



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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October 13, 2026

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for September 30, 2026, through October 13, 2026

1. The Town Manager has issued instructions to municipal departments for FY 2028 operating and capital budgets, and the budget action calendar. We are proceeding as outlined in the budget calendar. The calendar year rate hearings for the Town Manager-approved fees are scheduled for November 13, 2026. A workshop on a draft Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program is scheduled for this Thursday's Town Council meeting. Additional workshops with Town Council are anticipated in future months, commencing in November, to discuss the establishment of a Water Infrastructure Investment Fund, Town Council-approved fees, and asset management, as we continue to discuss fiscal policy and revenue strategy. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. Town Clerk Ann Quirk reminds us that In-Person Early Voting starts on Saturday, October 17, 2026, and runs through Friday, October 30, 2026. Hours are 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday, and Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. All early voting takes place at 200 Main Street, Hyannis. You can call the Town Clerk's Office at 508-862-4044 for more information.
3. The Town of Barnstable's Open Space Committee will be hosting their annual **Fall Walking Weekend** event on the weekend of **Friday, October 16, 2026, through Sunday, October 18, 2026**. This much-anticipated weekend event offers an opportunity for residents and visitors to explore Barnstable's scenic open spaces, with eight interactive walks planned over the course of the weekend. Each walk will be led by experienced local guides who will narrate points of interest along the way, offering participants insights into the natural beauty, history, and environmental significance of Barnstable's unique landscapes. For more information on the individual walks, please review the brochure on the Town's website: barnstable.gov/openspacecommittee

4. **Opening day of oyster season is Wednesday November 4, 2026!** Oysters have been planted to either side of the landing at Scudder's Lane, with a low tide of ~1:30PM and is a +1.00 tide. Oysters have also been planted off of the Cotuit Town Dock in the Cotuit Bay Relay Area (to the left of the landing if you are facing the water). This is located off Oyster Place Rd, Cotuit. Low tide here will be closer to 2:00PM and is also a +1.00 tide. Shellfishing is prohibited after sunset. On opening day, sunset is 4:34 PM. Water quality pending, North Bay will open to shellfishing on Sunday November 1, 2026. The total weekly limit allowed on a recreational permit will be one half (1/2) peck (5 quarts dry measure) per shellfishing week. The Bay Street relay area has been stocked with quahogs (to the right of the landing if you are facing the water). This area will be recreational only through the end of the year and will also open to commercial harvest effective January 1, 2027.
5. The 31st session of *Inside Barnstable Town Government, A Citizens Leadership Academy* will begin Tuesday, January 12, 2027. The academy is a 13-week commitment with the goal of educating the citizens of Barnstable about the operations of town government, while also obtaining valuable feedback and participation from those citizens participating in the academy. The program is designed to advance understanding of and participation in civic affairs as well as to increase awareness of the challenges facing municipal government. Inside Barnstable Town Government began in 2003. To date, over 1,000 Barnstable residents and employees have participated in the program. The classes will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:30 PM and will be held in various locations throughout the Town. The classes will be conducted by Town staff and will provide interactive learning experiences, group discussions, and site tours. **The program is free of charge and open to anyone who resides or works in the Town of Barnstable.** Class size is limited. Please register early to avoid the waiting list. Applications are available at the Town Manager's Office, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, or online at <https://barnstable.gov/Departments/TownManager/Citizens-Academy.asp>.
6. Kelly Collopy, DPW Communications Manager, will provide a Water Resources Update, including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.