



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | Monday, September 11, 2017

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A1



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, September 11:

6:30 PM – Policy Committee Meeting (live)
6:30 PM – Downtown Development Commission
(2nd floor conference room)

Tuesday, September 12:

7:00 PM – School Committee Meeting (live)

Wednesday, September 13:

4:00 PM – Historic Preservation (2nd floor conference rm)
6:00 PM – Zoning Board of Appeals (live)

Thursday, September 14:

8:00 AM - Downtown Taskforce (Mayor's Office)

Tuesday, September 19:

5:00 PM – Finance Committee (live)
5:00 PM – Capital Projects (2nd floor conf. room)
6:00 PM – City Council Meeting (live)

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)

Snow storm or a hurricane, Emergencies can happen anywhere ... Even in Maine.

The City of Biddeford would like to share with you important information and resources from the Maine.gov website, regarding emergency preparedness.

You can make sure that you and your family can get through any emergency. It starts with simple steps.

- [Make a Plan](#)
- [Stay Informed](#)
- [Help Others](#)

Make a Plan:

Think about what challenges you might face in an emergency. Then decide how you're going to weather the storm.

Learn about emergencies most likely to happen where you live, learn, and work.

Talk with household members about what you would do in an emergency.

Make sure to plan for the needs of children, household members with disabilities, and pets.

People with disabilities and functional needs should develop a plan with their support network, including transportation and in-home support services. Idea: Give a spare key to a member of your network along with information about your supplies and equipment.

Check your home emergency supplies—what you have and what you need. [Assemble a Home Emergency Supply Kit and a Grab-N-Go bag.](#)

Identify an out-of-town contact and make sure all household members have the contact number in writing. Printable emergency contact cards and other printable home plans can be found at www.maineprepares.org.

Choose three places to meet—one outside your home, one outside your neighborhood, and one outside your town.

Determine directions and alternate routes.

Practice your evacuation plan twice a year and drive or walk your planned routes.

Check your home insurance coverage, including flood insurance, and talk to your insurance agent to learn more.

For More Information about preparing your family for emergencies, please visit:

<http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/home/index.shtml>

Roll of public employees during emergencies

By James A. Bennett

Throughout my career in local government, I have seen my share of emergencies and disasters. I am thankful that I have never seen anything even remotely close to the storm that is impacting citizens and communities in Texas. I can't imagine the difficulties that await them. I am clear on exactly who has been and will continue to be on the front lines: public employees.

Being a public employee can be among the most rewarding careers a person can choose. When an employee makes a difference in a citizen's life or in their neighborhood and/or community, there is no greater reward for a true public servant. On the other hand, it can be among the most frustrating at times. Demands can far outpace the resources that well-meaning employees need. The problems facing communities today often have conflicting priorities; making resolution nearly impossible.

Public employees, especially our talented team in Biddeford, will be there to perform when the next emergency arrives. They will be there when others get to go home to take care of their own properties. They will work all night and into the next, if that is what it takes. They will continue to do everything possible to bring comfort even when the odds seem long. I have seen this time and time again. I have seen when an employee is at work during an emergency while their home is being impacted. I experienced it personally, as my young family was being rescued by boat from our home during a flood and I was in the emergency command center.

The list is long, too long, to share in detail of all the differences made by public employees. If you feel safe in your home and neighborhood, there is a public safety employee that made a difference. If you believe that you will get the finest personal medical assistance in an emergency, it is because an EMT is studying to learn about the latest medical trends. If your children had a great day at a recreation program, at school, or at one of the parks, there were public employees worrying about those details. If you could get home in a terrible snow storm, your trash was picked up and your sewer worked properly, there was a public employee

doing the small things that make it all work. If it became easier to recycle items, there was a public employee involved.

Every day, every hour, and every minute, there are Biddeford employees thinking about the multiple things your local government can do to make your life better. We worry about those details so you don't have to. When the emergency comes, their first priority is your worries, not the ones they left at home. I am lucky to see it every day as a City Manager. We are all fortunate and blessed that Biddeford has employees who are trained and willing to deal with emergencies. While I pray that I never have to see another emergency, I know that is unrealistic. Until that unfortunate day occurs, I ask you to join me in thanking our employees, not only on special days or after an emergency, but today. We are blessed to have a wonderful team and I personally am very proud that I get to be considered a part of their daily lives. Simply put, thank you.

