



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Monday, July 23, 2018 Volume 18.29

Public Notice:

Clam Flats to be Closed

Per the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), the Biddeford clam flats will be **closed** beginning August 1, 2018 and will be closed through August and September. This closure is in effect for commercial and recreational clammers. The flats will be closed for water quality reasons.

Stay up to date on Biddeford News! Follow us on **Twitter: @BiddMECity** or visit our website at <http://www.biddefordmaine.org/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday 6:30 PM	July 24, 2018 Solid Waste Commission Special Mtg (Biddeford Public Works)
Wednesday 4:00 PM	July 25, 2018 Historic Preservation Commission (2 nd floor conf. room)
Wednesday 6:00 PM	August 1, 2018 Planning Board (Live)
Monday 6:30 PM	August 6, 2018 Downtown Development Commission (2 nd floor conf. room)
Tuesday 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	August 7, 2018 Finance Committee Mtg (Live) City Council Mtg (Live)
Wednesday 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	August 8, 2018 Social Services Review Committee Mtg Zoning Board of Appeals (Live)
Tuesday 6:00 PM	August 14, 2018 City Council Workshop (Live)
Thursday 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	August 16, 2018 Airport Commission Mtg (Live) Conservation Commission (2 nd floor conf. room)

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

Mayor's Welcome to Biddeford



Biddeford Mayor Alan Casavant

It is truly a pleasure to welcome you to the City of Biddeford! Over the past several years, our community has witnessed a resurgence of community pride and investment in what has become known as the "Biddesance". We are emerging from years of simply defining ourselves as a mill town into a modern, vibrant community that is proud of both its past and its present, while excitedly anticipating its future. Our citizens are passionate about the changes we are making here, and the community energy that has been discovered is what makes Biddeford a special place to live, work, and play.

With our diverse new local restaurants, shops, and our engaging artistic community, we have something to offer everyone in our growing downtown. Our once-abandoned mills are thriving again, thanks to business owners and entrepreneurs who have found innovative ways to make the space their own. Our growing partnership with the University of New England and its students is helping to bring a youthful vibrancy to the City (our median age is 35), and it is an honor to have Maine's largest private university call Biddeford home. We are also fortunate to have such unique natural assets like our picturesque sandy beaches, the Saco River, and our diverse set of public parks available right at our fingertips.

Because we are so proud of the work we are doing here to make Biddeford better for our residents, we want to make sure information about all that we have to offer is easy for everyone to access. As part of this commitment to transparency, we have recently updated our website to ensure that we are providing the best service to our citizens that we possibly can. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for assistance if you cannot find what you are looking for.

Whether you call Biddeford home or are just stopping in for a visit, we hope you thoroughly enjoy your time here.

Mayor Alan Casavant

City Implements Traffic Calming Measures on Main Street



A new flower planter installed on Main Street in Biddeford on Wednesday aims not just to improve the street's aesthetics, but to slow down traffic. The planter box, placed in a no-parking zone near the corner of Main Street and York Street, is a traffic calming measure that the City is testing to protect the adjacent crosswalk.

Traffic calming uses physical design elements to improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists by encouraging safer, more responsible driving. In this case, the placement of the flowers on the sidewalk bump-out narrows the street, which tends to naturally cause vehicle traffic to slow down and make drivers pay more attention to their surroundings. The planters will be removed in the winter to ensure that snowplows can fit on the roads.

"This location was selected as a test site for the planter boxes because of how the road widens in this curve, which often encouraged drivers to pick up speed," said Public Works Director Jeff Demers. "The box is placed at about the distance from the sidewalk that a parked car would be, so it doesn't require drivers to maneuver around it, but it does visually narrow the road just enough to slow them down."

The Public Works Department wants to hear citizen feedback on the new measure from both pedestrians and drivers alike. Based on the success of the trial period and the feedback received from the public, additional planter boxes may be installed at other downtown crosswalks on lower Main Street and as part of Phase II of the Main Street Sidewalk Improvement Project that was approved in a 5-3 vote by the City Council on Tuesday.

To provide feedback on your experiences with the effectiveness of the new traffic calming measure, please contact the Public Works Department by phone at 282-1579 or by email at jeff.demers@biddefordmaine.org.

Biddeford Cultural and Heritage Center Celebrating What Makes Biddeford Special "Weaving together the fabric of our ethnic quilt"

This week, the Biddeford Beat will highlight the stories of Samuel de Champlain and Richard Vines, both men lived during the same time period and are Inaugural Members of the Biddeford Hall of Fame as selected by the BCHC.



Samuel de Champlain
(photo courtesy of McArthur Library)

Samuel de Champlain (1574-1635) was a French navigator, explorer, cartographer, ethnologist, and historian who was known as the "Father of New France" and also as "The Father of Acadia".

Champlain, in his travels, wrote a detailed account of his arrival and stay at the mouth of the Saco River in July 1605, well before the time of the Pilgrims arrival. He mapped the area of the Saco River and Winter Harbor, which is now known as Biddeford Pool. This information was later used as a guide by Sir Richard Vines in his expedition and settlement of Biddeford.

Richard Vines (1585-1651) is considered the Founder of Biddeford. With the help of Samuel de Champlain's map and information along with the backing of Sir Fernando Gorges, Vines and others under his command were able to find and stay in Winter Harbor, which is now known as Biddeford Pool, during the winter of 1616-1617.

From that point on, Vines helped to settle what is now known as Biddeford and Biddeford Pool. He lived in Biddeford for 15 years before moving to Barbados. In 1912, William E. Barry, from Kennebunk, Maine, erected a stone plaque as a tribute, commemorating Vines' successful stay through his first winter 1616-1617.

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!

Contact us!

CITY DEPARTMENT	PHONE #:	ADDRESS:
City Manager's Office	284-9313	205 Main St.
City Mayor's Office	286-9385	205 Main St.
Chief Operating Officer	571-0032	205 Main St.
Assessing Department	284-9003	205 Main St.
City Clerk's Office	284-9307	205 Main St.
City Engineering	284-9118	205 Main St.
Code Enforcement	284-9236	205 Main St.
Economic Development	282-7119	205 Main St.
Facilities	571-1602	205 Main St.
Finance Department	284-9333	205 Main St.
Fire Department (Non Emergency)	282-6632	152 Alfred St.
General Assistance	284-9514	205 Main St.
Human Resource Department	286-0593	205 Main St.
Planning Department	284-9115	205 Main St.
Police Department (Non Emergency)	282-5127	39 Alfred St.
Public Works Department	282-1579	371 Hill St.
Recreation Department (Community Center)	283-0841	189 Alfred St.
Technology/Public Access/GIS	571-0032	205 Main St.
Teen Center (Recreation) Rotary Park	282-4167	550 Main St.
Tax Collector	284-9326	205 Main St.
Waste Water Treatment Plant	282-1350	371 Hill St.
<u>Other Important Community Contacts:</u>		
Biddeford City Theater	282-0849	205 Main St. Biddeford
Biddeford District Court	283-1147	25 Adams St. Biddeford
Biddeford Housing Authority	282-6537	22 South St. Biddeford
Biddeford Municipal Airport	282-1893	88 Landry St. Biddeford
Biddeford/Saco Chamber of Commerce	282-1567	22 Water St. #1 Biddeford
Biddeford School Department	282-8280	18 Maplewood Ave. Biddeford
Heart of Biddeford	284-8520	205 Main St. Biddeford
Maine Water Company	282-1543	93 Industrial Park Rd. Saco
Shuttle Zoom Bus	282-5408	13 Pomerleau St. Biddeford
Social Security Office	1-800-772-1213	110 Main St. Saco

11th Annual Bacon Street Festival

11th Annual Bacon Street Neighborhood Festival

Aug. 5th
12 - 4 pm
39 Sullivan Street (parking lot)



Hula Hoop Contest



(Waivers Signed on Site)



Bands
BillyBilly
Ketch Fish

Free
Family Fun

Food / Entertainment / Music / Prizes / Games



Furries Visit



Meet the
Bacon Street Fairy



Petting Zoo

Sponsored by:   

Biddeford+Saco Chamber / Heart of Biddeford
City of Biddeford / Biddeford Housing Authority

This Festival is part of National Night Out 2018
For More Info Call: Community Development Office at 284-9105

The Annual Bacon Street Festival, a free event for all community members offered as part of the National Night Out campaign, is celebrating its 11th year of offering family-friendly fun on Sunday, August 5. This year's event will take place at 39 Sullivan Street in St. Andre's senior housing parking lot in the Bacon Street Neighborhood.

The festival is cosponsored by the City of Biddeford, Heart of Biddeford, Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, the Biddeford + Saco Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Biddeford Housing Authority.

My Neighborhood Network Meetings

The City will launch the **My Neighborhood Network** initiative at the end of July to promote revitalization of Biddeford's downtown neighborhoods in partnership with the University of New England's Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition (CHCC). Through *My Neighborhood Network*, residents of six defined neighborhoods will meet to discuss what makes them feel connected to their neighbors and the city, as well as changes they would like to see

made in their communities.

In the months ahead, each neighborhood will work on improving key areas they prioritize with support from the City and the community partners.

The initiative kicks off on July 31 at Rumery's Boat Yard at 4 p.m. for residents who live near Cleaves Street. A joint meeting for the South Street Neighborhood and residents who live near West Cutts Street or Mayfield Park will be held on Aug. 2 at Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center at 11 a.m., and the Bacon Street Neighborhood will meet on Aug. 6 at 1 p.m. at the HUB at 46 Sullivan Street. Meetings will be facilitated by Community Development Director Linda Waters, Seeds of Hope Executive Director Rev. Shirley Bowen, and CHCC Director Sarah Breul.

"The focus of this program is on creating an inviting, safe, and healthy environment for families and individuals within the Biddeford community," said Breul. "The approach values cultural diversity, prioritizes quality affordable housing and leverages the many, many incredible resources that already exist in Biddeford – the Bicycle Center, Seeds of Hope, and People Recover, the Bacon Street Hub, to name just a few."

For the first meeting, participants are asked to bring an image – whether a photograph, a drawing by their child, or another artistic medium – that they feel portrays their neighborhood. At the meeting, the images will be displayed, and each person will share how long they have lived in the neighborhood on a timeline. To help establish a shared identity, each neighborhood group will also collaboratively name itself.

The *My Neighborhood Network* project follows the successful revitalization of the Bacon Street Neighborhood and the South Street Neighborhood that was achieved through similar mobilization strategies. In these neighborhoods, successful outcomes have included an annual festival, a new playground and park, the establishment of community centers, and the demolition of blighted buildings. The *My Neighborhood Network* will facilitate the revitalization process in other neighborhoods in the city, ensuring all communities are given the same opportunities to succeed.

"This process will give the City an inside look at what kind of programming needs will help residents of each neighborhood while also opening the door to a direct line of contact for them to reach out to us and suggest projects they come up with themselves," said Waters. "Strengthening neighborhoods and connecting residents through these networks is essential for growth and revitalization. We hope to see a great turnout at these meetings to get everyone involved in the process."

A map outlining the boundaries of the identified neighborhoods can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/BiddefordNeighborhoodMap>. For more information or to schedule your neighborhood's meeting, please contact Linda Waters by email at lwaters@biddefordmaine.org or phone at 284-9105.