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From: **President CEO** <[president@natick4th.org](mailto:president@natick4th.org)>

Date: Sun, Feb 21, 2021 at 4:28 PM

Subject: 2021 Natick 4th of July Parade

To: <[selectboard@natickma.org](mailto:selectboard@natickma.org)>

Dear Chairperson Freeman and members of the Select Board,

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the 4th have discussed this extremely difficult decision and have decided to cancel the traditional parade this year. There are many factors that lead to our decision including the uncertain timeline for the vaccinations, return to larger gatherings, the safety of our parade participants and attendees, and the financial obligations involved in putting on a traditional parade.

We understand how important this tradition is to many residents and this year, we wanted to offer something for the holiday weekend. We are thinking outside the box, and planning to have a Float House contest with scavenger hunt. The Float House idea came to us from the amazing photos out of New Orleans for Mardi Gras this year.

We feel this year, we can have a fun event with appropriate social distancing and masks, just not the traditional parade. We hope the residents of Natick will participate by decorating their stoops, porches and front lawns into stationary 4th of July themed floats! Participants will be able to register their Float House through our website and Facebook pages to receive a QR code for viewers to vote for the best one. The top 4 will receive a gift certificate to a local restaurant.

We are also coordinating with the Natick Cultural District to have the local downtown businesses participate in their own decorating competition.

As you know, we are a non-profit that depends solely on donations and sponsorships and we believe that it would be irresponsible for us to ask for both during these difficult financial times. We ask if you are able, please donate to the Natick Service Council to help those in our Community who need assistance.

We will see you for the 2022 traditional 4th of July parade!

All my best,  
Peg Waters  
President of Natick Friends of the 4th  
Pronouns: she, her, hers