

MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2021



First Responders in Acton have started receiving their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccines. Pictured above are Officer John Collins and Sergeant Chris Hodges.

COVID-19 INFORMATION CENTER

ACTON
TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

DIAL
978-929-6600

HOTLINE HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

TOWN HALL AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING HOURS OF OPERATION

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

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

Town Offices will be closed Monday, February 15 in
observance of President's Day.

CURBSIDE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Call or email to make an appointment:

FINANCE

Assessor's: 978-929-6621, assessor@actonma.gov
Collector's: 978-929-6622, collector@actonma.gov

LAND USE

Building: 978-929-6633, building@actonma.gov
Conservation: 978-929-6634, nr@actonma.gov
Health Dept.: 978-929-6632, health@actonma.gov
Planning: 978-929-6631, planning@actonma.gov
Recreation: 978-929-6640, recreation@actonma.gov

TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

We continue to work tirelessly to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines are becoming available and full details will be updated regularly on the COVID-19 Information Center found at <http://www.actonma.gov/covid19>. We have many exciting updates to share with you on several programs and initiatives.

Last month, we partnered with CGI Communications to develop a six-part video series highlighting what makes Acton a vibrant and inviting community. These highlights include the town's history, favorable economic environment, and entrepreneurial spirit, housing and transportation systems, ongoing improvement projects, opportunities for wellness and creativity, entertainment and community celebrations, community organizations, and much more. The video showcase is included on the Town of Acton website.

The fiscal year 2022 budget will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on March 1st. This year's budget will include a comprehensive 10-year capital improvement plan, which was developed in partnership with the UMass Boston Collins Center. The Board of Selectmen has set June 21, 2021, as the date for the next Annual Town Meeting at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. The location (indoor or outdoor) will be determined at a future meeting of the Board.

I am proud to announce the Town of Acton was awarded the Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Award from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The award recognizes municipalities that have developed unique and creative projects to increase the effectiveness of local government. Acton was recognized for its widespread programs and initiatives that have helped to support local businesses during the pandemic. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Land Use and Economic Development Director Matthew "Selby," Acton has worked to assist local businesses by creating promotional campaigns, easing restrictions, and offering financial relief programs. Read more about the award by visiting <https://www.mma.org/acton-gives-small-businesses-a-boost/>.

We are committed to continuing to find ways to support our business community. Recently, the Town of Acton was awarded \$1.6 million in Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus Funding for a Micro-enterprise Forgivable Loan Program in partnership with the towns of Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard, and Westford. This program will provide eligible businesses a one-time grant of up to \$10,000 to help cover costs such as rent, staffing, and utilities. For more information on program requirements, please visit trimicroloans.org and choose the "Acton-Boxborough" tab or send an email to trimicroloans@gmail.com with any questions.

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>

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

ON-DEMAND CURBSIDE PICKUP

Acton Memorial Library is offering on-demand curbside hold pickups. When you receive notice that your hold is available:

1. Come to the library during curbside pickup hours – Monday through Saturday between 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday between 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2. When you arrive at the library, call 978-929-6655, option 2
3. Tell us your last name and library card number
4. Wait outside and library staff will put your materials on the tables in front of the main entrance.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

All programs require registration at ActonMemorialLibrary.org/Calendar

Tuesdays at 10 am Lapsit Storytime on Zoom. Best for Ages 0-3 and their caregivers.

Thursdays at 10 am Preschool Storytime on Zoom. Best for ages 3-7 and their caregivers.

Thursdays at 4:30 pm After School Craft on Zoom. Bags of this week's craft supplies are available to pick up outside of the library Monday – Wednesday 10:30-5:30.

DONATION UPDATE

We are unable to take book donations at this time, however the Friends of Acton Libraries are planning to schedule donation drop-off times across from the West Acton Citizens Library. The Friends will update their social media to reflect any scheduled times.

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.

Phone: 978-929-6543 Email: reference@actonma.gov

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

An invitation to participate in a program to promote safety and wellbeing for seniors.

Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan will discuss the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic including the increase in scams that target the elderly and other vulnerable populations. The discussion will also focus on the lasting impacts of isolation and provide advice on how to mitigate feelings of loneliness.

Tuesday, March 16th at 11:00 AM

Link to Register: https://actonma.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hdCeL3tLT9KfKhpT0L7DvQ

Please contact Health Director Sheryl Ball by emailing sball@actonma.gov for questions or help with registration for this event.

Zoom information will be sent to you upon registering.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

CONNECT Powder Mill Road: An Acton and Maynard Collaboration

Connecting Maynard, Acton and West Concord, the Powder Mill Road Corridor consists of approximately one mile in Maynard and a half mile in Acton. Given it's unique and advantageous location, our goal is to develop a Corridor Study for the re-visioning of the Powder Mill Road Corridor.

On December 3rd, Acton and Maynard held a virtual public forum where over 85 people attended. You can access a recording of the forum here: <https://youtu.be/lXw7DIpsTEM>. Feedback from the community was gathered at this forum as well as an online open house. We will continue our outreach through early Winter 2021 during which time we will be holding a second community forum.

The final plan which will be finalized Spring 2021, will be based on data the Metropolitan Area Planning Council has analyzed, recommendations from the town staff, and feedback from residents, business/property owners and other key stakeholders. To learn more about the project click here: <https://www.cleargov.com/massachusetts/middlesex/town/maynard/projects/986/acton-and-maynard-powder-mill-road-study>

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Acton Police Department brought another hybrid cruiser into service last week. Under a 2020 Green Communities Grant the Police Department was able to obtain funding towards the purchase of 2 more Ford Explorer hybrid police cruisers. This conversion to Hybrid cruisers began one year ago and today half of Acton's marked patrol fleet are fuel efficient hybrids. The latest cruiser will be assigned to our patrol supervisors and this cruiser will be used 24/7.

Using the Ford Motor Company fuel savings calculator we estimate the potential annual savings of 1,241 gallons of fuel for each hybrid cruiser. A survey over the last four months was conducted by our fleet supervisor Detective Chris Prehl shows almost a doubling of MPG for the Hybrids.



The feedback from the officers who are assigned to the cruisers have been positive and they report occasionally being surprised noticing the engine off while they are driving along. We are thankful to the residents of Acton of your continued support and the Green Advisory Board for supporting us with our 2 vehicles under the grant.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Need plans for February School Vacation Week? Come play with us at our 50 Audubon Drive Recreation Center! We'll have enrichment programs including arts and crafts, active games, team building, music, theater, outdoor adventure and more! Programs are February 16-19, from 9AM to 4PM. Ages 5-12 years old. Cost is \$50/child/day.

There are a variety of online classes being offered continually including a Remote Learning Center. Easy online registration and information for all program offerings can be found by visiting actonrec.com.

SENIOR CENTER/COUNCIL ON AGING

The Acton Senior Center/Council on Aging continues to offer programs virtually and as drive-through events. COA staff can be reached by telephone at 978-929-6652 and email seniorcenter@actonma.gov. Like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/ActonCOA](https://www.facebook.com/ActonCOA)) to keep up with the latest COA news! Town Manager John Mangiaratti's weekly cable and radio show "Java with John" Fridays at 10 a.m. is a terrific way to keep up with what is going on in town. If you would like to receive weekly or monthly phone calls from staff or volunteers to touch base, please give us a call.

Minuteman Senior Services offers weekday carry-out meals as well as Meals on Wheels delivery, and the COA distributes Open Table meals by request. A drive-through lunch with a Valentine's Day twist will also be offered this month.

Programs taking place via Zoom this month include: Abolition Through Civil Rights in Music, Tropical Rain Forests, the beginning of an American Writers series (Thomas Wolf and Edna St. Vincent Millay), and History of the Stuarts. A new session of watercolor class begins and the sculpture and Words Galore classes conclude. Regularly occurring groups/classes continue to meet via Zoom: Terri's Tips, Computer Club, book group, chess lessons, and Laugh for Your Health. A large selection of exercise and movement classes taught by COA instructors is available through ActonTV on its cable and YouTube channels (youtube.com/actonTV1). Thank you to the Friends of the Acton Council on Aging for supporting so many of our programs!

It is SMOC Fuel Assistance application season (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). If you are age 60 plus, contact COA Senior Services Coordinator Beverly Hutchings for more information: 978-929-6652 or bhutchings@actonma.gov.

For more details on any of these programs and services, please view our February newsletter at www.actoncoa.com.

MEET ACTON'S NEW EMPLOYEES



Jack Walsh
Building Department

Please welcome Jack Walsh, Acton's newest Building Inspector.

Jack has a wide background of experience, including 34 years as an inspector with the City of Boston.



Andrea Becerra
Town Manager's Office

Andrea is Acton's first Sustainability Director.

She recently served as a consultant for the National Resources Defense Council developing sustainability best practices advancing water security in Chile.