of Health wants to encourage all to Stop the Spread - Stay at Home and Stay Safe in order to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has issued an advisory “to minimize all unnecessary activities outside the home during this state of emergency.” We need to limit exposure to all of our residents from this highly contagious virus as no one is immune. Please do your part!

- Every instance of potential exposure that can be eliminated is an important step for that individual and for our community.
- Stay at home means only leaving your home to address essential needs, get some fresh air and exercise. If you do leave home, avoid unnecessary travel and unnecessary contact with other individuals.
- The directive is not a lockdown and allows residents to continue performing tasks essential to the health and safety of their family and community.
- The purpose is to curb the spread of the disease by limiting resident’s movements and non-essential activities.
- This directive means people should avoid all nonessential outings and stay inside as much as possible.
- Individuals should limit outdoor recreational activities to only non-contact activities and avoid situations where they come in close contact with other people.
- This requires individuals to avoid going to places where they could come in close contact with other people, such as playgrounds, sport fields, recreation areas and parks.
- Individuals are strongly advised to stay-at-home, unless necessary. What is necessary should be objectively construed as necessary for life sustaining activities based on the purpose of the order like going to the grocery store or pharmacy. And please remember, wear a mask and maintain social distancing while you are out!
- While this may be inconvenient and difficult, this short-term directive is for the immediate protection of the health and welfare of our community. As a suburban community, when residents stay at home, individuals are generally spread out over a large geographical area and avoiding contact with other individuals. When families or groups of individuals leave their home to go to public areas, this increases the risk of exposure and potential to spread the disease. Individuals should seek to get some fresh air and exercise at home rather than go to public areas. The spread of the virus can only be stopped by concerted collective action. Even if you feel well, you may still have the virus as some people have not had any symptoms but have tested positive so please don’t just think about yourself think about others.
- These are challenging and unprecedented times. Every individual has a responsibility to do their part for themselves, their families and our entire community.
- Please help and consider how your actions affect everyone in our community.

We are all in this together. Be well and stay safe.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Senior Center and Human Services Center will re-opening on a date to be announced. If you are in need of assistance please call our office at 978-929-6652 and leave a message or e-mail us at seniorcenter@acton-ma.gov. We will get back to you.

- Frozen meals and handmade masks are available at the Senior Center upon request.
- Look for a variety of programs/classes/lectures on Acton TV’s public channel. (8 on Comcast, 45 on Verizon)
- **Java with John** – Fridays at 10:00 AM on Acton’s radio WAEM 94.9 FM or live on www.youtube.com/actontv1. The show will be aired later on ActonTV. Join the Town Manager, the COA Director and guests, each week as they give updates and answer questions. Check the website under ‘special announcements’ for any changes to the schedule. Questions can be emailed ahead of time to manager@actonma.gov
- **SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone)**. You can learn all about Medicare by visiting www.medicare.gov. If you have issues or questions call 1-888-272-7177.
- **SMOC - 2020 LIHEAP** fuel assistance application deadline extended. The last day to apply is May 29, 2020. If you want to apply for fuel assistance call 508-620-2342. You can also email SMOC at fueldocs@smoc.org
- **Minuteman Senior Services**, our State Home Care, provides a variety of services including: Care Management - In home assessment and support activities of daily living and Meals on Wheels. Minuteman Senior Services can be reached at 1-888-272-7177 or visit www.minutemansenior.org.
- **Alzheimer’s Association Helpline** 1-800-272-3900. Available for calls 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

LOCAL RESOURCE SUPPORTS DURING CORONAVIRUS CLOSURE

While schools are closed, families may find they need assistance from community agencies. Please feel free to reach out to your school's counselor, psychologist, nurse, or social worker.

Town of Acton Community Services Coordinator: Laura Ducharme, 978.929.6651, lducharme@actonma.gov

Area of Need	Contact:
Food Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A-B Food Pantry, actonfoodpantry.org, (978) 635-9295, Open every week: 10:00AM–7:00PM Wednesdays, and 9:30AM – 11:30AM Thursdays as a DRIVE THRU PANTRY ONLY. • ABRSD offers grab-and-go breakfast and lunch to residents Mon-Fri. Pick-up outside the High School main entrance from 11:30AM -1:00PM. <i>You do NOT need to have a child in the district to get food.</i> Email abqualifiedlunch@neighborbrigade.org • Mt. Calvary Community Supper, www.mtcalvaryacton.org • Open Table, http://www.opentable.org/, Drive-through pantry service for those in need.
Financial Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acton Boxborough United Way: abuww.org, COVID-19 Emergency Grants for Acton residents and families in crisis (rent, food, mortgage...) and critical local service providers. • A Friend in Need / Saint Vincent de Paul: E-mail Laura Ducharme (contact information above)
MA Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Transitional Assistance: https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) • DTA Mobile App: https://www.mass.gov/how-to/download-the-dta-connect-mobile-app, You can download the app and apply from your phone.
Housing Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA State Aide Housing: https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/ • MA Centralized Waitlist: http://www.section8listmass.org/How_to_Apply.php • Acton Housing Authority: http://www.actonhousing.net/Home.aspx, E-mail office@actonhousing.net
Medical Attention or Answers to Health Questions	<p>IF THERE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your primary care physician. • Review the Covid-19 letter from the Acton Board of Health.
Coronavirus Questions or Concerns & Other Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Acton's Coronavirus Information Center actonma.gov/covid19. • Statewide 2-1-1 Helpline: Dial 2-1-1 from a phone or visit www.mass211.org, For info on COVID-19 prevention, testing, and referrals. • Danny's Place Youth Services: E-mail info@dannys-place.org • Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN): E-mail dvvap@concordma.gov, For anyone who needs help with a controlling partner or family member. • First Connections: E-mail imatthews@jri.org, Offering virtual support groups for new parents, postpartum depression, anxiety, and diaper pantry. Weekly Facebook Circle Times. • MetroWest Legal Services: E-mail intake@mwlegal.org, Free legal services in civil legal cases to low income residents. • Minuteman Senior Services: Visit www.minutemansenior.org or call (888) 222-6171 • Minuteman Arc for Human Services: www.minutemanarc.com, Most programs running with telemedicine capability. • Neighborhood Brigade: actonboxboroughma@neighborbridage.org, Coordinates the needs of families in crisis with volunteers who want to help. • Town of Acton Dept. of Veterans Services: E-mail James MacRae at vso@actonma.gov • Town of Acton Council on Aging: E-mail seniorcenter@actonma.gov • For information on various resources such as food, fuel, financial assistance: Contact Laura Ducharme
Mental Health Support	<p>IF THERE IS A MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 • Call2Talk: 1-508-532-2255 or Text "C2T" to 741741 or Samaritans: 800-252-TEEN (8336) • SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, This is a 24/7 multilingual free hotline for immediate crisis counseling for people experiencing emotional distress re: the pandemic. • NAMI (North Alliance on Mental Health Illness), 781-982-3318: www.namimass.org, www.namimass.org • Eliot Community Human Services, E-mail dgarfield@eliotchs.org, Provides outpatient mental health and substance abuse services for all ages.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic and related closures are making life difficult for Acton businesses. The much-needed federal CARES Act provided more than \$650 billion for small business relief, administered through the Small Business Association. The Acton Board of Selectmen is also considering ways the Town can do its part to help the Acton business community. Please visit www.actonma.gov/business for links to various business assistance programs as they become available.

Please consider supporting Acton's restaurants and cafes by ordering takeout or delivery for you and your family. Now, you can also order beer and wine to go with your food! Visit www.actonrestaurantweek.com for a listing of open establishments. While you're picking up your meal, take and post a #takeoutselfie to the Town of Acton and Acton Restaurant Week Facebook pages.

At least one Acton company has re-tooled in order to help with the pandemic. Sparx Hockey, located at 30 Sudbury Road, manufactures an automated skate sharpener. The company was quick to pivot its operations to manufacture face shields as personal protective equipment for health care providers and first responders. As such, Sparx is eligible to apply for state funding to assist in the manufacturing of PPE. More information about the grant program is available at www.actonma.gov/business.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NARA Park and all Town fields and playgrounds are closed until the Town of Acton/State Emergency has been lifted per Acton Board of Health. You may enroll for NARA Camp online at actonrec.com without paying in advance until camp is confirmed to open.

NARA Beach operations may be impacted early in the season. Please visit actonma.gov/beach for updates.

New online programs are now being offered! Visit our online registration site actonrec.com to get more information and/or register.

All concerts and special events planned at NARA prior to July 15 have been canceled or postponed. Concerts and events after July 15 will be determined at a later date.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department would like to thank the residents for their continued cooperation during the winter months. It can be a challenging time for all.

Spring Repairs

Sometimes the grass strips and curbs along the roads are damaged while plowing. The Highway Department works to repair these areas as soon as possible after the snow has melted and the ground has thawed; however other work that involves the safety of the public takes priority. It may take until mid-summer to repair these areas. The repair of grass surfaces generally consists of raking out the ruts and seeding with a standard highway grass seed. If your landscaping needs are such that this is unacceptable, you may choose to repair these areas on your own earlier in the spring.

Street Sweeping

Part of the Highway Department's maintenance program involves cleaning the road surfaces and drains. The road surfaces and sidewalks are cleaned with mechanical sweepers during the spring months. The highly visible areas are cleaned first, such as the town centers and the Isaac Davis Trail. Most roads are swept once during this period.

Residents are reminded to not put lawn wastes, trash, tree limbs, etc. in the roadway during the sweeping process as it may damage the machinery. The operator will not remove such material, leaving an unsightly mess for you and your neighbors.

Transfer Station & Recycling Center Hours

We have temporarily adjusted the hours of the Transfer Station & Recycling Center. It is open Monday – Saturday 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM (excluding public holidays). The first hour is open to seniors only (65+). During the COVID-19 emergency, we are limiting the operation to the disposal of regular household garbage (PAYT) and recycling only. To maintain social distancing, we are not accepting bulky items that require payment and we ask that residents also maintain social distancing while using the facility.

The Swap Shop is closed.

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Access the library from home! AML has a lot of great digital content including e-books, audiobooks, video, music, and databases. You can use your library card number and password to access these resources. If you do not have a library card, or have lost your number or password please contact us by phone (978-929-6543) or email reference@actonma.gov

Reminder: We are unable to accept returns while we are closed and all fines are waived during this time.

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

JUNE 2, 2020 Municipal and Special State Early Ballot Application



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Voter Information	1	Name: _____ Legal Voting Residence: _____ _____ Date of Birth: _____ Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____
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Ballot Information	2	Mail Ballot to: _____ _____
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Special Circumstances <i>(If applicable)</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability. Assisting person's name: _____ Assisting person's address: _____
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Signed (under penalty of perjury): _____ Date: _____

Eligibility

Any registered voter may use this application to request a Mail in Early Voting ballot for a Special State and Local Election being held on or before June 30, 2020.

Completing the Application

1. Voter Information – Provide your name, legal voting address, and date of birth. Telephone number and e-mail address are optional fields.
2. Ballot Information – Provide the address where you want the ballot mailed.
3. Special Circumstances – If you are assisting a voter in completing this application, complete this section.
4. Sign your name. If you require assistance in signing the application, you may authorize someone to sign your name in your presence. That person must complete the assisting person's information in Section 3.

Submitting the Application

Send the completed application to the local election official at your city or town hall.

Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications may also be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail, as long as your signature is visible.

Please allow ample mailing time for this application and for the ballot. Ballots must be returned to your local election official by Election Day.

Find contact information for local election officials at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).