



# The Biddeford Beat

## Employee & Volunteer Appreciation Edition

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A1

### City Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Employee and Volunteer of the Year Banquet

On Thursday, September 29, 2016 the City hosted its first Employee and Volunteer of the Year appreciation banquet. The last time the City hosted an appreciation banquet for volunteers was in 2005 under Mayor Wallace Nutting's administration.

This year, the City Manager suggested a combined Employee & Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. The idea was fully supported by Mayor Casavant and the Councilors. A small planning group was formed and Jim's "vision" was put into motion.

Nearly 200 employees and volunteers attended the banquet and the following awards were given out:

- Employee of the Year – presented by Jim
- Volunteer of the Year – presented by the Mayor
- Service Awards for employees with 30+ years and 35+ years
- Departmental Recognitions – presented by Department Heads
- Recognition of Retirees from July 2015 to current

The Employee of the Year and the Volunteer of the Year received engraved plaques. The service winners received polo shirts and fleece outerwear. Retirees received a \$50 donation to a local charity of their choice in their name. The recognition certificates for the departmental awards and the retirees were mounted and framed.

The two highlights of the evening were the announcement of Police Sergeant, Steven T. Gorton as the 2016 Employee of the Year and Recreation Commission Chairman, Joe McKenney as the 2016 Volunteer of the Year.

Fifteen employees from the ten City departments along with seven retirees were also recognized. The City also recognized twenty employees with 30 or more years of service. "Eleven employees from the Fire Department, six employees from the Police Department, and three employees from Public Works with a combined 705 years of service is not only astounding but admirable," added the Mayor.

It was a spectacular event where camaraderie filled the air and it truly will be a one of a kind occasion that will be forever memorable for those who serve this City.

#### Departmental Recognition (A3, A4, A5)

City Clerk	Finance
COO Office	Fire Dept
Codes	Police Dept
Economic Dev/Planning	Public Works
Facilities	

#### Service Recognition (A5)

- 30 Years and Over
- 35 Years and Over

#### Retirees 2015 – 2016

Charlene Charland, Assistant Assessor	07.07.16
Curtis Koehler, Finance Director	02.29.16
Guy Godbout, Detective	09.11.15
Jacinthe Godbout, Police Secretary	10.30.15
Julie Harper, Court Officer	05.01.16
Timothy Robinson, Firefighter/EMS	09.18.15
William Gaumont, Patrolmen	07.02.15

## City Announces 2016 Employee of the Year, Sergeant Steven Gorton

Steve began his career with Biddeford Police on October 30, 1996 as a full time patrol officer. His prior experience was as a Brink's Security Supervisor, and prior to that as an Army Sergeant, serving with the Military Police. Steve hails from Michigan and is a strong supporter of Michigan State football.

Steve was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on November 4, 2004. Prior to promotion, he served as the School Resource Officer at J.F. Kennedy School and was then assigned to oversee and facilitate the newly created Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program for the Agency. He was also in charge of coordinating various community policing efforts in the downtown, acting as the liaison to community groups and BPD. After being promoted to Sergeant, he was responsible for the supervision of a patrol shift, yet was tasked to maintain the community policing link with the Downtown. He was instrumental in forging positive and continued relationships with various downtown groups to make the Downtown Business District an inviting and safe place for people to visit. He has been working closely with the Heart of Biddeford, Downtown Development Commission and MacArthur Library in their efforts to address the safety concerns of the Downtown.

In 2015, Sgt. Gorton was selected to supervise the newly created Street Crimes Unit, with the specific task of dealing with issues and problems that negatively impact the Quality of Life in Biddeford. His task was a complex one, in that the enforcement focus had to fit a certain model; one that offered the greatest positive impact upon an area with a high crime profile and/or continued disruptive behavior. One of Unit's first successes, for example, was a quick effective response to a series of motor vehicle break-ins within a residential neighborhood, resulting in the arrest of multiple suspects. As this Unit's successes became more frequent, additional training was provided and the focus areas broadened. Street Crimes works collaboratively with the Southern Maine Violent Crimes Task Force, Maine Drug Enforcement, D.E.A., Portland's Crimes Reduction Unit, and others. Although the original intent didn't start off this way, Street Crimes also conducts surveillance on known drug dealers, and has been instrumental in the gathering of drug intelligence that has ultimately led to the arrest of major suppliers of Heroin in our community.

In addition to his other duties, Sgt. Gorton reaches out to all victims of drug overdoses, trying to get them into recovery. He has successfully referred more than 20 people suffering from addiction to treatment facilities. Sgt. Gorton has been tasked with setting up and maintaining collaborative opioid addiction services with Maine Behavioral Health, Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition, Southern Maine Health Care, Milestone Foundation, Operation Hope, Merideth Norris, Portland Recovery Community Center, and others. He has worked with other community groups, such as the Rotary's Red Ribbon Committee, University of New England, etc.

Sgt. Gorton exemplifies service to community, its citizens, and the victims of crimes. He remains available to perform any duty or task that is asked of him on a moment's notice, is a hard charger, extremely loyal to the Agency and his peers, is a strong advocate of the Community Policing Model, and has the strength, knowledge and experience to work with various community groups and other law enforcement agencies to improve our quality of life.

I believe that Steven T. Gorton is the most suitable candidate to be considered as the City of Biddeford's first Employee of the Year. On a rating scale of 1 to 10, Sgt. Gorton would be rated a 15. A very valuable asset to the City of Biddeford in general, and to this agency in particular.

## City Announces 2016 Volunteer of the Year, Joe McKenney

Volunteer of the Year Joe McKenney serves on the Recreation Commission, volunteers with the Heart of Biddeford and owns his own photography business located in the Mills.

The Mayor stated, “Joe spends countless hours, always with a smile on his face. He often donates his skills as a photographer to numerous causes and in addition to his commission duties helps coordinate the various city parades, photographs local sporting events, and assists with our city parks. His involvement is priceless!”

### Finance Recognition Award

By Mike Wilson, Finance Director

Gerraldine Matherne is the 2016 Finance recognition recipient. Gerry is not only a pleasure to work with, she is always is eager to learn new things. She regularly offers to help out with various tasks and produces quality work.

Gerry is a tremendous help to the Finance Department and a true example of a team player.

### Fire Dept Recognition Award

By Scott Gagne, Fire Chief

This award was presented to Robert Lang. It's given to any rank below a Chief who best exemplifies the positive characteristics of a member of the fire service and who has a notable record of service and achievements. Although not an award for a life saving act, this award is presented to the individual who has given selflessly of themselves in support of the department, the fire service in general and the community based on their dedication, their dependability, their productivity and their professionalism.

### City Clerk's Office Recognition Award

By Carmen Morris, City Clerk

Amber St. Ours is the 2016 Departmental Recognition recipient from the City Clerk's Office. Amber has been a City employee for 16 years and has worked in the City Clerk's Office for most of her time here. In May 2015, she took on the role of Deputy Tax Collector.

Later in 2015, as part of the restructuring of City Hall, Amber was then given the role of Office Manager in the City Clerk's Office. The creation of this position was imperative in light of the fact that the City Clerk's Office had just had a complete turnover in staff that same year. This meant that besides learning her role as the Deputy Tax Collector, she was the point person to train three new staff members. More importantly, with Amber stepping up and assuming all the additional responsibilities of Office Manager, I was able to continue with my Clerk duties and most especially, to keep my sanity!

Amber has truly been the backbone of the City Clerk's Office. She is highly respected by her co-workers and her friendly and warm demeanor is esteemed by the citizens who interact with her. Amber is truly an exemplary employee and I am honored to be able to present her with a Certificate of Recognition.

### Economic Development & Planning Recognition Award

By Daniel Stevenson, Economic Development Director

It is a pleasure to award special recognition to Brad Favreau. Brad started in the Planning and Economic Development Department approximately two years ago as an intern from the Muskie School at USM. He was determined to be involved and make an impact in Biddeford.

He's a committed and integral part of the team always willing to build his professional knowledge. He works well both independently and with the team while adding great value using his analytical skills. He represents positive attitude and shift gears quickly in this fast paced department.

Some of Brad's accomplishments are creating and maintaining:

- Inventory of buildings and businesses.
- Comprehensive summary of ED business statistics.
- “New prospects” program.
- Site selection process for prospects with quick turn around.
- Business presentations.
- Staffs the Mayor's Downtown Task Force & Downtown Advisory Group.

Brad will begin working for the City and the Department full time commencing January 2017.

## Police Department Recognition Awards

By Roger Beaupre, Police Chief

### Deputy Chief JoAnne Fisk (18 years with Biddeford P.D. | 36 years Law Enforcement Experience)

Responsible for Public Safety Communications, Police Records, and 9-1-1 Addressing. Instrumental in coordinating with District Attorney’s Office, the Courts, Probation, Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services and others. Is the Press Information Officer, and wears so many hats that she could open her own millinery shop.

### Lt. Normand V. Allaire (30 years with BPD | 6 years with Maine Liquor Enforcement)

Patrol Commander and responsible for the Uniform Officers Division, excepting the Traffic Unit. Supervises the Multi-Agency Underage Drinking Law Enforcement unit, and educates the public on under-age drinking laws and responsible consumption. Communicates with security personnel from the University of New England and Southern Maine Health Care, and coordinates public safety response with the Fire Department.

### Lt. Ricky Doyon (23 years with BPD)

Writes and/or coordinates all Department of Justice Grants that have been awarded to the PD. Coordinates the Proactive Response Team for Domestic Violence, and follows up on very Domestic Violence Complaint to assure proper follow up investigation and charges. Supervises the Crash Reconstruction Unit, the School Resource Officers, and is the Department Accreditation Manager.

### Starr Cloutier (18 years as Executive Assistant with BPD | 12 years with State of Maine Department of Public Safety)

Handles all administrative correspondence, scheduling and personnel records for the agency. Starr is simply an indispensable, loyal and dedicated employee who will go out of her way to help. She is a HUGE asset to the agency.

### William Gooch (18 years with BPD)

Originally hired as a Public Safety Dispatcher, and demonstrated such proficiency in I.T., that he was appointed as the Manager of I.T., servicing both the Fire and Police Departments. His intimate knowledge of the Records Management System is invaluable, and he serves as the backup I.T. person when Jerry Gerlach goes on vacation or is otherwise unavailable. It is not unusual for Bill to get a phone call at midnight, and within a 15 minute response time, is at his desk troubleshooting the problem. Bill always has a smile, has a very pleasant disposition, and is eager to help when called upon. Bill is the model employee: accountable, dependable, helpful, patient, even tempered, and simply an all-around nice guy.

## Public Works Recognition Award

By Guy Casavant, Public Works Director

Kara Cote has worked for the Department for a little over 10 years. During that time she has progressed from a part time clerical employee to her current position of Administrative Assistant. She actually performs more like an Office Manager and is in charge of the Administrative Office of the Department. Kara has proven to be very adaptable to any number of situations.

The Public Works Department deals with issues related to streets, trash and recycling, parks maintenance, cemeteries, wastewater operations and vehicle maintenance and Kara is on top of all of these areas. She delivers tremendous customer service to our residents on a daily basis and she shows great judgment and skill in addressing issues at hand. She is a key component in keeping the Department well organized and functioning at a high level and her work is of the highest quality. We are fortunate to have such a person as a member of our team.

## Technology Recognition Award

By Brian Phinney, COO

Jerry Gerlach manages the Information Technology Division within the Technology Department and has worked for the City for 17 years. Jerry is responsible for managing and integrating network, computer, software, phone, camera and data systems. He recently completed integration of a paperless meeting platform that streamlines meeting agenda and meeting packet creation and delivery, provides the public with much better access to meeting information, and reduces paper use.

Jerry plays a key role in proving all departments with stable IT-based systems needed for the City to communicate and conduct business.

## Airport Recognition Award

By Phil Radding, Facilities Director

Kristopher Reynolds works as Airport Manager and has employed with the City for 10 months. In that short time he has polished maintained the daily functions, polished up and continues to make this facility a star.

Some of his accomplishments are; improved relations with the pilots who base their planes in Biddeford, brought in Enterprise Car rental, arrangements to have a local taxi service to pick up at the airport.

Kris has improved the collection of hanger and tie down payments and collection of funds from charged fuel sale. In addition to Kris's administrative duties, he is responsible for the daily maintenance at the field from the mowing of grass to custodial duties of the terminal and the cities hangers.

He has excellent customer skills and makes an effort to greet and extend a warm welcome to new pilots who fly into Biddeford. All his efforts have increased the traffic at the airport and we have seen an increase in revenue.

## Facilities Recognition Award

By Phil Radding, Facilities Director

Renold Larose has been working for City Hall as a maintenance employee for 8 years. He is the first one here each day, takes ownership of this building and makes every effort to make sure that it is ready each day for the employees and public that enters its doors.

He ensures walkways are shoveled in the winter and the grounds are picked up the rest of the year. He handles everything from painting to burned out lights, from internal moves to minor plumbing leaks.

Ray works in other city buildings as part of his job from the fire station to public access. The quality of his work is excellent and he has good customer skills helping all that come into city hall as well as the people who work here.

Ray is always willing to go the extra mile.

## Longevity Service Awards 35 years Plus

Gerard Binette, Firefighter/EMS	35 yrs
Raymond Parent, Assistant Director Public Works	35 yrs
Bradford Jerome, Firefighter/EMS	36 yrs
Guy Casavant, Director Public Works	36 yrs
Paul Gallant, Truck Driver Public Works	39 yrs
Robert Nathaniel, Firefighter/EMS	37 yrs
Carl Marcotte, Assistant Director Public Works	39 yrs
Paul Labrecque, Fire Deputy Chief	38 yrs
Ricky Dussault, Fire Captain	39 yrs
David Marchand, Public Works	40 yrs
Normand Melancon, Fire Captain	42 yrs
Roger Beaupre, Police Chief	45 yrs

## Longevity Service Awards 30 years Plus

David Dutremble, Fire Lieutenant	30 yrs
John Pothier, Fire Captain	30 yrs
Raymond L'Heureux, Fire Call Force	30 yrs
Goerge Monteith, Police Patrolman	31 yrs
Jason Wheeler, Fire Captain	31 yrs
Peter Anton, Fire Lieutenant	31 yrs
Robert Perkins, Police Detective/Evidence Technician	32 yrs
Ronald Court, Mechanic Public Works	32 yrs

## Recreation Recognition Award

By Carl Walsh, Recreation Director

“Being recognized for their contribution to the Parks & Recreation Department this year are Mike Fecteau, Youth Sports Coordinator and Brian Dunphe Adult and Outdoor Program Coordinator. Both have been instrumental in supporting the City's recreation programs and the department.

Mike has been the Youth Sports Coordinator going on 11 years. However he has served much longer working as a part-time employee for many more. He is very active in Middle and High School Sports involved in coaching basketball and football. Mike is very dedicated to his community and the many youth he serves. Mike is the father of three children Kyle, Heather and Brianna and a grandfather to a future quarterback.

Brain Dunphe, a Maine Guide has been with the department for nine plus years managing adult leagues, classes and outdoor pursuits such as canoeing, kayaking and snowshoeing. He has been involved with Winterfest and recently with River Jam festivals. He also began his time with the recreation department as a part-time employee. Brian and his wife Lindsey have one child, Braelyn.”