



MUNICIPAL MONTHLY  
APRIL 1, 2024

## TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Welcome to the updated format of the Acton Municipal Monthly. Use the links at the bottom to share!

The Annual Town Election is Tuesday, April 30, 2024 and the Annual Town Meeting is Monday, May 6, 2024.

As you might have heard, the Select Board were required to call a Special Town Meeting for a non-binding article submitted through a citizen's petition. Residents will be receiving a warrant in the mail for this April 17, 2024 Special Town Meeting during the first week of April. Please note, this Special Town Meeting is separate and distinct from the Annual Town Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 6th at 7pm at the Acton/Boxborough High School and will continue on May 7th. Residents will receive an Annual Town Meeting warrant booklet in the mail in mid-April. The warrant booklet will include information on the Town's operating budget that was recently approved by the Finance Committee. More information about the Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting will be posted on the Town website – [www.ActonMa.gov](http://www.ActonMa.gov). View the budget information at [actonma.gov/manager](http://actonma.gov/manager).

The Town of Acton is offering free door-to-door van rides to Town Meeting. CrossTown Connect will have a driver covering the hours from 5:00pm-11:00pm for each night of Town Meeting. Reservations need to be made in advance no later than 12:00pm on Friday, April 28th. Rides can be booked with the CrossTown Connect dispatch at (978) 844-6809. When the van is not in use between 5:00pm-11:00pm, it will be parked in the Acton-Boxborough High School parking lot where Town Meeting is being held. Additional transportation options will be announced in the weeks leading up to Town Meeting as well.



I am very happy to announce that S&P has affirmed our AAA rating for 2024. This allows the Town to borrow funding for capital projects at a lower rate, helping to reduce costs for the Town. Thank you to the

Select Board for their leadership and policy direction to help demonstrate our commitment to financial best practices and thank you to the finance team for their hard work!

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Please join me in congratulating Julie Pierce, Director of Economic and Community Development, as she was honored by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus at the Black Excellence on the Hill event on March 29th at the Massachusetts State House.





Congratulations to Acton Fire Fighter Emil Hristache for graduating from the Massachusetts Fire Academy on Friday March 29, 2024.

Please join me in congratulating Detective Ana Dapkas on her recent assignment to the Special Services Division as a School Resource Officer (SRO). Ana will be covering the Elementary Schools and Collaborative Schools. Ana brings 11 years of patrol service along with 5+ years of experience working for DCF (Department of Child and Family Services). Ana will be a tremendous asset to the unit with her training, experience, and bilingual background.



Did you know that March was National Social Worker Appreciation Month? Acton appreciates our Social Workers and are proud of all the hard work they do. I would like to thank Laura Ducharme and Beth Van Emburgh for their dedication and efforts in supporting our residents.

## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The Acton Transportation Department is introducing a new initiative focused on providing more support to residents. Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, Acton Rides Taxi Service will have no limitations on the number of rides per month thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency. Please visit <https://actonma.gov/626/Transportation-Services> to learn more.



As we get closer to the Annual Town Meeting and Town Elections, I invite you to continue visiting the Town website to view the latest information on elections, FY25 budget, and Annual Town Meeting warrant. Please visit [www.actonma.gov](http://www.actonma.gov)

Sincerely,

John S. Mangiaratti

Town Manager

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY**

This program is for students who are interested in a career in Law Enforcement. Students will learn what it takes to be a police officer.

**Led by:** Detective AJ Rotella Detective Ana Dapkas, LT Scott Krug:

**Youth Police Academy includes:** Crime Scene Investigation, Special Enforcement Unit, Traffic Safety, Special Guest Visitors, Self-Defense, Physical Fitness, Arrest Process, K-9 Unit, Police Vehicles/Units, Graduation Ceremony

Limited Enrollment ~ [Click here to register.](#)



## ACTON CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

For ages 18+

An 8-week program held each Tuesday beginning April 2 through May 21 from 5-7 p.m. at the Public Safety Facility, 371 Main Street in Acton.

**Topics include:** our the Public Safety Facility,

Learn the History of the APD, Patrol Procedures, Traffic Enforcement, Use of Force, Drug Investigations, Dispatch Operations, Domestic Violence, Mental Health Issues, Criminal Investigations, Juveniles, Restorative Justice, Prosecution & Criminal Law

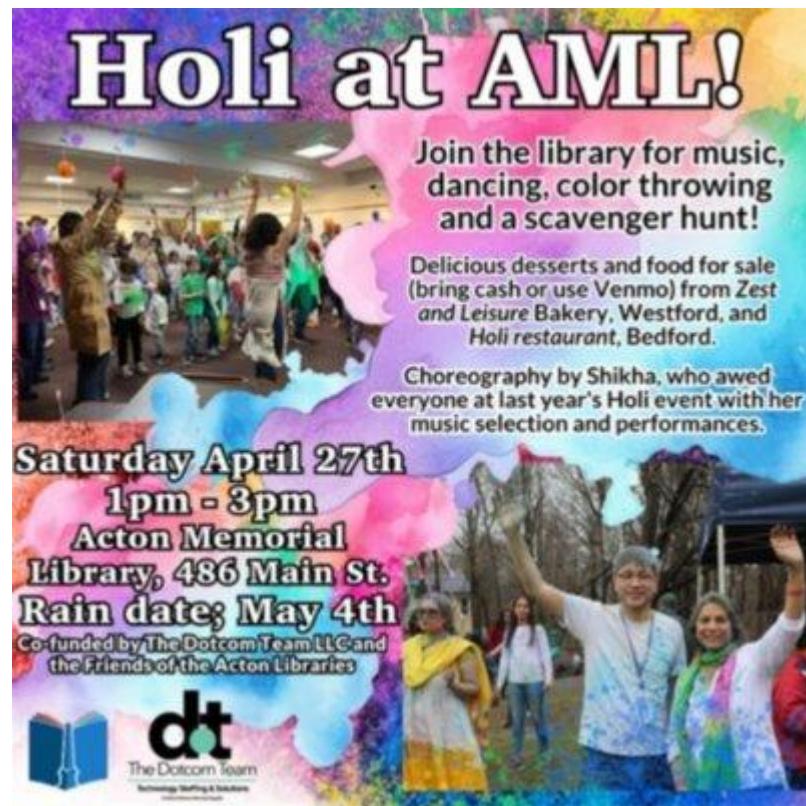
Here is a great opportunity to find out what the Acton Police Department and Dispatch Center do daily. Classes will be taught by officers specializing in each of the subject areas allowing participants to meet many members of the Acton Police Department and be able to ask questions and give feedback.

For more information, contact Lieutenant Scott Krug by e-mail: [skrug@actonma.gov](mailto:skrug@actonma.gov) or 978.929.7537

Limited enrollment: [click here to register.](#)

## ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY





## SUSTAINABILITY

### New EV Chargers Coming to Acton

The Town of Acton currently operates six public Electric Vehicle chargers! With the support of grant funding, the Town is in the process of adding four new Level 2 EV chargers (8 ports) and two new Level 3 fast EV chargers (2 ports), both of which will be available in late spring of 2024!

Visit [actonma.gov/sustainability](http://actonma.gov/sustainability) and click "Public Electric Vehicle Charging" for more information on the locations and pricing of public EV chargers in Acton!

A map of the town of Acton, Massachusetts, showing the locations of various public electric vehicle charging stations. The map highlights several key locations where chargers are either installed or planned.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE PUBLIC CHARGING STATIONS IN ACTON, MA**

The Town of Acton currently hosts 6 public Level 2 (L2) EV chargers [12 ports], 4 L2 EV chargers [8 ports] and 2 Level 3 (L3) EV chargers [2 ports] will be available in late spring of 2024.

**TOWN-OWNED CHARGERS**

- South Acton Commuter Rail Lot - 2 L2 Chargers [4 ports]  
4 Central Street, Acton MA - \$0.35/kWh + parking
- Acton Town Hall - 3 L2 Chargers [6 ports]  
472 Main Street, Acton MA - \$0.35/kWh
- Acton Fire Department - 1 L2 Charger [2 ports]  
68 Harris Street, Acton MA - \$0.35/kWh

**OTHER PUBLIC CHARGERS**

- Discovery Museum - 1 L2 Charger [2 ports]  
177 Main Street, Acton MA - \$0.16/kWh + parking
- Knox Trail - 1 L2 Charger [2 ports]  
36 Knox Trail, Acton MA - \$0.45/kWh
- Nagog Woods - 2 L2 Chargers [4 ports]  
100 Nonset Path, Acton MA - \$3.60/hr

**COMING SOON!**

- Veterans Field - 2 L3 Chargers [2 ports]  
655 Main Street, Acton MA - \$0.45/kWh
- NARA Park - 4 L2 Chargers [8 ports]  
25 Ledge Rock Way, Acton MA - \$0.35/kWh

Map Key:  
● L2 Charger  
● L3 Charger

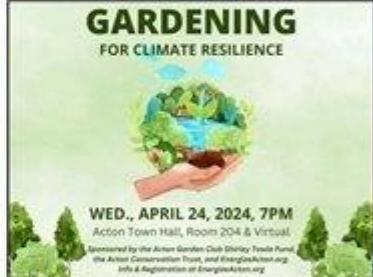
Questions? Contact the Sustainability Office, [sustainability@actonma.gov](mailto:sustainability@actonma.gov) | 978-929-6515

## Upcoming Energize Acton Events

Join Energize Acton on Sunday, April 7th, at 9:30am for a **Community Solar Forum** with Congregation Beth Elohim! Come learn about community solar and celebrate the Congregation's "Sunny Award for Equitable Community Solar"!

Gardening for Climate Resilience will take place on Wednesday, April 24th, at 7pm in Town Hall and virtually. Come hear Trevor Smith, Design and Education Manager for Weston Nurseries, teach about regenerative land care!

Visit [EnergizeActon.org](https://EnergizeActon.org) to register and for more events!



April is **Earth Month**! Keep your eyes peeled for Energize Acton flags, like the one in the image to the right, scattered around Town this month. Stay informed about Earth Month events with Acton's Sustainability Office by checking [actonma.gov/sustainability](http://actonma.gov/sustainability) or by subscribing to Acton's Sustainability Newsletter ([click here](#))!



## Keep Our Stormwater Clean!

Storm drains prevent flooding by diverting rainwater and melted snow off of our land and streets and into local water bodies. Because the water diverted by storm drains is untreated, pollutants can harm local water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and human health.

### Keep these pollutants away from storm drains to protect our water bodies!

- Trash
- Pet waste
- Vehicle fluids
- Fertilizer
- Yard waste
- Sand
- Cigarette butts
- Pesticides/Herbicides

Visit [bit.ly/thinkbluemass](https://bit.ly/thinkbluemass) to watch a video from [Think Blue Massachusetts](#) on reducing polluted runoff and keeping our state's lakes, rivers, and streams clean and healthy!



## COUNCIL ON AGING

### COUNCIL ON AGING MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

- 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: Human Services building at 30 Sudbury Road Rear



- **Contact us** at 978-929-6652 or [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov)
- **Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 am to 5 p.m., Tuesday 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Friday 8 a.m. to 12 noon
- **Visit our website** [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com) to view our newsletter for more information on programs and services and for the latest updates; follow us on Facebook @actoncoa

**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 Police Department Officers are offering ALICE Training** on Tuesday, April 23, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center to teach how to proactively handle the threat of a violent encounter or active shooter event.

**Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is Tuesday, April 30, at 12 noon.** The COA is honoring our contingent of over 100 amazing volunteers who we very much depend on to offer many of our services and programs! If you are a volunteer who hasn't received an invitation by April 16, please contact the COA office.

#### **Local Interest:**

**Java with John** with Town Manager John Mangiaratti, **Friday, April 12 at 9:45 a.m.** following the monthly breakfast

#### **Lifelong Learning and Entertainment:**

- **Learn about upcoming trip to Iceland**, Tuesday, April 2 at 1 p.m.
- **What is Bigfoot? Presentation with Discovery Channel's Ronny Le Blanc**, Tuesday, April 2 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Selling Your Home**: Alternatives to MLS Listing, Wednesday, April 10 at 11 a.m.
- **From Lexington to Yorktown**: Revolution, Independence and the Birth of the US, Thursday, April 11 at 1 p.m.
- **Big Band Music Presentation**, Thursday, April 25 at 1 p.m.
- **Shifting Gears Driver Education** presentation with Michele Ellicks from the RMV, Tuesday, April 30 at 1 p.m.

#### **Classes:**

- **The spring session of drawing and watercolor** class begins Tuesday April 9, at 9:30 a.m.; registration begins Monday, April 1 at 1 p.m.
- **Line dancing** begins Wednesday, April 24 at 2:30 p.m.

#### **Entertainment:**

- **Elvis Tribute** with Calvin Benelli, Wednesday, April 10 at 2:30 pm
- **Cro-Magnon Blues**: History and Legends Through Song with Jon Waterman, Tuesday, April 9 at 1 p.m.; funded by a grant from the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council

#### **Health and Wellness Programs:**

- **Asking for Help and Accepting Care** presentation, Thursday, April 4, 1 p.m.
- **Pelvic Floor Health** lecture, Tuesday, April 16 at 1 p.m.

- **Memory Lane Café** for people with memory impairment and their care partners, Tuesday, April 30 at noon
- **Weekly visits from therapy dog Bodacious**, Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon
- **Exercise classes** for a variety of fitness levels as well as line dancing and a gym with senior-friendly equipment

#### **Literature programs:**

- **Book group** is discussing *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende on Tuesday, April 9 at 10 a.m.
- **Poet of the Month:** learn about the work of 17<sup>th</sup> century poet Anne Bradstreet via Zoom on Thursday, April 4 at 10:30 a.m.
- **LitLovers Study Group** is discussing John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* on Tuesday, April 23 at 2:30 p.m.

#### **Meals:**

The **Minuteman Senior Service (MMSS) dining site** offers in-person lunches Monday through Thursday at noon for \$2 donation. Anyone celebrating a birthday receives a free lunch the fourth Tuesday of the month! Grab and Go lunches are offered Monday through Friday. Sign up for lunch at least 24-hours in advance in person or by phone 781-221-7098.

**Our popular lunch café, Bistro 30**, is open 11:30-1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays for people of all ages, new menu each week, \$6/item. The COA also partners with Open Table to provide **free frozen meals** to bring home.

Make a reservation with the Council on Aging for **special culinary events**:

- **Rotary Club Dinner**, Tuesday, April 2, 5:00 pm, stuffed shells, free
- **Lunch with Chef McGuire**, Tuesday, April 9 at noon, American chop suey, \$3 donation
- **Monthly breakfast**, Friday, April 12 at 9:00 am, \$3; followed at 9:45 by Java with John
- **Benchmark at Robbins Brook** lunch, Tuesday, April 16 at noon, baked ham, \$3
- **Friends of the Acton COA Honoring Excellence Dinner** with wine and live jazz trio, Tuesday, April 23 at 5 p.m., free

#### **Become a Senior Trail Blazer!**

Walking a few short, fun, easy trails this fall is a great way to exercise and enjoy Acton's natural beauty. Bring along a friend and make it a social time as well! Contact the COA or visit [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com) and look under "News" for the guide to the four "senior approved" local trails or request a copy from the Council on Aging. All the trails are easy to get to and have accessible parking spots. Developed in collaboration with Acton's Natural Resource and Health Divisions. If you would like a certificate for taking all four walks, email [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov).

## **ACTON'S 250th COMMITTEE NEWS**



#### **Countdown to April 19, 1775: The Gathering with J.L. Bell - Tuesday, April 2nd, 7 P.M., Acton Town Hall, Room 204**

Noted historian and author **J. L. Bell** will be speaking on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 PM in Room 204, Acton Town Hall, 472 Main Street, Acton, MA. Please register for the talk at: <http://tinyurl.com/APR-02-Bell>, or use the QR code above. **Remote Participation:** You can participate in the Q&A using ZOOM

<http://tinyurl.com/Acton250-ZOOM> or watch live at Acton TV <http://tinyurl.com/Acton-TV>.

### **Acton Center Walking Tours with Amy Bell - Saturday, April 6 & Friday, April 12**

Please meet Amy Cole at the Acton Memorial Library parking lot at 1:50 PM. The walk is free, but registration is required and capped at 20 attendees for each walk.

Registration links:

1. **Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** : <http://tinyurl.com/APR-6-Cole>

2. **Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**: <http://tinyurl.com/APR-12-Cole>

Patriots' Day is coming soon! Get in the spirit by taking a nice walk while learning about some important Acton history. Because of the popularity of these offerings last year, extra Acton Center tours have been scheduled with tour leader Amy Cole.

If you are not aware of our programming activities, please see <https://www.actonma.gov/250>. Please consider supporting programming at our commemorative memorabilia site at <http://tinyurl.com/Acton-250-Commemorative>.

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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We are in full gear as we are preparing for another exciting summer full of fun!

Join one of new classes this spring! We have a variety offered ranging from ***Super Soccer Stars for ages 2-7, Tennis for youth and adults, Archery, One-Day Conservation Hikes, Adaptive sports, Women's Pick-up Soccer and Basketball, CPR-AED-First Aid Certification and more coming like Pickleball!*** [Click here to view program offerings](#) and be sure to check back frequently as we continue to add more programs.

The Department is receiving many field and facility requests so if you are thinking about having your outing at one of our facilities or fields, please submit your application for use. [Click here to view information, FAQs and/or obtain inquiry form about our rentals and availability.](#)



### **ONLINE REGISTRATION LINKS FOR NARA CAMP AND CAMP HILL TOP**

Please don't delay, some sessions have already filled and some are getting close to capacity.

[Click here for information and/or online registration forms for NARA Camp.](#)

[Click here for information and/or online registration forms for Camp Hill Top.](#)



## NARA BOARDWALK UPDATE



**Reconstruction of the boardwalk at NARA is almost complete!** The project is expected to be complete in mid-April by M.J. Cataldo Inc. with construction engineering services provided by Comprehensive Environmental Inc.

The reconstruction entailed the removal the existing boardwalk, drilling helical piles into the pond's substrate, then building a similar boardwalk using long lasting Trex wood-alternative composite decking and railings. Trex is made from eco-friendly composite blend 95% recycled plastic and reclaimed sawdust. Funding was provided by an earmark grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Community Preservation Act.

This boardwalk is an essential link of the half-mile loop trail around the pond with benches located every 200 feet. The original boardwalk was constructed in 1999, original design by Natural Resources Director, Tom Tidman, constructed by the Natural Resources Crew, supervised by Land Stewards Bob Guba and Dick Tavernier.



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