



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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**Mark S. Ells, Town Manager**

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July 14, 2026

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager Update for June 24, 2026, through July 14, 2026

1. With more hot weather predicted this week please be mindful of safety during such weather events. Cape Cod remains in Level 2 Drought status. I have provided a link to the state's website advising relative to drought conditions for your use. [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status?\\_ga=2.3804024.994881929.1784038619-373715957.1576081157&\\_gl=1\\*1rfnnvr\\*\\_ga\\*MzczNzE1OTU3LjE1NzYwODExNTc.\\*\\_ga\\_MCLPEGW7WM\\*czE3ODQwNDI5NDUkbzgxJGcxJHoxNzg0MDQyOTQ1JGo2MCRsMCRoMA](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status?_ga=2.3804024.994881929.1784038619-373715957.1576081157&_gl=1*1rfnnvr*_ga*MzczNzE1OTU3LjE1NzYwODExNTc.*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*czE3ODQwNDI5NDUkbzgxJGcxJHoxNzg0MDQyOTQ1JGo2MCRsMCRoMA).
2. The Town of Barnstable is currently navigating a significant fiscal challenge requiring a shift from the annual use of reserves for operating budgets as this is not a sustainable strategy and the generation of additional revenue to create a sustainable fiscal budget strategy. A sustainable operating budget strategy coupled with a need to proceed with priority capital projects has resulted in the Town Council needing to examine its fiscal policies and revenue strategy as we proceed with the priorities of our community. While the Town relies heavily on property taxes, state-mandated caps under Proposition 2½ prevent revenue from keeping pace with rising operating and capital costs. To address this challenge, Town Manager Mark Ells and Finance Director Mark Milne will review with the Town Council several balancing measures, including reducing public services, increasing local fees, or pursuing tax overrides and debt exclusions as potential future strategies to manage these challenges. Ultimately, the Town must identify new revenue streams, such as the Water Infrastructure Investment Fund and property tax overrides, to bridge the gap between its operating and capital needs and available resources. Please follow closely and participate in this matter as examining these critical fiscal management issues is a priority for our community.
3. This is a reminder that the Town of Barnstable has processed the FY 2027 Preliminary Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills, which will be mailed to property owners shortly. Preliminary tax

bills are calculated at 50% of the total taxes assessed for the previous fiscal year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

**Payment Due Dates:**

First Installment: August 3, 2026

Second Installment: November 2, 2026

**Payment Options:**

**By Mail:**

Please mail payments to:

Town of Barnstable

PO Box 848213

Boston, MA 02284

**Online:**

Payments may be made online through Invoice Cloud Online Payment Portal using the “Pay Taxes” quick link on the town’s home page.

**In Person:**

Payments may be made at the Tax Collector's Office:

Town Hall

367 Main Street

Hyannis, MA 02601

For questions regarding your tax bill or payment options, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 508-862-4054

4. As a follow up to prior communications, the Town’s new budget transparency program is available on the Town’s website under the Finance Division. The site includes detailed information on the Town’s revenue, expenditures, demographics, and approved capital projects for Fiscal Year 2027. The Town will continue to work on fine tuning the site to improve its efficiency.
5. Following the approval of Town Council, the Town of Barnstable is now an active member of the Barnstable County Shared Regional Housing Services Program. The Town is formally a member starting July 1st of this year. The service will provide virtual office hours, technical assistance, and provide regional resources. Additionally, the program will provide the Town with an in-depth audit of our existing subsidized housing inventory and monitoring of affordable housing units listed on the inventory moving forward. We look forward to this strategic partnership to better understand our affordable housing needs. To learn more please visit the County webpage: <https://www.capecod.gov/departments/human-services/initiatives/housing-homelessness/shared-regional-housing-services/>

6. We have been receiving more frequent complaints about the use of leaf blowers, especially during early mornings and evenings. As a general reminder it is kindly requested that community-wide leaf blower etiquette is followed to respect our neighborhood environment. To promote courteous use of leaf blowers by our residents and your contractors, it is recommended that use is limited to the following hours:

- Weekdays: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Weekends: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Thank you for consideration of this request.

7. In May of this year our Governor filed legislation (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S3077>) to strengthen public safety and regulate micromobility devices, like e-bikes, scooters and mopeds. *An Act to enhance the safe use of micromobility devices*, otherwise known as the “Ride Safe Act,” builds on recommendations from a statewide commission created under Governor Healey’s Mass Leads Act and responds directly to growing safety concerns on Massachusetts roads, sidewalks and bike lanes, positioning Massachusetts as a national leader in regulating emerging transportation technologies. Please put safe transportation as a top priority in your own and your children’s operating of such devices. I observe the use of e-bikes, scooters and mopeds on our roadway and at time sidewalks. These devices are not to be used on our sidewalks which are designed for pedestrians. Let’s use practical safety precautions to keep our community safe.
8. Kelly Collopy, DPW Communications Manager, will provide a Water Resources Update including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.