



# TOWN OF ACTON MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

December 2025

## EVENT CALENDARS

[COUNCIL ON AGING](#)

[LIBRARIES](#)

[RECREATION](#)

[TOWN HALL](#)



## CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

- Dispatcher (full-time & part-time)
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Police Officer
- Per Diem Health Inspector
- Seasonal Snow Plow Contractors
- Truck Driver/Skilled laborer (temp.)
- Craftsperson
- Librarian 1
- Human Resources Generalist

Interested in serving on a **Town Committee, Commission, or Board**? Find a full list of open volunteer positions [here](#).

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

[TOWN DIRECTORY](#)

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook @actonmagov

Instagram @actonmagov

LinkedIn @Town of Acton, MA

Twitter @ActonMaGov

Subscribe to our [NEWS FLASH](#) to receive Town news and updates via email or text!

## TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Thank you for reading the Municipal Monthly and for checking out the other newsletters and calendars published for the community. Acton is filled with events and programs again this December, including the following special events:

- On December 13th from 9am to 3pm, Acton Fire Local 1904 will host its annual Santa Ride. Stay tuned on Acton social media channels for updates on stops and schedules.
- On December 17th at 6pm there will be Menorah Lighting in the Town Center next to Town Hall at 468 Main Street.

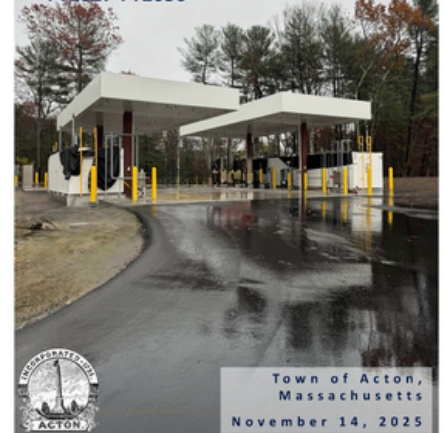
The Town is also hard at work finalizing the budget recommendations that will be presented at the May 2026 Annual Town Meeting. Later this month we will be publishing the Town Manager's Recommended Municipal Budget for the Select Board and Finance Committee to consider.

In November, we published our 10-year capital plan outlining capital needs for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2036. This document is used as a primary source during budget deliberations as it contains useful data about town infrastructure and assets. You may view the capital plan at

[www.actonma.gov/manager](http://www.actonma.gov/manager) or by clicking on the image to the right.

### Capital Improvement Plan

FY2027-FY2036



# TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Did you know that we still have an historic fire alarm system in operation in our community? You may have noticed a fire alarm pull box in your neighborhood. The Fire Department has begun the process of modernizing this system. More details are found later in this newsletter.

Do you follow @actonmagov on Facebook or Instagram? Check out the latest posts to learn about Elfie! All month long, Elfie will be sneaking around town, popping into our municipal buildings, saying hi to our employees, and giving all her Acton friends a behind-the-scenes peek at what the Town is up to. Be sure to follow her adventures on the Town's social media pages! In addition to being a stellar Town employee, Elfie is also excellent at hide-and-seek. She has taken up temporary residence at the Acton Memorial Library, where she's stirring up a little daily mischief and causing all sorts of good trouble among the shelves. She won't stay in one spot for long, though. If you think you can track her down, we need your help! Stop by the Library anytime before December 24th to aid the search, and take a #SelfiewithElfie!

Lastly, thank you to Vivian Kobusingye Birchall and Marc Duci at Acton TV for hosting me to do our annual cooking show. The photo below was taken during the recording. See you in 2026!

Sincerely,  
**John Mangiaratti**  
Town Manager



## NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**NAOMI QUANSAH**  
**ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR**



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Check the list of stores at [actonma.gov/business](http://actonma.gov/business)

## ACTON SHOP SMALL

Support our local small businesses this holiday season! They offer unique gifts and personalized service that make shopping special. While Small Business Saturday is November 29, exploring local shops is a great way to celebrate the season all month long. Find a list of Acton's small businesses by category at [actonma.gov/business](http://actonma.gov/business) to discover local options.

## RIBBON CUTTING AT GREAT SPACES INC.

Great Spaces, led by the talented Dawn Willis, recently celebrated the expansion of its West Acton location at 245 Arlington Street with a



brand-new showroom and retail space. Dawn marked the occasion with her team in the presence of loyal customers, neighboring businesses, State Representative Dan Sena, Senator Jamie Eldridge, and Economic Development Director Patricia Costa. Offering a wide selection of tiles, cabinetry, and exclusive hardware, the store reflects Dawn's 16 years of experience, including eight years proudly serving the Acton community. This expansion underscores Great Spaces' ongoing growth and commitment to delivering exceptional design solutions.

## LOCAL BUSINESSES ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER AT BUSINESS FRONT DOOR

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has recently launched The Business Front Door, a new online portal to make it easier for business owners to access state programs, grants, and guidance. By registering through the portal, your business can stay informed about funding opportunities, training programs, and economic development initiatives—helping you save time and grow with confidence. To register, access <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/business-front-door>.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## DECOMMISSIONING OF THE MUNICIPAL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Originally installed decades ago, the municipal fire alarm box system allowed residents to report fires by pulling a lever on a red street- or building-mounted box, which sent a telegraph signal directly to the fire department. Widely used throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, these systems have largely been replaced by enhanced 911 networks. Each alarm box was connected to a central office through telegraph circuits. When activated, the box transmitted a coded signal identifying its location, enabling dispatchers to alert the appropriate fire companies. Street boxes were publicly accessible, while master boxes—located in schools, factories, and municipal buildings—automatically transmitted alarms from internal fire alarm systems.

These systems were valued for their speed, reliability, and ability to automatically identify the alarm's location. However, they lacked voice communication, were susceptible to false alarms, and required extensive maintenance. Today, nearly all emergency calls are received through the 911 system, which provides real-time voice communication, GPS location, and detailed information for responders. Modern central monitoring stations can now transmit building alarm signals that specify the exact location and type of activation (such as smoke, heat, or sprinkler flow), further improving response accuracy and efficiency.

While the municipal fire alarm system played a vital role in the pre-telephone era, its use has steadily declined. Acton's system, installed in 1930 by Earl Hayward, began with a connection from South Acton Square to the Woolen Mill at 53 River Street and eventually expanded to more than 450 boxes.

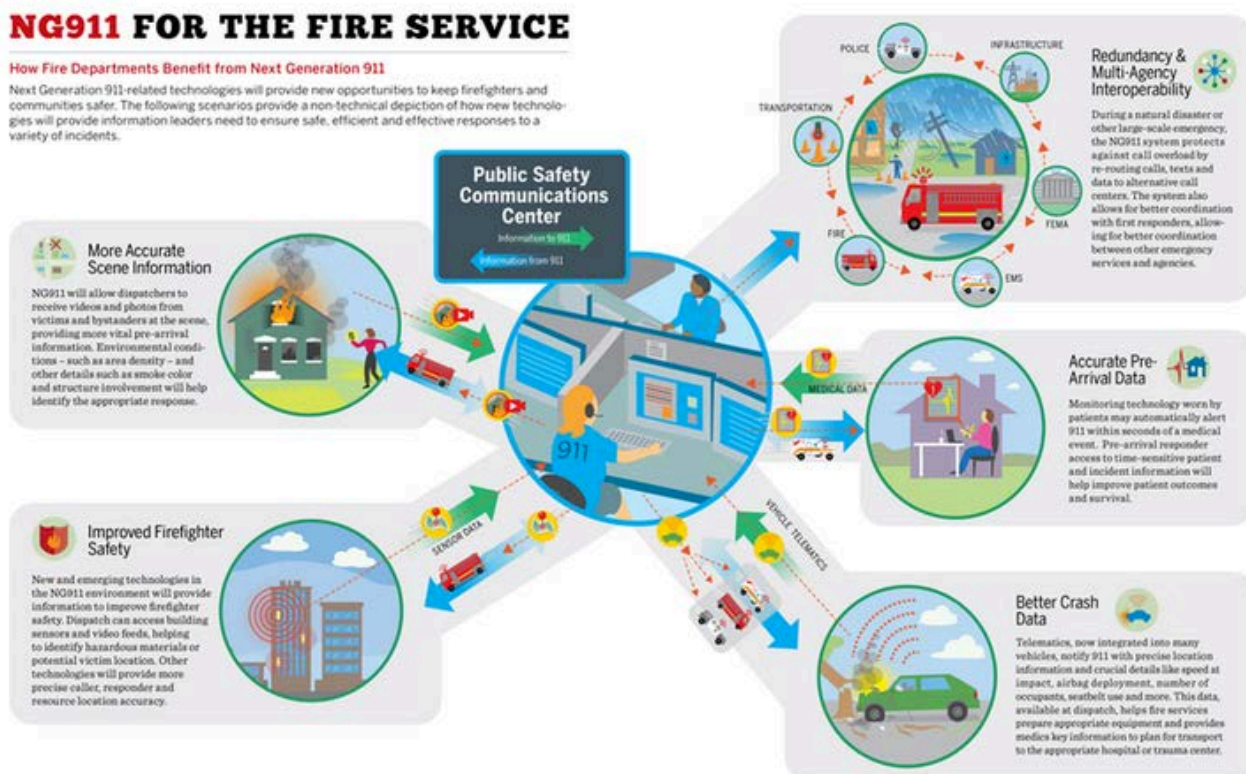
Beginning this fall, and over the next two to three years, the Town of Acton will decommission its municipal fire alarm system due to obsolete technology, increasing maintenance costs, frequent false alarms, vandalism, and redundancy with modern 911 and building alarm systems. The process will start with street boxes, followed by master boxes, allowing property owners time to make necessary adjustments.

For residents, **911 remains the primary method for reporting fire or medical emergencies**, and most residents do not need to take any action. Property owners with direct connections to the fire alarm system have been notified and advised on the necessary upgrades

### NG911 FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

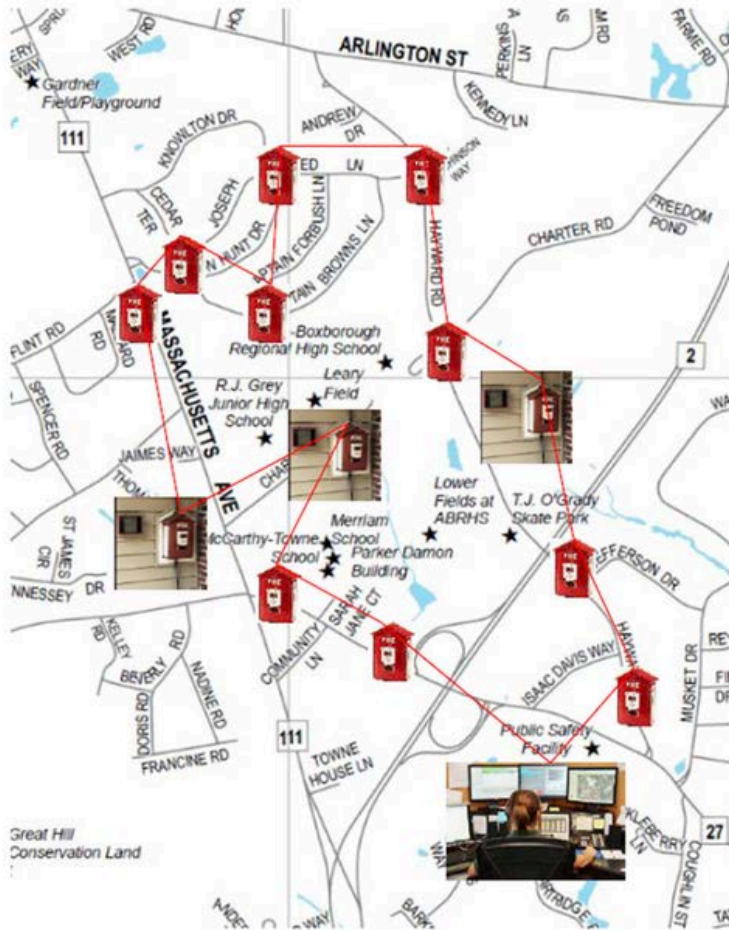
#### How Fire Departments Benefit from Next Generation 911

Next Generation 911-related technologies will provide new opportunities to keep firefighters and communities safer. The following scenarios provide a non-technical depiction of how new technologies will provide information leaders need to ensure safe, efficient and effective responses to a variety of incidents.





# FIRE DEPARTMENT



*PLEASE JOIN US*  
AT THE  
BADGE PINNING & SWEARING-IN  
CEREMONY FOR OUR NEW FIREFIGHTERS!

CALVIN SHIMANSKY  
ISAAC DASSEL  
VICTORIA BOUTIN



DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
LOCATION: 68 HARRIS STREET  
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

NORTH ACTON FIRE STATION #4

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

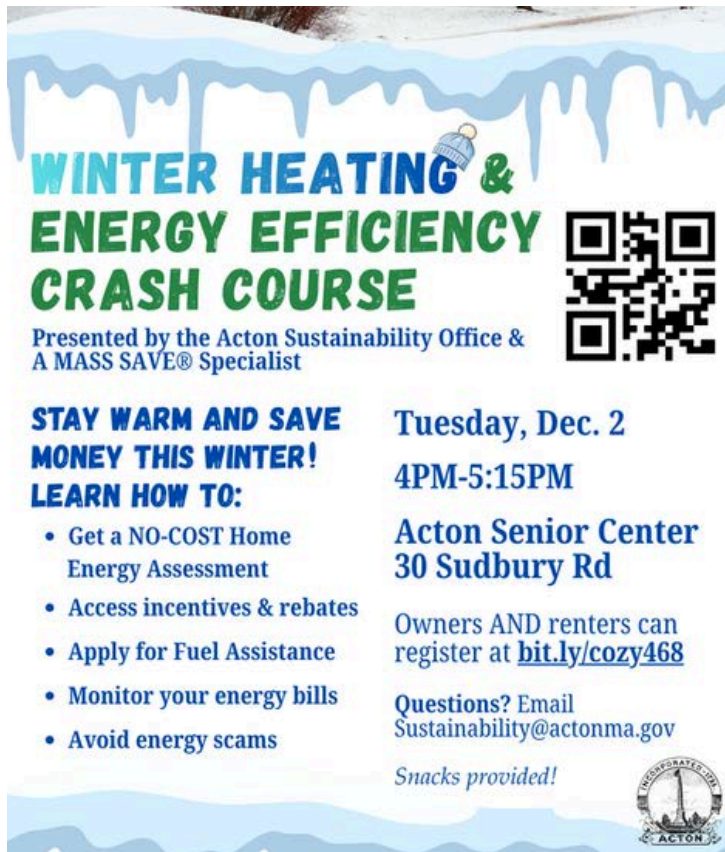
# POLICE DEPARTMENT

**THE NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS ARE HERE!**





# SUSTAINABILITY



**WINTER HEATING & ENERGY EFFICIENCY CRASH COURSE**

Presented by the Acton Sustainability Office & A MASS SAVE® Specialist

**STAY WARM AND SAVE MONEY THIS WINTER! LEARN HOW TO:**

- Get a NO-COST Home Energy Assessment
- Access incentives & rebates
- Apply for Fuel Assistance
- Monitor your energy bills
- Avoid energy scams


**Tuesday, Dec. 2**  
**4PM-5:15PM**

**Acton Senior Center**  
**30 Sudbury Rd**

Owners AND renters can register at [bit.ly/cozy468](https://bit.ly/cozy468)

Questions? Email [Sustainability@actonma.gov](mailto:Sustainability@actonma.gov)

Snacks provided!



**JOIN THE GREEN ADVISORY BOARD**

The Green Advisory Board (GAB) is in need of new members! Want to contribute to the community on climate and sustainability issues? Visit [bit.ly/ActonVCC](https://bit.ly/ActonVCC) to apply through the Volunteer Coordinating Committee.

Join us for Meetings at 6pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Visit [ActonMA.gov/100/Green](https://ActonMA.gov/100/Green) to learn more!

**QUESTIONS?**  
Reach out to the Sustainability Office at [sustainability@actonma.gov](mailto:sustainability@actonma.gov) or call 978-929-6515.



# PUBLIC WORKS



**SALT SMARTLY**

FOR CLEAN PATHS, CLEAN DRAINS, & CLEAN WATER

Shovel as soon as possible. Before applying road salt, clear snow & break up ice. Less ice will form & less salt will be needed!



Use salt according to instructions - a little goes a long way! Once snow & ice is melted, sweep up excess salt for reuse.



Make sure storm drains are clear & free of snow & debris. When piling snow, avoid areas near storm drains. Instead, use vegetated areas where melted snow can soak into the ground.



**RECYCLING'S MOST UNWANTED**



**Item:** String lights

**Offense:** Gets tangled in and jams equipment.

**What to do:** Donate only if in good condition. Otherwise, put in trash. Do not recycle.

**Recycle Smart**



**FLOW CONTRACTORS WANTED**

**ACTONDPW (978) 929-7740**



# COUNCIL ON AGING

## ABOUT

### LOCATION

Human Services Building, 30 Sudbury Road rear

### HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8am-4pm

Tuesday: 8am-6pm

Friday: 8am-12pm

**Closed December 25**

### CONTACT

[seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov) or 978-929-6652.

The Council on Aging at the Senior Center offers services, meals and activities for residents age 60+. Most activities are FREE with a nominal charge for meals.

The Assistant Director provides older adults and their families with information on area social services including home care agencies, elder day programs, housing options, food and fuel assistance.

Each month there are multiple meal opportunities: special lunches, an evening dinner, daily lunch provided by Minuteman Senior Services, the Wednesday lunch Bistro open to all ages, frozen grab & go lunches provided by Open Table and Meals on Wheels.

**The Bistro will be closed Dec. 24 & 31.**

Visit our website [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com) to view our newsletter for details on services, meals and activities. Follow us on Facebook @actoncoa. To sign up for newsletter or notifications from the COA visit: [www.actoncoa.com/list.aspx](http://www.actoncoa.com/list.aspx)



The annual holiday tea at the senior center is always a popular event!

**December Events 2025**

**ACTON SENIOR CENTER**  
30 Sudbury Road Rear

**December 2** *Winter Heating & Energy Efficiency Crash Course*

**December 3** *When Life (and the Holidays) Feel Overwhelming: Simple Skills for Challenging Days with Dr. Jenn Staples*

**December 10** *Deep Ocean Life Lecture with Dr. Peter Girguis*

**December 17** *Holiday Line Dancing with Paul Hughes*

**December 18** *The Hapsburgs Royal Family Lecture with Paolo Di Gregorio*

**December various days** *A variety of music programs all month long!*

For details: [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com)  
978-929-6652 [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov)



# COUNCIL ON AGING

## Navigating Grief Group

via Zoom

facilitated by Julie Norstrand, PhD, MSW

**First Thursday Each Month**

**3 pm to 4 pm**

**Next meeting: December 4**

**Group offered by the Acton**

**Council on Aging**

**Free and open to all age 60+**

For registration and inquiries  
contact the Acton Council on Aging :

978-929-6652

seniorcenter@actonma.gov



Songs & Stories  
Holiday Music by  
guitarist/vocalist  
Matt York  
Tuesday, Dec. 16,  
1:00 pm

Classical Music  
Lecture/  
Performance  
with Pianist  
Sivan Etedgee  
Thursday, Dec. 4,  
12:30 pm



## MONTH OF MUSIC!

at the Acton Senior Center

Holiday Music of  
the 50s & 60s  
presentation with  
John Clark  
Thursday, Dec. 11,  
1:00 pm

Ukulele Play  
Along  
Friday, Dec. 19,  
10:00 am

## 30 SADBURY ROAR REAR, ACTON

For details, see our newsletter at  
actoncoa.com or contact 978-929-  
6652; seniorcenter@actonma.gov

Holiday Sing-  
Along  
with Ed Knights  
Tuesday, Dec. 23,  
1:00 pm

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

 **JOIN US FOR A FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY** 

## Adult Mental Health First Aid Training

 **Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

 **9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

 **Westford Town Hall  
55 Main St, Westford, MA 01886**

**What is Adult Mental Health First Aid ?**

Adult Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training that teaches participants how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

**Why attend this training?**

- ✓ Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use issues
- ✓ Reduce stigma in your workplace and community
- ✓ Learn how to support someone in crisis and connect them to care
- ✓ Gain skills through the 5-step action plan (ALGEE) to respond safely and effectively

**Who should attend ?**

- Community Members
- Employers
- Police Officers
- Hospital Staff
- First Responders
- Anyone who cares about mental health

**Register by September 19, 2025**  
To register or for more information, contact:  
Nicole Laviolette, Community Wellness  
Coordinator, 978-399-2503 or  
nlaviolette@westfordma.gov





# NURSING



## Be a Good Neighbor!

Small acts of care make our community stronger. Here are simple ways you can help take care of your neighbors year-round!

### Acton Health Department



Public Health

## Everyday Neighborliness

Introduce yourself and exchange phone numbers with nearby neighbors. Offer help with errands, rides, or small tasks.

- Share community news, resources, and upcoming events. Respect differences, listen with kindness, and look out for one another.

## In Times of Emergencies

**Please check in on neighbors who may need extra support** (older adults, people living alone, families with young children, or residents with health concerns).

**Heat Advisory:** Check on elderly neighbors, those with chronic health conditions, and families without AC.

**Severe Winter Storms:** Make sure neighbors have heat, food, and medication. Offer to shovel, help with groceries, or share storm updates.

**Power Outages:** Share flashlights, phone chargers, or a warm place to stay if safe to do so.

**General Safety:** If something doesn't seem right, check in or call for help.

## Important Numbers

**In the event of an emergency, always call 911!**

**Acton Police (non-emergency):**  
(978) 929-7711

**Acton Fire (non-emergency):**  
(978) 929-7722

**Community Services Coordinator:**  
(978) 929-6651

**Board of Health:** (978) 929-6652

**Senior Center:** (978) 929-6652

**Acton Memorial Library:**

**Massachusetts 211:** Call 2-1-1 for statewide resources (shelters, food, utilities, mental health) **Suicide &**

**Crisis Lifeline:** Dial 988 (24/7 support)

For additional resources, please visit: [Acton Community Resources](#)

## Health & Wellness Support

**If you notice a neighbor struggling with physical or mental health:**

- Listen with compassion.
- Remind them help is available.
- Share the numbers above for local support.

**Remember:** Being a good neighbor doesn't require big gestures, even a quick check-in can make a huge difference!

## Take action to stop respiratory viruses from spoiling holiday cheer

Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different Respiratory illnesses.

### Stay at home.

If you are sick, stay home to avoid putting others at risk. You should also avoid others in the household to lessen their risk. If you have severe or worsening symptoms, call your healthcare provider.



### Clean your hands.

Handwashing often with soap removes most germs, including respiratory viruses, from your hands.

If soap and water are not available, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can kill many germs.



### Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread easily this way.



### Get Vaccinated.

Vaccination is the most important step you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Many viruses spread more during the holiday season, so it is important to get all recommended vaccines, including flu, COVID-19 and RSV, as soon as possible.



### Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Usually, there are more droplets and particles that can make you sick closer to the person who is infected.



### Wear a mask.

Masks can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses. Wearing a high-quality mask while you travel, for example, can help protect you and others.



This might be especially important if you are at higher risk of developing serious complications from these illnesses.

### Improve Air Quality

Viral particles in the air spread between people more easily indoors than outdoors.

Any way you can improve air quality, such as opening windows or using air purifiers, can help reduce the amount of virus you are exposed to.



For more information on how to protect yourself from respiratory viruses Scan the QR code



Find out where you can get a flu vaccine by scanning the QR code or visiting [vaccines.gov/flu](#)

### Acton Health Department



## HAT AND MITTEN TREE

Help keep children and families in our community warm during the winter months by donating **new winter hats and mittens!!** All children and adult sizes accepted!!

Come decorate our Hat and Mitten tree in the

Acton Nursing Services Offices

Town of Acton Human Services & Senior Center

30 Sudbury Road, Rear

**waterproof kids mittens/gloves appreciated**



## Friends and relatives visiting for the holidays?



Acton Nursing Services (ANS) has a variety of loaner equipment, subject to availability, for residents' (and their guests') use free of charge.

walkers  
wheelchairs  
crutches  
shower chairs  
commode chairs

Call to inquire: ANS 978-929-6650

Call us early. ANS is the Town's home health care agency.

We may be able to save your visitors and you inconvenience and travel hassle during these busy times.



# LAND USE

## SUBDIVISION RULES & REGULATIONS

Planning Board Meeting - 12/16 - 7:05PM  
in Room 204 of Acton Town Hall or on Zoom

Last May, Town Meeting voters overwhelmingly approved a zoning amendment that made cluster development the default method of subdivision in Acton, meaning all new subdivisions are required to preserve 60% of the land as Resource Land. Join us on 12/16 to provide input on amending Acton's Subdivision Rules and Regulations, which are complementary to the zoning. They specify design criteria and certain technical standards. This is the final step in the 'Habitat For All' initiative!

<https://zoom.us/j/96275905703>



Click here to view the updated  
Subdivision Rules & Regulations:  
<https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18896>

# LIBRARIES

## Investment for Retirement with CFA Society Boston

Teens  
&  
Adults

Wednesday, Dec 3,  
6:00—7:00 PM,  
AML Meeting Room

Sign up  
on the  
program  
page on  
our  
website



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

See more important library updates  
and our schedule of events here:

<https://conta.cc/49IJdw1>

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request by emailing [library@actonma.gov](mailto:library@actonma.gov).





# LIBRARIES

## Teaching Tech HOOPLA



**TUESDAY, DEC 2**

2:00—3:00pm  
West Acton Citizens' Library

or

5:30—6:30pm,  
AML Meeting Room

Sign up on the program page on our website



## Sewing and Embroidery Club **Reusable Wrapping!**

### **Drawstring Bags**

Thursday, December 11, 2:00—3:00 PM,  
West Acton Citizens' Library

or

Thursday, December 11, 6:00—7:00 PM,  
AML Meeting Room

Cookbook Club

## COOKIE SWAP!

Monday, Dec 8 at AML from 6–7pm

or

Tuesday, Dec 9 at West Acton Citizens' Library from 2–3pm



100 cookies: the baking book for every kitchen with classic cookies, novel treats, brownies, bars, and more by Sarah Kieffer

Sign up for either time on the program page on our website!

## Winter Concert Series **MADRIGALS**

**Sunday, December 7, 2:00–2:45 PM,  
2nd Floor Piano Room, Acton Memorial Library**

Register on the program page on our website

