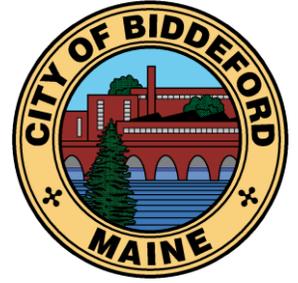


From: Andrea Fagan, Executive Assistant to the Mayor/City Manager
City of Biddeford, Maine
205 Main Street
Biddeford, Maine 04005
Phone: 207-286-9385
Email: afagan@biddefordmaine.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIDDEFORD ANNOUNCES EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR City Acknowledges Employees and Volunteers

The City of Biddeford, Maine held its first annual Employee & Volunteer of the Year banquet on Thursday, September 29, 2016, recognizing Police Sergeant Steven T. Gorton as Employee of the Year and Recreation Commission Chairman Joe McKenney as Volunteer of the Year

Nearly 200 employees and volunteers that serve the citizens of Biddeford attended. “We are blessed to have exceptional volunteer citizens that work with our talented and dedicated employees to make our community better,” stated Mayor Alan Casavant. “Every day citizens and visitors go about their routines seldom thinking about how our employees impact them. Our employees, on the other hand, spend their days thinking about how we can make our citizen’s lives better. They are committed to making our community one that every citizen can be proud of,” added City Manager Jim Bennett.

The two highlights of the evening were the announcement of Police Sergeant, Steven T. Gorton as the 2016 Employee of the Year and Recreation Commission Chairman, Joe McKenney as the 2016 Volunteer of the Year.

Sgt. Gorton hails from Michigan. He started his career in the military serving as an Army Sergeant with Military Police. He later worked as a Brink’s Security Supervisor and finally joined the Biddeford Police Department in 1996. “Sgt. Gorton exemplifies service to community, its citizens, and the victims of crimes. He remains available to perform any duty or task that is asked of him on a moment’s notice, is a hard charger, extremely loyal to the Agency and his peers, is a strong advocate of the Community Policing Model, and has the strength, knowledge and experience to work with various community groups and other law enforcement agencies to improve our quality of life,” stated Chief Police, Roger Beaupre.

Sgt. Gorton is instrumental in forging positive and continued relationships with various downtown groups to make the Downtown Business District an inviting and safe place for people to visit while working closely with the Heart of Biddeford, Downtown Development Commission, and MacArthur Library. He personally follows up with every overdose victim. Because of his personal commitment, more than twenty individuals have entered rehab. “While there are many deserving employees, Steve was the perfect selection for

the initial employee of the year. He exemplifies what it takes to be a law enforcement professional today and I am very pleased he works for Biddeford,” stated Jim Bennett.

Mayor Alan Casavant states, “Steve is a very creative, caring police officer. He is the friendly face that you want to see when you need help, and he is the determined face when you need protection. He is a perfect example of the professionalism of the BPD.”

Volunteer of the Year Joe McKenney serves on the Recreation Commission, volunteers with the Heart of Biddeford, and owns his own photography business located in the Mills.

The Mayor stated, “Joe spends countless hours, always with a smile on his face. He often donates his skills as a photographer to numerous causes and in addition to his commission duties helps coordinate the various city parades, photographs local sporting events, and assists with our city parks. His involvement is priceless!”

The City also recognized twenty employees with 30 or more years of service. “Eleven employees from the Fire Department, six employees from the Police Department, and three employees from Public Works with a combined 705 years of service is not only astounding but admirable,” added the Mayor.

Fifteen employees from the ten City departments along with seven retirees were also recognized. A \$50 donation to a local charity chosen by each retiree was made in the retiree’s name. It was a spectacular event where camaraderie filled the air and it truly will be a one of a kind occasion that will be forever memorable for those who serve this City.

###

For additional information contact James Bennett, city manager, at phone (207) 284-9313 or by email at jbennett@biddefordmaine.org.