



# The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019

VOLUME 19.04

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Meetings are located in the Council Chambers at City Hall unless otherwise stated. Live meetings can be viewed on the [City of Biddeford website](http://www.biddefordmaine.org/) or on the Public Access Channel.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 28, 2019</b>
6:00 p.m.	City Council Special Meeting – Executive Session
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 31, 2019</b>
5:30 p.m.	Public Hearing: CDBG Entitlement Program Year 2 Action Plan
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 5, 2019</b>
5:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting (Live)
6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting (Live)

All meetings are subject to change. [Click here to view updates on the full city calendar.](#)

It's never too early to think about summer employment! Biddeford Recreation is seeking a full-time Ocean Head Lifeguard from mid-June to Labor Day. The position will oversee three ocean beaches and provide supervision and training of lifeguards. Applicants must be experienced in ocean rescue and training and have the required certifications.



Does this sound like the right fit for you or someone you know? [Apply on Facebook!](#)



Get ready for a fun, cabin-fever busting weekend in Biddeford, Feb. 1 – 3, 2019 with something for everyone! This year, the sledding hill right in the midst of the downtown is being designed with a giant curve. [Click here](#) for a full schedule of events, and check out a selection of Saturday's events below!

### Saturday, Feb. 2 "Winter Fun Time" Schedule

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Winter Fun Time!** This is the true "heart" of WinterFest! Come on out for a FREE day of fun for families in the center of downtown!

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sledding** (on Adams Street). Sleds provided!

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Snow Golf & Snowshoeing**, provided by Biddeford Recreation Dept.

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Fat Bike demos w/Community Bicycle Center**

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Snow person building!** If the weather permits, fill the park with snow people! Plus – Hill decorating! Decorate the sides of the sledding hill – drawing tools provided!

**Noon – 2 p.m. Free pony rides!**

**Noon – 2:30 p.m. Take a ride in a horse-pulled wagon!**

**Noon – 2 p.m. Winter Wonderland Art Exhibit** in City Hall

*New Life Church will also provide delicious snacks, hot dogs, and cocoa! All for FREE!*

Follow along at <https://biddefordwinterfest.org/> for a complete schedule and updates!



## THE SMALL BUSINESS REVOLUTION VISIT



This week, the crew from The Small Business Revolution visited Biddeford and met with as many small business owners as they could! SmBizRev is traveling around the country to visit all of the Top 10 communities and will narrow the list down to the Top 5 in February. If Biddeford makes the Top 5, there will be a week-long public vote to select the winner. *Remember, if we are selected to be featured on the show, six small businesses will receive business support from the show to the tune of \$500,000!*

Check out some highlights of their visit below. A very special thanks to Heart of Biddeford for applying for the show and organizing the Welcome Event!



Mayor Alan Casavant and SmBizRev host Amanda Brinkman hosted a live stream about Biddeford's revitalization from Elements.



The Welcome Event had a great turnout of small business owners and community members! Attendees enjoyed a sampling of food and drinks from local businesses and a circus performance.



The Mayor and Amanda Brinkman both addressed the community at the Welcome Event.



A performer from Sellam Circus School. Thank you to Sellam for hosting this event!



The many businesses that attended the Welcome Event shared their locations on a map.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Planning and Development Director Mat Eddy joined DeepWater Buoyancy as the Maine Department of Labor presented them OSHA's Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program award. DeepWater Buoyancy is now one of approximately 60 companies in Maine and one of less than 1800 companies in the US who have achieved this status.



Eddy and Mayor Alan Casavant also attended the Grand Opening of Thyme & Honey Bakery.



# BIDDEFORD

Make your mark. Make it here.



## 2018 IN REVIEW – TOP 10 PROUDEST MOMENTS

**Our community had a lot to be proud of in 2018! Here are some of our proudest moments from the past year, according to our departments:**

10. Volunteer Support for the Recreation Department
9. Improved Employee Giving and Morale
8. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Abatement Program
7. Reduction in Recycling Contamination through Education Efforts
6. Recognition from Maine Real Estate and Development Association
5. Community and City Response to the Hill Street Fire Tragedy
4. Successes with the Saco Biddeford Opioid Outreach Program (People Recover)
3. Community Support for Waterhouse Field Renovations
2. CALEA Accreditation
1. National Recognition for Biddeford's Accomplishments

This week's edition includes information about items 4, 3, 2, and 1!

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### 4. Successes with the Saco Biddeford Opioid Outreach Program (People Recover)

In 2016 Biddeford, in collaboration with the City of Saco, Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition and Southern Maine Health Care, sought and obtained a grant a position that would come to be called the Saco Biddeford Opiate Outreach Liaison. This grant was specifically to address the opiate issue as it was occurring locally and the position was guided by the lessons that we had learned locally.

The position was accepted by Maegan Lambert-Irish, a master's level clinical and mental health counselor with expertise certifications in substance use. The program began with the philosophy that resources exist within our community and the surrounding area to allow people to recover locally, using the model that people should recover where they live, work and have existing support systems. The program was also rebranded to *People Recover* to show the focus on the people that are struggling in our community.

**As of December 31, 2018, the program has done outreach to 525 people, met with 248 people, conducted 137 clinical assessments and made 182 placements in treatment programs for 127 different people.** The most encouraging outcome so far has been 59% reduction in opiate fatal overdoses in our community...that is 10 fewer deaths just in Biddeford! The program was so successful that Biddeford sought and obtained a new grant in 2018 to fund and expand the position into surrounding communities.

If you are seeking assistance with substance use for yourself, a friend or a loved one, please contact the People Recover Liaison at 207-710-1785.

**-Police Chief Roger Beaupre**

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### 3. Community Support for Waterhouse Field Renovations

A major accomplishment in 2018 for the Biddeford School Department and Waterhouse Field Commission was the Waterhouse Field Renovation. On September 7, 2018, a ribbon-cutting ceremony kicked-off a night of festivities, including the first home football game of the season and a magical halftime fireworks display courtesy of Central Maine Pyrotechnics. In addition, the "Godbout Way" was highlighted when the private roadway was dedicated to Jim Godbout for his unwavering support and selfless hours of volunteerism to ensure the success of this renovation.



It was just 18 short months prior to the opening that the bleachers at Waterhouse Field were condemned, the facility shuttered, and the future of Waterhouse uncertain. Since then, hundreds of students, parents, school personnel, coaches, community members, local businesses, and committed volunteers have accomplished what once seemed impossible. Waterhouse has been transformed into the premier multipurpose athletic venue in Southern Maine. Much like the city itself, the tired bones of this historic site have been rebuilt into a modern facility that still manages to

honor the past. New lights, sound system, scoreboard, bleachers, and turf are paired with improvements to accessibility, storage, efficiency, and security making Waterhouse a true showpiece. The costs of construction and renovation were at least halved by the many hands and many donations that have supported the work. This project has truly been a community effort of the finest kind with many sharing their time, talent, and treasure to help preserve and sustain the activities of healthy youth for the next 89 years.

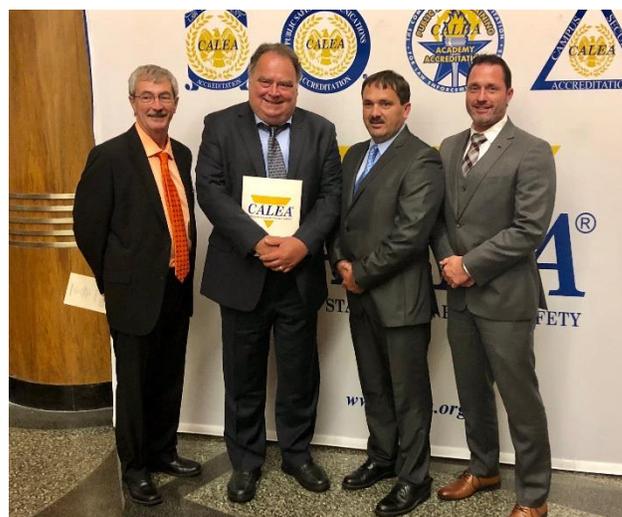
Fundraising remains ongoing to ensure proper upkeep. If you are interested in purchasing a paver at the entrance to be installed each spring, they can be ordered online at <https://biddefordschools.me/waterhouse-field>. Hats, t-shirts, and stadium seats marking this historic chapter in Biddeford Tigers history are also available for sale at <https://tinyurl.com/biddtigers>.

**-Karen Chasse, Biddeford School Department Director of Development & Community Outreach**

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### 2. CALEA Accreditation

This year, the Biddeford Police Department joined an elite group of law enforcement agencies that have received national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). This honor is awarded to only 5 percent of law enforcement agencies nationwide and only 3 percent of Maine law enforcement agencies. In July, representatives from the BPD and Councilor John McCurry traveled to the CALEA conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan to testify at the accreditation hearing and accept the award during the subsequent banquet.



The Police Department began pursuing accreditation in 2016. Over the past two years, BPD spent many hours working to adopt and demonstrate an adherence to a set of established professional standards to meet the requirements of the program. The process also included an external, objective evaluation of departmental operations. The extensive requirements of the program are designed to improve the delivery of public services and to instill confidence in community members. To ensure that CALEA's high standards continue to be met, the Biddeford Police Department will stand for re-accreditation every four years, a process which includes detailed annual reports, an in-depth on-site assessment, community input and a formal hearing before a panel of commissioners. We are proud of the work we accomplished in order to receive the honor of accreditation in 2018 and hope to continue to meet the high standards set by CALEA for years to come.

**-Police Chief Roger Beaupre**

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## 1. National Recognition for Biddeford's Accomplishments

In 2018, national organizations and publications began to pick up on the amazing things that Biddeford has to offer. The national foodie magazine Eater named Elda one of the [18 Best New Restaurants in America](#) and Palace Diner as one of [America's 38 Essential Restaurants](#) – both of which were the only restaurants in all of New England to make their respective lists. Elda also received a stunning review in the [New York Times](#) in September. Even Bon Appetit, the magazine that selected Portland as the [2018 Restaurant City of the Year](#), suggested that one of the best things about Portland is that you can leave town and head to Biddeford.



Some of our proudest moments of national recognition were during the [Partners in Preservation: Vote Your Main Street](#) contest this fall. Heart of Biddeford entered the City Hall clock tower into a nationwide competition for a \$150,000 historic preservation grant from American Express, and our local landmark was lucky enough to be selected to compete against projects in some of the largest cities in the country. Our community members and supporters around the country recognized that [It's Our Time](#) and gave the clock tower enough votes to come in third in the contest, earning us the grant funding! Soon, we will be able to look up at the tower and see the clock tell time once again.

As the year came to a close, we also found out that Biddeford is one of the Top 10 communities in the running to be featured on Season 4 of [The Small Business Revolution – Main Street](#) and receive \$500,000 of business support for six of our small businesses. Heart of Biddeford's Welcome Event for the show's crew on Monday was a special opportunity to come together and celebrate the special people and places that have helped put Biddeford on the national map. Let's keep that momentum going as we move into 2019.

**-City Manager James Bennett**

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