



# The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MONDAY, July 31 2017

Volume 17.25

A1

## State Budget Impacts: Good News for Taxpayers

The final state budget that was adopted had both good and bad news included within the budget. The best news is that the good outweighed the bad.

On the good news front, the budget did not change the planned increase in the homestead exemption. This year the first \$20,000 of value on your primary residence will be exempted from property taxes; up from \$15,000 last year. This change will reduce the tax bill by about \$100 for 3,326 homes in Biddeford.

On the bad news side, the state was going to reimburse communities for 100% of the lost value created by the additional exemption. Instead, the City will only get 50% of the lost revenue. This change reduced the anticipated revenues by \$170,083.

On the school side, there is even better news. The school received additional funds. It (continued A2)

## Bacon Street Neighborhood Festival: 10th Anniversary Celebration

It is that time again! The 10th Anniversary of the Annual Bacon Street Neighborhood Festival will be held on Sunday, August 6th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. rain or shine 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.

As part of National Night Out by the National Association of Town Watch, the City, TARGET, Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, Heart of Biddeford, the Biddeford & Saco Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Community Partners for Protecting Children, and the Biddeford Housing Authority, are sponsoring the festival.

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### Tues Aug 1

5:00 PM – Finance Committee  
6:00 PM – City Council  
(City Hall Council Chambers)

#### Wed Aug 2

6:00 PM – Planning Board  
(City Hall Council Chambers)

#### Thurs Aug 3

8:00 AM – Downtown Task Force  
(Mayor's Office)

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)



**Bacon Street** (continued from A1)

The Bacon Street Neighborhood and the City want to invite everyone to enjoy their festival, as well as to see the continuing 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 sponsored by the Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, pony rides, games, food, a beach themed play area, a visit by the Furrries, an interactive puppet show, radio controlled car races, a bouncy house, pedal car races, and more activities for all ages. There are prizes and treats for all children.

The City received awards in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 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.

**State Budget** (continued from A1)

will receive an additional \$900,000 of new revenue this year. Half of those funds are being used to reduce the original budget request made by the School Department.

Unless the state budget is changed, next year, things will be even better. The state will honor its pledge to pay for 100% of the lost revenue from the \$5,000 increase in the homestead. This will increase the reimbursement to the City by the \$170,083 mentioned earlier.

In addition, the school is expected to receive an additional \$2,000,000 in state revenues. By law, half of those funds are to be returned to the City to help with the property tax burden.

There are still details that are known about the rules relating to the school funding next year. Of course, when the legislature returns to work in January, the rules/laws can change.

We remain optimistic that the immediate horizon looks good from the perspective of the state budget impact on property taxpayers. This is a dramatic change from the revenue sharing raids that have used property tax relief funds to balance the state budget since 2008.

**Public Safety Call Volumes: June 2017**

The men and women that provide public safety services in our community are often recognized as among the very best in the State. They also are very busy. On a regular basis, we will share the calls for services that the departments are responding to.

The following calls were answered in the month of June:

JUNE 2017 CALLS FOR SERVICE	Segments	Police	Fire
Police Only	2,956	2,956	
Fire Only	62		62
EMS Only	180		180
Fire and EMS	123		123
Police, Fire, and EMS	47	47	47
Police and Fire	8	8	8
Police and EMS	36	36	36
Non-Public Safety	268		
<b>TOTAL BIDDEFORD CALLS</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>3,047</b>	<b>456</b>

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For questions or comments:

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Thank you for reading.