
CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

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City of Biddeford Announces 2019 Employee of the Year Awards

BIDDEFORD — The City of Biddeford held its Fourth Annual Employee and Volunteer Banquet on Thursday, recognizing a set of exceptional employees who have gone above and beyond expectations.

Bill Gooch, the Information Technology Manager at the Police Department, was named the City of Biddeford's 2019 Employee of the Year. Gooch began his career in 1998 as a dispatcher, and his skill and aptitude with working with computers led him to be appointed to his current role as IT Manager.

“Day or night, weekends or holidays, Bill will deal with computer access problems for the Police and Fire Departments and will resolve issues in a pleasant and effective way, never complaining that he gets awakened at 2:30 in the morning on any given day,” said Police Chief Roger Beaupre. “Bill is a dedicated, proficient, accommodating and extremely knowledgeable employee who is a credit to his profession. The City of Biddeford is extremely fortunate to have this caliber of an employee on staff.”

“Bill is extremely task-oriented and goes above and beyond to assure internal security. His drive to solve problems and his willingness to be a team player led me to select him as this year's Employee of the Year,” said City Manager James Bennett, who presented Gooch with the honor at Thursday's banquet.

Several other awards were presented to employees at the banquet, including the Management Team Award, the Technical Professional Award, and the Customer Service Award.

Public Works Director Jeff Demers received this year's Management Team Member Award. Demers started his career with the City of Biddeford 23 years ago in the Wastewater Division and has served as the Public Works Director since February 2018. In the short time that he has held his role, Demers has made a number of significant improvements to the Public Works Department. Additionally, residents that call are often pleased with how quickly and efficiently their questions and concerns are addressed by Demers.



Bill Gooch, the City of Biddeford's 2019 Employee of the Year, poses with a shirt he received as part of his award. Pictured (left to right): Mayor Alan Casavant, Gooch, and Police Chief Roger Beaupre.

“Jeff has been a great addition to our management team,” Bennett said. “I’m pleased to present this award to him and look forward to seeing how the Public Works Department continues to grow under his leadership.”

Tom Milligan, the City Engineer, was presented the Technical Professional Award. Milligan, who has 25 years of service with the City of Biddeford, has diligently managed the workload of the Engineering Department this year despite a shortage of staff members.

“Tom is a key player in keeping the City in compliance with DEP and EPA regulations and oversees the City’s sewer separation projects with experience and professionalism,” Demers said. “He is a dedicated and loyal employee and we are proud to have him with us.”

The Customer Service Award was presented to Patricia Conway, who is a shared Administrative Assistant for Public Access Television in the mornings and Recreation in the afternoons.

“Patricia does a great job of balancing the administrative needs of two very different departments each day. Here at the Rec Department, she is very attentive to community members, supportive of staff, and sometimes so dedicated to completing a task that we have to remind her it’s time to go home,” said Carl Walsh, Recreation Director.

44 employees were also recognized with Longevity Awards at the banquet.

“These 44 employees alone have contributed a combined total of over 800 years of service to Biddeford. It is truly incredible to see so many individuals with such a high level of dedication to their community,” said Bennett.

Nearly 200 City of Biddeford employees and volunteers attended the event. In addition to the awards, attendees also enjoyed dinner and a slideshow of photos highlighting staff and volunteer accomplishments from the past year.

Our employees and volunteers work every day to make our community a better place,” said Mayor Alan Casavant. “It is important for all of us to take a moment and recognize their passion, their skill, and their love of this city. This is especially true in light of the recent tragedy in Farmington. Many of our employees do dangerous work, but they are dedicated and talented. The Council and I are very proud of all that our volunteers and employees do for our city.”

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