



The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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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.

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| Tuesday | October 1, 2019 |
| 4:30 p.m. | Finance Committee Meeting (Live) |
| 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop (Live) |
| 6:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting (Live) |
| Wednesday | October 2, 2019 |
| 6:00 p.m. | Planning Board Meeting (Live) |
| Monday | October 7, 2019 |
| 5:30 p.m. | Downtown Development Commission @ 2 nd Floor Conference Room |
| Tuesday | October 8, 2019 |
| 4:30 p.m. | School Committee Meeting (Live) |
| Wednesday | October 9, 2019 |
| 4:00 p.m. | Historic Preservation Commission @ 2 nd Floor Conference Room |
| Thursday | October 10, 2019 |
| 6:00 p.m. | Public Meeting on Proposed Remediation and Cleanup Activities at the Riverdam Mill Site (Bldgs 3&4) |

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

ELM STREET CONSTRUCTION

Beginning the week of September 30, drivers should expect delays when travelling on Elm Street. A construction project taking place between the Sleepy Hollow Motel and Audie Insurance Agency will reduce traffic to one lane. The project is expected to be completed by October 17.

The project is being completed as part of the City's ongoing sewer separation process. The previous single-pipe system will be replaced with separate sewers for water and storm water flows. Once the replacement is complete, storm water will be discharged directly into receiving water, while wastewater will be treated before discharge.

CLOCK TOWER UPDATE

The City Hall clock is in the process of being reinstalled! Balzer Family Clock Works is installing the dials first, and then the clock itself will be returned to the tower! (Note: This restoration project was funded thanks to Heart of Biddeford's grant from the Partners in Preservation: Main Street campaign.)



BIDDEFORD/SACO REAL ESTATE TRENDS ROUNDTABLE

On September 19, Planning & Development Director Mat Eddy participated in the Portland Press Herald's roundtable discussion on Biddeford/Saco investment and real estate trends. Mr. Eddy was joined by Gary Vogel, partner at Drummond Woodsum law firm and president of the Maine Real Estate and Development Assoc., and Brit Vitalius, founder of Vitalius Real Estate Group and head of the Southern Maine Landlord Assoc.

The panelists shared that growth in the Biddeford area is prompted by a number of sources, including affordability compared to Portland, the removal of MERC, the redevelopment of the historic mills, the impact of the University of New England, Biddeford's young median age, and more. [Click here](#) to read a recap of the event.



Some of the fantastic eateries in the Biddeford foodie scene are featured in this quarter's "[The Maine Thing](#)", a publication by the Maine Office of Tourism! A great way to try a bite of the food featured in the article is to take one of Heart of Biddeford's upcoming Foodie Tours. The tours will take place on October 3 and 17 at 2:30 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded the City of Biddeford a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), marking the ninth consecutive year that the City has received this recognition. The 139-page CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating transparency and a spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate residents to read the report. According to the GFOA, "The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

According to the GFOA's statistical data from the 2018 award period, Biddeford was among only 14 of Maine's municipalities to receive the honor, and less than 6 percent of all cities nationwide were recognized.

As part of the recognition, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has also been awarded to Cheryl Fournier, the City's finance director, for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This is Fournier's second year preparing the report for Biddeford and the second year she has received this award. "Providing clear and complete financial information to the public is one of our highest priorities, and we are proud to be recognized for reaching the gold standard for excellence in financial reporting once again this year," Fournier said.

To view the City of Biddeford's 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, please visit <https://www.biddefordmaine.org/DocumentCenter/View/4363/Biddeford-Comprehensive-AnnualFinancial-Report-63018>.



**NATIONAL
RECOVERY
MONTH 2019**
30th Anniversary

Anyone seeking assistance with substance use for self, a friend or a loved one, please contact the **Saco Biddeford Opiate Outreach Initiative (SBOOI)**:

207-571-1652 ext. 7190 or 207-710-1785

People recover...this can be your time!