



The Biddeford Beat

Important Info from Newsletter Staff:

In observance of holidays there will be no distribution on the following weeks:

Monday, November 28th
Monday, December 26th
Monday, January 2nd

The City wishes everyone a happy, safe Thanksgiving and joyous holidays.

Imitation, the Sincerest form of Flattery

Recently the employees that work hard to produce this weekly electronic newsletter have learned that someone has created a Biddeford Beat Facebook page which is not authorized by the City of Biddeford. This page is not connected in any fashion with the newsletter or the City. Our goal in producing a weekly newsletter is to provide residents and taxpayers with factual information in a timely manner. Based upon your many positive comments, we believe the extra work to make that happen has been appreciated and valued. We will continue to do so. *(continued on A2)*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mon Nov 21

6:30pm - Recreation Commission
(Recreation Center Outer Office)

Tue Nov 22

7:00pm - School Committee
(School Committee Meeting)

Wed Nov 23

8:00am - Downtown Task Force
(City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room)

Thu Nov 24

ALL DAY – CITY HALL CLOSED
(Thanksgiving)

Fri Nov 25

ALL DAY – CITY HALL CLOSED
(Day After Thanksgiving)

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)

Photos from Veteran’s Day Parade 2016



Parking Garage Buzz

There is a buzz around the city with discussions of a parking garage recently. However, it is likely the ‘buzz’ will bring information ranging from the factual to completely false and everything in between. For those who desire the facts there is plenty of information available. *(continued on A3)*

Reminder: 2016 Thanksgiving Day Resources

As a reminder, the City’s website has a Holiday Assistance section to provide the public with resources during the holiday seasons. This year, meals can be reserved for delivery or the public may dine in on Thanksgiving Day, November 24th.

Special thanks to the organizations and City’s General Assistance team who donate their time and service to those who in need. *(continued on A2)*

(continued from A1 *Imitation is Flattery*)

In reflecting on the “news” of this Facebook page, we are reminded of Charles Caleb Colton’s quote *‘imitation is the sincerest form of flattery’*. One can speculate on the reason(s) that it might have been created. Those that have spoken to staff about it have suggested that the authors want to discredit the newsletter by producing a false Facebook page with erroneous stories or rumors. Some have suggested that the credibility that has been created by the City’s official newsletter is what they seek. Others have suggested that this is the latest in a series of attempts to discredit the work that the City does in order to score political points against the elected officials.

Whatever the reason(s), it matters not to those that believe in the mission of the ‘Beat’. Staff will continue to produce a weekly newsletter with stories, information and fun facts about your community. We hope that you, our readers will encourage others to join the email list and let those who care know, that the Facebook version is not the platform to obtain accurate ‘Biddeford Beat’ information.

For the City’s official newsletter ‘Biddeford Beat’ please subscribe, [click here](#) or visit www.biddefordmaine.org/beat.

(continued from A1 *Thanksgiving Resources*)

Good Shepherd Parish: Thanksgiving Baskets – Reservations Required

Stone Soup Food Pantry: Thanksgiving Baskets – Reservations Required

Bon Appétit Meals Program : Thanksgiving meal served on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 24th @ 4:30 to 5:30pm

Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Dinner: Thanksgiving meal served on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 24th @ 11:00am to 1:00pm for Biddeford, Saco, OOB (proof of residence required)

Old Orchard Beach Methodist Church: Thanksgiving Day served 11:30am – 1:00pm for Biddeford, Saco and OOB residents (proof of residence required)

Please note, some locations require proof of residence to obtain meals onsite.

* Organizations will be cross referencing to ensure individuals are only using one resource.

For more information on schedules, reservations contacts and holiday resources, please [click here](#).

Biddeford’s Holiday Festival Encompasses Downtown

Downtown Biddeford is gearing up for a showcase of Pop-Up businesses, lighting displays, and retail open houses that will complement the traditional Downtown Holiday Festival in City Square on Friday, Dec. 2, 2016. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. in City Square, and will include performances by the Academy of Dance as well as Dynasty Dance Center. Santa and Mrs. Clause arrive by horse-drawn sleigh, and Mayor Casavant and Santa light the tree. From there, the community is encouraged to partake in a scavenger hunt with a map through the downtown to Pop-Up businesses, lighting displays by local artists, and various retail establishments.

In the afternoon on Dec. 2, kids are invited to stop by Reilly’s Bakery between 3:30-5:30 p.m. to decorate holiday cookies, an annual tradition sponsored by the bakery. City Theater’s “A Christmas Survival Guide” begins at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 2nd. Toys for Tots will be onsite for people who wish to donate presents to their annual campaign.

For more information, please visit www.heartofbiddeford.org

heartofbiddeford.org
and on Facebook

Friday, Dec. 2
5:30 - 7 p.m.

**Downtown
Holiday
Festival**

City Square, Biddeford

Free Cookie Decorating at Reilly's 3:30- 5:30 p.m.

Santa's Arrival Tree Lighting

Free Photo with Santa,
Gifts for Kids!

Scavenger Hunt with Prizes!

Pop-Ups, Retail Sales, and
Holiday Lights & Sites

Shopping

(continued from *AI Parking Garage Buzz*)

The City has hired experts to assist in evaluate parking. Two of these reports, Gorrill-Palmer (2006) and Rich & Associates (2012) discuss the likely impact of full development in the downtown and the expected future parking shortfall, respectively. These reports are available on City's website, [click here](#).

In May of this year, the City Council and Planning Board held a workshop on parking challenges. City staff issued a report called *'An Analysis of the Real Costs of Free Parking and Implications on Downtown Design.'* That report, along with the accompanying presentation can be found by clicking [here](#). The report demonstrated that the current cost of "free parking" is totally borne by the local property taxpayers. Not surprisingly, the 2014 Census update reported that about half of all jobs in the community were held by non-residents. By implication, local property taxpayers pay a portion of their taxes to supply free parking for employees in the downtown area, including non-resident employees.

In November of this year, the Council received a presentation that demonstrated how a parking structure could be built in the community without requiring any property taxes from residents. A copy of that presentation can be found by clicking [here](#).

Recently there have been at least two large employers looking to relocate in downtown Biddeford bringing approximately 450 and 225 jobs each. The average annual salary per employee was reported to be in excess of \$50,000 per year. In the end, the companies did not choose Biddeford. When questioned about the decision to relocate elsewhere, they both responded that lack of parking was the deciding factor.

On November 15th, the City Council authorized staff to seek proposals from qualified architectural/engineering firms to assist the City in making decisions regarding a parking structure. The selected firm will help the City make location, design and cost decisions. If the decision is to build, the firm will also prepare the bid specifications and may perform other duties.

Despite what you may hear, a decision to build or not to build has not been made nor has a location been selected. The Council has recognized that the downtown parking situation needs to be addressed. It is unacceptable to have good paying jobs go elsewhere. This is particularly true given that the cost to construct a garage can be paid for through user fees. Over the next few months, expect to hear a lot about parking in the downtown. We encourage you to seek the facts before assuming that everything said or published is factual.

Two Cities' Collaborative Outreach

Biddeford and Saco recently joined together to form the Saco Biddeford Opiate Outreach Initiative (SBOOI), a collaborative effort between the twin cities to facilitate pathways to community-based treatment, medically assisted treatment, recovery and support services. The program is founded on the premise that detoxification occurs behind walls but recovery occurs in the community.

Sergeant, Steve Gorton of the Biddeford Police Department and Deputy Chief, Corey Huntress of the Saco PD are working to get the program up and running quickly. Partnership agreements with UNE's Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition, Southern Maine Healthcare and the District Attorney's Office are in place. Applications for the SBOOI Coordinator position will be accepted through the end of November with the goal to fill the position in December or early January 2017.

The Coordinator will proactively reach out to known users to help develop and implement plans to ensure their survival, facilitate the long-term process of recovery and to avail users and their loved ones to local support services. The Coordinator and prevention specialists from CHCC will provide training and support on a community level at regularly scheduled meetings in a neutral setting to provide a wider variety of services and resources for family support. The goal of this two-stage approach is to significantly reduce the number of overdoses, get more users connected to and participating in treatment services and create a community that supports long term recovery from opiod drug addiction.

For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

For email subscriptions, [click here](#)

For questions or comments:

t. 207.284.9313

e. newsletter@biddefordmaine.org

Thank you for reading.

