
CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

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City's Bacon Street Festival Wins Ninth Award

BIDDEFORD — The annual Bacon Street Festival, a free community event in Biddeford offered as part of the National Night Out campaign each August, has received its ninth award from the National Association of Town Watch in the eleven-year history of the event.

The goal of the National Night Out campaign is to promote police-community relationships to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. During the first week of August each year, 16,000 participating cities, military bases, and universities nationwide host events that bring law enforcement officers and community members together. Biddeford was among only 1% of the 2018 participants to receive an award for their event and is the only city in Maine to have been recognized by the campaign to date.

“It is meaningful to once again be recognized by a national organization for the evolution we have been seeing throughout Biddeford,” said Mayor Alan Casavant. “The Bacon Street Festival has been a wonderful way to showcase the positive changes that have been made in our community over the past ten years. It is important that we celebrate our neighborhoods and do what is necessary to bring people together, as good conversation and laughter builds bridges.”

The Bacon Street Festival began in 2008 to celebrate the efforts that have been made by volunteers, nonprofits, and City departments to make the neighborhood an even more family-friendly place to live. These efforts began with a park constructed by Project Canopy and continued over the years with cleanups, barbecues, neighborhood meetings, and the addition of a playground and community garden. These community-building improvements have reduced crime in the neighborhood and have inspired positive relationships between law enforcement officers and residents.

Biddeford was selected to receive an award for the Bacon Street Festival based on the contents of an extensive report required each year by the National Association of Town Watch. The report details how the festival has successfully showcased the Bacon Street Neighborhood's revitalization.

“This year we had numerous programs and projects to report on, including the *My Neighborhood Network* Initiative, the Seeds of Hope Committee on Homelessness and the Alternative Pathways Program at the former Rectory,” said Community Development Director Linda Waters. “This award is a hats off to all citizens and organizations that work hard to make Biddeford a great place to live, work and play.”

Mayor Alan Casavant will present the award plaque to the Biddeford City Council on January 3, 2019.

For more information about the Bacon Street Festival, please contact Community Development Coordinator Linda Waters by email at linda.waters@biddefordmaine.org or by phone at 207-284-9105. For more information about the National Association of Town Watch, please visit <https://natw.org/>.

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