



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MONDAY, SEP 12, 2016

Volume 16.3

A1

Important Info from Public Works (A2): FREE Household Hazardous Waste Day

Saturday, September 17, 2016
8am – Noon @ Biddeford Public Works

371 Hill St.
Biddeford, ME 04005



(Continued on A3)

Biddeford and Saco Share Employees and Save Money

In June of 2016 Biddeford and Saco began sharing its Assessor. The estimated savings is excess of \$25,000 per year for Biddeford.

More recently the City's hired a Personal Property/Field Lister to work in both communities for the listing of Real Estate and Personal Property. The Assessing Offices' first line of business under this shared format was to confirm values for the commitment process in order to issue tax bills. Through hard work on both sides of the river the process was completed on time. The commitments for both cities were completed and the tax bills went out.

Being a new arrangement for both communities, early indications are that the arrangement is working well.

Athletic Field Improvements

The Biddeford Parks and Recreation Department with the assistance of the City's Engineering and Public Works Departments has completed the expansion of Rotary Park's Redmond Field to accommodate Biddeford Youth Football League's new 100 yard field requirement. *(Continued on A2)*

Main Street's Face Lift – Before, After and In Between

Last week, the 'Beat' provided information of the work in progress on Main St. Today, we are following up to provide you information of what you can expect on Main Street in upcoming weeks. *At a glance:*

Main St Sewer Separation Project

Westerly Section: Work of Main St west of Elm has been complete.
Easterly Section: Work is scheduled to begin on the installation of a new sewer manhole at the intersection of Main and Adams St. In addition several catch basin will be separated from the sewer system in and near this intersection.

Work Hours

Generally Monday through Friday @ 7am – 7pm. Some later evening work may occur to complete the work. Local businesses will remain open and available – follow Detour Signage for access.

MDOT (Maine Dept of Transportation) Road Reconstruction Work

The MDOT contractor has placed base layer of pavement. MDOT work following several weeks will include setting of curbing, construction of sidewalks. *(continued on A2)*

Record Fuel Sales at Airport

This past July, Biddeford airport sold 6,000 gallons of fuel. This is a considerable increase compared to last year's, July 2015 sales of 4,000 gallons. The current improvements at the airport have increased not only sales but traffic as well. Through new management, a positive attitude and successful upgrades, we expect this growth to continue.

Questions/Comments:

t. 207.284.9313

e. newsletter@biddefordmaine.org

w. biddefordmaine.org

2016 Household Hazardous Waste Day

Biddeford Public Works is offering a free Household Hazardous Waste drop off on Saturday, September 17th at 8am – noon for residents of Biddeford, Old Orchard Beach, Saco and Scarborough (proof of residency required). Special message from Martin Grohman, Chair of Biddeford Solid Waste Commission, [click here](#).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
 8am to Noon - Biddeford Public Works

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE drop off

For Residents Of
 Biddeford
 Old Orchard Beach
 Saco
 Scarborough
 Proof of Residency
 Is Required

Please use the original
 sealed containers when
 possible or transport in
 cardboard boxes.

Do Not Bring
 Tires, Smoke Detectors,
 Propane Cylinders,
 Explosives, Pathological
 or Radioactive Waste,
 Computers, Commercial
 Waste, or Any
 Unknown Waste Materials

Please bring your household hazardous waste items such as button and rechargeable batteries, insect sprays, rust inhibitors, fluorescent light bulbs, non-latex paint, de-greasers, kerosene, paint stripper, paint thinner, mothballs, drain cleaners, gasoline, flea killers, used oils, insecticides, pool chemicals, weed killer, toilet bowl cleaner, no-pest strips, pesticides, metal polishes, herbicides, rodent killers, fertilizers, antifreeze, brake and transmission fluid, wood stain, sealants, spot remover, furniture polish, and more!

You can help the city save money and you can avoid waiting in-line at the HHWD by recycling paints and fluorescent light bulbs at local retailers throughout the year!

(continued from A1 Athletic Field)

The work entails converting the two 80 yard fields to one 100 yard field set diagonally. This essentially retains all the field space within the current configuration with minimal extension on two corners to accommodate the end zones. The existing fencing has been removed to accommodate the work and will remain down once the project is complete to open up the space.



“Redmond Field at Rotary Park”

(continued from A1 Main Street)

Due to the full width of road reconstruction, sidewalk and curbing placement, it was determined by PD and MDOT to close sections of Main Street as needed from Elm Street for the fastest and safest completion of work.

Local residents and business owners will have access, though delays can be expected which vary daily.

Adequate Detour signs are in place to direct traffic around the work zone.

For more details and updates please visit the City’s Engineering [homepage](#).



Before



After

continued from AI River Jam)



Saturday, September 17th Biddeford and Saco come together for it's 2nd Annual River Jam Festival in the heart of their downtowns and mill districts for a day of free family fun culminating with Maine's best brands!

For more information and full event schedule please visit:

[River Jam Website](#)
[River Jam Facebook](#)
[Heart of Biddeford](#)

Downtown's Worth

Over the last few years, there has been an ongoing discussion about the importance of downtown of Biddeford. Some of the discussion focused on the importance of shaping the community's Downtown's image. Other discussions have centered on the financial impact relative to other parts of the community. Certainly, the big question that remains on most citizens' minds is whether removal of the Maine Energy (trash plant) facility was a wise decision.

The impact that facility has on this community can be viewed through several different lenses. Over the next couple of weeks, the City will release some preliminary findings as it relates to the financial impacts on the property taxpayers in the City. We plan to share the results of those findings through upcoming editions of the *'Beat'* as well as, at an upcoming meeting of the City Council where an in depth presentation will be made.

Next week, we will discuss the total taxable value in the downtown. We will also share with you how the Assessor determines assessed property values. The assessed value is used to calculate property taxes. As a sneak preview, actual property sales determine values. The total value in the downtown area today is \$185,983,000.

Charter Commission

On November 8, when Biddeford residents enter the voting booth, they will be asked a series of important questions about their local government. If the voters approve the nineteen questions support by the Charter Commission, changes will occur in the way the City operates. A 'no' vote will keep things the same. You might be curious about how those questions would change the operations of the City. More importantly, you might be wondering how you could learn more about these 'Charter Questions.'

In the next couple of editions of the *'Beat'*, we will provide additional information about the questions. Alternatively, you can visit the City web site which has more information available, [click here](#). We also encourage you to watch local access channel for the show airing ballot questions.

If you would like to contact any member of the Charter Commission, City Council, the Mayor or staff in the City Manager's office, contact information is available on our city [website](#).

Apartment Building Status Update

In April 2016, the City initiated a Code Enforcement effort to ensure Multi Family residential buildings meet a minimum Life Safety Standard. The City of Biddeford has approximately 650 properties that fall within these criteria. As of September 1, 2016 the following has been completed:

- 266 Requests have gone out
- 77 Full Inspections Completed
- 40 Apartment Buildings Scheduled for Inspection
- 39 Meeting with Landlords

Please call Code Enforcement for details 207-284-9236.

For email subscriptions, [click here](#)

For questions or comments:

t. 207.284.9313

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Happy Reading.