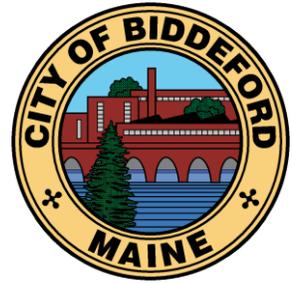


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BIDDEFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT CPR TRAINING IS A LIFE SAVER**  
YCCAC driver Richard Politano uses CPR training to save a life in Berwick

**BIDDEFORD, ME May 31, 2017** – On Thursday, May 18, 2017 at approximately 5:00pm, Richard Politano, a Berwick resident was preparing dinner and heard screams nearby.

“I looked out the front door and saw a woman screaming and crying about 20 or 25 yards away. There was a body lying flat on the ground and a woman who was screaming for help standing over him,” stated Richard.

Richard ran out the door and across his front yard to where the body lay prone. Richard could tell the man was not breathing and felt for a pulse, but there was nothing. “The man was lifeless,” Richard stated.

Richard began administering CPR, which he had trained to do exactly one month earlier at York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC), where he has been driver for the WAVE program since 2006. The YCCAC transportation operates buses and vans on routes in several areas of York County.

After 5 or 6 minutes, maybe up to 10 minutes of Richard performing CPR, the man suddenly started breathing. It was audible and visible.

The woman on the scene is the man’s sister. She had called 911 and when rescue team arrived, they took over. Richard said, “I didn’t hesitate for a moment when I saw what needed to be done and I want to thank the Biddeford Fire Department for providing us CPR training class.”

Biddeford Fire Department paramedics, Robert Mertz and Richard Dawe were the instructors who taught the CPR class at the YCCAC.

Richard never expected to use CPR, but now that he has completed and utilized the training, he feels confident and would not hesitate to use it again.

“It’s a lifesaver. It really is,” Richard stated.



**Photo Caption:** Richard Politano proudly displays his CPR Certificate.

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