



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Office: 508.862.4610

Fax: 508.790.6226

www.townofbarnstable.us

Citizens' Resource Line: 508.862.4925

Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us

M. Andrew Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager

andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us

April 15, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for April 2, 2025, through April 15, 2025

1. We have commenced review of the FY 2026 Capital Budget and continue with the preparation of the Operating Budget for FY 2026. We are on schedule with the budget action calendar. Town Council hearings on the recommended FY 2026 Capital Budget commence April 17th and May 1st. The Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Plan is available on the Town's website at the link provided below and printed copies have been provided to the Town Council. [FY2026-2030 Capital Plan](#) The School Committee met on April 2, 2025 to review and approved the [FY 2026 School Operating Budget](#). The Town Manager Fiscal Year 2026 proposed fee hearing was conducted on March 18, 2025. The proposed FY 2026 fees are posted on the Town Manager website. Comments may be submitted through Thursday, April 17th. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) released the Final 2025 Intended Use Plans (IUPs) detailing the projects, borrowers, and amounts that will be offered financing through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan programs for this year's financing cycle. [2025 Final SRF Intended Use Plans | Mass.gov](#) The IUP did not substantially change from previous years, resulting in DEP committing to fund Barnstable's listed projects in carryover projects (Route 28 West Sewer Expansion and Nitrogen Removal Improvements and New Headworks Facility) and including Barnstable's Phinney's Lane Neighborhood and Centerville Village Sewer Expansion Projects as new listed projects. This funding commitment keeps those projects eligible for the principal subsidy from the Cape Cod & Islands Wastewater Trust Fund. MassDEP did identify funding concerns and flagged limited additional funds to address increased costs. Barnstable has offered to continue to actively participate in discussions with MassDEP regarding strategies to maintain the State Revolving Fund as a financially viable resource in the future. I will keep the Town Council and public advised as this matter progresses.

3. On April 9, 2025, I participated as a panelist for a webinar offered by Massachusetts Municipal Association covering strategies to help municipal leaders launch and run a citizen's academy. Citizen Academies are educational programs designed to help residents gain better understanding of the daily operations of local government. The Academies can foster greater community involvement, encourage participation on local boards and commissions, and strengthen relationships and understanding between residents and local government. Barnstable's Inside Barnstable Town Government program has held 29 sessions commencing in 2003, graduating over 1000 participants. Barnstable is one of the Commonwealth's longest standing and most successful citizen academies. I have received numerous inquiries regarding our Inside Barnstable Town Government Academy, our Police Academy and our Employee Academy. We plan to continue to provide our community with accurate information regarding the programs and services our organization offers to those who live and work and visit Barnstable. For the last 22 years Barnstable's staff has successfully engaged our public in their local government and it was a pleasure to share the details of our efforts.
4. We are pleased to announce that Barnstable Government Access (BGA) television is now more accessible than ever. Viewers can now watch BGA programming through a dedicated app available on both Apple and Android smartphones, as well as popular streaming platforms including Roku, Apple TV, and Amazon Fire Stick. To find the app you can search the word "Barnstable" on your device to download it today. You can continue to find BGA on Xfinity channels 8 and 1070 and in High-Definition on channel 1072. With this expansion, you can stream BGA live from anywhere and stay connected with a variety of local programming. Tune in to watch Town Council meetings, Zoning Board of Appeals sessions, and original shows such as Discover Barnstable, my show Barnstable in Focus, and much more. Over the past few years, BGA has continued to enhance its services, including launching a High-Definition Xfinity channel and adding closed captioning to all video-on-demand content, livestreams, and re-broadcasts—whether you're watching on TV, online, or through the new app. This latest upgrade reflects BGA's ongoing commitment to making local government and community programming more accessible and convenient for all residents.
5. The Barnstable County Administrator has announced that the Offices of U.S. Senators Markey and Warren, in partnership with Barnstable County Government, will host the Second Cape & Islands Dredging Summit on Thursday, May 15, 2025 from 10:00 AM to noon in person at the Mary Pat Flynn Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex, 3195 Main Street, Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630 or hybrid. Recognizing the recent deep challenges communities have experienced with navigating the dredging permitting process, this working summit will convene Cape leaders and officials with staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state agencies such as the Division of Marine Fisheries, Department of Environmental Protection, and Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management for a discussion on dredging permitting, and an update on what has happened over the past year. More information will be coming in the next two weeks. In the meantime, please save this date.

6. Laurel Schaider, Senior Scientist with Silent Spring Institute, has invited me to be a featured speaker in an upcoming webinar on April 17th, 12:00-1:00 pm. This is part of a new webinar series that STEEP (Sources, Transport, Exposures & Effects of PFAS) is launching called "[PFAS on Cape Cod – Connecting Communities with Science for Solutions](#)." Their goal is to combine researchers from the STEEP team with community leaders from Cape Cod to talk about how PFAS are affecting communities on the Cape, how STEEP researchers are advancing our knowledge on PFAS, and how scientists and communities can work together for solutions. I have been asked to speak about my perspectives leading a town that has been tackling PFAS in groundwater and surface waters, and how I think that researchers can work with communities to promote change. On April 17th, the other speaker will be Dr. Heidi Pickard, who recently graduated with her PhD from Harvard University. Dr. Pickard will be speaking about her studies of PFAS in fish, mainly on the Upper Cape.
7. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager, will provide an update on the Quality of Life working group that is focused on enforcement matters across all Town departments.
8. Kelly Collopy, Department of Public Works Communications Manager, will provide an update on Water Resources including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.
9. James Kupfer, Director of Planning and Development, will provide an update on the Local Comprehensive Plan and other major efforts.