



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | Monday, March 26, 2018 *Volume 18.12*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday** **March 26, 2018**
5:30 PM: Budget Committee Meeting (live)
- Thursday** **March 29, 2018**
5:30 PM: Budget Committee Meeting (live)
- Monday** **April 2, 2018:**
6:30 PM: Downtown Development Commission
(2nd floor conference room)
- Tuesday** **April 3, 2018**
5:00 PM: Finance Committee Meeting (live)
6:00 PM: City Council Meeting (live)
- Wednesday** **April 4, 2018**
4:00 PM: Community Center Committee Meeting
(Community Center)
6:00 PM: Planning Board (live)
- Friday** **April 6, 2018**
8:30 AM: EIC (2nd floor conference room)
- Monday** **April 9, 2018**
5:30 PM: CALEA Assessment Meeting
- Tuesday** **April 10, 2018**
7:00 PM: Solid Waste Committee meeting
(Public Works)

[Click here](#) for the full calendar.

PRESS RELEASE

Do You Like Your Main Street Sidewalks?

The City of Biddeford is going through many positive changes. Reconstruction of sidewalks on Main Street, beautification, rehabilitation of the Rectory on Bacon Street, and other exciting projects are shaping the City's future. A little known program that belongs to residents is the Community Development Block Grant Program within the City's Economic Development Department. Since 2005 the City has been awarded funds annually from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Biddeford is considered an Entitlement City and is required to have several plans submitted annually to keep receiving this funding. These plans outline how much funding such things as infrastructure, housing, social services,

etc. will receive and what proposed activities are seeking funding. These plans outline how much funding such things as infrastructure, housing, social services, etc. will receive and what proposed activities are seeking funding. Some proposed projects for this year are more sidewalks on Main Street, a housing program, downtown improvement program, and social services including Meals on Wheels and the Seeds of Hope Career Center. The City of Biddeford is holding Public Hearings to receive input from the public regarding the City's Draft 5-Year Consolidated Plan, Year 1 Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

The public is a very important part of the process. The public is invited to come and take part in reviewing the draft of the plans, allotments and proposed projects, providing input where appropriate. The first hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m. is on Thursday, March 29th in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at City Hall. Staff and members of the Community Advisory Committee will review the goals and program allocation percentages for the funding over the next five years. These percentages are part of a 5-Year Consolidated Plan that directs the annual action plan. An Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice will be presented for review, describing what limits housing choice for Biddeford residents. At 6:30 p.m. a second public hearing will be held to take comment on the detailed programs and projects proposed for funding in Year 1, beginning on July 1st, 2018.

The proposed top priority for the City's funds are the construction/reconstruction of sidewalks, possible ADA projects, other street improvements, and additional qualifying sidewalks, and parks, for a total of \$150,000 or 34% of the annual funding, and \$90,145 (20%) for housing projects. Public services are targeted to LMI citizens citywide and are funded for a total of \$66,956 (15%) for implementation of new services and expansion of current services. A Downtown Improvement Program is also targeted for \$50,000 (11%), and Administration a required \$89,275 (20%). The budget is based on the current annual allotment of \$446,376.

"These are citizens' tax dollars and I encourage citizens to come and give input on where their hard earned tax dollars are proposed to be spent," says Biddeford's Mayor Alan Casavant.

For more information on the City's Entitlement Program or plans and public hearings contact Linda Waters, Community Development Coordinator at (207) 284-9105 or at lwaters@biddefordmaine.org.

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