



# The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

VOLUME 19.42

## SENATOR COLLINS ANNOUNCES \$3.2 MILLION GRANT FOR LEAD HAZARD REMEDIATION IN BIDDEFORD

The City of Biddeford has received a total of \$3,246,744 in federal grant funding to establish a program that will help remove lead paint from Biddeford homes. The grants were distributed through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes. The City will use the grant to establish a program titled Safe Homes for Healthy Families (SHHF). The goal of the SHHF program is to make 135 low- to moderate-income housing units lead safe and to conduct 130 free healthy home interventions in the city's downtown census tracts. In addition, SHHF will conduct outreach and education activities for downtown residents and will provide free Lead Worker training and certification to area residents. Biddeford is one of only four entities in Maine and the only first-time applicant in the state to receive funding this year.

Senator Susan Collins visited Biddeford City Hall on Friday, October 18 to announce the funding and was joined by Biddeford Mayor Alan Casavant, as well as HUD Regional Administrator David Tille, grant recipient and Lewiston Mayor Kristen Cloutier, Maine State Housing Authority Director Daniel Brennan, and project partner University of New England President James D. Herbert. As the Chairman of the Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Collins played a key role in securing this funding for our community.

[Click here](#) to watch the announcement.

### 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](#) or on the Public Access Channel.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>October 22, 2019</b>   |
| 7:00 p.m.        | School Committee Meeting (Live)   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>October 24, 2019</b>   |
| 5:00 p.m.        | Extended City Clerk's Office Hours for Absentee Voting & Voter Registration |
| - 7:00 p.m.      |   |
| 6:30 p.m.        | Airport Commission Meeting (Live)   |
| 7:00 p.m.        | Conservation Commission Meeting @ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room     |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>October 30, 2019</b>   |
| 6:30 p.m.        | Solid Waste Management Commission @ Public Works                            |

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



2020 Dog Licenses are now available for purchase in the City Clerk's Office and [on our website](#).

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP

### *Swearing in of Fire Department Officers*

City Clerk Carmen Morris administered the Oath to Robert Lang as Fire Dept. Captain and to Derick Ouellette as Fire Dept. Lieutenant.

### *School Department Presentation*

Jeremy Ray, Biddeford Superintendent of Schools, and Mandy Cyr, Instruction & Innovation Director, gave an overview of the demographics, academics, partnerships and spending for the Biddeford School Department. The School Department's philosophy is to avoid taking a "one-size-fits-all" approach to education and to acknowledge the impact of events that take place in students' lives outside of school. Because Biddeford is a service center community, the schools see a large diversity of students, and School Department personnel have to be trained and prepared to address the unique challenges and opportunities that the student body presents.



### *Hills Beach Fire Station*

The Council voted to authorize a lease/purchase of the former Hills Beach Fire Station to the Hills Beach Association. The term of the lease will be 15 years with payments of \$5,000 per year with an option for HBA to purchase the property.

[Click here](#) to review the meeting agenda packet, and [click here](#) to watch a video of the meeting.

## PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Below: Mayor Alan Casavant is recognized by Senator Susan Collins for signing onto the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.



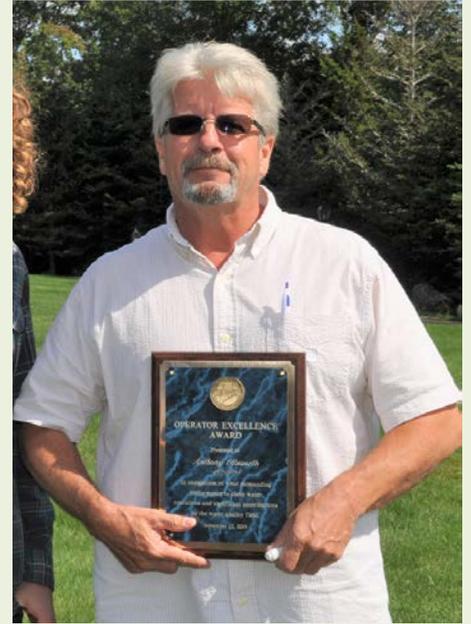
Above: Captain Rick Dussault retires from the Biddeford Fire Department after 42 years of service. Thank you for your service and best wishes for your retirement!

## BRIDGE CLOSURE

The Maine Department of Transportation and Pan-Am will be completing work on the York Hill railroad bridge on Main Street. The work is scheduled to be completed on October 26 and 27. During that time, the upper bridge to Saco will be closed but the lower bridge to the train station will remain open, and traffic will be rerouted. Anticipate delays during this construction.

## MEWEA OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) selects a member of the wastewater community that has demonstrated dedication to their contribution toward protecting public health and the environment through wastewater treatment. We are pleased to announce that this year's Maine Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year award was presented to our own Tony Ellsworth on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the annual MEWEA Fall Conference in front of 350 fellow wastewater personnel from all over the state. Tony has been a crucial member of the wastewater team for over ten years, beginning when the treatment plant was under contract operations. Tony stayed onboard to become a City of Biddeford employee when the City took control of wastewater operations and was happy to share his knowledge with the new employees during the transition. Tony's positive attitude and commitment to success helped the transition go smoothly, protecting the health of our water. More recently, when the previous wastewater superintendent was promoted to Public Works Director, Tony once again stepped up to fill in some of the responsibilities left vacant. Regardless of his years of experience, his senior position, or any awards he receives, Tony remains humble and willing to do whatever is needed to get the job done, whether taking on a leadership role or cleaning a dirty tank. Congratulations, Tony!



## LEAF COLLECTION INFORMATION AND DATES

Curbside collection of leaves will be limited to leaves placed in bio-degradable bags, which can be purchased at the Biddeford Recycling Center or at a number of other local stores.

### Leaf collection for wards 1, 2, 3 & 4:

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

### Leaf collection for wards 5, 6 & 7:

Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

Leaves can also be brought to the Biddeford Recycling Center during regular operating hours **AND** on the following **SUNDAYS from 7:00am until 2:45pm:**

November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
November 10<sup>th</sup>



## FREE DEMOLITION DEBRIS DISPOSAL

**Tuesday, October 22 - Saturday, November 2 @ Biddeford Transfer Station (371 Hill Street)**

Residents only (No Contractors) can dispose of acceptable demolition debris free of charge from 10/22 - 11/2. Accepted debris includes but is not limited to framing lumber, trim boards, plumbing fixtures, flooring, and wall-to-wall carpeting. All debris must be cut down to 3 ft lengths. There is a one cubic yard limit per person. Sheetrock, Drywall, Roofing Paper and Shingles Cannot Be Accepted. Any questions, please call Public Works Department at 282-1579.



Join the Biddeford Youth Advisory Council for a Halloween-themed cleanup event! The person/group (max. 4 members) to collect the most trash will win a bag of Halloween candy. Costumes are welcome and all supplies will be provided. Please register by October 28<sup>th</sup> if you are planning to participate. All participants will receive an email with their assigned cleanup spot on October 29.

## Heart of Biddeford's Downtown Halloween

Bring the kids downtown from 3- 5:30 p.m. on Halloween afternoon for some great trick-or-treat fun! Wear costumes and bring a bag, then stop by any participating business. They will have a picture of a cat in their window to show they are participating. Have fun and be safe!

**Look for the cat to find participating businesses!** City Hall will be participating.



Kids can play games, win prizes, make Halloween decorations, enjoy refreshments and much more! Costumes are encouraged. Please bring a container for prizes.

## Biddeford Recreation Youth Halloween Party 2019

Friday, October 25  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

J. Richard Martin Community Center  
For kids up to age 10 (adult supervision required!)

FREE - No registration required!



**SHARE YOUR STORY WITH TRUE STORY THEATER**  
Keepers of the Legacy: Saturday, October 19, 2-4 p.m.  
Maine Repertory Theater (40 Main Street)

Heart of Biddeford invites your stories of what matters most to you. The [October 19 event](#) is focused on stories from elders and people who come from Biddeford. It will be followed by "Visions from Youth and Newcomers" on November 16. True Story Theater uses a style of improvisation theater called Playback Theater in which audience or group members tell stories from their lives and watch them enacted on the spot. Seating is limited and tickets are FREE on [Eventbrite](#).