

## Monthly Report of Government Activities December 2018

*The City has stopped producing the monthly "Forward" report that had been in place since July 2018. While these reports contained an excellent summary of the activities of each department, the length of these reports was cumbersome to readers and likely made the document something that was not fully utilized by Councilors of the public. Thus, starting with the month of December 2018, I have decided to take a different approach to our monthly reports. Instead of lengthy, department-by-department updates that span 60+ pages, I intended to provide a monthly update consisting of only a few pages highlighting the most significant accomplishments and information from our various departments. I hope this new format is better utilized by the public and I welcome your feedback.*

Below please find select highlights from various City departments during the month of December 2018:

- Two new **high efficiency boilers** were installed at the West End Fire Station. After a \$10,000 rebate from Efficiency Maine, the total project cost stands at just over \$50,000
- The **Fire Department responded** to 6 fire calls, 288 rescue/medical calls, and 74 other types of calls last month. Most of the calls came from the Central District (143), with an fairly even split between Cash Corner (105) and Western Ave (108)
- The City has seen **86% of its streetlights switched out** to new, City-owned LEDs. Due to various issues, it will take several months to complete the remaining installs. If a member of the public has a concern about the brightness of the new lights, please contact Sustainability Director Julie Rosenbach at [rosenbach@southportland.org](mailto:rosenbach@southportland.org) or 347-4148. Staff is in the process of creating a proposal for future Council consideration regarding requests to add or remove lights from the network. More info TBA.
  - Our **Information Services (IS) Department** has completed the installation of the new LED streetlight controllers, which will allow us to manage all city-owned lights remotely
- The IS Department is also working with a contractor to **finish the fiber connection to the Red Bank Community Center**, with an expected completion date in February
- The **solar array on our capped landfill** continues to generate enough electricity to offset about 10% of our annual consumption. Here are the monthly production statistics:
  - October: 1,435.42 Kilowatt Hours (kWh)
  - November: 724.72 kWh

- o December: 1,387.04 kWh
- The Planning Board held a **joint site walk and workshop** with the Arts & Historic Preservation Committee at the former Sisters of Mercy home at 265 Cottage Road on December 8. At the workshop, both boards expressed support for a historic adaptive reuse ordinance. Planner Justin Barker has been working on such an ordinance; it is tentatively scheduled for a City Council workshop on 2-12-19.
- Parks & Rec removed the **winter moth bands** from trees at Hinckley and Mill Creek parks. They counted 1,096 moths on the bands, 759 of which were female. Winter moth females typically lay an average of 150 eggs each, which means the City's banding efforts may have prevented 113,850 new winter moth caterpillars from hatching this spring.
- Our **Park Ranger made the following observations** in December:
  - o Between 10-17 geese at Mill Creek, with three feeders warned
  - o 22 dogs at Hinckley Park
- **Congratulations to Robert Carter**, who has been promoted from Pool Aquatics Supervisor to Recreation Manager!
- The **Skate Park Committee** has applied for a \$15,000 CDBG grant and will be seeking \$25,000 from this year's CIP to help fund a feasibility study for a skate park location. They will be coming to Council in early Spring to present their recommended top locations and seek further guidance.
- Our **Public Works department** received and responded to 51 requests for service. The most common requests involved barrel/recycle bin repair, sidewalk plowing, pot holes, and street light outages.
- Our Social Services Department **provided \$23,115.71 in assistance** to those in need last month. Most of this amount (\$19,879.33) was in the form of housing payments. This assistance involved 101 families, 205 individuals, and 35 children.
- Congratulations to the Sustainability Office, which **received a \$50,191 Coastal Community grant** to develop flood data collection protocols and a web-based vulnerability assessment map.
- 1,083 people have enrolled in our **food waste reduction program**, where we provide free food bins to residents, and they can either have their bin picked up from Garbage to Garden for a fee, or dispose of it themselves at one of four locations in the City for free. We collected 9,890 pounds of food waste at these drop-off locations in December.
- Changes were made to the **recycling program at Redbank** in an effort to reduce the very significant contamination that was occurring in that area by mixing trash with recycling materials. Recycling is now opt-in only at Redbank; those indicating an interest will keep their bins and those who do not will have their bins removed. Extra bins will be available on-site for residents who change their mind in the future.

- **Bus ridership was down slightly** between December 2018 and December 2017. The service saw a 3.96% decrease and a 4.3% decrease when factoring out transfers.
- The **bus service offered free rides** on the day of the special election for Council District 5 (December 11, 2018). Ridership was about average for a Tuesday at 983 riders. The service also held its annual Holiday free-fare day on December 14, 2018, serving 977 riders.
- The following were the **Police Department's top ten calls for service** in December:
  - Motor Vehicle Stop 767
  - PD Crash 172
  - Suspicious Activity 108
  - Assist Citizen 105
  - Alarm/Burglary 89
  - 911 Hang Up Calls 86
  - Check Well-Being 63
  - Vehicle Complaint 52
  - Broken Down MV 51
  - Assist Fire Dept 48
- The **Police Department issued** 136 civil traffic citations and investigation 116 vehicles crashes.
- There were **no Disorderly Housing violations** in December.
- For **hotel/motel calls**, the Police Department responded to 7 at Best Western, 3 at Budget Inn, 10 at Double Tree, 4 at Econolodge, 4 at Howard Johnsons, and 3 at Maine Motel.
- In November, **Spectrum moved SPC-TV and SPPA-TV** to channels 1301 and 1302, respectively.
- SPC-TV has **installed high definition (HD) audio/video equipment** in Council Chambers and is in the process of configuring it. Old standard definition (SD) equipment will be repurposed throughout the City.
- The Library saw **13,285 items checked out last month**, with 11,240 coming from our own collections and 2,04 borrowed from other libraries. The Main Library processed 3,330 checkouts compared to 268 at the Branch location.
- City staff met with a representative from the **U.S. Census Bureau** in anticipation of the 2020 Census. The City plans to work with Census officials in order to ensure a complete count of South Portland residents.