



The Biddeford Beat

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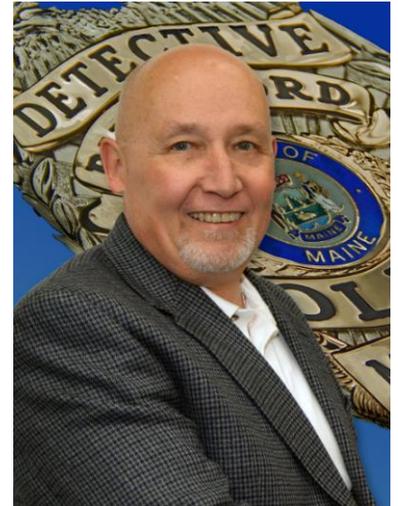
A1

In Memory of Detective Peter Wentworth

Peter R. Wentworth, husband, father, brother, uncle, friend, co-worker and a big part of the Law Enforcement Brotherhood. Loved by many and respected by all.

Pete was born on March 3, 1955 in Somersworth, NH. He graduated from Somersworth High School, went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of New Hampshire and was certified to teach social studies and history. But, his real desire was to attend law school. Since, teaching jobs and money to remain a student were both in short supply after graduation, Pete accepted a temporary assignment as Park Ranger in Washington, D.C.

His first fulltime job was as a National Park Law Enforcement Ranger at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. His plans were to work as a ranger or a teacher just long enough to save money to attend law school. However, his new found love for law enforcement altered the path he would follow. Not only did he find his passion for law enforcement as a Park Ranger in St. Louis, he found the love of his life there as well. His wife, Barbara, was also a Law Enforcement Ranger at the Arch. *(continued on A3)*



Detective Peter Wentworth
Mar 3, 1955 – Sep 11, 2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS

*As of September 20th, 2016
Finance Committee is at 5pm
City Council is at 6pm.*

Mon Sep 26

6:30pm - Recreation Commission
(Teen Center)

Tue Sep 27

6:00pm - Strategic Planning
Committee (2nd Flr Conf Rm)
7:00pm - School Committee (Little
Theater at BHS - Live)

Wed Sep 28

8:00am - Downtown Task Force
(2nd Flr Conf Rm)
2:30pm - Election Logistical Meeting
(2nd Flr Conf Rm)
6:00pm - Council Workshop & Site
Walk (Council Chambers then to
Riverwalk)

Full Calendar of Meetings, [click here](#)

The Council Goes Paperless

On Tuesday, September 20th the Biddeford City Council held its first meeting using a new software package that eliminates the volumes of paper used to create the council packets. *(continued on A2)*

Downtown Value on the Rise

On Tuesday, September 20, 2016, The City Manager presented a short analysis of the current sales of property in the downtown area at the request of the Mayor and City Council President. That [presentation](#) along with the [video](#) can be found on City Manger's Webpage. You might be asking why property sales are an important item for citizens. This article will answer that question and provide an overview.

Maine state law requires citizens to pay for local government services, including schools and county government, through property taxes. *(continued on A2)*

A Day as a Parking Control Officer

Parking enforcement is a necessity in urban settings. In Biddeford, citations vary from 5 to 15 daily and on some occasions towing is enforced. Since 2003, parking enforcement has been the responsibility of Ron Vire, Parking Control Officer. "I'm not here to ruin people's day, I am here to do my job and enforce parking regulations based on City's Ordinance as they are written" Ron says.

Ron has been in public safety most of his career working for Old Orchard Beach Fire and Rescue, serving as Director of Health and Safety for the Red Cross of York County, *(Continued on A3)*

(continued from AI Downtown Value)

It is the responsibility of the Assessor to place a value on all property within a community *so that all owners pay a fair share of the costs of local government*. To achieve this standard, the Assessor must use recent sales to determine the value of all property. Another way to look at this process is that the Assessor must reflect the market based on the past sales. Assessors do not attempt to predict what the values will be. As a result, the value placed on a taxpayer's property is directly influenced by what other people are willing to pay for similar properties in the communities.

The analysis shows that all of the commercial sales in the downtown area have been an average of 60% higher than the assessed value. While not quite as impressive, even the multifamily and residential properties in the downtown area are showing a positive trend selling at an average of 12% above the local assessed value.

The total local value for the downtown area is \$185,983,000. The commercial value is \$65,406,200.

Based on current sales, if the Assessor was doing an update to the properties in the downtown area, the values would be adjusted upwards by \$52,790,662 for a new total of \$238,773,662. That new value would generate an additional \$1,048,422.55 in property taxes based on the

This analysis is simply a study used to determine how effective the downtown economic strategy has been strictly from property tax perspective. It is important to stress that the Assessor will not be adjusting the values by that amount in the next year. While every year the Assessor will review the past years' sales to determine if there is any inequity in the community, it does not mean there will be an adjustment every year.

The study proves that values are climbing in the downtown area, especially the commercial values. This is the fact and the truth. As a residential taxpayer in the community, a positive increase in the value of commercial properties is a great thing. It means those commercial properties will bear more of the property tax burden and the residential properties will bear less. When the community makes decisions that support the increase in values, it does so in part to benefit the amount of taxes you pay on your home.

If you have any specific questions about the presentation, please contact City Hall 284-9313.

(continued from AI Going Paperless)

The new system allows the packets to be created and uploaded to a cloud storage site where they are then accessible via a personal electronic device such as a tablet. Councilors have the ability to create notes, bookmarks, sticky notes, highlights, underlines and freeform drawings on the documents in preparation for the upcoming meeting.

There is also a new website interface for the public. Under the old system citizens had to search three different webpages for access to meeting agendas, packets, minutes, and videos. Now the public has access to upcoming and archived meetings, along with available meeting documents, all from one [webpage](#). Simply bring up an archived video and the agenda also appears. If the agenda included supporting materials, these can be accessed through hyperlinks as well. Citizens can also search the archive by keyword making it much easier to locate items of interest.

The goal over the next two months is to transition all of the City's boards, commissions and committees to the software. Paper packets will still be needed at the committee level however, using the software will allow for the creation of a comprehensive archive of all meetings, whether televised or not, in one location.

Results of HHW Day

The HHW Collection was held on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 8:00 AM until Noon, at the Hill Street Public Works Facility. The Cities of Biddeford, Saco and the Towns of Scarborough and Old Orchard Beach participated. Following is the data on vehicles and collected materials.

<u>City/Town/Households</u>	<u>No. Vehicles</u>	<u>No. Whole Households</u>	<u>No. Half Households</u>
Biddeford	242	317	148
Old Orchard	13	9	6
Saco	31	37	21
Scarborough	19	33	3

* A whole household is up to either 20 lbs of solid materials or 10 gallons of liquids.

* A half household is up to either 10 lbs of solid materials or 5 gallons of liquids.

This event represented a very heavy turnout and was comparable to last year's turnout, albeit somewhat higher.

(continued from A | Peter Wentworth)

Pete then spent five years as a patrol deputy sheriff for counties in Missouri and Florida. Pete returned to his New England roots when Barbara fell in love with New England after accepting a Law Enforcement Ranger position at the Maritime National Park in Salem, MA.

After a short stint as a police officer in his hometown of Somersworth, Pete joined the Portland, Maine Police Department. During his twenty-two years at Portland, he was assigned to the patrol, traffic, detectives and internal affairs units, retiring in 2008 with the rank of Lieutenant.

He was then hired by Biddeford P.D. in 2008. After serving a very short time on Patrol, Pete gladly accepted the challenge to serve as a School Resource Officer at the Biddeford Middle School. In 2011 he was assigned to C.I.D. as the Juvenile Officer.

During his 36 year law enforcement career, Pete received numerous awards and commendations from those agencies he served. In May of 2011 he was selected as Biddeford's Police Officer of the Year. In addition to the standard and on-going training to retain certification as a Maine law enforcement officer, he completed specialized training in polygraph testing, interview and interrogation, forensic child interviewing and death investigations. He became a state certified and licensed polygraph examiner.

Pete and Barb were married for thirty years and had two children. Barbara is currently the Communications Director for the Dover New Hampshire Police Department where she has worked since 1987. Their daughter, Katherine is a medical student graduate from the University of New England and son, Daniel is a law student at the University of Maine Law School. Daniel has also served as a summer reserve officer in Old Orchard Beach.

The Biddeford Police Department has received many expressions of gratitude from representatives of outside agencies, members of law enforcement and especially his co-workers in particular for their having met and working with Pete. Pete would do anything to assist another officer with an investigation, he was always eager to help.

Pete was an optimist, he was positive even when speaking about less than up-lifting events. He was extremely proud of his chosen profession and was respected by those who crossed his path. Therefore, it is only fitting that the day of his passing, September 11th is the date that is also honored and remembered by all First Responders. He will be dearly missed. Heroes never die. They live on in the hearts and minds of those brave enough to follow in their footsteps. And for us, Pete was a true Hero.

(continued from A | Parking Enforcement)

volunteer for emergency disaster services, a state licensed EMT and recently retired as deputy Chief from OOB Fire after serving 30 plus years. He is currently involved with the Salvation Army and serves as a local Corps Officer. According to Ron, "Working with Salvation Army has taught me the communication and interaction skills needed for parking enforcement." For enforcement, bending of the rules is not allowed but Ron does issue "forgiveness tickets" which are warnings to first time parking offenders between the months of Jan-Jun and Jul-Dec each year, so technically 2 warnings are given. Once a ticket is written, the ticket stands. Tickets are paid at the police station. However, citizens have the legal right to challenge a ticket. The first step is to go to the Biddeford Police Station between 7am – 4pm (Mon-Fri) and ask for Ron. If the issue is unresolved, the offense will then be addressed in Court. But be warned, Ron has never lost a case. Evidence is required in court and all vehicle violations are photographed; fire hydrants, crosswalks, yellow curbs, restricted parking signs and handicap spots – all documented. Ron offers the following tips to reduce the chance of being ticketed.

1. *The best way to avoid a citation is to read the signs. Biddeford posts areas where there are parking restrictions. There are also free parking lots around the City which you can find on the city's website, [click here](#).*
2. *As winter approaches be aware of No Parking Ordinances on the street, clearly marked in which cars shall not be parked for more than 48 hours at a time.*
3. *Watch for the temporary red and white signs designating no parking zones.*

The last two restrictions allow Public Works time to clear/clean streets and lots as needed after a storm or for equipment access to complete a project. With attention to parking restrictions tickets can be avoided.

Like all municipal employees Ron has a job to do. He takes it seriously, he does it well and he brings a great attitude. He also has the opportunity to interact with a lot of people because his role is so visible. "Having a positive attitude goes a long way and I'm here to help people as well as provide information; the best part of my job is meeting the people," Ron states.