

# The Town of Barnstable

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### Town of Barnstable Fireworks Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Hyannis, MA – May 19, 2022)** The Town of Barnstable has been notified by Mass Wildlife that due to close proximity to endangered species, the Town's [4<sup>th</sup> of July] fireworks display cannot proceed as planned. The Town will use its rain date of Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, September 3, 2022.

**FIREWORKS BACKGROUND:** For many years the Town of Barnstable's 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display has been occurring in Lewis Bay. The location of the fireworks barge in Lewis Bay has met buffer requirements from Kalmus Beach where there is a known population of piping plovers and least terns which are endangered nesting shorebirds. Within the last 15 years, Great Island in Yarmouth began changing and accreting northward towards the Lewis Bay barge location. Starting in 2009, the landform (now called Smith Point) had developed enough for piping plovers and least terns to nest. These populations were being monitored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society who reported data annually to Mass Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program ("NHESP"). See images provided below.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, at approximately noon, the Town was notified by NHESP that the barge was too close to Smith Point. NHESP requested that the fireworks display be cancelled or that the noise be removed from the display. This request was not achievable due to the barge being loaded with explosives. The barge and surrounding area becomes a "no entry zone" and aborting the fireworks shoot was not an option. It was because of the above safety concerns that the 2021 fireworks were deployed. The display was documented by NHESP as a violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Town has been in negotiations to agree upon a mitigation plan.

Recently, NHESP has advised the Town of Barnstable that future fireworks will need to be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the barge location must be adjusted away from Smith Point as well as Kalmus Beach. Due to the expanded radius, there is not a suitable area for the fireworks barge to be anchored within Lewis Bay. Alternative locations were explored. However, to best suit the needs of safe operation for the Town of Barnstable none of these alternative locations were viable. Moving the fireworks display to Labor Day became the only option as plover and tern nesting activities are no longer a concern in September.

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## 2007 Aerial With Fireworks Barge Location



Figure 1: Barge location as approved in 2007. Piping plover (state and federally listed “threatened”) and least tern (state listed “special concern”) identified on Kalmus Beach.

## 2017 Aerial With Fireworks Barge Location

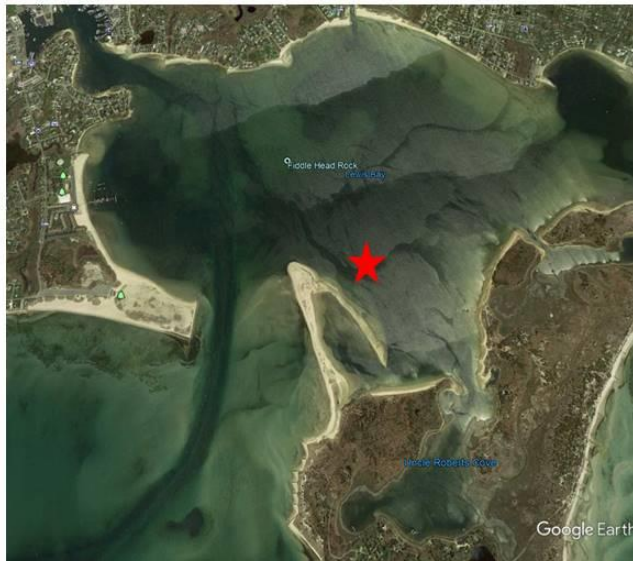


Figure 2: Approximate barge location as approved in 2007 with new land forms extending from Great Island called “Smith Point.” Piping plover (state and federally listed “threatened”) first noted on Smith Point in 2009 and least tern (state listed “special concern”) first identified on Smith Point in 2017.

A variety of celebrations for July 4<sup>th</sup> will be held in the Town’s villages. The information we have received to date is listed below.

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## Sunday, July 3, 2022

- 11 AM WIANNO ANNUAL JULY 4TH PARADE** – golf carts, fire truck, children on bikes and a few antique cars. From the JA building on Washington Avenue in a circle to Sea View Avenue passing in front of the Wianno Club at 107 Sea View.

## Monday, July 4, 2022

- 9 AM BARNSTABLE-WEST BARNSTABLE PARADE & HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST** - 4th of July-themed parade through Barnstable Village and youth activities after at the Hollow playground area. Rain Date: July 5. Visit <https://www.barnstablevillage.org/4th-of-july-2021>.
- 9 AM CENTERVILLE** - Children gather at Centerville Elementary, 10 AM Fire Truck leads onto Bay Lane, right onto Bumps River Road, Left onto Park Avenue, Right onto Main Street, Arrive at Centerville Recreation Center rear Parking. Serve grilled hot dogs, cold drinks and ice cream. Face painting by Church Ladies. Field games by Troop 54: sack race, field bowling, musical chairs, candy scavenge. Awards for best costume, best float, best bike, ugliest dog. Presented by the [Centerville Civic Association](#).
- 10 AM COTUIT** - The Parade begins on School Street, then left on Main Street and continues down Main Street to the prior Cotuit Elementary School. The termination point is the public field behind the old school building. Presented by the [Cotuit Civic Association](#).
- 11 AM HYANNIS PORT MINI-MARATHON & PARADE** - The traditional fun run starts at the Post Office at 9 AM followed by the parade at 11 AM beginning at the Hyannisport Post Office on Longwood Avenue; taking a left onto Washington Avenue; a right onto Lafayette Avenue; left onto Winchester Avenue; a left onto Scudder Avenue and continuing onto Dale Avenue to the West Beach Club, where it will end. [West Beach Club](#).
- 2-9 PM DOWNTOWN HYANNIS** - The traditional Hyannis Marina Boat Parade with best viewing locations at Bismore Park kicks off the afternoon. Hyannis Main Street will be vibrant and lively with food, music, lights and experiences the whole family will enjoy. Come spend the afternoon and evening. Live music and dance at the Village Green and on each block of the mile-long street. **THE CAPE SYMPHONY** presents a special FREE 4th of JULY CONCERT AT ASELTON PARK! This performance, entitled “Cape Symphony’s Joy 4 July,” will kick off a new annual tradition. Artistic Director & Conductor Jung Ho-Pak has designed a special performance blending pop, Broadway, patriotic, and Americana music. Details on all the programming is being finalized. More announcements coming soon. <https://townofbarnstable.us/>