



# The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MONDAY, AUG 29, 2016

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A1

## A Special Message from the Mayor

I am thrilled to debut The Biddeford Beat, our City's weekly newsletter! Here, you can stay up to date on City projects, public meetings and what's happening in the community. My hope for this newsletter is to provide resources, information and value between citizens and the City.

It is not only important that we as a community strengthen our pride but also remain connected in order to attain the same desired goals. We may have different views and perspectives, but I truly believe we all strive for the same result, Biddeford's success.

So often we neglect the hard work of our employees which happens behind the scenes and the passion our people bring forth. Combining the hard work and the passion, this newsletter is born. I encourage you to allow our leadership team to provide you with facts, tools and the truth while appreciating all they do. In doing so we are creating a platform of success for all here in Biddeford and the City itself.

Let's step to the same beat and proudly be the best of Biddeford.

- Alan Casavant, Mayor

For comments and questions I can be reached at 207.286.9385 or [acasavant@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:acasavant@biddefordmaine.org)



## Message from the City Manager

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the 'Biddeford Beat', the official electronic weekly newsletter from your

local government. We hope that you find the issues both informative and, at times, entertaining. Your elected leadership, the Mayor and City Council, have been steadfast in asking me to find ways to provide more timely and accurate information for the community. This electronic newsletter is a major part of meeting their expectations.

You might be wondering why the City is taking the time every week to produce the newsletter. We have several goals. At the core, I personally believe that most citizens would make the same decisions as the City Council (as well as other committees of the City), if they had the same information. With that understanding, the City will strive to find better ways to provide citizens with timely and accurate information. Further, it should be easy to get it. If no one can find the information, there is not much value to it. *(continued on A2)*

## City Council Annual Goals

Last December, the City Council participated in a goal setting process. This was the first time in recent memory that the Council as a group worked to create a common set of goals. In January they formally adopted the goals. The goals included the intended time frame to be completed, the lead person/department working on the goal and the priority ranking.

Once the goals were adopted, staff created a 'dashboard' reporting mechanism. Every month, that report is updated to reflect the progress that is being made on the goals. That report, along with the goal details, are available on the [website](#).

## Ross Center Senior Citizen Trip

Ross Center is gearing up for a trip to Oxford Casino on Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be a day trip followed by dinner.

Please check online for [registration and itinerary](#) information.

### Lifeguard Coverage Phases Out

Each season as summer winds down lifeguard coverage at the beaches is phased out. Please be aware that September 5<sup>th</sup> will be the last day lifeguards will be posted at the beaches.

Please check the [Biddeford Parks and Recreation website](#) for up to date information on coverage for a particular beach. Beaches will be posted in the same manner in which postings have occurred during the summer.

### City offers new Before and After School Program

This is a new program offering beginning this school year serving grades K-5. The program will run August 31<sup>st</sup> through June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The program is sponsored by the Biddeford Parks and Recreation Department.

General information on the program and [registration](#) information is available through the department website.

### BPD and Residents Connect

Residents can sign-up for the Biddeford Police Department's Patrol Notes. The purpose is to provide our residences with a representative perspective of the daily incidents and activities occurring in our community. The selected extracts have been edited to exclude certain confidential information such as victim names, juvenile offender names, specific addresses, et cetera.

Typically, only the names of individuals cited or arrested are included. Please visit [www.bpd.net](http://www.bpd.net) to subscribe to the Daily Patrol Notes and you may also subscribe to the department's newsletter and media releases. Additionally, you can follow us on @BiddMEPolice

### Maine Historic Preservation Commission Grant Award

The City has taken preliminary steps toward completing the window pre-placement project at City Hall. As a historic building, the City is eligible to receive grant money through the Historic Preservation Fund. The first step in the grant process is to perform what is referred to as "pre-development work". This is "historical, architectural, and or archeological research necessary to properly and adequately document the historic significance and the existing physical condition of the materials and features of a property or site". Once this work is completed plans and specifications can be developed that match and or preserve the historical character of the building. The City plans to apply for construction funds to compete the installation.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission has offered a \$5,000 matching grant to fund the pre-development work. Once the grant agreement is signed the City will solicit competitive bids from qualified historic preservation architects and complete the pre-development work. For more information contact [Phil Radding](#), Facilities Manager.

### City Receives Dividend for Workplace Safety

City of Biddeford has received a \$31,000 dividend check from the Maine Municipal Association as a result of its good loss experience and loss prevention programs.

The Maine Municipal Association offers three self-funded pools for municipal and quai-public entities in Maine: the Workers Compensation Fund formed in 1978, the Property & Casualty Pool formed in 1987 and the Unemployment Compensation Fund formed in 1978.

The programs are overseen by governing boards of elected and appointed municipal officials. Each year the boards review the programs' loss experience to determine if dividends may be paid. Patricia Kablitz, Director of Risk Management Services for MMA, said more than 78 percent of program participants received a dividend this year for their good risk management practices and loss experience.

This year the Workers Compensation Fund has distributed almost \$650,000 in dividends to participants and the Property and Casualty Pool has paid dividends of nearly \$550,000 for total payments of just under \$1.2 million returned directly to MMA members.

Since 1997, the two programs have returned almost \$20 million in dividends to participating members.

*(continued from A1 City Manager)*

We hope in some small way, the information will make you feel a little more connected with Biddeford. Whether you have lived here since birth, moved here in the last year, just work in the area or Biddeford is your hometown, we want you to be proud of the community.

There are so many great things happening. We believe that when you learn about the details, you will share the same pride that our employees who invest their talents and commit their passion feel everyday.

Let me know what you think. Are there things you would like to know about? You can reach me directly by calling 207.284.9313 or emailing [jbennett@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:jbennett@biddefordmaine.org).

For email subscriptions, [click here](#)

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Happy reading.