

# The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018

VOLUME 18.42

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For updates on:

- ✓ Meetings and events
- ✓ Construction and road closures
- ✓ General government updates

And more! Spread the word!

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Meetings are located in the Council Chambers at City Hall unless otherwise stated.

**Tuesday**      **October 30, 2018**  
6:00 p.m.      City Council Special Meeting

**Wednesday**    **October 31, 2018**  
**Happy Halloween!** Please watch out for children and families out trick-or-treating!

Celebrate Halloween in downtown Biddeford from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.! See page 2 for details.

**Thursday**      **November 1, 2018 – Extra Mile Day**  
2:00 p.m.      York County Public Transportation Program @ Kennebunk Town Hall Auditorium

6:00 p.m.      Public Meeting on Hill St./Water St./Main St. Project w/MaineDOT  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Extended hours in City Clerk's Office for absentee voting and voter registration

**Friday**          **November 2, 2018**  
8:30 a.m.      Economic Improvement Commission @ Second Floor Conference Room

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

## BIDDEFORD, WE DID IT!

Thanks to YOUR votes (nearly **85,000** of them!), Heart of Biddeford has received a **\$150,000 grant** from American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to restore the City Hall clock tower! The funding will be used to bring the clock back to working order and repair the four faces of decorative work outside the clock room.



With your support, Biddeford was able to end the contest in **3<sup>rd</sup> place out of twenty communities nationwide**. Whether you voted daily or just once, **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to Heart of Biddeford for selecting our clock tower when applying for this grant and for the many hours spent rallying the community around this landmark.

**What time is it? It's time to restore the clock tower!**



Several parking changes will be coming to downtown Biddeford in November. Please visit [www.biddefordmaine.org/parking](http://www.biddefordmaine.org/parking) and see page 7 for updates and details.



## PUBLIC MEETING WITH MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON INTERSECTION RECONSTRUCTION

The Maine Department of Transportation is suggesting some changes in traffic patterns in Biddeford's downtown. The proposed plan would reconstruct the intersection of Main Street, Water Street, Hill Street, and the North Dam Mill Entrance to create a four-way intersection and install a new traffic signal. The proposed plan also includes a new traffic signal at the intersection of Main and Hill streets, and the replacement of existing pavement beginning at Alfred Street and extending easterly 0.28 of a mile to Hill Street. MDOT representatives will be present at a public meeting on November 1 at 6pm in the Council Chambers to listen to concerns and comments and answer any questions regarding the project. The Department is particularly interested in learning local views relative to project consistency with local comprehensive plans, discovering local resources, and identifying local concerns and issues.

Any inquiries regarding this project may be directed to the attention of Brian Keezer, Project Manager, Maine Department of Transportation, Multimodal Program, 24 Child Street, 16 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0016. Telephone: (207) 624-3612. Email: Brian.Keezer@maine.gov.

## DOWNTOWN HALLOWEEN



October 31, 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Bring the kids downtown on Halloween afternoon for some great trick-or-treat fun organized by Heart of Biddeford! Wear costumes and bring a bag, then stop by any participating business. They will have a picture of a cat in their window to show they are participating. Have fun, be safe, and don't forget to visit City Hall for a treat!



Mayor Alan Casavant officially declared November 1, 2018 as **Extra Mile Day** at the October 16 City Council meeting.

Extra Mile Day is a part of the mission of Extra Mile America, an organization founded by Shawn Anderson. As a symbol of "going the extra mile", Anderson pedaled 4,000 miles on a coast-to-coast bike tour in 2009 and interviewed over 200 individuals who were making a difference in their local communities. Extra Mile Day was created in the spirit of Anderson's ride to encourage leaders to acknowledge their own exceptional residents. Over 550 mayors across the United States are expected to make the 2018 declaration.

"I urge each individual in the community to take time on this day to not only 'go the extra mile' in his or her own life, but to also acknowledge all those who are inspirational in their efforts and commitment to make their organizations, families, community, country, or world a better place," Casavant said in the proclamation.

### Notice to Residents of Biddeford Important Leaf Collection Information and Collection Dates

Curbside collection of leaves will be limited to leaves placed in bio-degradable bags. Bio-degradable bags may be purchased at the Biddeford Recycling Center or at a number of other local stores.

Leaf collection for wards 1, 2, 3 & 4:  
Monday, November 5th  
Monday, November 19th

Leaf collection for wards 5, 6 & 7:  
Monday, November 12th  
Monday, November 26th

Leaves can also be brought to the Biddeford Recycling Center during regular operating hours AND on the following SUNDAYS from 7:00am until 2:45pm - November 18th & November 25th



Please call the Public Works Department at 282-1579 with any questions.

Not sure of your ward number? [Click here](#) and look for your address to find out.

To subscribe to the Biddeford Beat weekly newsletter, please [click here](#). Thank you for reading!



# CATHEDRAL OAKS HALLOWEEN TRAFFIC/PARKING



Over the past several years, Cathedral Oaks has been an extremely popular place to trick or treat on Halloween. The number of visitors to the area seems to grow every year and with this increase comes traffic congestion, parking problems, and a concern for the public's safety should an emergency arise.

The Police Department wants to preserve the fun family nature of the evening while at the same time ensuring the safety of residents and visitors. To accomplish this, the Police Department will implement some temporary changes to traffic flow and parking.

Traffic will flow **one way** on both Alexander Drive and Indian Ridge Drive. Vehicles entering the area on Cathedral Oaks Drive will be directed to turn right on Alexander Drive. Traffic will flow one way (south) on Alexander Drive back to Cathedral Oaks Drive. Traffic will have the option of proceeding to Thatcher Brook Lane, cross over to Indian Ridge Drive, or leave by Cathedral Oaks Drive. Both Indian Ridge Drive and part of Cathedral Oaks Drive will be one-way going north, making them the exit routes out of the area. Two-way vehicular traffic is permitted to travel along Thatcher Brook Lane this year, because the usual Skit and Halloween display at the Rousseau residence will not be in place. This allows for safe vehicular travel.

On-street parking will be restricted to one side in some areas with temporary no parking signs. Most legal parking areas will remain unchanged. Caution should be exercised though; it is never legal to park in such a manner that obstructs the travel portion of a public way.

Please contact the Police Department at 282-5127 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Biddeford Recreation would like to extend the BIGGEST THANK YOU to Jerry Lapierre, My Cub Care Staff, and Biddeford Home Depot for donating some awesome decorations; Biddeford High School Interact Club for volunteering; and the Spooky Trick-or-Treaters and their parents for attending and making Friday's **Youth Halloween Party** one to remember! We hope that everyone had a ghoulish good time and look forward to seeing you all again next Halloween!



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Thank you to the Maine Conservation Corp for their trail work in Clifford Park last week!



Funding for this project was provided by the Sewell Foundation with support from the City of Biddeford, Heart of Biddeford, Community Bicycle Center, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and Friends of Clifford Park. For more information about this project, please [click here](#).



# YORK COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT FORUM

Do you or someone you know have transportation challenges? Are you an avid public transit rider and have feedback or suggestions to share?

**Here's your chance to contribute towards regional transit service planning!**

Have your voice heard as we:

Share Needs, Develop Priorities and Strategies &  
Give Input on MaineDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan

**Everyone is Welcome—Please join us!**

**Thursday, November 1, 2018**

**2:00-4:30 PM**

**Kennebunk Town Hall Auditorium**

**1 Summer Street (parking adjacent)**

**1st floor**

Accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities.  
Auxiliary aids will be provided upon advance request.

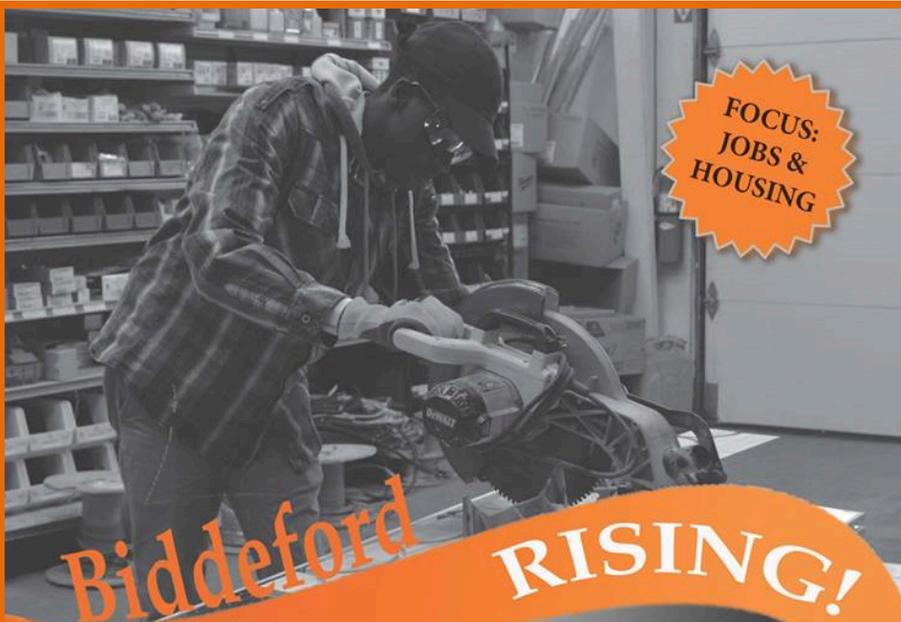
Call: 207-624-3299

Email: [transit.mainedot@maine.gov](mailto:transit.mainedot@maine.gov)

TTY Users: Dial Maine Relay 711

**FORUM HOSTED BY:**

Age-Friendly Committees of Kennebunk, Saco, OOB and Biddeford  
Town of Kennebunk \* MaineDOT \* York County Community Action Corporation  
Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission  
Biddeford-Saco-OOB Transit



FOCUS:  
JOBS &  
HOUSING

# Biddeford RISING!

*A community-based group designed to bring schools and "new Mainers" together.*

## Immigrant Families and Native Mainers Welcome!

Thursday, November 1, 2018  
5:30-7 PM

John F. Kennedy School  
64 West Street, Biddeford

**Free Community Meal**

- Employers Eager to Hire
- Learn about tenant rights and obligations
- Community Resources
- Register to vote

Translation services available.

**FREE TRANSPORTATION.**  
Please call Kerrie Edgerton at 282-8280.  
Telephonic translation services available.

Biddeford Schools

As a continued effort to better connect with the "new Mainers" in Biddeford, the Biddeford School Department is hosting a third *Biddeford Rising* gathering on Thursday, November 1st from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at John F. Kennedy School, 64 West Street, Biddeford. The event is open to the public and will include a free community meal.

"The first gathering focused on listening to 'New Mainers' concerns and working on future events that address those needs," stated Superintendent Jeremy Ray. "The second event brought in a dozen organizations so new immigrants and refugees could easily access resources in an informal setting. This third event will have an emphasis on civic engagement, housing and available employment." Some of the organizations who will attend include: York County Career Center, Maine Education Opportunity Center, Biddeford Adult Education,

League of Women Voters, FEDCAP, Pine Tree Legal, City of Biddeford, People Ready Recruitment, Southern Maine Health Care, Anchorage by the Sea, Manpower, York County Community Action, Casco Bay Molding and United Way of York County.

Biddeford School Department believes that strengthened relationships with the ELL community will reap positive benefits for all. Some of the goals of *Biddeford Rising* include: improved school-to-home communication; improved cultural understanding for administrators and staff; increased support for summer programs, with an eye towards full-year programming; connecting our refugee, migrant, and immigrant populations with much-needed community services to increase access to medical and dental care, legal support, financial help, housing and nutrition services, and more; and fostering a sense of trust between skeptical refugees, migrants, and immigrants (especially the large number of asylum-seekers in Maine).

*Biddeford Rising* is mirrored after *Portland Empowered*, a successful school-to-home program for non-native speakers. Meetings will continue to be held on a bi-annual basis with translators available and free transportation provided. The event is subsidized by a grant from Catholic Charities of Maine. For more information, visit [biddefordschools.me](http://biddefordschools.me) or contact Kerrie Edgerton at 207-282-8280.

# 2018 GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION



The 2018 General Election will be held on November 6. Polls will be open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.** at the Tiger Gym at Biddeford High School on Maplewood Avenue, regardless of ward.

A sample ballot for the election is available on our website at <https://www.biddefordmaine.org/sampleballot>.

**The City Clerk's Office is offering extended hours on Thursday, November 1, 2018 to help prepare for the general election.** The office will be open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. for absentee voting, acceptance of new voter registrations, and change of name and/or address. Please use the Main Street entrance to City Hall if you arrive after 5 p.m.

If you are planning on voting absentee, you must do so on or before November 1, 2018.

## ***Ranked-Choice Voting***

The November 6, 2018 General Election will be conducted using a system of ranked-choice voting for the offices of U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress. Ranked-choice voting, sometimes called "instant run-off voting," allows voters to choose their candidates in order of preference by marking candidates as their first choice, second choice, third choice, etc. The votes are counted in rounds, with the lowest-ranked candidates eliminated in each round until there are only two candidates left. The person who is determined to have received the majority of the votes (more than 50%) in the final round is declared the winner. It is different from our previous method of voting, in which voters choose only one candidate for each office and the winner is determined by plurality (whoever gets the most votes).

Biddeford voters will use ranked-choice voting in the following two races:

### *The U.S. Senate race*

- Eric Brakey (R)
- Angus King (I)
- Zak Ringelstein (D)

### *The U.S. Congressional District 1 race:*

- Martin Grohman (I)
- Mark Holbrook (R)
- Chellie Pingree (D)

Ranked-choice voting will NOT be used to select Maine's governor.

This [slideshow](#) shows several examples of how your ballot could be filled out and how it will be counted under ranked choice voting.

### **How can I register to vote?**

You can register to vote at the City Clerk's Office on the ground floor of City Hall during normal business hours. There is no cutoff date for registering to vote.

### **What House District and Ward do I live in?**

Please refer to [this document](#) on our website. Once you find your address on the document, you can find your ward in the "Ward/Precinct" column and your House District in the column titled "SR".



# PARKING UPDATES



## DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

On October 26, the Downtown Committee held a meeting to discuss downtown parking. The following updates were made at the meeting:

- The committee will work with staff to schedule an evening meeting to gather feedback from affected parties.
- An additional handicapped parking space will be added near the intersection of Bacon Street and Alfred Street.
- The committee will honor the City Council's 1994 letter of intent that was entered into with the Maine Court Facilities Authority and continue to provide ten reserved parking spaces for the courthouse. These parking spaces will be reserved only during the court's operating hours and will otherwise be available for public use.
- Parking on Water Street in front of the Chamber of Commerce and Lacava will remain 2-hour parking. The 30-minute parking signs that were installed will be removed.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

A new **Parking Q&A** was released in last week's Biddeford Beat. Please [click here](#) to find the answers to commonly asked questions about downtown parking.

The first set of long-term parking permits were distributed on October 22. All permit applicants received a permit for their first choice of parking lot and will be contacted by the Finance Department for payment. Limited long-term parking permits remain available. If you are interested in applying for a permit, please [fill out this application form](#) on our website or visit the City Clerk's office for a paper copy.

**Additionally, several changes have been made to the parking program since this information was first announced:**

- Previously, parking time limits on several downtown side streets were reduced from unlimited parking to two-hour parking. Based on a significant amount of public feedback, time limits on these streets have been increased to four-hour parking.
- Originally, it was announced that monthly permit holders would be able to park in any available space in any available lot. Now, monthly permit holders will be assigned a parking lot, but will still be able to park in any available space in that lot. Permit applicants will rank their preference of lot on the application form, and permits will be distributed on a first come, first served basis based on availability.

One of our most frequently asked questions about parking changes has been "How was this information communicated to community members?". To answer this question, we have created an interactive calendar tool that lists all of our communication about downtown parking throughout the past two years. Please [click here](#) to view the calendar.

**For more information on downtown parking, please visit [www.biddefordmaine.org/parking](http://www.biddefordmaine.org/parking).**