

# The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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THE BIDDEFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

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

**A Message from Fire Chief Scott Gagne:**

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you to our new Facebook page. Our goal is to make sure that as a member of our City, you know about your fire department and all the things that we do. Our goal is to provide you with information about fire safety and to have the opportunity to let you know some of the many things that the men and women of the Biddeford Fire Department do every day. We believe in a community-based department and want you to know that we value your opinion. Please feel free to stop by the station anytime to meet the talented staff that are lucky to serve the citizens and visitors of Biddeford.

## 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 April 22, 2019**  
5:30 p.m. Downtown Development Commission  
6:30 p.m. Policy Committee Meeting (Live)

**Tuesday April 23, 2019**  
5:30 p.m. Downtown Committee (Live)

**Wednesday April 24, 2019**  
6:00 p.m. Comprehensive Plan Meeting @ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
6:30 p.m. Airport Commission Meeting (Live)  
6:30 p.m. Solid Waste Management Commission @ Public Works

**Thursday April 25, 2019**  
5:30 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting (Live)

**Tuesday April 30, 2019**  
5:30 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting (Live)

**Wednesday May 1, 2019**  
6:00 p.m. Planning Board (Live)

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



PhotographerPatrickJones.com  
April 23rd, 2018



Biddeford is one of 20 communities in the running for USA Today's 2019 Best Coastal Small Town award! [Click here](#) to vote for Biddeford.

Subscribe to the Biddeford Beat by clicking [here](#). Thank you for reading!



## National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 14-20, 2019

Do you know what happens when you call 911? At Biddeford's Communications Center, our dispatchers are always there to answer your call. This National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, we are sharing a behind-the-scenes look at what it is like to be a dispatcher. [Click here](#) to watch a video and hear about the job from our dispatchers themselves!



### DISPATCHER FAST FACTS

- Biddeford's Communications Center is one of 24 Public Safety Answering Points in Maine. Our 15 dispatchers service all of the public safety departments of Biddeford as well as Alfred, Arundel, Dayton, Lyman, and Waterboro. They also answer and transfer Saco's E-911 calls.
- Dispatchers are available to take your call 24/7, 365 days a year, including holidays.
- Dispatchers keep callers calm and provide medical instructions before EMS arrives at the scene. They walk callers through questions that will give paramedics the information they need to best assist the callers and patients. Dispatchers also do background research for officers, such as preparing criminal histories.
- In 2018, our dispatchers responded to over 50,000 calls for service. Each day's calls are completely different and dispatchers can never predict what kinds of emergencies to expect.
- About six months of training is required to become a dispatcher.

### PLASTIC BAG BAN TO BEGIN JULY 15

The Biddeford City Council has approved an ordinance change that will prohibit Biddeford retailers from providing single-use plastic bags. The ban on single-use plastic bags applies to all grocery and convenience stores, markets, pharmacies, restaurants, take-out food, temporary and seasonal businesses, and other merchant retailers in the city. The ordinance will go into effect on **July 15, 2019** to allow retailers to use their existing inventory of plastic bags. After July 15, retailers who violate the ordinance will be subject to a \$250 fine for the first violation and a \$500 fine for each subsequent violation in a one-year period.



The City of Biddeford approved the ban due to both the environmental impacts of single-use plastic bags and recent recycling contamination issues that the City has been facing. Many people think that they should bag their recyclables before putting them in the recycling bin; however, **plastic bags are not accepted in the curbside recycling program**. The bags interfere with the sorting process at the recycling facility and are the biggest source of recycling contamination in our community.

The Public Works Department's educational efforts have cut recycling contamination rates from 40% to 18% since July 2018, but plastic bags remain to be a problem. The Public Works Department is working to reduce the contamination rate to about 8% throughout the coming months. With recycling markets changing internationally, the City may be charged fees if recycling contamination issues continue.

Stores may still choose to provide paper bags to customers for free or for a fee. Clean paper bags are accepted in the City's curbside recycling program. Plastic bags without handles that are used for produce or meat may still be provided at grocery stores, but are **prohibited** in the City's blue single-sort recycling bins.

[Click here](#) for more information about which items are and are not acceptable in the City's single-sort recycling program.

# FREE RESIDENT DEBRIS DISPOSAL

April 23 – May 4  
Transfer Station  
(371 Hill Street)

Between the dates of April 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>, Biddeford residents can dispose of acceptable wood debris (wood wastes cut into 3-foot pieces) in 1 cubic yard quantities free of charge.

(Residents only, No Contractors).

*Sheetrock, roofing paper, and shingles will not be accepted.*

## Biddeford Recreation

### Spring Fling

# CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, May 4th 9:00am - 3:00pm

J Richard Martin Community Center

@ 189 Alfred Street-Biddeford

in the Gymnasium



**CURRENTLY  
LOOKING FOR  
CRAFTERS!!!**

**TABLES AVAILABLE  
Call Linda or Deb at the  
office 282-5005**

## TRANSFER STATION CHANGES

A reminder that the following changes are now in effect at the Transfer Station:

### Residents:

Residents may dispose of 1 cubic yard of household items per day at no charge. A fee of \$20 will be charged for each additional cubic yard that is disposed of on the same day.

Disposal of brush, grass, and branches will remain **free**.

### Commercial Entities/Contractors ONLY:

The following disposal fees went into effect on April 18:

**\$10 per cubic yard** of brush/grass/branches

**\$20 per cubic yard** of demolition debris

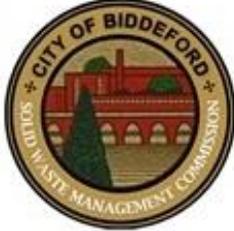
These changes will help assist with the costs of waste disposal while continuing to offer residents options for free disposal. Thank you for your cooperation.



**BIDDEFORD RESIDENTS**

**EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES**  
 Recycling Center  
 Public Works Department  
 371 Hill Street

**EARTH DAY**  
 Saturday, April 27  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The Biddeford Police Department and the Solid Waste Management Commission will be participating in the National Take Back Initiative of Prescription Drugs  
 Display and sale of backyard compost machines

**ALL REGULAR RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION ACTIVITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE**

For more information, please call the Biddeford Public Works Department At 282-1579 or the Biddeford Police Department at 282-5127.

UNE's Social Global Awareness course about Communities and Culture set up home base in City Hall for a "Biddeford Scavenger Hunt" on Thursday, April 18! Students discovered community resources, outdoor spaces, and food and retail options that are available in Biddeford. We are happy to see these students engaging with their local government and exploring our city!

