



The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019

VOLUME 19.34

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POOL STREET PAVING PROJECT

The Pool Street Paving Project will take place between Parkside Drive and the second entrance of Decary Road. Work on this project is now expected to begin on September 9, 2019. (The project was originally scheduled to begin on August 26 but was postponed due to conflicts with the Maine Lighthouse Ride bike event.)

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.

- Tuesday August 27, 2019**
 5:30 p.m. Downtown Committee Meeting (Live), immediately followed by City Council Workshop (Live)
 7:00 p.m. School Committee Meeting (Live) @ BHS Little Theater

- Wednesday August 28, 2019**
 6:00 p.m. Comprehensive Plan Meeting

- Tuesday September 3, 2019**
 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting (Live)
 6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (Live)

- Wednesday September 4, 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.

Latest Meetings:

[City Council Workshop \(8/20/19\)](#)

[City Council Meeting \(8/20/19\)](#)

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GENERAL LAFAYETTE ON THE LAFAYETTE TRAIL

[Biddeford Cultural and Heritage Center](#) will host a presentation by Julien Icher at the First Parish Meeting House on Meetinghouse Road in Biddeford on Saturday, August 31 at 10:00 a.m.

[Lafayette](#) was viewed as a hero in Biddeford and Saco for his work with General George Washington during the Revolution, and the two towns welcomed him with open arms when he visited in 1825. The talk will focus on Marquis de Lafayette's connection to Maine and the Lafayette Trail.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

There will be a Downtown Committee Meeting on Tuesday, August 27. At the meeting, the Committee will consider extending the free 30-minute parking spaces in the Franklin Street area to free 1-hour parking spaces. The committee will also determine the parking restrictions for the new spaces along Franklin Street that were created as part of the Green and Yellow Lot Reconfiguration.

PROPERTY TAXES

Property tax bills were sent out this week. This year's tax rate is \$19.98 per \$1,000 of Property Valuation. Property taxes are payable in two equal installments. The first is due on October 9, 2019, and the second is due on April 8, 2020.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP/MEETING RECAP

At the August 13th **City Council Workshop** on Low Income Housing/Elderly Housing, the Council viewed presentations related to housing affordability in Biddeford as well property tax relief programs. One program that is being considered is a senior property tax relief program for FY21. To see the information that the Council was presented, please view the agenda packet [here](#), or watch the Workshop by clicking [here](#).

At the **City Council Meeting**, the Council voted to:

- Increase the maximum grant amount for the Business Improvement Program, which is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The purpose of the program is to assist downtown business or property owners with specific projects that repair and improve commercial spaces. The new maximum grant amount is \$30,000, and a dollar-for-dollar match by the business owner is required.
- Authorize the City Manager to prepare and publish a request for bid specific to the hiring of a parking consultant to review and make recommendations specific to the City's overall parking program. Review and selection of a consultant will be in accordance with established purchasing policies.
- Approve the Riverdam Exchange Agreement. The City authorized signing of an Exchange Agreement and Master Lease Agreement with Draft Room, LLC. The agreements facilitate the redevelopment of the Riverdam Mill property. The agreements allow the property to be transferred to the City in order to access Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields grant funds to assist in the removal of asbestos and lead paint from within the building. When the project is complete, the City will have access to the building's elevator for the RiverWalk and a small park will be created to serve as a RiverWalk waypoint. The remediation work is expected to be completed in 2019.
- Granted a zoning change to allow Maine Water to build an upgraded facility on South Street. The zoning change enables the project to happen with no discernable impacts on the Saco River while maintaining state minimum requirements.

FAQ: What is the difference between a City Council Meeting, a City Council Special Meeting, and a City Council Workshop?

City Council Meetings always take place on the first and third Tuesday of each month, usually at 6:00 p.m. During these meetings, the Council follows a specific agenda of items for consideration, and members of the Council vote in favor of or in opposition to each proposed action. Members of the public who attend may speak about each of the items on the agenda during its public comment period, and they may also address the Council at the end of the meeting. A City Council Special Meeting follows the same rules as a City Council Meeting, but it is scheduled in addition to the bimonthly City Council meetings.

A City Council Workshop is held for the Council to discuss ideas or concepts without taking any formal legislative action. They are usually centered around a specific topic, like the Low Income/Elderly Housing Workshop that took place on Tuesday. The Council and attendees often will hear presentations and information from staff, and they may be asked to give informal guidance about next steps. Because there is no formal action being taken during a Workshop, there is typically no public comment period.

BLUE LOT (ALFRED STREET LOT) PAVING

The Blue Lot, located next to the Biddeford Police Department, will be closed from 7:00 a.m. on Monday, August 26 until the afternoon of Wednesday, August 28.



Mark your calendars - the Biddeford + Saco River Jam Festival returns on Sept. 20-21, 2019 for an incredible celebration of community on the Saco River, with exciting new additions this year. Heart of Biddeford, the downtown revitalization organization has partnered with Biddeford's arts organization, Engine, to present this bookend to summer.

The event kicks off on Friday, Sept. 20 from 5-9 p.m. Main Street in Biddeford will be taken over by the "arts smörgåsbord" known as Fringe Fest. The evening spotlights theater, dance, music,

visual arts and spoken word, along with local brewers and "street fare" from local restaurants. The now-famous Pie Luck (a potluck of pies) will return again this year, with free pie for all. K-Pop fans should be sure to show up for the "K-Pop Random Dance" from 6-7 p.m. Ruby Yacht Artists' Guild, comprised of rap and hip hop artists affiliated with SoulFolks, the local recording studio and record shop, will provide entertainment from 7:30-9 p.m.

Saturday's events begin at 8 a.m. with the River Jam 5K Road Race, followed by the "Dash to the Sea" kayak and canoe race on the Saco River at 10 a.m. hosted by Biddeford Recreation.

Free events kick off in Mechanics Park in Biddeford starting at Noon, with a Makers Market, BBQ provided by Run of the Mill, community booths and free canoe rides. Biddeford Historical Society will offer historic tours of the downtown, and tickets can be purchased for River Jam Charter Boat Tours down the Saco River. This year Heart of Biddeford will premiere the "River Rush" in Mechanics Park, which will be a free, 100-foot slide with floatation devices so participants can have a great ride without getting too wet.

The main attraction of River Jam for its six year history has been free, live, outdoor music. This year, Music on the Main Stage in Mechanics Park will run from Noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday. At Noon, award-winning folk singer, Matt Loosigian will bring his kid's music, humor and silliness to the youngest 'River Jammers.' At 2:30 p.m., Canadian born and raised singer/songwriter Joan Kennedy, who now lives in Saco, will perform her gutsy country music with her full band.

The evening has a roots/soul vibe that starts with Samuel James at 4 p.m., followed by YoungerBloods at 5:45 and the Kenya Hall Band at 7:30 p.m. Samuel James was born and raised in Biddeford, and with a voice of grit and gravel, he sings with a rare authenticity. The YoungerBloods offer funk, soul and R&B inspired by great duo acts such as Sam & Dave, Ike & Tina Turner, and Otis Redding & Carla Thomas that will make the audience dance. Finally, when you hear headliner Kenya Hall and band, you'll know why Rolling Stone Magazine calls her a "Soul Powerhouse." Hall's musical artistry weaves together indomitable vocals with a fierce blend of soul, hip hop and funk.

Four local breweries, Run of the Mill, Dirigo, Banded Brewing Co., and Nuts & Bolts, will start serving beer at 4 p.m. on Saturday along with food trucks from El Rodeo, Texas Grace Kitchen, Sweetcream Dairy, Fishn' Ships and Run of the Mill. **There is no gate fee to enter and enjoy any of the events!**

FMI, visit www.riverjamfest.com!