



The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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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.

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| Monday
5:30 p.m. | March 4, 2019
Downtown Development Commission
@ 2 nd Floor Conference Room |
| Tuesday
5:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. | March 5, 2019
Finance Committee Meeting (Live)
City Council Meeting (Live)
(City Manager presents budget to City Council) |
| Thursday
6:30 p.m. | March 7, 2019
Airport Commission Meeting (Live) |
| Monday
5:30 p.m. | March 11, 2019
Budget Committee Workshop (Live) |
| Tuesday
5:30 p.m. | March 12, 2019
Budget Committee Meeting (Live)
(Department Head Presentations) |
| Wednesday
4:00 p.m. | March 13, 2019
Historic Preservation Commission @ 2 nd
Floor Conference Room |
| Thursday
5:30 p.m. | March 14, 2019
Budget Committee Meeting (Live)
(Department Head Presentations) |

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

NEW POLCO SURVEY

The City is considering designing a new riverside public park and green space on a portion of the 3 Lincoln Street property as an expansion of the City's RiverWalk. We are using Polco to gather ideas and input on the proposed park. To begin anonymously answering the survey questions, visit polco.us/biddeford or download the Polco app for iOS or Android.

WHAT IS POLCO?



The City of Biddeford is using Polco as a new tool for civic engagement. City leaders post survey questions to Polco, and residents can anonymously provide their input on the topic or proposal.

If Polco is anonymous, why am I asked for my personal information?

Citizens are asked to enter their name, zip code, and email address to register for an account.

Polco asks for this information to verify if participants are registered voters in Biddeford, although you do not have to be registered to vote to answer questions on Polco. Residents' individual information cannot be accessed by the City or other users, but may be summarized in demographic reports. By registering for an account on Polco, you will receive a weekly email letting you know when the City has posted new questions that we need your input on.

BASEMENT FLOODING

No one likes to think about the possibility of sewerage backing up into their home or business. Unfortunately, sometimes extreme weather events can make this unavoidable. While Biddeford's Wastewater team is always working to keep publicly owned lines (the pipes in the street) clear and flowing, it is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain privately owned lines (the pipes that connect your house to the sewer system). Here are some steps you can take to protect your home and help avoid this messy and destructive situation:



Have your home's sewer line inspected and cleaned on a routine basis. It is recommended that you have your sewer lines cleaned/inspected every 18-24 months. A couple hundred dollars every other year could save you thousands in flood damage.

Separate any roof drains and sump pumps from the sewer pipes. The more water you add to a plugged pipe, the faster it fills up and the bigger the mess it makes. By separating the storm water from the wastewater and allowing rain and

ground water to flow back into the ground or into the storm drain system, you decrease the volume that can potentially back up into your home. This can be the difference between a small mess to clean up and a fully flooded basement. And as a bonus, it lessens the operating cost of the wastewater treatment process and helps us keep rates low.

Install check valves on your homes sewer pipe. A check valve is a device installed on a pipe that only allows water to flow in one direction: OUT of your home. In the rare case that a city sewer pipe is blocked or broken, a check valve will prevent that blocked pipe from relieving itself in your home.

Check basements frequently. By keeping an eye on potential flood areas on a regular basis, you may be able to catch a small problem before it become a big one. If you see moisture or signs that sewerage might be getting in through a floor drain or sump, call the City Wastewater Department immediately (207-282-1350). Our staff will be onsite as soon as possible to help you find the cause of the issue.

Keep valuables in a safe location. The worst part of a flooded basement is the loss of irreplaceable belongings. Furniture and other items can be replaced, but your old photo albums or other heirlooms cannot. Keep this in mind when you are storing things in low spots like basements. It is never a bad idea to keep things like this in watertight containers that are stored on a shelf off the floor.

While we are committed to working our hardest to keep the water under the streets flowing to the treatment facility, these things do happen, and always when you least expect it. Taking precautionary steps will lessen the chance that it will, and decrease the damage done if it does.