



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.

Monday	March 25, 2019
5:30 p.m.	Budget Committee Meeting (Live)
Tuesday	March 26, 2019
7:00 p.m.	School Committee Meeting (Live) @ BHS Little Theater
Wednesday	March 27, 2019
5:30 p.m.	Wastewater Management Commission Meeting @ 2 nd Floor Conference Room
6:00 p.m.	Biddeford Community Literacy Forum
Thursday	March 28, 2019
5:30 p.m.	Budget Committee Meeting (Live)
6:30 p.m.	Airport Commission Meeting (Live)
Monday	April 1, 2019
5:30 p.m.	Downtown Development Commission
Tuesday	April 2, 2019
5:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting (Live)
6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting (Live)
Wednesday	April 3, 2019
6:00 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting (Live)

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



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.

We are looking for your answers to the following questions:

- Have you seen the City of Biddeford's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal? (Note: if you have not reviewed it yet, you can find all budget documents [on our website](#)).
- What do you think of the value of the services you receive from the City of Biddeford for the tax dollars that you pay?
- How confident are you in the job being done by the City of Biddeford government in providing services to the people who live and work here?
- If you had \$100, how much would you spend on each of the following priorities? (core infrastructure; protective services; recreation opportunities; quality neighborhoods; beautification; arts & culture)
- Which of these categories do you see as the highest priority when planning for Biddeford's future? (Involvement and Leadership; Quality of Place; Education; Community & Economic Development; Image & Identity)

WASTEWATER EDUCATION

Do you ever wonder about what happens to your wastewater when you take a shower or flush a toilet? What goes on at that big brick building on Water Street? Who are these sewer workers and why are they always digging up the streets? On March 12 and 14th Biddeford Middle School's 6th graders learned the answer to all those questions and more.



The Wastewater Department's Jon Koestner and Alex Buechner spent two days teaching over 150 students all about what we do and why we do it. The students learned about every step of the process, from when the water leaves your house, through all the pipes and pumps in the collections system, to the treatment process at the wastewater plant, and where it finally ends up when it reaches the Saco River. We also discussed the importance of water conservation and how we can all make a difference by not

putting things like trash, "flushable" wipes, and cooking oil down our drains. They learned the difference between storm water and wastewater and about the challenges that older cities like Biddeford face in dealing with combined sewer systems. At the end of the class we pulled out the microscope to show the kids live samples on the big screen of the bacteria and protozoa that are used in the treatment process. (The microorganisms stole the show. Every student lit up with excitement when they got to see how active and important something so small can be.)

This was the fourth year that we have gone to the school to discuss wastewater with the students and it continues to be a fun and rewarding experience for the kids and the employees giving the lecture. Some of the obstacles facing the future of the wastewater industry all over the world are an aging workforce, aging infrastructure, and a demand for increased technical expertise. It is our stance that the best way to start to deal with these problems is to bring what we do out of the shadows and into the public eye. Because water is our most precious resource. Because keeping our water clean is paramount to a healthy environment and public health. Because none of us want to go back to the days of polluted rivers and lakes. And lastly, because it is SO much cooler and more interesting than most people realize.

Were you confused by terms like "combined sewers" while reading this or unsure of why we would be using a microscope in the class? Do you or someone you know want to learn more about wastewater? We are immensely proud of what we do and our pristine facilities and we are always happy to show it off and give tours. If you would like to learn more, contact the Wastewater Department's Superintendent Alex Buechner at alex.buechner@biddefordmaine.org.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Biddeford Police Department



Police Chief Roger Beaupre presented the 2018 Biddeford Police Department Annual Report to the City Council on Tuesday. [Click here](#) to read the full report on our website.

Annual Report Fast Facts:

ORGANIZATION

- The agency's 81 employees (76 full time and 5 part time) completed 11,868 hours of professional development and training to develop their skills and ensure they are providing the best possible service to the community.
- The agency's recruitment process is focused on diversity of law enforcement officers. At the end of

2018, five sworn members of the department were female, compared to three in 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Biddeford's Communication Center is one of the 24 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) in the State of Maine. Our department is staffed with fifteen dispatchers and services all of the public safety departments of Biddeford and six other communities on a 24 hours a day and 7 days a week basis.
- During 2018, the Biddeford PSAP processed a total of 50,582 calls, or about **138 calls per day** on average.
- The top three categories of calls initiated by the public were for suspicion, motor vehicle crashes, and 911 misuse. (Friendly reminder: The E-911 system is only for police, fire, or medical emergencies when immediate action is required. Please call 207-282- 5127 to contact the Biddeford Police Department in a non-emergency situation to protect the safety of those who are in need of immediate service.)

OFFENSES

- Total criminal offenses known to the agency decreased by 10% in 2018 compared to 2017.
- In most cases, the victims of Part A Crimes Against Person offenses, such as assault and sex offenses, are known to the offenders. **In 2018, victims were strangers to the offenders only 8.5% of the time** (52 offenses).

ARRESTS

- There were 1,852 arrests in 2018, down 18% from 2017.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Unlike many Maine communities, **Biddeford fortunately continues to have had no fatalities resulting from domestic violence incidents since the inception of our Pro-Active Domestic Violence Response Team (PRT)**. In 2017, an officer was assigned as a full time, dedicated Domestic Violence Investigator replacing the PRT assignment of patrol officers. Our dedicated resources as well as our community's willingness to report potential domestic violence. This willingness is exhibited by the high number of calls for police services that are ultimately determine to be non-crime, verbal only domestic incidents. This means that our department is able to intervene and de-escalate situations before crimes happen or death or serious injury occur.

DRUGS

- The Saco Biddeford Opiate Outreach Initiative has had a significant impact on the community. During 2018, the initiative reached out to 176 individuals in crisis. Of the 176 individuals, 89 (or about 50%) met with the SBOOI Liaison to learn more about the help available to them through the outreach program. Clinical assessments were conducted with 47 of those individuals. Ultimately, the program completed 70 treatment program placements for 47 different individuals.
- **Known overdoses declined by 49% in 2018 compared to 2017, the lowest level since 2013.** The Biddeford Fire and Police Departments collectively saw a 35% reduction in the number of individuals that were administered NARCAN.

TRAFFIC

- During 2018, officers conducted 8,884 traffic stops, averaging just over 24 stops per day. Non-residents comprise about two thirds of all stops.
- During traffic stops, **officers issued just under three warnings for every one citation**, reflecting BPD's focus on the educational aspect of conducting traffic stops.
- Fewer traffic stops have occurred during the past two years. This is because traffic specialists have been redeployed to the Patrol Division to ensure patrol shifts are at minimum staffing levels while new officers attend the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

PARKING

- The number of parking tickets issued in 2018 dropped by 7% but fines increased by 28%. This was the result of the first full year without the six month waiver for overtime parking (eliminated in mid-2017), a full year of increased parking fine rates (implemented in mid-2017), and a small effect from new fines associated to the new parking management program that was implemented in late 2018.

ANIMAL CONTROL

- 1,600 calls regarding animal complaints or that required the Animal Control Officer to respond occurred in 2018.
- The warmer months are the peak period for calls. This is when more folks are out with their pets, an influx of pets with visitors and tourists occur, and it is the time when humans and wildlife tend to intersect.
- Generally, 2,300 dog licenses are issued each. However, around 700 licenses are not renewed each year and the ACO must follow-up to determine if they should have been.

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.

