



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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May 12, 2026

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for April 30, 2026, through May 12, 2026

1. We remain on schedule with the budget action calendar. The Fiscal Year 2027 proposed operating budget will be released on Wednesday, May 13th by the end of the working day. The proposed General Fund budget is increasing \$8,391,161 to \$233,618,861, or 3.73% over the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget. The municipal operations budget is increasing \$1,113,301 or 2.1%; the school operations budget is increasing \$2,813,431 or 3%, and other requirements are increasing \$4,464,420, or 5.7%. In addition, the Fiscal Year 2027 budget includes funding for a snow and ice deficit occurring in 2026 of \$3.2 million. The town's nine enterprise fund budgets are collectively increasing \$5,847,864 to \$58,835,040, or 11%. Much of the increase in the enterprise fund budgets is due to an increase in debt service payments for loans issued to finance water and sewer infrastructure projects. Hard copies on the budget document will be provided to the Town Council prior to the public hearings on the operating budget which are scheduled to begin at the June 11, 2026 Town Council meeting. The first reading of the operating budget appropriation orders will take place at the May 28, 2026 Town Council meeting. The [Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Improvement Plan](#) is available on the Town's website at the link provided. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. At the April 29, 2026 Town Council meeting, I was asked to prepare and send a letter (attached) to the Senate and Cape Delegation stating support from the Town of Barnstable for funding to continue PFAS research by Silent Spring Institute in Hyannis. The letter was sent on May 7, 2026. On May 11, 2026, Senator Cyr's office communicated with us the follow via email: "On behalf of Senator Cyr, thank you for sharing Mr. Ells letter with our office. Senator Cyr has filed Amendment 1108, PFAS Exposure Study, to appropriate \$25,000 to Silent Spring

Institute for the Hyannis study.” We will keep you advised of progress on this amendment.

3. The Executive Committee of the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund Management Board met regarding the current version of the Environmental Bond Bill (S.3064 An Act to Build Resilience for Massachusetts Communities). We have previously written to express our strong support for the \$450 million bonding authorization for clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure included in the bill. State Revolving Fund (SRF) capacity to support projects through the Clean Water Intended Use Plan is a significant concern on Cape Cod as it will drastically impact the ability of our communities to implement critical water quality projects and the proposed authorization will ensure communities across the Commonwealth can continue to rely on SRF monies. The current version of the bill provides preferential treatment for all discretionary or competitive grant programs made available through the bill - one of which is the Clean Water SRF program - to municipalities that have zoning or land use policies that encourage the production of housing sufficient to meet Commonwealth housing goals (see section 108, lines 3516 through 3529), such as wastewater and wetlands standards that do not exceed state health or environmental standards. This is problematic. As the Legislature has long recognized through numerous special acts over the last decade, the ecological conditions unique to Cape Cod require special consideration. Local standards that protect water resources and the environment are necessary due to the unique hydrogeology of Cape Cod and should not be seen as tools that discourage housing production. I will keep you advised as the Environmental Bond Bill progresses toward approval.

**4. Beach/Ways to Water Parking Permit Update**

The Recreation Division has processed over 13,000 Resident Parking Permits to date. We encourage all residents to apply as soon as they can to avoid delays. Beach Parking Permit Applications can be filled out: online, mailed in, or dropped off at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center, 141 Bassett Lane, Hyannis. If you need assistance, please contact the Parking Permit Hotline at 508-790-6345 x145. Town of Barnstable staff will begin verifying permits at beach parking lots starting Saturday, May 23rd.

**5. Beach Operations Update**

Beginning on Friday, June 19th, the Town of Barnstable will have gate attendants, supervisors and limited lifeguards at our beaches, ponds, and lakes. Beaches will be open seven days a week from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM through Labor Day.

On Friday, June 26th, all beaches will be without lifeguard coverage as our Aquatics Staff will be participating in joint training exercises with our local Fire

Departments. This training will take place at Craigville Beach and parking in the East Lot will be restricted until 12:30 PM.

Again this season we have faced challenges recruiting aquatic staff, specifically lifeguards. We expect significant lifeguard shortages again this summer, which will impact our ability to have coverage at all locations. Currently, we anticipate having full staff, including lifeguards, starting on Saturday, June 27th, at Craigville Beach, Dowses Beach, Covell's Beach, Kalmus Beach, and Veteran's Beach. To assist the public with their summer plans, we will continue to communicate our staffing operations.

Ensuring public safety is our top priority. The Recreation Division is working to provide lifeguard staff at as many sites as possible. However, we advise the public that due to limited staffing, some sites may not have lifeguard coverage and swimmers will be at their own risk.

6. **Hyannis Youth & Community Center**

The Hyannis Youth & Community Center (HYCC) will implement new summer weekend hours. Beginning on Saturday, June 27th, through Sunday, September 6th, the HYCC will be open to the public from **noon until 8:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays**. The facility will be open **Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM**.

7. We are pleased to announce that Sandy Neck Beach Park is open, though some construction is still underway. Please stay alert and be mindful while driving throughout the park. The ORV beach is open daily from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM, the speed limit is strictly 5 MPH. Campfires are permitted starting at 7:00 PM or at sunset, whichever comes first. The gatehouse is open daily from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM. ORV permits are available through our online system and must be picked up at the gatehouse. A handicap-accessible ramp is located at the far (east) end of the lower parking lot. The Town of Barnstable also invites you to celebrate our community, our coastline, and our shared commitment to the environment with a Grand Re-Opening Celebration on Thursday May 21st from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM with a Ribbon Cutting at 11:00 AM. There will be music, and refreshments will be offered by the Curb Café. We're excited to welcome everyone back!
8. This weekend the Town's Open Space Committee will be hosting their Spring Walking Weekend. As a part of this annual event that celebrates the Town's many beautiful nature walks, the committee will be offering a new guided walk along the Town's recently completed multi-use path in Hyannis on Ocean Street to Kalmus Beach. This walk will commence on Friday, May 15th at 10:00 AM with participants meeting at the JFK Hyannis Museum.