



**AMERICAN LEGION  
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Joseph Fischetti, Commander**

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## **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE 2012 PARADE PARKING**

When the annual Memorial Day parade was rerouted several years ago with a new starting/ending point, most aspects of the parade were improved but one major issue developed: **PARKING!** The previous start point on Station Avenue offered a number of parking options including Court Street, the Electric Light Department and Buckingham Bus lots, the town hall and (then) Bank Boston lots, and both sides of Main Street east of Station Avenue. The downside was that the parade route was several blocks longer and everyone had to walk several blocks back to their cars. The new route means we start and end at the same point and we do not have children and other participants trying to cross a very busy Main Street, but parking is **EXTREMELY LIMITED** in the area around Legion Hall. **ALL streets along the parade route MUST BE KEPT CLEAR** to avoid situations where pedestrians, especially small children, suddenly appear from between parked cars.

We are asking you to begin discussing transportation and parking needs with your group now so we can minimize the parking issue. There are several areas where parade participants and spectators can help with parking.

1. Please ask all of your participants who are able to walk to and from the Legion Hall area are asked to do so -- a substantial number of the veterans walk to and from the parade, even a number of World War II veterans who are in their 80's!
2. Please ask other participants in your group to carpool wherever possible so that we minimize the number of vehicles needing parking spaces -- if carpooling from your homes is not feasible, please consider something along the lines of dropping participants at Legion Hall, driving to a more remote lot like the high school, and carpooling the drivers back to the Legion Hall area.
3. If equipment such as flags, instruments, or rifles are involved, please try to arrange something along the lines of item number 2 to help minimize the parking requirements in the Legion Hall area -- one of the bands in last year's parade planned on its own to park and meet at the Sacred Heart church parking lot and EVERYBODY walked to Legion Hall.

4. If some of your participants are unable to walk from a distant parking area due to medical or other concerns, please try to arrange rides from distant parking areas to drop them off at Legion Hall with a driver taking the car to a distant lot and walking back -- some of our veterans fall into this category due to age and/or war wounds and they generally get rides from other participants.

We understand fully that not everyone can make arrangements to avoid driving to and from the parade but the more help your group can provide, the easier the parking situation will become. Your assistance and cooperation in this area will be greatly appreciated and will contribute greatly to maximizing participation in the Memorial Day parade while maintaining the safest of environments for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

*Bob Johnson*

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