



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MONDAY, SEP 19, 2016

Volume 16.4

A1

Absentee Ballot Requests Now Being Accepted

The City Clerk's Office has been accepting absentee ballot requests for the upcoming November 8th State General (Presidential) and Municipal Referendum Election since the beginning of August. Absentee ballots are expected to be available for issuance about 30 days prior to Election Day. To date, the City Clerk's Office has received over 600 absentee ballot requests.

There are a number of ways that voters may request an absentee ballot:

- 1) Submit an absentee ballot request electronically, [click here](#).
- 2) Call the City Clerk's Office at 284-9307 and request an absentee ballot via telephone.
- 3) Obtain an absentee ballot application from the City Clerk's Office, complete the application and return it to City Clerk by hand or mail.
- 4) Arrive at the City Clerk's Office prior to Thursday, November 3rd, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and cast your vote at that time using the absentee ballot.

The City Clerk's Office will be issuing absentee ballots up to and until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 3rd, 2016. ***No absentee ballots will be issued on Friday, November 4th or Monday, November 7th.***

All absentee ballots must be returned to the City Clerk's Office no later than Election Day, November 8th at 8:00 p.m.

City Manager Explains Sidewalk Upgrades

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to listen to citizens' concerns within our community. By far, the number one concern is pedestrian safety, especially within the downtown. Last week, the City Council took a major step in addressing this concern by approving the next phase of downtown sidewalk improvements.

The City began upgrading the downtown sidewalks and lighting a few years ago. The work started at the lower bridge at Saco Island and to date, the work has reached the Alfred Street intersection. *(continued on A2)*

Actual cobblestone and paver design for sidewalk project



City Hall Showcases Local Talent

For the past three and a half years City Hall has had an art gallery on the first floor which has provided gallery space to local artists who wish to exhibit and help promote the arts here in Biddeford. A picture rail system was installed as well as lighting which helps properly light the work. *(continued on A2)*

A day as a Biddeford Firefighter

By Fire Chief Scott Gagne

In the next few editions of the 'Beat' we will share a typical day in the life of a city employee from their perspective. I am thrilled to be the first to share my experience.

I am often asked, what does a day in the Biddeford Fire Department consist of? *(continued on A2)*

(continued from AI Sidewalk Updates)

Funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG Program) has primarily supported these sidewalk improvements. Unfortunately, beyond the lighting improvements completed to date, the work has done little to deal with pedestrian safety concerns.

This next phase of sidewalk improvements includes three specific provisions to improve pedestrian safety. The first pedestrian safety improvement involves permanent installation of crosswalks with pavers and original street cobblestones. This crosswalk design is very visible to vehicle drivers.

The second improvement is the addition of cobblestone-lined 'pedestrian pods' at the intersections. A pedestrian pod extends out from the sidewalk allowing vehicle drivers to see pedestrians intending to enter a crosswalk. Finally, the intersections of Alfred and Main, York and Main, and Lincoln/Adams and Main will include a center cobblestone treatment that will act as a traffic calming element.

These upgrades will not only improve safety but will also enhance the downtown with design features created using historically significant materials from our community. The new sidewalk improvement project will be completed over the next nine to twelve months in two parts. The sidewalk and lighting work is expected to be completed before winter. Construction of the pedestrian pods, crosswalks, and intersection traffic calming features will commence this coming spring.

(continued from AI Firefighter)

Emergency personnel work 24 hour shifts starting at 0800 until 0800 the next morning. On average we respond to 14 emergency calls a day. The average on scene time for all emergency calls is 15 minutes and an average ambulance call takes us about 90 minutes. Each shift has an average of 8 personnel on duty. Each ambulance is staffed with two people; the second ambulance is crossed staffed with the two people assigned to the aerial truck. We staff two engines, one with three people and the other with one person.

All other apparatus for specialty calls are crossed staffed. Most personnel are responsible for two or three pieces of apparatus. In addition to emergency calls, each day has a variety of essential daily operation tasks that need completion. Examples of these include apparatus and equipment along with vehicle and station cleaning and maintenance. Finally, training is completed on a rotation basis to help keep skills sharp.

For details of a typical 24 hour day as a firefighter on September 6th, [click here](#).

(continued from AI Local Talent)



Andrea Fagan/City of Biddeford

The community has had the good fortune of having a variety of artists show their work on a monthly basis, both professional and amateur.

Presently the work of Arthur Mathis is on display. Arthur is a resident of Biddeford and a graduate of the Art Certificate Program. We have received a lot of positive comments on his art from both staff in the building as well as the numerous people who pass through the first floor of City Hall. To find out more about the Art Certificate Program please visit www.facebook.com/theartcertificateprogram. Next to be exhibited will be the work of Kenny Deprez starting on September 26th.

Many thanks to Tammy Ackerman for coordinating the artists who exhibit at City Hall's gallery. If you would like to submit your work for possible showcasing, please contact Tammy e: director@feedtheengine.org or p: 207-370-9130.

For email subscriptions, [click here](#)

For questions or comments:

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Happy Reading.