



TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL MONTHLY



North Acton Fire Station Project is progressing very well!
Follow the progress at actonma.gov/firestation
Photo taken March 5, 2021

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

WALK-UP WINDOW SERVICE NOW OPEN

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

FINANCE

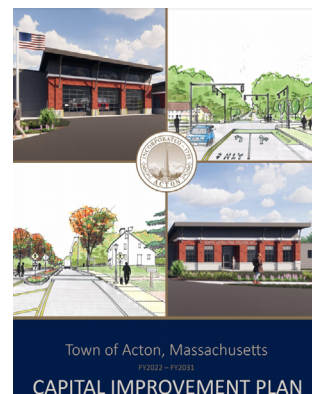
Assessor: 978-929-6621 - assessor@actonma.gov
Collector: 978-929-6622 - collector@actonma.gov
Town Clerk: 978-929-6620 - clerk@actonma.gov

LAND USE

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

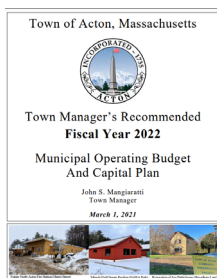
TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

On March 29th I introduced Acton's first comprehensive 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. The proposed Fiscal Year 2022 through FY 2031 plan invests a total of \$75.9 million in the community. The CIP, developed from a \$25,000 Commonwealth Community Compact grant in partnership with the UMass Boston Collins Center, provides a roadmap for the Town to achieve its goals and priorities, especially in key areas such as sustainability initiatives, roadway improvement and complete streets, economic development, and public safety. The plan includes detailed information about Acton's capital planning process, an assessment of assets and capital needs throughout the organization, and the Town's investment strategy. I am proud of the collaborative effort from staff to produce this critical planning document for the community that will be referenced upon and improved for years to come.



In an effort to increase transparency and highlight the efforts of Town staff to provide relief for the community, we developed a special "Grant Tracker" located on our website. This tool provides an updated listing of all grants received by the community, dating back to 2018, and can be sorted by Project Type, Funding Agency, Fiscal Year, and Grant Amount. To view the tracker, please visit actonma.gov/manager.

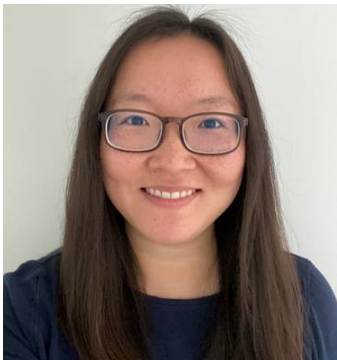
I'm proud to announce several personnel changes within the organization. In the Public Works Department, QinRui Pang has been promoted to Town Engineer. The Police Department has also promoted Chris Hodges to the rank of Sergeant. Read more information about QinRui and Sgt. Hodges on the back page of this Municipal Monthly.



Town Manager's Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Now Available!

actonma.gov/manager

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



QinRui Pang - Town Engineer

Public Works

QinRui has worked for the DPW Engineering Division since 2012, and has recently been promoted to Town Engineer. Since joining Acton, Qin has been involved in drafting design plans, performing engineering reviews on projects, coordinating with other departments on permitting, construction and inspection of projects, conducting traffic studies, ensuring compliance with the Massachusetts Storm Water requirements (MS4) and working with the GIS office to create and maintain data layers. Qin received her Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University with a minor in Environmental Sciences.



Sergeant Chris Hodges

Police Department

Chris Hodges was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February. In June of 2016 he was hired by the Town of Acton as a Patrol Officer where he served in the Patrol Division. He was later assigned to the Detective Division where he has worked since 2017.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Connect Powder Mill Road - Second Virtual Public Forum

A Collaboration between the Towns of Acton and Maynard

Connecting Maynard, Acton and West Concord, the Powder Mill Road Corridor consists of approximately one mile in Maynard and a half mile in Acton. At our second virtual forum on **April 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM**, we will talk about what we learned from the first forum and recommendations for future use on the corridor.

RSVP for the Zoom link here: <http://mapc.ma/powdermill>

Learn more about the project here: http://bit.ly/powdermill_corridor

Call in number for the meeting is +1-646-876-9923 enter meeting ID 914 9628 6278

If you have any questions about the forum please contact Jennifer Kaplan, Economic Development Planner at jkaplan@mapc.org.

What becomes of your recycling? More than you would think.

As few as **10 plastic bottles** can be recycled into that shirt you're wearing. Make sure your recyclables really do get a second life (like becoming a snazzy Hawaiian shirt) by following **these important rules**:

NOT IN THE BIN

Many items you'd think belong in your recycling bin don't. Putting them in does more harm than good.



Do Not Bag Recyclables
No garbage



No Food or Liquid
Empty all containers



No tangles
No hoses, wires, chains or electronics



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
Return to retail store collection bins



No Clothing or Linens
Use donation programs



Want to know what else does and doesn't go in your recycling bin? Find the answers with our **"Can I Recycle It?"** tool at RecycleSmartMA.org.



TREE CITY USA®

Tree City USA is a nationwide movement to manage and expand public trees within communities. As a member, Acton will celebrate Arbor Day on April 22, 2021. We look forward to building upon our commitment to expand public trees in the community.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Welcome springtime - Recreation is ready! We will not be mailing a printed program booklet this season; please go to www.actonrec.com to register online or for a printable registration form. Forms and payment can be mailed or placed in the Drop Box at the front of our 50 Audubon Drive Recreation Center. Checks are payable to Town of Acton. For assistance call us at 978.929.6640 x0, or email recreation@actonma.gov.

April School Vacation Week: 4/20/2021-4/23/2021

Come play with us at our 50 Audubon Drive Recreation Center! We offer arts and crafts, active games, team building, music, outdoor adventure and more! Your choice of days: 9:00am-4:00pm. (Post-care option available.) Ages 5-12 years.

Online and In-Person classes available now!

Register now for new programs and returning favorites for all ages: birding hikes; family fun dance; photography lectures; soccer clinics; floral arranging workshops; American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED; Pokémon Go: Walk & Raid, and more!



2021 NARA Beach Memberships

NARA Beach memberships are available at Early Bird reduced rates until May 31. Printable form is available online. The Family Membership allows up to six people per visit. Other options include Individual, Adult Couple and Senior. Senior membership has been lowered to age 60.

NARA Summer Camp

Open now for your choice of 10 themed weeks, June 21–August 23.

We recommend registering soon as space is limited due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. NARA Camp provides recreational opportunities for children through arts and crafts, swimming, sports, theater & music, nature, and more. NARA Camp follows all state COVID-19 guidelines to provide a fun and safe summer for all campers.



NARA Beach American Red Cross Swim Lessons

Registration is open now for private or semi-private swim lessons at NARA Beach. All skill levels are welcome — no prior swimming experience necessary. Days and times are coordinated with the Swim Instructor. (Participants in semi-private groups must live in the same household.)



SENIOR CENTER/COUNCIL ON AGING

The Acton Senior Center/Council on Aging continues to offer programs virtually and as drive-through events. There are lectures, classes and groups accessible via Zoom and ActonTV. We are now offering a walking group and hope to add other outdoor activities, pending the logistics being worked out. Visit our website www.actoncoa.com for the latest information and to sign up for notifications and follow us on Facebook @actoncoa! COA staff is available to meet with seniors by appointment. Reach us by telephone or email: 978-929-6652; seniorcenter@actonma.gov. If you would like to receive weekly or monthly phone calls from staff or volunteers just to touch base or chat, please give us a call.

The COA offers special drive-through meals and distributes free Open Table meals by request, including the new Healthy Helpings program that follows American Heart Association's eating plan to lower or control blood pressure and heart disease. Minuteman Senior Services offers weekday carry-out meals as well as Meals on Wheels delivery.

For seniors age 60 plus who would like more information on the SMOC Fuel Assistance program (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), contact COA Senior Services Coordinator Beverly Hutchings: 978-929-6652 or bhutchings@actonma.gov. The deadline has been extended to May 28.

PUBLIC WORKS

Spring Paving

The following roads are slated to be paved this Spring:

- Acorn Park Dr.
- Walnut St.
- Chestnut St.
- Beechnut St.
- Hazelnut St.
- Palmer Ln
- Henley Rd.
- Nonset Path
- Captain Handley Rd.
- Reeve St.
- Alexandra Way
- Harris St. (Main St to end)
- Central St. (Littlefield Rd to the Boxborough Town Line)

Residents will be notified when a start date has been determined. Please note, the duration and schedule can change depending on weather or other conditions that may arise. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this time. If circumstances allow, we are hopeful to do another round of paving in the fall.

Spring Repairs

Sometimes the grass strips and curbs along the roads are damaged while plowing. The Highway Division 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 Division'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 waste, 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

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

THIS MONTH IN SUSTAINABILITY

Power your home with solar

In the last Municipal Monthly we covered the environmental benefits of opting opt to [APC Green](#). This month we want to spotlight another clean energy option: powering your home with solar and getting a discount on your energy bill! You may have heard of net metering, which allows customers to offset their energy use and transfer energy back to their electric companies in exchange for a credit. Here are three steps you can take if you're considering installing solar:

- 1. Find an experienced contractor.** You can find tips on how to find a solar installer on the Eversource site here: <http://bit.ly/30ZBRzD>.
- 2. Set up an appointment.** The contractor will visit your home to determine the solar potential in your location and the appropriate size of the system (based on shading, exposure to sun in your location, energy use, etc.). Based on your current consumption and expected solar energy production, you'll get an idea of the credits you might receive in your monthly bill.
- 3. Follow-up with your contractor and Eversource.** The contractor you work with should notify Eversource about your solar panel installation and prepare the paperwork to set up your net metering system.



You can find additional information about net metering in Massachusetts here: <http://bit.ly/3d1VjBx>

And more information on incentives and programs for solar installations here: <http://bit.ly/30ZvP1X>

Want to lead your own trash clean up? There's a kit for that.

The topic of leading your own clean up and all things waste management in Acton came up at the "Talking Trash and Recycling" virtual event hosted by Corey York, Director of Public Works for the Town of Acton, and Neil Rhein, Founder & Executive Director of the non-profit Keep Massachusetts Beautiful. In case you missed it, you can find the recording of the event here: <https://bit.ly/3IC79WG>.

Save the date! Looking for virtual entertainment? The 13th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival is hosting a live event on Friday, April 30th.

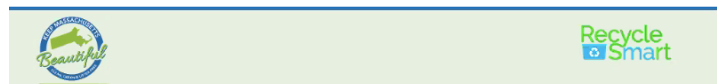
Learn more here: www.oars3rivers.org

A Cleaner Acton (and Planet) Starts With You!

Request a free Litter Cleanup Kit at www.keepmassbeautiful.org/LCC



ONE BAG AT A TIME



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>

LIMITED IN-PERSON BROWSING HOURS

Starting Monday, April 5 Acton Memorial Library's first floor will be open for browsing **10:30 AM - 5:30 PM on Saturdays, 2 PM - 5 PM on Sundays, and 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM on Mondays. No appointment will be necessary.** Please be prepared to wait to enter the library, as capacity will be limited. The children's room and select adult collections will be available for browsing.

We will not offer seating for patrons, computer use, study spaces, in-person technology assistance, or other services besides check out and browsing. We ask that you keep your visit to 30 minutes or less. Masks are required to enter the library. We ask for your continued patience as we are working new processes. We look forward to seeing you in the library soon!

ON-DEMAND CURBSIDE PICKUP

Acton Memorial Library is will continue to offer on-demand curbside hold pickups when the building is not open for browsing. When you receive notice that your hold is available:

1. Come to the library during curbside pickup hours – **Tuesday through Friday between 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM**
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.

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](#) (@ActonMemorialLibrary), [Instagram](#) (@ActonLibrary) and [Twitter](#) (@ActonMemLibrary), or by going to www.actonmemoriallibrary.org.

Home Modification Loan Program

The Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP) provides 0% interest loans up to \$50,000.00, or \$30,000 for mobile homes, to modify homes of elders and individuals with disabilities. Payments are deferred until the transfer of the property.

The mission is to enable a person with a disability to continue to live in his/her home, be as independent as possible and continue to play an active role in his/her community.

Eligibility Requirements

Loans are available to individual homeowners with incomes of up to 200% of median income. The program is not based on credit worthiness. With a 0% deferred payment loan, there are no monthly payments and no added monthly financial burden.

Link to Application: <https://www.smoc.org/pdf/HMLP%202020%20Application.pdf>

Contact Information

Metrowest Area: Amy Cowan Phone: (508) 202-5919 Email: acowan@smoc.org
345 Union Ave, Framingham, MA 01702

For More Information:

<https://www.smoc.org/home-modification-loan-program.php>

New Childcare Subsidy for Income-Eligible Local Families

The Towns of Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard and Westford have been awarded funds from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development through a regional CARES ACT Community Development Block Grant Program to provide COVID-specific relief to local communities.

Childcare Subsidies are available for low to moderate-income families in all five towns. Participating families will receive \$3,000 for children preschool aged or younger and \$2,000 for children in Kindergarten to age 13 towards their daycare or after school costs so that parents and guardians may work, go to school or seek employment. Funds will be allocated to income qualified families on a first come, first serve basis by each Town using the income limits below with a maximum award during the grant year not to exceed \$5,000 per child. Please contact Community Services Coordinator, Laura Ducharme by phone (978-929-6651) or email (lducharme@actonma.gov) for more information on this program.

Household Size	Income Limits (Residents of Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, and Maynard)	Income Limits (Residents of Westford)
2	\$77,000	\$62,800
3	\$86,650	\$70,650
4	\$96,250	\$78,500
5	\$103,950	\$84,800
6	\$111,650	\$91,100
7	\$119,350	\$97,350
8	\$127,050	\$103,650

COMMUNITY SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Application Period Extended: Applications are still being accepted for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program on a first come first serve basis.

This program will provide temporary rental assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of a grant and will be administered through collaboration with the Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO).

Acton Residents who are at or below 100% of the area median income (AMI), which is \$119,000 for a family of four, are eligible to apply.

To request an application, please visit: <https://acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6626/ERAP-Updated-Application---English> or to learn more, please contact Laura Ducharme at lducharme@actonma.gov.

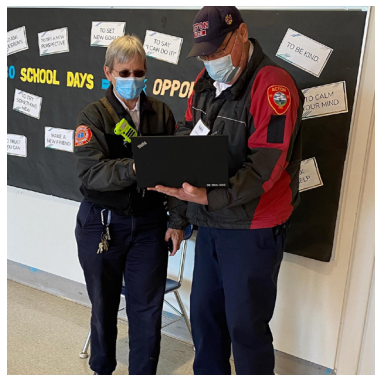
Mortgage Assistance Program

The Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP) is a collaborative effort with the Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO). This program will provide up to \$3,000 in a one-time grant for mortgage relief to eligible residents. The payments from this program will be paid directly to the lender on behalf of the mortgage holder, and be used for past-due payments. The applicant will be responsible for any remaining payment including any escrowed taxes or insurance.

Acton residents are eligible to apply if they are up-to-date with their property taxes and sewer betterment, and have no outstanding violations to the town. Eligible applicants will also need to demonstrate financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have an annual income at or below 100% of the area median income, which is \$119,000 for a family or four.

Eligible properties are restricted to single family homes or condominiums that are owner occupied. Other housing costs, such as condo fees, escrowed insurance or taxes and lines of credit are excluded from this program.

Applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis until funds are exhausted. Download a copy of the application here: <https://acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6661/MAP-Application-v2>. For more information, please contact Laura Ducharme at lducharme@actonma.gov.



[L-R] The Francis Faulkner Meeting Room (Room 204) undergoing several maintenance projects, including plaster restoration, and a new fully-accessible restroom. Photos to the right are from a recently held COVID-19 vaccination clinic, organized by Acton's COVID-19 Response Team at RJ Grey Junior High School.

DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

ACTON TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE - 978-929-6600

<u>Department</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
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	seniorcenter@actonma.gov
Engineering Department	978-929-6630	engineering@actonma.gov
Fire Department	978-929-7722	fire@actonma.gov
Health Division	978-929-6632	health@actonma.gov
Highway Department Transfer Station	978-929-7740 978-929-7742	highway@actonma.gov
Human Resources	978-929-6613	hr@actonma.gov
Information Technology	978-929-6612	it@actonma.gov
Memorial Library	978-929-6655	Visit: actonmemoriallibrary.org
Municipal Properties	978-929-7744	mpo@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	mpo@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	978-929-6611	manager@actonma.gov
Veterans' Services	978-929-6614	vso@actonma.gov
Water District	978-263-9107	Visit: www.actonwater.com