



The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

VOLUME 19.37

PARKING GARAGE FINANCING PROPOSAL

On September 10, the City Council held a workshop on a proposal from Biddeford Innovation, Inc. to build a 640-space parking garage and expand the RiverWalk and pedestrian connections.

No residential property tax dollars will be used to pay for this project, and the tax rate will not increase due to this project. **Click here** to watch a video of Tuesday's Workshop. If you would like to take a closer look at the slides shown during the City Manager's presentation, please **click here**.

On Tuesday, September 17, the City Council will vote on the proposal. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Visit www.biddefordmaine.org/parkinggarage for a complete description of the details of the proposal. The website has also been updated to include answers to questions that were asked at the Workshop.

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 **September 16, 2019**
5:30 p.m. Downtown Development
Commission @ 2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday **September 17, 2019**
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting (Live)
6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (Live)

Wednesday **September 18, 2019**
6:00 p.m. Planning Board Meeting (Live)
6:30 p.m. Solid Waste Management
Commission Meeting @ Public Works
6:45 p.m. Comprehensive Plan Meeting
7:00 p.m. Conservation Commission Meeting
@ 2nd Floor Conference Room

All meetings are subject to change. **Click here** to view updates on the full city calendar.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

September 14, 2019, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Biddeford Public Works (371 Hill Street)

Proof of Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach, or Scarborough residency is required.

ACCEPTED ITEMS

Button and rechargeable batteries, insect sprays, rust inhibitors, fluorescent light bulbs, non-latex paint, de-greasers, kerosene, paint stripper, paint thinner, drain cleaners, gasoline, flea killer, mothballs, used oils, insecticides, pool chemicals, weed killer, fertilizer, toilet bowl cleaner, pesticides, metal polish, herbicides, rodent killers, no-pest strips, antifreeze, brake and transmission fluid, wood stain, sealants, spot remover, furniture polish, and more.

DO NOT BRING

Latex paint, tires, smoke detectors, propane cylinders, explosives, pathological or radioactive waste, computers, commercial waste, or any unknown waste materials.

The Recycling/Transfer Station will be CLOSED on September 14 to accommodate Household Hazardous Waste Day.

HANDS-FREE DRIVING LAW

On September 19, Maine's Hands-Free Driving Law will go into effect. The new law prevents you from holding any electronic device while driving. Per the Maine State Police, violations will be subject to no less than a \$50 fine for the first offense and no less than \$250 for any additional offense in a three-year period.

Here is what you can and can't do under the new law:

- X You CANNOT have a phone conversation while holding your phone in your hand.
- X You CANNOT send or read a text message or social media notification at any time while driving, including at a stoplight, stop sign, or other temporary stop.
- X You CANNOT enter a destination into your phone's GPS directions app while driving. You must pull over and park in a safe location before programming your phone. You CAN continue to use your phone for directions as long as you are not holding it in your hand.

- ✓ You CAN and SHOULD pull over in a lawful and safe location to make a phone call or respond to a text message.
- ✓ You CAN answer a call if you use a hands-free option and do not have to hold the phone to use it.
- ✓ You CAN use speak-to-text features such as Siri.
- ✓ You CAN have a phone conversation if you are wearing a remote headset, or if your phone is hooked up through your radio via Bluetooth or USB (as long as you are over 18 and are not operating under a permit or an intermediate driver's license).
- ✓ You CAN ask Siri or other voice-controlled phone assistants to read you a text message out loud.
- ✓ You CAN call law enforcement or emergency personnel in an emergency.
- ✓ If you are listening to music or a podcast on your vehicle's stereo system, you CAN touch your phone's screen to skip to the next track.
- ✓ You CAN use *one* single swipe, tap or push of the finger to activate a hands-free feature (for instance, activating your Bluetooth headset to answer a phone call).



River Jam is just a week away! Visit www.riverjamfest.com for a full schedule of activities and events!

MY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK MEETING

46 Sullivan Street

Tuesday, September 24, 6:00 p.m.

Do you love your neighborhood? Are there things you want to change? Would you like to see a dog park in Foav Court?

"My Neighborhood Network" wants to hear from you! Join your neighbors for a dessert social at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24 at 46 Sullivan Street. Kids are welcome to join, with an adult.

For more information, call 284-9105 or email linda.waters@biddefordmaine.org.

NEWEA EVENT AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

On August 28, the Wastewater Department hosted an annual New England Water Environment Association event at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This event is held to give treatment plant employees the opportunity to show off their facilities and meet with other wastewater professionals from New England to share ideas and get to know each other. With over thirty attendees, it was a big success. We got to show off how far our facility has come in the last ten years since the City took over operations and discuss the obstacles we have faced and how we have overcome them. We received multiple compliments on the appearance and operation of our plant, with many people commenting on how it was one of the best-kept treatment plants in the area, something that we in the Wastewater Department strongly agree with. The attendees also were very impressed by the reuse of the mill space by local businesses and the great potential it has brought for positive growth in the community. All in all, the event was very well-received and demonstrated the pride and commitment that Biddeford's Wastewater Department employees have for their work.

If you would like to come see for yourself why we take so much pride in our work and in our treatment plant, come check us out! We are more than happy to give group or individual tours. For more info, contact the Wastewater Superintendent at 207-282-1350 or alex.buechner@biddefordmaine.org.

SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT ROTARY PARK

Once again, our thanks goes out to Andrew Syska, the skaters that assisted, and the support of Andrew's family for additional improvements to the skate park at Rotary Park. We greatly appreciate all your efforts to support our skate parks and skaters.

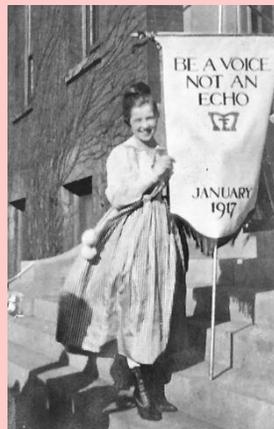


THE GREAT TURN-OUT: FACTORY GIRLS AND MAINE'S FIRST LABOR STRIKE

Wednesday, September 25, 6:00 p.m.
McArthur Library (270 Main Street)

Elizabeth DeWolfe, Ph.D. will present this talk on behalf of the Biddeford Cultural and Heritage Center in remembrance of the 100th anniversary of Woman's Suffrage in the State of Maine.

In 1841, nearly 500 female factory workers walked out of Saco's York Manufacturing Company and paraded up Main Street, chanting and singing. They gathered in a local church, formed a committee, and sent the factory owner a document articulating their complaints about wages, housing, and paternalistic rules. In this illustrated talk, Dr. DeWolfe explores the life of New England "factory girls," the



opportunities mill work brought, and the challenges of this difficult labor. She will discuss the tense days that followed the "turn-out," to examine and see how a strike in one Maine town connected to national agitation for women's rights.