



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MONDAY, OCT 24, 2016

Volume 16.9

A1

Ice Cream Social Raises \$100 Plus for Breast Cancer Awareness

City Hall employees held an informal gathering on Thursday, October 13th to provide awareness for October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Assorted flavors of ice cream, toppings and optimism were provided. Donations were not required but many still gave. The generosity proved this cause is important and the City was able to donate \$132 to Breast Cancer Research. Thank you to all who donated!

Charter Questions in Depth: Not Voting is Voting No

For the faithful readers of the 'Beat' you know that we have shared information regarding the 19 charter questions that are on the November 8th ballot.

Most of us have learned that when the public votes on issues, the majority rules. If it is rejected by the majority of the voters, it fails. One would think that is the case for charter questions as well. But, there is more to it.

As we have shared before, the charter is a city's version of a constitution. As such, state law requires a higher standard to change it.

In the case of the voting, it requires that at *(continued on A2)*

Recreation (A2):

Teen Center at Screemfest
Early Release Adventure Program
50 Plus Club Ross Center
Annual Youth Halloween Party

Saving Taxpayers Over One Million Dollars

The City Council and School Committee are moving ahead to save the taxpayers some significant money. Between the two, over \$1,150,000 in savings is possible. Curious how this is being done?

The City is planning to refinance two bonds (borrowings) that were issued in 2010 and 2011 that it is currently paying on. Most of the bonds were issued for the new high school. The other was for work on roads and sewers. Given the historically low interest rates, we can reissue the bonds and reduce the payments that are outstanding.

The proposed refinancing will keep the original terms the same. The 2010 bonds would generate about \$300,000 of savings. Generally, most of the savings occur in roughly equal amounts over the life of the bonds. In other words, it will reduce the amount you pay annually in your taxes and sewer budgets. *(continued on A2)*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mon Oct 24

6:00pm - Warden & Ward Clerks Election Training
(City Hall Council Chambers)

Tue Oct 25

4:30pm - Personnel Committee
(City Hall Council Chambers)

6:00pm - Strategic Planning Committee
(City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room)

7:00pm - School Committee
(Biddeford High School Little Theater)

Wed Oct 26

8:00am - Downtown Task Force
(City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room)

Sat Oct 29

8am to Noon - Extended hours for Absentee
Voting and Voter Registration ONLY
(City Clerk's Office | Main Street Entrance)

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)

Mostly Landscapes Art Exhibit

As many know, every month City Hall rotates the art in its first floor hall. This month we feature Kenneth Deprez's, 'Mostly Landscapes' selection of work focusing on landscapes and places.

Kenneth is a South Portland native and current resident of Biddeford after living in Philadelphia for the past 10 years and graduated from Maine College of Art with a Master of Fine Arts degree in 2004.

Kenneth's work has been shown at Furman Gregory & Deptula, Portland Museum of Art Biennial, Islip Art Museum's Carriage House *(continued on A2)*

Biddeford Teen Center Head to Screemfest

Friday October 14th members of the Teen Center headed to Screemfest at Canobie Lake Park in Salem, N.H. It was an event of themed rides, haunted venues and ‘Ghostbusters.’

Early Release Adventure Program

On Wednesday October 19th the Recreation Departments Early Release Adventure program headed to Pumpkin Valley Farm to work their way through the maze and picking pumpkins.

The next adventure takes place on November 2nd when they head to Vacation land Bowling.

50 Plus Club and Thanksgiving Prelude

October 20th the 50 Plus Club at the Ross Center made their way via custom coach to the Turkey Train in Meredith, N.H. for scenic tour and turkey dinner from Harts Turkey Farm a little prelude to Thanksgiving.

2016 Youth Halloween Party

On October 21st the Recreation Department held its annual Youth Halloween Party at the J. Richard Martin Community Center for ages 3-10. This free event is always Spooktacular!

Thanks to all the volunteers that assisted with this event.

(continued from A1 Landscapes Exhibit)

Projects and Center for Maine Contemporary Art Biennial. In Philadelphia he served on the Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Sketch Club and as an adjunct professor at Moore College of Art and Design. Kenneth is currently a Facilities Director at the YMCA of Southern Maine, Northern York County Branch. Through painting and photography, Deprez explores the space between abstraction and the everyday.



“Having grown up in Maine the landscape has always provided a rich source of inspiration and in Philadelphia the urban landscape became a fresh resource for creativity.” – Kenneth Deprez

For inquiries please contact Kenneth Deprez at kennethdeprez@gmail.com and at www.kennethdeprez.com

(continued from A1 Charter Questions)

least 30% of those that voted in the last gubernatorial election have to cast a ballot (vote) in order for the question to be considered a valid vote. In 2014, 7,793 people voted in Biddeford during the election of the Governor. Therefore, 2,337 votes must be cast on each charter question to be considered passed.

You might be wondering what implications this has. Simply, if the number of votes cast is 2,336 or less on any question, then the charter will remain the same. This is true even if all of the votes were 100% in favor of the change.

There has been discussion about the large number of questions. Some have expressed concern that many citizens may skip this ballot. Some have said they are voting for a few questions and not bothering with the rest. Under normal elections, that would not have an impact on the outcome. In the case of charter questions, it could. As you prepare to vote, please keep in mind that not voting on all charter questions does have an impact on the outcome.

(continued from A1 Taxpayer Savings)

The 2011 savings is expected to generate in excess of \$1 million of savings. Most of that savings will likely occur before the end of this year. In that case, the School Committee will have to decide what they will do with the savings.

The process for this refinancing is moving forward over the next month with the sale of the bonds occurring before the end of the year.

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For questions or comments:

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Happy reading.

