



The Biddeford Beat



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

Volume 16.16

A1

REMINDER: HOLIDAY HOURS

City Hall will be CLOSED:

Friday, December 23rd @ Noon on
Monday, December 26th @ ALL DAY
Monday, January 2nd @ ALL DAY

in observance of Christmas and New Year.

NOTICE: FOR READERS

Newsletter will not be distributed:

Monday, December 26th
Monday, January 2nd

SPORTS & RECREATION (A2):

Youth Basketball
Rotary Park (Skate Park) Volunteers
Teen Center Food Drive
Ross Center/50 Plus Club

NOTICE TO BIDDEFORD RESIDENTS

TRASH & RECYCLING

There will be regular trash and recycling pick up:
Monday, December 26, 2016 and Monday, January 2, 2017
(Holiday wrapping paper may be discarded in recycling)

TRANSFER STATION

Closes at 10:45am Saturday, December 24th
Reopen at 7:00am Tuesday, December 27th

CHRISTMAS TREE RUBBISH

Christmas trees and wreaths will be picked up
Monday, January 2nd until Friday, January 13th
(Same day as your regular trash pick up - separate truck)

Residents of Biddeford may also bring their Christmas trees to the
Recycling Facility during regular operating hours at
371 Hill Street
(proof of residence required)

Recycling & Transfer Center Hours of Operation, [click here](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mon Dec 19

6:30pm – Recreation Commission
(Community Center)

Tue Dec 20

5:30pm – Finance Committee
(City Hall Council Chambers)

6:00pm – City Council Meeting
(City Hall Council Chambers)

Wed Dec 21

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

Wed Dec 21

7:00pm – School Committee
(BHS Little Theater)

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)

The Opiates Epidemic: City Uses Carrot & Stick

By: James Bennett, City Manager

During my long tenure with local government (35 years), few things have been more difficult to deal with or had such a firm grasp on so many communities across the country than the current opiates epidemic. Citizens are genuinely concerned and fearful as they hear about so many citizens losing their battle with addiction. (A2)

School Committee Joins City and Goes Paperless

On Tuesday, December 13th, Biddeford School Committee held its first meeting using Granicus Software. (A3)

City Employees Evaluate Electric Car

Beginning Monday, December 12, City employees were given the opportunity to evaluate a Nissan Leaf electric car for one week through a program by (A3)

Questions/Comments:

t. 207.284.9313

e. newsletter@biddefordmaine.org

w. biddefordmaine.org

(continued from AI Opiates)

Like so many of the challenges that face local communities, our national and state leaders seem to fall short in providing the leadership and resources needed to tackle this complex issue.

There is no one magic solution to winning this battle. The current understanding of the factors that contribute to the use and addiction to opiates indicates there are many causes. The list of complexities is very long. These realities have not prevented the City from taking action.

The City is using the traditional carrot and stick approach to the issue. On the carrot side, we have joined forces with the City of Saco to secure funding for resources to deal with addiction. This complements that long-standing practice of our police department following up with the overdose victims to encourage them to seek assistance.

On the stick side, the City, through the leadership of the Biddeford Police Department, has launched an aggressive plan called 'Operation Safe Streets.' Our Police work closely with outside agencies and our code enforcement division to target locations known to be or suspected of being centers of drug activity within the community.

The list of outside agencies includes state drug enforcement, probation and parole officials, and State Police. The mission is simple, to aggressively rid the city of known drug dealers by using all resources possible. You can read more about the successes of 'Operation Safe Zone/Safe Streets,' [here](#).

Eliminating all illegal drug activity in the community is not going to be easy. It can't be done by local government alone. We need everyone's help. If you believe there is drug or crime activity going on in your neighborhood, we encourage you to visit BPD's webpage, [here](#) to anonymously fill out a crime or drug tip form, here or call 207-282-5127.

We appreciate your assistance and support as we strive to champion this battle using both a big carrot and a big stick.

Youth Basketball on a Roll

This year's program is off and running with Pre K-Hoops, Kinder Hoops and grades 1-6. The program is rounded out with travel teams for a total of 205 participants under the leadership of 40 volunteer coaches and helpers that make this program possible. Games are held at the Community Center, and BMS. Practices are held at the Community Center, BMS, BIS and BPS.

Volunteers Work to Retain Skate Park

The six foot half pipe at the skate park has been a hit ever since it was installed back in 2002. In recent years, there have been many repairs due to heavy use. Its lifecycle essentially came to a close spring of 2016. After reviewing the area for over a year, some volunteers including local skaters and citizens, Andrew Syska, Ian Junkins, Roland Lawler and John Knox to name a few, began to see how they could help retain this crucial piece of the park.

Andrew went to work on design using the existing footprint and materials from the old ramp. The result was over 150 volunteer hours to rebuild the half pipe; much of the hands on work were completed by Andrew and Ian.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of all the volunteers to preserve the half pipe with limited resources. The skate park is visited from skaters from all over and this upgraded repair only makes this popular park all the more inviting.

Discussion on additional volunteer efforts for the Rotary Skate Park and Clifford Park Skate Park are in the works!

Community Center People & Pet Food Drive

As a reminder, 2:00pm today is the last call Community Center is collecting dry and can goods from for the drive with delivery dates to AWS and Health and Welfare scheduled for week of Christmas.

Ross Center/50 Plus Club

On Tuesday, November 29th Ross Center and 50 Plus Club took a Mystery Trip to Rosa's Brick Oven Restaurant in Portsmouth NH. There were 50 participants who joined for the day. Despite the damp and rainy weather, the group enjoyed a wonderful array of pizzas, sliders, paninis and topped off the meal with cannoli's in a very warm & cozy setting. Entertainment was provided by Red Gallagher, who sings old time favorites. It was a lovely day!

In Memory of Will Fulford, Biddeford High School Track Coach



Photo courtesy of Biddeford School Department

Will Fulford, who coached cross-country and track at Biddeford High School and the University of New England, passed away at age 29 Sunday, December 11th of an apparent cardiac arrest after running on a treadmill at the UNE fitness center in Biddeford.

Fulford was highly respected by his colleagues, students and the community. As the holidays approach, the City will not forget those who have made such positive impact on our community. We send deepest condolences and warmest thoughts to Fulford's wife, Ashley Potvin-Fulford and their family.

Parking Ban Notice

A snow removal parking ban will be in effect Monday, December 19th @ 8:00pm until 7:00am Tuesday, December 20th on the following streets:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Main St | St. Mary to Saco Line |
| Alfred St. | Main to Birch |
| Franklin St. | Main to Alfred |
| Federal St. | Washington to Franklin |
| Washington St. | Main to Alfred |
| Adams St. | Main to Jefferson |
| South St. | Jefferson to Adams |
| Jefferson St. | Main to Alfred |
| Lincoln St. | Main to Elm |
| Water St. | Main to Sullivan |
| Crescent St. | Jefferson to South |
| Graham St. | Crescent to Mason |
| Birch St. | Green to Alfred |
| Center St. | Elm to Jefferson |
| Bacon St | Alfred to Hill |
| Hill St | Birch to Pool |
| Pool St | Middle to Alfred |

(continued from *AI Electric Car*)

GPCOG (Greater Portland Council of Governments). The 100% electric vehicle was made available for City employees to test drive and provide feedback. "It has a quite a bit of pep," said Brian Phinney, City's COO.

The five door hatchback has a 107 horsepower motor, 30kWh lithium battery with up 107 mile range. We hope the feedback will provide data to gage whether this clean energy vehicle can be part of the City's fleet.



(continued from *AI School Committee*)

On Tuesday, December 13th, Biddeford School Committee held its first meeting using Granicus Software. This is the same software package the City Council began using on September 20th in order to eliminate the volumes of paper that is created for the Council packets.

The Granicus application provides the School Committee an easy to use application for viewing packets, and making notes as well as making the meetings seamless and easier for the public to access.

Meeting videos, agendas, and packets can be viewed at www.biddefordmaine.org/video.

For email subscriptions, [click here](#)

For questions or comments:

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Thank you for reading.

