



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | Monday, October 23, 2017

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A1

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, October 23:

6:00 PM – Warden & Ward Clerk
(Council Chambers)

Tuesday, October 24:

7:00 PM – School Committee Meeting (live)

Thursday, October 26:

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

Tuesday, October 31:

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Please watch out for children and families out
and about trick or treating!

Wednesday, November 1:

6:00 PM – Planning Board Meeting (live)

Thursday, November 2:

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

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)

Mayoral Gala raises funds for local food pantries.

On Friday, October 20th, the Cities of Biddeford and Saco held their second annual Mayors' Gala at Pepperell Center. It was a fun time had by all with dance music and hors d'oeuvres provided by local businesses to raise money for the local food pantries and celebrate the Twin Cities.

Dance music was provided by the Easy Money Band, and hors d'oeuvres provided by the Chef and Gardener. Banded Horn, Barreled Souls, and Dirigo Brewing featured their beers, and the Uncorked Wine Bar and Round Turn Distillery were present and Sweet Cream Dairy was open.

Jim Godbout was honored for his amazing work in both cities.

The City would like to thank all who were able to attend and those who made this event possible! We look forward to next year's Gala!

Questions/Comments:

t. 207.284.9313

e. newsletter@biddefordmaine.org

w. biddefordmaine.org

DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION PILOT PROJECT YEAR END CLOSEOUT



This past spring the Biddeford City Council allocated funding to implement a Downtown Beautification Pilot Project. The Project involved the distribution of approximately 125 planters, 35 hanging baskets and some in-ground plantings along the Main Street Corridor extending from Hill Street to Elm Street and along short sections of Alfred Street, Washington Street and Adams Street. The Project was intended to add some color, texture and vibrancy to the look of the City's Downtown area. Based upon a significant amount of feedback that has been received over the last 5 months from various sources, it appears that the Pilot Project achieved its goals and was a success. The initial planning and design for the project was performed by Dale Pierson of Pierson's Nurseries with assistance from a person who is very involved in the downtown area, Holly Culloton. A key component to the success of the Project was the maintenance efforts that were put forward. Maintenance was the responsibility of the Public Works Department. The Department initially assigned the task of maintenance to one of its Laborers, Jody Nightingale. In addition, Public Works hired two

Master Gardeners, Nancy Collette and Priscilla McGuire, as seasonal employees to perform these duties on an ongoing basis. A very big thank you and appreciation goes out to Nancy, Priscilla and Jody. These individuals worked tirelessly throughout our long, dry, hot summer months keeping the plantings healthy and vibrant.

As fall has come upon us and with the nights getting colder, the time has come to close out the Downtown Beautification Project for this year. Some of the plantings that have been in place throughout the summer are appropriate for indoor display as well. These are being distributed within City Hall, being given to local businesses that would like to have them and also being made available to the public at large while supplies last. If you are a business or someone from the public and would like some of these plantings please contact the Heart of Biddeford (HOB). HOB is assisting the City with the distribution efforts. The remaining plantings which are all annuals will ultimately be placed in the City's composting piles. During the week of October 23, the Public Works Department will be removing the planters and hanging baskets and placing them in storage for next year's distribution.

The City will be scheduling a meeting later this fall to discuss the Project and the possibilities for future years.

Repairs needed at the J Richard Martin Community Center



In early August, one of the two fuel oil-fired boilers at the J. Richard Martin Community Center went offline. Upon inspection it was determined that the bottom of the boiler essentially rusted out resulting in a catastrophic failure. Planning for replacement has initiated a larger discussion on making a sound financial decision regarding the future of the building. In the next few issues of the *Beat* we will attempt to shed light on the extent of needed repairs and the discussion surrounding the future of the building. Today's article will focus on the boiler failure, history, and general condition of the building. Future articles will address options related to boiler replacement and building use statistics including, recreation program services, community services, and adult education.

History - The J Richard Martin Community Center began as a public school in 1888. An addition was added for the gymnasium in the 1930's. The facility encompasses three floors and contains approximately 43,000 square feet of usable space. Approximately 129 years after being constructed, the facility currently serves as the hub of the City's recreation programs.

Heating System - The current heating system consists of two low-pressure steam boilers providing steam heat to the building through a network of circa 1950 pipes supplying steam to radiators. The current

boilers were installed in 1998 and 1999 making both boilers 18-plus years old. The 1999 boiler is the one that failed in August. The remaining boiler is likely experiencing corrosion similar to that contributing to the failure in August. Although some of the steam piping and condensate returns are exposed in ceiling chases and at steam traps, the majority of piping is inaccessible. Inspection and steam trap repairs over the years have provided a glimpse of the condition of the piping. In several cases, the interior of the 1.5-inch diameter pipe has been reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. This significantly reduces efficiency and heating capability and makes the boilers work harder to deliver enough heat to heat the building. In addition, in 2005 the City commissioned Oak Point Associated to assess the condition of several city-owned buildings including the J. Richard Martin Community Center. Based on the findings of the report approximately \$1.3 million dollars of recommended repairs remain to be completed.

Next Steps -The Biddeford City Council is working to make an informed short-term and long-term decision on the facility given the significant investment needed to address the boiler failure. It is likely that an ad hoc committing or working group will be convened to study the issue.

Picture #1
View of Boiler at Point of Failure



Picture #2
View of Ceiling Radiator Corrosion



Notice to the Citizens of Biddeford

**City Clerk's Office offering extended hours for
Absentee voting and **voter registration****

**The City Clerk's Office will be open on
Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to noon; and
Thursday, November 2, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

For absentee voting, acceptance of new voter registrations
and change of name and/or address.

{Please use the Main Street entrance on
Saturday and after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday}

**If you are planning to vote by absentee ballot, please plan to do so by or on
Thursday, November 2, 2017.**

**Per State Law, the City Clerk's Office will NOT be conducting absentee voting
after 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2017.**

**You will NOT be able to absentee vote on
Friday, November 3, 2017 and/or Monday, November 6, 2017
Unless a special circumstance exists.**