



The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

VOLUME 19.11

Stay up to date on all things Biddeford!

Visit our website:



<http://www.biddefordmaine.org/>

Follow us on Twitter: [@BiddMECity](https://twitter.com/BiddMECity)



Follow us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/BiddefordGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/BiddefordGovernment)

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.

Monday March 18, 2019
5:30 p.m. Downtown Committee Meeting (Live)
6:30 p.m. Policy Committee Meeting (Live)

Tuesday March 19, 2019
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting (Live)
6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (Live)
(School Budget Presentation)

Wednesday March 20, 2019
6:00 p.m. Comprehensive Plan Revision Committee Meeting @ 2nd Floor Conference Room
6:30 p.m. Solid Waste Management Commission Meeting @ Public Works

Thursday March 21, 2019
5:30 p.m. Main Street Sidewalk Project Public Meeting
7:00 p.m. Conservation Commission Meeting @ 2nd Floor Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Harbor Commission Meeting @ Biddeford Pool Fire Department

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

MAINE'S YOUNGEST CITY

Did you know that Biddeford is Maine's youngest city? According to Census data, the median age of all residents is 35, and more than a quarter of our 21,400 residents are between the ages of 20 and 34. This week, the Portland Press Herald released an article detailing Biddeford's history and how we became Maine's youngest city, as well as what these demographic trends mean for Biddeford's future. [Click here](#) to read the article.



Not your parents' city anymore: Biddeford is now Maine's youngest

Ignore the stereotype: A renaissance here has drawn a flood of fresh faces – and businesses – making the municipality's median age plunge.



Events and Specials:
bit.ly/EatBiddSaco & [Facebook.com/Eat Biddeford+Saco](https://www.facebook.com/EatBiddeford+Saco)

HOSTED BY: CHAMBER HOB SACO
Main Street

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR: SACO & BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION

MAIN STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING

The City of Biddeford Engineering Department will be holding a public meeting on **Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers to update residents on the Main Street Sidewalk



Project as well as address comments and concerns from residents.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET DOCUMENTS

The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal is now available [on our website](#) for review. If the budget is approved as proposed, the tax rate for FY 2020 will be \$20.26. The City Manager has provided a general overview of the budget and outlined possible factors that could decrease the proposed mill rate in [this presentation](#).



Looking for an easy way to participate in the budget process? The City of Biddeford is looking for your input on Polco, our new tool for civic engagement. Visit www.polco.us/Biddeford to answer the latest survey questions.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET CALENDAR PREVIEW

On March 11, the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget process began with a [Budget Committee Workshop](#). Department Heads presented their budgets to the Budget Committee on [March 12](#) and [March 14](#). Additional budget meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

March 19: School Budget Presentation at the City Council Meeting

April 2: First Public Hearing at the City Council Meeting

May 8: Second Public Hearing on Budget; First Reading of Budget

May 9: Council Budget Workshop

May 14: Second Reading of Budget

Tentative Budget Committee meetings are also scheduled on the following dates:

March 25

March 28

April 8

April 18

April 25

April 30

All meetings are subject to change. Visit www.biddefordmaine.org for updates.

BIDDEFORD COMMUNITY LITERACY FORUM

March 27 at 6:00 PM, City Hall

Do you have a love of books? Are you a person who has creative ideas or an interest in promoting reading? Then this literary discussion forum is for you! Join the Saco-Biddeford Community Literacy Team to discuss ideas, gather knowledge from community stakeholders, and spread awareness about relevant literacy issues facing our communities that will ultimately positively impact all of our birth-school-age children. The Saco-Biddeford Community Literacy Team's mission is to promote the importance of early literacy and provide resources for local families.



DOWNTOWN PARKING UPDATES



Yellow Lot Free Time Adjustment

Beginning on March 20, the free parking time limit in the Yellow Lot will increase from 1 hour to 2 hours. Users must enter their license plate number into the kiosk in order to park in the Yellow Lot.

Kiosk "Gift Cards"

The City has ordered blank gift cards for the parking kiosks that will be offered as an additional payment option for cash-only households. The order is expected to arrive shortly, and updates will be provided once the order has been received.

Time-Limited Police Business Only Spaces in Blue Lot

The Blue Lot now includes two free 30-minute spaces for Police business only. The two spaces are located immediately behind the Shuttlebus-Zoom enclosure (see image on left below).



Improved Identification and Lighting for Kiosks

The Public Works Department purchased three solar lights to better illuminate the parking kiosks. The first unit has been installed in the Red Lot (Washington St), as pictured in the image on the right. The next two will be installed in the Green Lot (Franklin) adjacent to the Louis Pizza building and in the Blue Lot (Alfred St) on the Foss Street side. All of the solar lights will be installed on or before Friday, March 22. The installations will be evaluated for a period of 30 days. If feedback is positive, the remaining kiosks in the other municipal lots will be illuminated with solar lights as well.



Downtown Committee Meeting

The Downtown Committee's next meeting will be held on Monday, March 18. The committee will be discussing the layout of the Green and Yellow Lots and will review the number of ADA accessible spaces, among other items. To view the complete agenda, please [click here](#).