



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Monday, August 27, 2018

Volume 18.34

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Wednesday August 29, 2018**
5:00PM Lincoln Street Phase II
Public Informational Meeting
(Council Chambers)
- Monday September 3, 2018**
Labor Day – City Hall Closed
- Tuesday September 4, 2018**
5:00 PM Finance Committee (Live)
6:00 PM City Council Meeting (Live)
- Wednesday September 5, 2018**
6:00 PM Planning Board (Live)
- Friday September 7, 2018**
8:30 AM EIC Meeting (2nd floor conference room)

[Click here to view updates on the full city calendar!](#)

Holiday Trash Collection Notice:

There will be regular trash and recycling pick-up on Labor Day, Monday, September 3rd (however, the Recycling/Transfer Station will be closed).

Household Hazardous Waste Day:

Household Hazardous Waste Day is coming up on Saturday, September 15, 2018. More information about this event will be posted in an upcoming Biddeford Beat or you may call Biddeford Public Works Department (207-1579).



The Finding the Pieces Camp had a successful second year this summer in Biddeford Maine. Ten (10) campers from York County, aged 6-10, joined students from the University of New England for summer fun! The campers enjoyed arts and crafts, science experiments, movement activities, outside play, pretend play, making snacks, and playing games at the J.R. Martin Community Center. Campers swam and played in the sand in the Saco River at Rotary Park. They met new farm animals at Smiling Hill Farm – some even fed sheep and snuggled baby goats! All of the campers were able to get to know a horse up close at Hearts and Horses, and each of them rode a horse – for a few campers this was an exciting first! Each of the campers had a great time and formed a bond with their counselor; many said they wanted to come back next year! The UNE students were from the Health, Wellness and Occupational Studies program and the Education program. They learned a lot about autism through a spring course, but learned even more during the hands-on experience with campers. One stated that she learned “how important it is to get to know each and every individual” who has autism. Another said, “I learned how important it is to stay patient with all kids with autism”. One other indicated that the experience has given her a “deeper appreciation of diversity” and will help her “be a more patient, understanding, and loving teacher”. The experience was a huge success for campers and counselors alike, and could not have been possible without the wonderful collaboration between the Autism Society of Maine, University of New England, and City of Biddeford!



On August 29th, Biddeford Schools will be back in session!

Please remember to please Slow Down:

Here are some safety tips:



School days bring congestion: Please remember that yellow school buses are picking up and dropping off students, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, parents are dropping their kids off before work. Now is more important than ever for drivers to **slow down** and **pay attention** than **when kids are present – especially before and after school.**

If you are Dropping Off:

If your child does not take the bus, be extra cautious as you drop off and pick up your child. Park in designated spots. Schools often have very specific drop-off procedures for the school year. Make sure you know them for the safety of all kids.

Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians:

A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic.
- In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection.
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.
- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way.

Sharing the Road with School Buses:

- If you are driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing. It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus

Sharing the Road with Bicyclists:

- When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist
- When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for the rider to pass
- If you're turning right and a bicyclist is approaching from behind on the right, let the rider go through the intersection first, and always use your turn signals
- Watch for bike riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling; children especially.
- Be extra vigilant in school zones and residential neighborhoods
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars
- Check side mirrors before opening your door

By exercising a little extra care and caution, drivers and pedestrians can co-exist safely in school zones.



Lincoln Street Construction Update: Work Will Improve Water Quality and Downtown Walkability

The upcoming phase of construction on Lincoln Street will contribute to the City of Biddeford's efforts to separate sewer lines throughout the city and improve downtown walkability.

In a previous phase of downtown upgrades in 2011, the City completed sewer separation from Elm Street to Main Street. Additional work completed in 2016 separated the sewer in the intersection of Lincoln, Main and Adams Streets as well as along the section of Main Street from Adams to Washington Street ahead of Maine Department of Transportation work and sidewalk work in the downtown. At that time, a stub from the sewer manhole on Main Street was also installed to connect to Lincoln Street in preparation of the construction that is set to begin this week.

As City Engineer Tom Milligan explained, the sewer separation process will convert the old combined, single-pipe system into separate sewers for wastewater and storm water flows. With this new method, storm water will be discharged directly into receiving water, while wastewater will be treated before discharge. This improves the quality of water for city residents as a whole.

"The new two-pipe system helps reduce Combined Sewer Outflow during heavy rainstorms when the collection systems piping exceeds its capacity," Milligan said. "The previous one-pipe system led to a combination of wastewater and storm water overflow draining into bodies of water, which causes contamination."

This Fall 2018 phase of the sewer separation work prepares for future sewer upgrades by installing a force main under Lincoln Street for use in the future sewer separation of lower Elm Street near the Route 1 bridge and to provide sewer service to the City-owned lot at 3 Lincoln Street.

In addition to sewer upgrades, the project will also continue ongoing downtown revitalization work with sidewalk replacement, installation of LED lighting, crosswalks, and curbing. Utilities will also be installed underground to match the underground utilities on Main Street. These street upgrades are consistent with recent improvements from the Main Street Sidewalk Improvement Program that aim to provide a cleaner, safer, and more walkable downtown for pedestrians and city residents. Future phases of this work will be continued on Main Street from Adams to Elm.

Updates on the status of the project will be posted on the city website under the Citywide Updates tab or you may [click here](#).

Additional questions can be directed to the Public Works Department at 282-1579 or the Engineering Office at 284-9118.

MORE NEWS:

Lincoln Street Phase II Public Informational Meeting:

The City of Biddeford would like to inform you that there will be an **Informational Public Meeting** to discuss **Lincoln Street Phase II** of the Lincoln Street Construction Project. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 29th** at 5:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers (205 Main Street).

Community Center Public Listening Session:

The Ad Hoc Community Center Committee would like to invite you to a public listening session on **Wednesday, September 19, 2018** (6pm-8pm). This event will take place in the Community Center Auditorium (189 Alfred St). All are welcome to attend to share your thoughts and input with the committee on what the community center means to you and your family.

South Street Construction Project:

In an effort to keep residents, businesses and patrons informed on the status of the South Street project, we would like you to know that the city will make every effort to post updates on the **City of Biddeford's website** under the **Citywide Updates** tab. You may also [click here](#) to check for updates. Additional questions regarding this project should be directed to the Public Works Department at 282-1579 or the Engineering Office at 284-9118.

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**WE WILL BE
CLOSED ON
LABOR DAY**

Biddeford City Hall will be **Closed** on
Monday, September 3rd in
Observance of **Labor Day**.

Testing the Waters.

To find out if you qualify for assistance with testing your water, contact
Maine Housing at 207-626-4600.



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!