



The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019

VOLUME 19.32

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.

Wednesday August 14, 2019
4:00 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission @ 2nd Floor Conference Room

Thursday August 15, 2019
7:00 p.m. Harbor Commission Meeting @ Biddeford Pool Fire Station
7:00 p.m. Conservation Commission Meeting @ 2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday August 20, 2019
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting (Live)
6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (Live)

Wednesday August 21, 2019
6:00 p.m. Planning Board Meeting (Live)

Thursday August 22, 2019
6:30 p.m. Airport Commission Meeting (Live)

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

Links to Videos of Recent Meetings:

[City Council Meeting \(8/6/19\)](#)

[Finance Committee Meeting \(8/6/19\)](#)

[Click here](#) to explore archives of all live meetings.

TRAFFIC-CALMING PLANTERS FAQ

What is "traffic calming"?

Traffic calming uses physical design elements to improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists by encouraging safer, more responsible driving.

Why do we have traffic-calming planters on Main Street?

The purpose of the planters on the side of the roadway is to narrow the street, which tends to naturally cause vehicle traffic to slow down and make drivers pay more attention to their surroundings. Many of the planters are specifically located next to crosswalks to provide extra protection for pedestrians while crossing the street.

Do they take up parking spaces?

No, all of the planters are placed in areas that were already designated as no-parking zones.

I have heard that the City is suing drivers who hit the planters. Is that true?

We have recently been made aware that some community members have heard that the City is suing drivers who hit the planters. This is not true - in fact, there have been no accident reports related to the planters since they were installed in May.

How will the streets be plowed this winter?

The planters will be removed during the winter.



GREEN AND YELLOW LOT RECONFIGURATION UPDATE

The Green and Yellow Lot reconfiguration process is almost complete! If you recall from a previous edition of the Biddeford Beat, the City has worked to redesign the parking lots in the Franklin Street area to make them easier to navigate and to create more free hourly parking availability for visitors. The final step in the project is to pave the lot, and all work is scheduled to be complete by Wednesday, August 14 (weather permitting).

Staff worked to minimize the impacts on parking permit holders and on the surrounding businesses during this project, but parking will be limited in this area for brief periods over the next week. Below is a timeline of the project:

Monday, August 12

- No parking in the Green Lot beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Monday until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 13 (the lot will be paved and striped during this time). Green Lot permit holders may park in any permitted lot at no additional cost during this process, including the Yellow Lot.

Tuesday, August 13

- The Yellow Lot will be closed beginning at 7:00 a.m. until the morning of Wednesday, August 14. At this time, paving of Franklin Street will take place between Main Street and George's Italian, as well as the one-way road that connects Washington Street to Franklin Street (near Palace Diner). Parking will be available in the Green Lot and in the parking spaces between George's Italian and Jefferson Street.

Wednesday, August 14

- Paving is expected to be complete on Wednesday morning and all normal parking areas will be accessible.

FAQ: Was Federal Street “discontinued” at this week’s City Council meeting to reduce the amount of free on-street parking available in the downtown?

No – Federal Street did not have any on-street parking available. In fact, “discontinuing” this street actually allowed us to create nine new parking spaces as part of this project. In order to make the Green and Yellow Lot area easier to navigate, some entrances to the lot, including the entrance via Federal Street, were closed. By limiting the amount of streets that lead to the lot, we will be able to post clearer directional signage pointing visitors to hourly parking areas.

Would you like to see a Food Cooperative in Biddeford? Visit

Polco.us/Biddeford

to let us know!



BIDDEFORD
Make your mark. Make it here.

POLCO

At a workshop entitled ‘Local Foods Local Places’ that took place at Engine last summer, the idea of a **food cooperative** here in Biddeford was presented. A food co-op is a food store that is neither publicly or privately owned; rather, it is owned cooperatively by consumers who shop there, workers employed there, or producers that supply the goods. We are exploring this idea, and a steering committee has been formed to evaluate the feasibility of a food co-op here. Please share your thoughts on food co-ops by taking **this survey** on Polco. The results will help the committee understand public interest in this type of store.

We often receive questions about why Polco, our online civic engagement platform, requires you to create an account. This is because Polco uses the information you provide to verify residency in Biddeford and ensure that responses are only counted once. The City does not have access to your data, and you will only receive an email when we post a new survey.



Congratulations to the first members of the Biddeford Youth Advisory Council, who completed their orientation and took their oaths at Tuesday's City Council meeting! We are very excited to work with this talented group of students over the next year.



CLOCK TOWER PROGRESS UPDATE

Balzer Family Clock Works is currently in the process of restoring the dials of the City Hall clock.



Left: Before
Right: Work in progress!



Note: no City funds will be used for the clock repairs. The project was funded thanks to Heart of Biddeford's grant from the Partners in Preservation: Main Street campaign!

STARBUCKS MEDIAN

The City Council has approved the installation of a median on Rt. 111 (at the 5 Points Intersection) that will prevent drivers from making left-hand turns into or out of the Starbucks parking lot.

These two traffic movements are already prohibited, but many drivers have been observed making the turns anyway, creating dangerous traffic conditions in the area. The project is expected to be completed at the end of the month will consist of two nights of overnight work due to the traffic volume in the area during the day.

AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE

August 17, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Save the date for the Biddeford Municipal Airport Open House! Come enjoy planes on display, helicopter and plane rides, food and lots more. The Airport's community partners and businesses will also be attending the event and setting up displays. Admission to the event is FREE! Items such as food, aircraft rides, raffle tickets and souvenirs will be able for purchase.

TIPS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Everyone can play a very important role in helping to keep our community safe and in improving the quality of life by sharing information regarding behavior or activity seen and suspected to be drug related or criminal in nature. Tips can be made by calling the Biddeford Police Department's non-emergency line at 207-282-5127 or by submitting tips on-line via the city's website:

[Click here to submit a CRIME TIP](#)

[Click here to submit a DRUG TIP](#)

Tips can be made anonymously. However, it is very helpful to officers to have contact information when they are following up on the tips. **PLEASE REMEMBER: If you believe a crime may be in progress or if you are in need of any type of emergency service, immediately dial 9-1-1.**



BPD KEY METRICS

Through Month Ending - Wednesday, July 31, 2019

**COURAGE
HONOR
INTEGRITY**

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018-YTD | 2019-YTD | % Change | July 2019 7/1/19 - 7/31/19 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Total PSAP Calls For Service¹ | 53,723 | 49,883 | 50,582 | 29,177 | 29,500 | 1% | 4,804 |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>4,477</i> | <i>4,157</i> | <i>4,215</i> | <i>4,168</i> | <i>4,214</i> | | <i>4,804</i> |
| Public Initiated | 15,496 41% | 15,897 47% | 16,125 51% | 9,455 51% | 8,210 45% | -13% | 1,410 51% |
| Agency Initiated | 22,143 59% | 17,891 53% | 15,743 49% | 9,139 49% | 9,966 55% | 9% | 1,343 49% |
| Total Calls For Police Services | 37,639 100% | 33,788 100% | 31,868 100% | 18,594 100% | 18,176 100% | -2% | 2,753 100% |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>3,137</i> | <i>2,816</i> | <i>2,656</i> | <i>2,656</i> | <i>2,597</i> | | <i>2,753</i> |
| Criminal OF Reports | 1,868 52% | 1,892 53% | 1,909 54% | 1,169 55% | 886 52% | -24% | 127 50% |
| Non-Criminal OF Reports | 1,699 48% | 1,693 47% | 1,646 46% | 968 45% | 832 48% | -14% | 128 50% |
| Total Offense Reports² | 3,567 100% | 3,585 100% | 3,555 100% | 2,137 100% | 1,718 100% | -20% | 255 100% |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>297</i> | <i>299</i> | <i>296</i> | <i>305</i> | <i>245</i> | | <i>255</i> |
| Felony Offenses | 525 | 510 | 534 | 358 | 213 | -41% | 23 |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>44</i> | <i>43</i> | <i>45</i> | <i>51</i> | <i>30</i> | | <i>23</i> |
| All Criminal Offenses | 4,976 | 4,715 | 4,248 | 2,600 | 2,084 | -20% | 316 |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>415</i> | <i>393</i> | <i>354</i> | <i>371</i> | <i>298</i> | | <i>316</i> |
| Juvenile Arrests | 130 5% | 147 7% | 125 7% | 74 7% | 63 6% | -15% | 3 2% |
| Adult Arrests | 2,352 95% | 2,111 93% | 1,727 93% | 1,044 93% | 934 94% | -11% | 138 98% |
| Total Arrests | 2,482 100% | 2,258 100% | 1,852 100% | 1,118 100% | 997 100% | -11% | 141 100% |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>207</i> | <i>188</i> | <i>154</i> | <i>160</i> | <i>142</i> | | <i>141</i> |
| Total Response To Resistance Reports³ | 130 | 132 | 143 | 85 | 72 | -15% | 32 |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>10</i> | | <i>32</i> |
| Pounds of Drugs Collected^{4,6} | 1,514 | 1,684 | 1,811 | 1,358 | 784 | -42% | 73 |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>126</i> | <i>140</i> | <i>151</i> | <i>194</i> | <i>112</i> | | <i>73</i> |
| Parking Tickets - Streets | | | | | 1,256 38% | | 172 53% |
| Parking Tickets - Beaches | | | | | 122 4% | | 74 23% |
| Parking Tickets - Downtown Lots | | | | | 1,956 59% | | 80 25% |
| Total Parking Tickets | 1,644 | 2,113 | 1,969 | 1,210 | 3,334 100% | 176% | 326 100% |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>137</i> | <i>176</i> | <i>164</i> | <i>173</i> | <i>476</i> | | <i>326</i> |
| Traffic Stops Conducted | 12,534 | 10,078 | 8,884 | 5,326 | 5,727 | 8% | 722 |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>1,045</i> | <i>840</i> | <i>740</i> | <i>761</i> | <i>818</i> | | <i>722</i> |
| Traffic Warnings Issued | 13,669 79% | 10,637 76% | 9,461 75% | 5,583 74% | 6,082 77% | 9% | 742 75% |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>1,139</i> | <i>886</i> | <i>788</i> | <i>798</i> | <i>869</i> | | <i>742</i> |
| Traffic Citations Issued | 3,627 21% | 3,420 24% | 3,076 25% | 1,994 26% | 1,815 23% | -9% | 249 25% |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>302</i> | <i>285</i> | <i>256</i> | <i>285</i> | <i>259</i> | | <i>249</i> |
| Motor Vehicle Crashes | 692 | 814 | 804 | 461 | 375 | -19% | 46 |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>58</i> | <i>68</i> | <i>67</i> | <i>66</i> | <i>54</i> | | <i>46</i> |
| OUI Arrests | 120 | 106 | 103 | 62 | 79 | 27% | 17 |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>11</i> | | <i>17</i> |
| Operating After Suspension or Rev | | | | | | | |
| Civil ⁷ | 75 28% | 73 30% | 58 28% | 34 27% | 30 25% | -12% | 4 24% |
| Criminal ⁸ | 192 72% | 174 70% | 149 72% | 91 73% | 91 75% | 0% | 13 76% |
| Total | 267 100% | 247 100% | 207 100% | 125 100% | 121 100% | -3% | 17 100% |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>22</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>17</i> | | <i>17</i> |
| ACO - Dispatches | 997 98% | 1,152 99% | 1,057 99% | 624 99% | 650 98% | 4% | 151 100% |
| ACO Backup - Dispatches | 17 2% | 10 1% | 10 1% | 8 1% | 12 2% | 50% | 0 0% |
| Total Animal Control⁵ - Dispatches | 1,014 100% | 1,162 100% | 1,067 100% | 632 100% | 662 100% | 5% | 151 100% |
| <i>Per Month Average</i> | <i>85</i> | <i>97</i> | <i>89</i> | <i>90</i> | <i>95</i> | | <i>151</i> |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|
| MENTAL HEALTH METRICS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Calls - Mental Illness⁹ <i>Average Calls Per Month</i> | 269 22 | 215 18 | 212 18 | 119 17 | Calls | 117 17 | Calls | -2% | 24 24 | Calls |
| Officers Hours On Mental Health Calls¹¹ <i>Average Hours Per Call Committed</i> | | | | | | 121.5 1.0 | Hours | | 17.6 0.7 | Hours |
| Calls - Threatened/Attempted/Suicide⁹ <i>Per Month Average</i> | 253 21 | 263 22 | 279 23 | 170 24 | Calls | 142 20 | Calls | -16% | 17 17 | Calls |
| Officers Hours On Suicide Calls¹¹ <i>Average Hours Per Call Committed</i> | | | | | | 184.1 1.3 | Hours | | 20.2 1.2 | Hours |
| Police Transports for Crisis Eval¹⁰ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Transports - Juveniles | 33 24% | 42 32% | 30 26% | 18 28% | | 10 17% | | -44% | 1 7% | |
| Transports - Adults | 106 76% | 88 68% | 87 74% | 47 72% | | 50 83% | | 6% | 13 93% | |
| Total Transports <i>Per Month Average</i> | 139 100% 12 | 130 100% 11 | 117 100% 10 | 65 100% 9 | | 60 100% 9 | | -8% | 14 100% 14 | |

- Note¹: Represents total calls answered by the Communications Center for Biddeford Public Safety and the other six communities serviced by the Center.
- Note²: Represents reports generated by officers to document information gathered when responding incidents.
- Note³: Represents reports generated by officers when any level of force is required to control an aggressive or resistant person. Total equals the reports completed and reviewed.
- Note⁴: Represents pounds of outdated and/or unwanted prescription or over-the-counter drugs turned in to BPD by the public.
- Note⁵: Represents only calls that the ACO or ACO Backup were dispatched to (excludes Animal Complaint calls responded to by Patrol Officers).
- Note⁶: Starting in 2019, the Pounds Of Drugs Collected has been adjusted to be the net weight (excluding tare weight) of drugs.
- Note⁷: Represents the number of traffic summonses issued for the civil violation of failing to pay a fine or a reinstatement fee for previous traffic violation.
- Note⁸: Represents the number of criminal offenses for operating a vehicle while a driver's license is suspended or revoked.
- Note⁹: Based on the originating reason code for the call for police services.
- Note¹⁰: Represents the number of transports by officers to crisis evaluation at SMHC for non-crime incidents.
- Note¹¹: Represents the sum of hours that individual officers spent on calls (calculated by the difference between time dispatched and time cleared)

Thank you to all who joined us at the 12th Annual Family Fun Festival!

