



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Monday, August 20, 2018 Volume 18.33

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<http://www.biddefordmaine.org/>



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 4:00 PM | August 20, 2018 Community Center Ad Hoc Committee Mtg Community Center Building |
| Tuesday 5:00 PM 6:00 PM | August 21, 2018 Finance Committee (Live) City Council Meeting (Live) |
| Thursday 6:00 PM 6:30 PM | August 23, 2018 Public Hearing-CDBG/Main Way, Inc. Payee Conflict of Interest & request for exception (2 nd fl. conf. rm.) Airport Commission Meeting (Live) |
| Monday | September 3, 2018 Labor Day – City Hall Closed |
| Tuesday 5:00 PM 6:00 PM | September 4, 2018 Finance Committee (Live) City Council Meeting (Live) |

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

Biddeford Recreation is gearing up its late summer-fall programs! Registration is now available for the following youth programs.

Youth Sports

- Kinder Soccer
- Youth Soccer; **Registrations close for Youth Soccer for Grades 1-6 on August 17th.**
- Flag Football, Ages 5-8
- Girl's Field Hockey, Grades K-6

Afterschool care

- Cub Care has expanded the grades to K-6, adding 6th grade for the 2018-19 school year.
- Early Release Adventures for grades K-6

For more information on any of these programs or others not listed for a variety of age groups, please visit: www.biddefordrec.com.

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

This week marks the last installment of the Biddeford Beat’s summer series highlighting Inaugural Members of the Biddeford Hall of Fame (as selected by the BCHC). This week, we share with you the story of Rita Riley.



Rita Riley (March 29, 1923-May 30, 2016) is credited for starting the first food party in the City of Biddeford and the first in the State of Maine. She is best known for her humanitarian efforts.

Born of immigrant parents from Canada, she was presented the Jefferson Award by Vice-President Al Gore in 1988 for her outstanding volunteer service to the City of Biddeford and the State of Maine.

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

Lincoln Street Redevelopment will include traffic disruptions due to downtown construction.

Residents are being advised to anticipate street closures and traffic pattern changes in Biddeford’s downtown as the City undertakes a major construction project this fall. The work, which is expected to begin the week of August 20, will improve Lincoln Street in preparation for the upcoming Lincoln Mill redevelopment project. For more information about this project, you may read the full press release by clicking [here](#).



Biddeford Residents Encouraged to Improve Recycling Habits

The Public Works Department urges residents to take the time to read and implement the guidelines on the flyers that will be attached to their recycling bins after their waste is collected beginning next week. Due to changing markets, the costs of disposing of contaminated recyclables is rising, and Biddeford is launching an educational campaign to keep recycling costs down.

In 2017, China enacted the National Sword Policy, a law that cut down on the amount of waste being sent into the country as an initiative to combat pollution. Previously, recycling companies were able to send loads of recyclables with varying amounts of contamination to China and earn large revenues. Now, the companies have had to find new, less profitable markets for recyclables and are often operating at a loss. According to Casella representatives, these new markets also have stricter standards for the amount of contamination that can be accepted.

“Some communities are looking at a cost increase of over \$100,000 a year from fees that are being imposed by waste service providers to address the costs of contamination,” said City Manager James Bennett. “We don’t have that kind of surplus in our budget to absorb those costs, but if this education campaign is successful, we should be able to limit fees and save valuable taxpayer dollars.”

Biddeford’s curbside recycling program only accepts corrugated cardboard, boxboard, mixed paper, rigid plastic containers, metal and food cans, and glass bottles. Although the list of accepted materials has not changed since the program was first implemented in 2013, contamination rates have been on the rise.

Much of the cause of recycling contamination is “wishful recycling”, or when residents hope that their waste can be recycled and put it in the recycling bin just in case. The flyers that will be distributed by the Public Works Department restate which materials are recyclable and which are not to remind residents which bin their waste belongs in.

“People try to throw everything in their recycling bins because they’re doing their best to try to help the environment, and they don’t realize that it just does more harm than good,” said Public Works Director Jeff Demers.

What are the biggest problem items right now?

“Plastic bags are a huge concern for Casella,” Demers said. “A lot of people bag their recyclables before putting them in the bin, but that interferes with the sorting process. The bags also get tangled up in the machinery and it ends up shutting the recycling facility down for hours while they try to repair it.”

Casella also notices a significant amount of food in recycling bins. “Food can be composted, but not recycled,” Demers said, “and even small amounts of food, like the leftover cheese in a pizza box, are a problem and need to be thrown in the trash.” Additional products that are not accepted by Casella are detailed on the backside of the flyer.

For now, the educational flyers are just a friendly reminder for residents on the requirements of the program, but the City must address instances where individuals do not improve their recycling habits. After an initial grace period to allow for readjustment to the stricter rules and additional education, residents whose recyclables continue to be severely contaminated may be subject to enforcement.

“If your recycling bin continues to be full of trash even after warnings, we will be taking enforcement action against you,” said Demers. “It won’t be used for the people who are accidentally putting a couple of incorrect items in by mistake, but it will affect people who are intentionally ignoring the flyers and abusing the recycling program to avoid purchasing the Pay as You Throw bags.”

A representative from Public Works will visit Casella’s facility the week of August 27 to get a firsthand look at the contamination. Ultimately, the goal is to reduce contamination rates to about 5%, and the visit to the facility will help the department determine what steps need to be taken to reach that goal. Details of the enforcement actions will be released following this visit, and enforcement will not begin until the grace period ends on September 10. A copy of the flyer and a letter describing the educational campaign will also be mailed to owners of properties on the Grandfathered Commercial Apartment Properties list to ensure that they are aware of the enforcement actions.

“This problem isn’t going to be solved perfectly overnight, and figuring out a solution is going to be an ongoing challenge,” Demers said, “but if we all work together to improve our habits, we will definitely make some progress.”

Residents who have questions about the recycling program that are not answered by the flyer are encouraged to call the Public Works department at 207-282-1579 or email Recycling Supervisor Don LaPoint at don.lapoint@biddefordmaine.org.



We Need Your Help!

Biddeford Public Works Department
371 Hill Street, Biddeford • 282-1579 • don.lapointe@biddefordmaine.org

Our waste services provider has notified us that the City may be charged additional **fees** for contaminated loads of recycling. Please put only the approved items listed below in your **blue** recycling bin. Items that cannot be accepted are listed on the back of this flyer.

ZERO-SORT® RECYCLING

No sorting on your end makes recycling quick and easy! Just focus on tossing **ONLY the Zero-Sort recyclables listed below** into your **recycling bin** and Casella takes care of the rest.

CARDBOARD/PAPER



Corrugated Cardboard
(Wavy center layer)



Boxboard
(Dry-food boxes, paper bags, egg cartons, toilet paper and paper towel rolls)



Junk Mail, Periodicals & Office Paper
(Catalogs, envelopes, soft cover books, shredded paper if contained in a paper bag)

PLASTIC



Rigid Plastic Containers
(#1 - #7, 5-gallon pails)

METAL



Metal & Food Cans
(Aluminum, tin, foil)

GLASS



Glass Bottles
(Food jars, beverage bottles)
NO broken glass!

Remember...

- ✓ All containers are empty, rinsed & dry
- ✓ No items smaller than 2"



PO 400041

Recycle Properly!

- ✓ Cardboard is flattened and broken down
- ✓ There are no items from the NOT ACCEPTED list in the recycling bin

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Zero-Sort® recycling?

Zero-Sort recycling is Casella's state-of-the-art process which enables paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, and metal cans to be collected together in one bin eliminating the need for you to separate recyclables.

Can I throw trash and recyclables into my recycling bin?

NO. Your recycling bin is for Zero-Sort recyclables only. Items that cannot be recycled should be tossed into your trash bin.

How should I prepare recyclables?

Recyclables must be empty and rinsed clean of food residue. Corrugated cardboard boxes should be broken down into 2' max pieces. **DO NOT** tie newspaper, cardboard or jugs with twine. Handles should be removed from pails and paper bags.

What type of metal can I recycle in my bin?

Aluminum and tin cans are acceptable. **NOT ACCEPTED** items include pots, pans, aerosol cans, and scrap metal such as automotive parts, motors, and appliances or any other metal items.

Can I put grocery bags into my Zero-Sort bin or place recyclables in plastic bags?

NO. Plastic bags of any kind are not accepted in Zero-Sort recycling. To recycle grocery bags, please bring them to a participating grocery or retail store.

How should I recycle large items that won't fit inside my bin?

Please call 800-CASELLA to schedule a pickup if you have large materials that do not fit inside your bin.

Can I recycle pizza boxes?

You can recycle pizza boxes with light grease stains. Boxes with stuck-on food or dripping grease cannot be recycled but they are compostable.

Why aren't paper cups recyclable?

Paper cups have a thin, plastic lining or waxed finish that cannot be recycled.

NOT ACCEPTED



NO Plastic Bags or Bagged Recycling
(Take clean plastic bags to your local retailer for recycling)



NO Coated Paper Items
(Items with a plastic lining such as waxed coffee or soda cups and waxed paper plates)



NO Styrofoam, Napkins, Paper Towels, Tissues, Plastic Utensils, Dirty Recycling, Register Tape (Receipts), Condiment Packets, Straws, Stirrers, or Coffee Pods



NO Toys, Hangers, Clothes, or Shoes
(Gently used items can be donated)



NO Organic Waste, Rope or Wood
(Rope, twine, diapers, food, pet, and yard waste)



NO Plastic Wrap, Films, or Tarps
(Food Bags or wrappers, plastic or shrink wrap, and tarps)



NO Ceramics, Pots, Pans, or Baking Glass
(Gently used items can be donated)



NO Hazardous Materials
(Find safe and secure disposal near you)



NO Medical Waste
(Bring to Biddeford Police Department for disposal)



NO Rubber or Scrap Metal
(Hoses, tires, rubber gloves, car parts, etc.)



NO Electronics, Batteries, or Bulbs
(Find alternative recycling)



 ONLY put the listed recyclables in the 65-gallon blue bin. **DO NOT** bag them!

 All other waste goes in the 35-gallon green bin. Waste that does not fit in the green bin should be placed in the City's orange Pay As You Throw bags, which can be purchased at local stores.



Thank you for your cooperation! Please contact the Public Works Department with any questions.



ODORLESS TASTELESS ARSENIC IS TOXIC



TAKE THESE STEPS TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE

- ✓ Get your well water tested
- ✓ Find out if you qualify for assistance
- ✓ Fill out a program application
- ✓ If approved, MaineHousing schedules & pays for work

CONTACT INFO:

MaineHousing
353 Water St.
Augusta, ME 04330-4633

mainehousing.org/arsenic
arsenic@mainehousing.org
(207) 626-4600
1-800-452-4668
Maine Relay 711

WELL DONE!

 ENJOY SAFE DRINKING WATER

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Thank you for reading!