

The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Monday, July 16, 2018 Volume 18.28

The City of Biddeford launched a new website!

A new website with a new look was launched last week! While the upgrade has brought many improvements to how we share info, we unfortunately were not able to import the old mailing list of subscribers to the new server. Anyone who has signed up for notifications in the past such as the **Biddeford Beat**, **snow parking bans** and **RFP's**, etc. under the old website will need to sign up again through the new site (which is easy to do)! To **subscribe to city notifications, just go to <http://www.biddefordmaine.org/> and click on Notify Me on the front page.**

New Shared City Assessor



Congratulations to Assistant Assessor Nick Desjardins on his appointment to be the shared Assessor for Biddeford and Saco! Mr. Desjardins is a certified Maine assessor and has worked for the city of Biddeford for 10 years appraising commercial, residential, and personal property.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday | July 17, 2018 |
| 5:00 PM | Finance Committee Meeting (Live) |
| 5:00 PM | Capital Projects (2 nd fl conf. rm.) |
| 6:00 PM | City Council Meeting (Live) |
| Wednesday | July 18, 2018 |
| 6:00 PM | Planning Board (Live) |
| 6:30 PM | Solid Waste Management Committee (Public Works) |
| Thursday | July 19, 2018 |
| 6:30 PM | Airport Commission Meeting (Council Chambers) |
| 7:00 PM | Conservation Commission Meeting (2 nd fl conf. rm.) |
| 7:00 PM | Harbor Commission Mtg (Biddeford Pool Fire Station) |

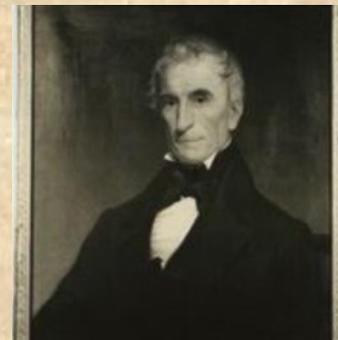
[Click here](#) to view the full calendar & updates.



Stay up to date on Biddeford News, Follow us on Twitter: @BiddMECity

Biddeford Cultural and Heritage Center *"Weaving together the fabric of our ethnic quilt"*

The BCHC held its first Biddeford Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the La Kermesse Festival on Friday, June 22nd, 2018. Each week this summer, the Biddeford Beat will publish a picture and information regarding one of the Inaugural Members of the Biddeford Hall of Fame as selected by the BCHC. This week we will highlight the story of Samuel Batchelder.



(photo courtesy of McArthur Library)

Samuel Batchelder (1784-February 5, 1879) is known as the Industrial Founder of the City of Biddeford. In 1831, Batchelder moved his family into the Cutts mansion on Indian Island, and he built the first mill of the York Manufacturing Company. It was the first large manufacturing building to be made of brick. Samuel Batchelder had the foresight and drive to harness the power of water in the twin cities, purchase property and start the mill culture that led to the growth of the city over the years.

For more information on the BCHC, you may go to: <http://biddefordculturalandheritagecenter.org/>

To subscribe to the Biddeford Beat weekly newsletter, please [click here](#). Thank you for reading!

11th Annual Bacon Street Neighborhood Festival

As part of National Night Out by the National Association of Town Watch, the City, Heart of Biddeford, Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, the City of Biddeford Recreation Department, the Biddeford & Saco Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Biddeford Housing Authority, are sponsoring the 11th Anniversary of the Annual Bacon Street Neighborhood Festival on Sunday, August 5th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. The festival is free for anyone to attend and will be held at 39 Sullivan Street, in the St. Andres senior housing parking lot in the Bacon Street Neighborhood. The festival is part of National Night Out that provides a unique opportunity for cities and towns across the United States to implement activities during this time that promote safe neighborhoods, crime, drug and violence prevention, and police–community partnerships. The Bacon Street Neighborhood, the City and residents want to share and invite everyone to enjoy their festival, as well as to see the completion of the rehabilitation of the former rectory at 73 Bacon Street. The event is highlighting the efforts made over the past several years to make the neighborhood even more family friendly and a good place to live. This year's festival will include lots of music, a petting zoo, pony rides, games, food, a visit by the Furries, a Rock Climbing Wall, pedal car races, a bouncy house and water slide, and more activities for all ages. No pre-registration is required for the activities. There are prizes and treats for all children. The Ketch Fish Band and Billy Billy will be performing live music throughout the afternoon. The City's Police, Fire, Recreation and Public Works Departments are also participating

The City received awards in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 for its participation in National Night Out and its revitalization efforts in the neighborhood. The City has annually competed with over 15,000 communities across the U.S. for this recognition, and it has been the only community awarded in Maine to date.

For more information on the festival and a schedule of events and sponsors list, please visit www.biddefordmaine.org. or email Linda Waters at lwaters@biddefordmaine.org. There is no rain date and activities will be held rain or shine.



Increased Development Drives Down City Tax Rate

BIDDEFORD — Rising property values and a spate of new development have led to a lower property tax rate this year, but residents are being advised escalating property values might still lead to increased tax bills.

Last year's tax rate was \$20.07 per \$1,000 of taxable property value. This year the City committed to a 37-cent reduction, \$19.70 per \$1,000, following a rise in overall real estate values of over \$100 million, a 5 percent increase.

"The growing interest in downtown redevelopment and investment has driven up the value of commercial real estate," Assessor Nicholas Desjardins said. "That new development increased the value of the City's residential properties."

To offset these higher residential property values, the City Council reduced the tax rate. Some homeowners, however, may still see their bill go up.

"While nobody wants to see higher tax rates, it's a good thing when the trends behind that increase show that development in the City is on the rise," said Mayor Alan Casavant. "As the 'Biddesance' continues and more people start to realize everything that this community has to offer, it's naturally going to be more valuable to own property here."

City Manager James Bennett, meanwhile, said the City is doing what it can to support residents as local property values rise. "And remember," he said, "over the long term this is very good news for City residents."

One clear indication of Biddeford's growth: the City saw a record-breaking number of building permit applications for the second year in a row.

"We're crazy busy with permits and everything else we have going on," Roby Fecteau, the City's Code Enforcement Officer, said.

The City issued 597 building permits this year, breaking 2017's record of 562 permits and surpassing the 482 permits issued in 2016 by nearly 24 percent. To keep up with the rapid rate of new development, the City now approves two to three new permit applications every day.

**Biddeford Fire Department
Incident Analysis
6/1/2018 – 6/30/2018**

Incident Type

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
BFD FIRE IN OR ON A BUILDING	2	0.5
BFD PROVIDE MUTUAL/AUTOMATIC AID STRUCTURE FIRE	1	0.2
BFD FIRE CONFINED TO COOKING APPLIANCE	2	0.5
BFD VEHICLE FIRE	1	0.2
BFD MULCH FIRE	3	0.7
BFD BRUSH/WOODS/GRASS FIRE	1	0.2
BFD EMS CALL RESCUE ONLY NO TRANSPORT	39	9.0
BFD EMS CALL RES/ENG NO TRANSPORT	18	4.2
BFD EMS CALL RESCUE ONLY TRANSPORT TO HOSPITAL	125	28.9
BFD EMS CALL RES/ENG TRANSPORT TO HOSPITAL	89	20.6
BFD EMS TRANSPORT SMHC TO A MEDICAL FACILITY	33	7.6
BFD RECEIVE MUTUAL AID FOR EMS CALL	4	0.9
BFD PROVIDE MUTUAL AID FOR EMS CALL	3	0.7
BFD MVC W/OUT INJURY	8	1.9
BFD MVC W/ INJURY	6	1.4
BFD MARINE CALL	3	0.7
BFD WATER RESUE/ PERSONS IN THE WATER	2	0.5
BFD HAZARDOUS CONDITION (STRUCTUAL, SAFETY, OTHER)	1	0.2
BFD CARBON MONOXIDE	1	0.2
BFD CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM MALFUNCTION	2	0.5
BFD CABLE LINE DOWN	2	0.5
BFD TELEPHONE LINE DOWN	1	0.2
BFD WIRES ARCING	1	0.2
BFD ATTEMPTED BURN ILLEGALLY	1	0.2
BFD LOCK OUT VEHICLE OR STRUCTURE	1	0.2
BFD WATER PROBLEM	2	0.5
BFD INSIDE SMOKE OR ORDOR INVESTIGATION	1	0.2
BFD PUBLIC ASSIST	8	1.9
BFD ASSIST POLICE OR OTHER AGENCY	2	0.5
BFD PROVIDE MUTUAL AID NON STRUCTURE FIRE	4	0.9
BFD UNPERMITTED BURN	3	0.7
PERMIT/CAMP FIRE INVESTIGATION	1	0.2
Dispatched & canceled en route	1	0.2
BFD EMS CALL CANCELLED ENROUTE	8	1.9
BFD BFD FIRE CALL CANCELED ENROUTE	5	1.2
CANCELLED ENROUTE MUTUAL/AUTOMATIC AID STRUCTURE FIRE	1	0.2
BFD CHECK ON PERMITTED BURN	2	0.5
BFD OUTSIDE SMOKE OR ODOR INVESTIGATION	1	0.2
BFD MASTER/SUPERVISED BOX WATER FLOW	1	0.2
BFD MASTER/SUPERVISED BOX PULLS/SMOKES	22	5.1
BFD MASTER/SUPERVISED BOX TAMPER OR TROUBLE	2	0.5
BFD FALSE CALL-GOOD INTENT	7	1.6
BFD PULLS/SMOKE DETECTOR ACTIVATION RESIDENTIAL	5	1.2
BFD RESIDENTIAL ALARM MALFUNCTION	4	0.9
BFD CITIZEN COMPLAINT	2	0.5
TOTAL	432	100.0