
The Hermon Connection

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HERMON CADETS HONOR MAINE FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS

By Cadet 1LT Emma Shaw and Cadet PVT Tayler Magliozzi

Photo by Chandra Barnes



The Hermon Hawk JROTC Program amazed onlookers during the Veterans' Day Parade on November 12th by promoting pride and honor within the community. Marching cadets honored every fallen service member since September 11th, 2001, with ties to Maine, by carrying personalized banners with descriptions of the individual, including their rank, town in which the soldier was from, and their service branch.

Each cadet was instructed to research their assigned service member through the online Maine Gold Star Honor Roll database to discover their personal histories. Equipped with knowledge about their respective service members, cadets gave public speech

presentations to share knowledge learned about the life of their fallen soldier.

"I felt so proud being a part of something like that," Freshman Cadet Olivia Fish recalled, "I felt honored to be a part of the Hermon JROTC."

"Their respect was obvious," writes Hermon resident Harry Rideout in a thank-you card to the battalion. "It was an honor to have all of you participate in honoring our fellow Mainers."

Cadets look forward to marching in the annual Memorial Day parade when they will again carry Maine's Gold Star Honor Roll banners.

<p>Town of Hermon Roger Raymond <i>Town Manager</i> PO Box 6300 Hermon, ME 04402 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316 raymondrr@hermon.net www.hermon.net</p>

<p>The Hermon Connection If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of <i>The Hermon Connection</i>, please send it to: scottwl@hermon.net Deadline for submissions: February 23, 2016</p>
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<p>Reminder</p> <p>As set by the Town Council, all tax payments will be due in full by April 1, 2016.</p>
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Town Manager's Update

By: Roger Raymond



The last couple of months have been extremely busy addressing several of the Town Council's goals as well as dealing with personnel changes. The following is a summary of the major issues that have been addressed.

Proposed Charter Changes - The Town Council will be proposing several charter changes the citizens of Hermon will be asked to vote on at the November 2016 elections. The proposed changes include:

1. Eliminate term limits for Town Council and School Committee members. (Section 2.02 and Section 6.01)
2. Eliminate the requirement that the Town Attorney attend annual town meetings. (Section 3.01)
3. Amend language requiring a town meeting for any appropriation greater than \$25,000 to include capital improvements. (Section 3.02 b)
4. Amend the requirement of having to hold a town meeting for any appropriation for capital improvements by increasing the amount from \$7,000 to \$25,000. (Section 10.03)
5. Amend language in current Charter to include cost center format for school budget approval that meets state requirements. (Section 6.08 and Section 8.06)
6. Amend duties of the Board of Assessment Review by eliminating the need to confer jurisdiction over appeals arising from any Town Ordinance. (Section 7.02 b)
7. Require that one member of the Board of Assessment Review be an attorney and one be a real certified estate appraiser or certified Maine assessor. (Section 7.03)
8. Amend the Charter to include language the Assessor is to set the Overlay as required by state law and require the Town Council will adopt the tax levy by council resolution. (Section 8.03 and Section 8.04)
9. Amend language to include the School Department when preparing the five year Capital Improvement Plan. (Section 8.12)
10. Amend language limiting the amount the Town Council may authorize to use from reserve accounts to meet cash flow. (Section 8.14)
11. Include new language that will restrict a town councilor from having any immediate family member working for the Town except seasonal employee or working for the school department while serving on the Council. Immediate family member will include spouse, children, sibling, including step, half and in-law relations and domestic partners. (Section 2.02 Subsection b)
12. Amend language for approval of the school budget to be consistent with State law and the Charter. (Section 6.08 and Section 8.02)

A more detailed explanation will be provided to voters prior to the election in November 2016.

Solid Waste - The Town Council has initiated the process of selecting a provider once the Town's contract terminates with PERC in April 2018 to dispose of municipal solid waste (MSW) on a long term basis. The Town of Hermon is a member of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) whose charge is to identify an option for disposing (MSW) post PERC 2018. The MRC has investigated and developed alternative waste disposal arrangements to be available to its members on or about April 1, 2018 which arrangements would replace the existing PERC agreement upon expiration. The MRC has identified Fiberight who has developed a technology for processing MSW into various marketable products and who has expressed an interest in developing a facility in Hampden, Maine. The MRC and Fiberight have entered into a Development Agreement setting forth general terms under which Fiberight proposes to develop, construct, maintain, and operate utilizing technology to accept and process MSW. The MRC has concluded the PERC facility post 2018 will no longer be an effective alternative because of the loss of energy subsidies that will cause the tipping fee to increase by as much as \$60 per ton after February 2018. As a result of the decision by the MRC, numerous documents have been prepared for approval by the members. Prior to approving the agreements, the Town of Hermon has joined together with other communities to have the agreements reviewed by an independent law firm as well as the Council is considering other options that include continuing with PERC or establishing new relationships with

Eco-Maine, Casella, and Exeter Agri-Energy. Regardless of the outcome, significant changes will occur how MSW is handled locally and the cost will increase substantially. The Town Council is striving to select the option most cost effective and consistent with the solid waste hierarchy established by the Maine Legislature.

Community Policing Unit Supervisor - James Kennedy who served as the supervisor of the Hermon Policing Unit under the auspices of the Sheriff's Office has retired effective December 1, 2015. Sergeant Kennedy served over two years in the position and did a remarkable job introducing community policing to the Town of Hermon. The Sheriff's Department has selected Corporal Bob Pelletier to serve as the new supervisor effective January 1, 2016. Corporal Pelletier has been with the Sheriff's Office eight years and was previously with the Old Town Police Department seven years and with the Town of Veazie one year. It is the intent of the Town Council to continue the concept of community policing under the direction of the Police Advisory Committee. During the next few months, Corporal Pelletier will be introduced to the community. He is, however, no stranger to the Town of Hermon since he lived in Hermon six years before moving to Orrington where he currently resides.



New Fire Truck - The new 2016 pumper/tanker has been delivered to the Hermon Fire Department and has been put in service to replace the 1989 model year tanker. The new unit has numerous enhancements including a 1,200 gallon pump and 3,000 gallon tank with an expected life of 25 to 30 years. The unit was purchased for \$277,000.

The 1989 unit was recently sold to a private fire department in Wisconsin for \$11,000.

In-house Mapping - Cindy Pellet was recently hired on a part-time basis to prepare the maps required by the assessing and planning departments. She will be updating the current Land Use and Tax Maps. She will also be working with the Economic Development Office to prepare maps that identify the business parks, Tax Incremental Financing Districts and infrastructures that support the parks and businesses located within the parks. In the past, a private company was hired to complete this work. However, since the Town has the technology available, having the work completed in house should be more cost effective and convenient. We are very pleased Cindy has assumed the responsibility for the town.

Fuller Road/Klatte Road Projects - All the funding is in place to proceed with two road improvement projects that are being funded jointly by the Town of Hermon and Maine Department of Transportation. The projects included two (2) miles on the Fuller Road beginning at the intersection of the Billings Road and extending to the intersection of the Annis/Wing Road intersection. Improvements on the Klatte Road will begin at the intersection of Route 2 and will extend .38 mile to the intersection of the Newburgh Road. The plans have been completed and the projects are scheduled to go out to bid in January 2016 with completion of the projects anticipated by the end of August.

Route 2 Sidewalk Project - MDOT has approved all of the plans for the project and is currently securing all the easements. Once the process has been completed, which is expected to take three to four months, the project will be competitively bid. Completion of the project is anticipated by the end of 2016.

Land Use Ordinance Update - The Land Use Ordinance has been updated and the Town Clerk and Code Enforcement Officer are currently working to update the Code of Ordinances to include the updated version and to post the new version onto the Town's website. Substantial changes include establishing new requirements for amendments to the ordinance; adding new administrative changes; adding standards and identifying districts in the Land Use Table for Medical Marijuana Cultivation Processing Facilities and Medical Marijuana Cultivation Private Caregivers, adding standards and identifying districts in the Land Use Table for Older Adult/Disability Housing and Community Living Arrangements; establishing requirements and standards for access to public ways; deleting the use and standards for septage storage; adding the use and standards for Septage Treatment Facilities; amending administrative requirements for subdivision review, site pre-application, final subdivision plans, inspection of work and enforcement, performance standards for transportation and storm water management, road access, site distance, cul-de-sacs and T-turnarounds, and traffic management.

Should you have any questions regarding the issues outlined above, please feel free to contact me either by calling 848-1015 or by emailing me at raymond@hermon.net.

HOMESTEAD AND VETERAN EXEMPTIONS LAW CHANGES PASSED IN THE 2015 LEGISLATION SESSION

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: Hermon residents already receiving the Homestead Property Tax Exemption in the amount of \$10,000 will see this amount increase in your 2016 tax bill to \$15,000 and in 2017 tax bill to \$20,000. 36 M.R.S. §683; LD 1019, c. 267

New Hermon residential property owners: Do you qualify for a homestead exemption? Go to the website listed below to download an application or pick one up at the Town Office.

<https://www1.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/homesteadapp.pdf>

All application should be returned to the Assessing office by April 1, 2016

VETERAN EXEMPTION: Hermon residential veterans 62 years or older and the widows of a veteran who would be 62 or older; who previously applied for the Veteran's Exemption and was denied as days served were less than 180 days in the Vietnam War; **the law has been amended.** It now reads as follows: "The law now only requires that the veteran served on active duty after February 27, 1961 and before May 8, 1975, regardless of the number of days." 36 M.R.S. § 653(1)(C); LD 170; PL 2015, c. 353

If you or your spouse did not qualify because of days served, please come into the Assessing office and reapply. You should bring a copy of the DD214 or other official form verifying dates of entry and separation from the service.

Any resident who is a veteran 62 years or older or the widow of a veteran who would be 62 years or older; served during a recognized war time period and is not already receiving the exemption you may pick up an application at the town office or download at:

<https://www1.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/>

Application should be returned to the Assessing Office by April 1, 2016 with a copy of a DD214 or other official form verifying dates of entry and separation.

RECOGNIZED PERIODS:

- World War I - April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, inclusive.
- World War I - (service in Russia) - April 6, 1917 to March 31, 1920, inclusive.
- World War II - December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946, inclusive.
- Korean Campaign - June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955, inclusive.
- Vietnam War - February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (active duty after February 27, 1961 and before May 8, 1975, regardless of the number of days.)
- Persian Gulf War - August 2, 1990 to the date that the US Government recognizes as the end of that war period (active duty)
- Other Recognized Service Periods - From August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 and from December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990.

HERMON BUSINESS OWNERS

The Assessing office will mail out in January the annual Personal Property Declaration Forms, Letter of instruction and personal property itemized assessment file. The mailing requires by law under State of Maine Property Taxation Title 36 Sec. 706 taxpayers to furnish the Assessor a true and perfect list of what they possess on the first day of April. The 706 or Declaration Form requests business owners to complete the forms and return to the Assessing Staff by April 15th. The completed form provides the Assessor with your current information allowing to correct the assessment list of items you may have removed or purchased during the year, or if you have sold or relocated the business. The letter also instructs businesses who qualify for the Business Equipment Tax Exemption they are to send in a new application with any items they feel qualify.



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Online Payments

The Town of Hermon is pleased to announce that you can now go on line at www.hermon.net and make real estate tax payments and payments for all services of the Rec Dept.

Just go to our website and follow the links!

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Introducing a new Hermon business...



When Dr. John Hersey decided he would expand his business to Hermon, he did it in a big way! The new Hermon store will be Hersey Eye Care's flagship location among three other sites already operating in the state of Maine. "We saw Hermon as an up and coming community in central Maine as we considered new areas" said Hersey. The company already had locations well established in Palmyra, Winterport and the Bangor Mall.

While Hersey Eye Care provides comprehensive care including cataract, diabetic, glaucoma, and macular degeneration services, they also provide routine eye care and contact lens services, including multi-focal, astigmatism, and hard to fit contacts. A goal at Hersey Eye Care is to take the time to properly evaluate the health of your eyes which can sometimes uncover other systemic health care issues. With state of the art equipment that is technologically advanced, providing a high level of patient care is at the top of their list. "Our mission is to provide exceptional eye care to individuals and families in an advanced eye care environment that meets or exceeds the expectations of those we serve", says Hersey.

Dr. Hersey is a graduate of the New England College of Optometry with his clinical career beginning in Bangor, Maine, in 2001 at Vision Care of Maine. Currently in Hermon, he is joined by one optician, an administrative assistant and a billing services employee. For the future plans are being made that include hiring two full time doctors, two opticians, two additional technicians and several administrative assistants for the Hermon location.

If you are looking for quality eye care services provided by friendly and professional staff
Give Hersey Eye Care a try today!



Visit Hersey Eye Care at 2350 Route 2 (previously M&K Carpet)
You can find them on the web at: <http://www.herseyeyecare.com/>
Call for more information: 848-5220



Shown in the picture: Samantha, Denys and Dr. Hersey



Hermon Business News... *NTENSION seeking job applicants from local community!*

When Scott Biehn of NTENSION founded his business manufacturing tension fabric structures for trade shows, public venues and marketing display pieces in 2006 the amount of growth that the company has experienced since then could best be described as explosive!

The company based in Hermon manufactures fabric banners, headers, signs, walls and towers using computer generated graphic design templates that draw a customers attention to the product being showcased. NTENSION takes pride in offering an affordable quality product for its customers and delivering that product on time even under tight schedules!

Add in the ability to deliver eco-friendly fabrics and green applications and NTENSION can bring your rendering to reality using a step-by step process concerning drawing and graphic approvals while keeping your project organized in every way for success.

Currently, the company is looking for qualified candidates to apply at their new 40,000 square foot operations center at 18 White Pine road in Hermon's Pinewood Business Park. The positions range from in-house set-up and pre-assembly work to frame department production employees and utility workers.

Interested in a production position with a fast paced company setting the standard in their industry?

Call NTENSION at 848-7700 to find more information on how to make application!



NTENSION is a wholesale manufacturer of custom fabric exhibitory– Let's do *AMAZING* together!
<http://http://ntension.com/>

From The Clerks Office



2016 dog tags are available. Please license your dog before January 31. The State of Maine demands a \$25.00 late fee for any dog licensed after 1/31/16. If your dog was licensed in 2015 you can go to hermon.net and follow the link to process the 2016 license on-line. If you no longer have the dog you licensed in 2015 please let us know here at the Town Office.



Elections will be here before you know it. In June of 2016 we have a Presidential Primary in addition to our Municipal Elections. The Town Council has three seats that expire June 30, 2016, and the School Board has two. If you are interested in serving your community and would like more information about what serving as an elected official in Hermon is about do not hesitate to contact me. Nomination Papers will be available in my office on March 11, 2016. Candidates are required to obtain 25 supporting signatures. Those signatures are due back by 5:00pm on April 22, 2016.



I would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to those who made an effort to make the holidays better for their neighbors this year. I had the privilege of delivering Thanksgiving baskets provided by HHS students and the Tails & Trails 4-H club. Christmas was extra special this year as well. Several organizations and individuals made sure that the needs of others were met. When one takes the time to make sure that others get to experience joy, hope and love, they do not do it to receive recognition; but that is exactly why recognition is due. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season.

*Respectfully,
Ruth A. Nickerson, CCM
Town Clerk*

From the Desk of State Representative Roger Reed

Folks, there is an epidemic happening in Maine right now and it will need the attention of your legislature during this upcoming Second Session. It is the poison of illegal drugs like heroin, cocaine and meth.

Here are the numbers that every Maine citizen should know:

- 208 drug induced deaths in 2014 and Maine is on track to surpass that for 2015
- 3 babies *every day* are born drug addicted to drugs in Maine
- 52 Meth labs discovered in 2015 in Maine
- 80% of the State Police time and resources goes to drug related crimes...80%
- Out-of-State drug dealers are more organized and ruthless than ever and Maine State police currently have 39 agents to fight this epidemic (compared to 68 in the 1990's)

I would like to see a comprehensive approach to the scourge of these drugs. First we need the 10 new MDEA agents now. Training for this job is extensive so time is of the essence. This approach will send a signal to the drug gangs as their dealers get caught more often and the cost of doing business in Maine increases. The goal here is not to arrest addicts but to disrupt the supply chain and dealer network. This has to be first as it will save the most lives more quickly.

Maine has already committed to funding treatment and recovery efforts as total state and federal spending reached \$74 million in 2014. State and Federal grants to treatment providers are being amended mid-year to provide more funding. DHHS has also started a new pain management program and a pilot program as an alternative to Methadone and Suboxone designed to beat addiction.

I believe that treatment, education and recovery have been funded appropriately and now it is time to fund more brave men and women to combat these ruthless gang members from out of state. Maine currently spends twice as much to transport addicts to and from methadone clinics that it does the entire MDEA budget. I look forward to finding a balanced solution to this epidemic. This issue is not political but must be solved.

I hope to have the opportunity to talk with you about the upcoming Second Session of the 127th Legislature. Please do not hesitate to contact me at reproger.reed@legislature.maine.gov should you have any questions.





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Hermon Girl Scouts, Troop 1285

Article & Photo By: Stephanie Campbell



In October, the Girl Scout Cadette Troop 1285 from Hermon started The Hermon Middle School Food Cupboard. The girls started working on this project last year to help reduce hunger among classmates. The need is real right here in our community. Did you know that 1/3 of our students in this school alone are eligible for free or reduced meals at school? Troop 1285 along with the HMS PTA will be operating and sustaining the Food Cupboard. The PTA made a generous donation for the initial start up of the cupboard. The scouts held a food drive in November at Danforth's and collected many donations of individual, snack items for their classmates. The troop is soliciting donations from local groups or individuals to help continue this much needed food cupboard. If you would like to help, please contact the hmsfoodcupboard@gmail.com or Tina Fabian, Hermon School Department Child Nutrition Director at fabiant@hermon.net. The HMS Food Cupboard is a private and confidential FREE program available to all HMS students.

Left to right, back row is Makayla Doherty, Amanda Cox, front row bottom left to right is Jamie Russell, Halo Acosta, Haley Wadsworth, Ella Campbell, missing from photo are Alexis Crawford, Mable Eames, and Kylie Larkin.

EXCITING FOOTBALL NEWS FOR THE FALL 2016 SEASON

Article By: Ted Harris



The Friends of Hermon Football (FOHF) and the Hermon Recreation Department (HRD) are excited to announce for the fall of 2016, HRD will offer 3rd & 4th grade tackle football. It has been 10+ years since Hermon started the 3/4 flag program which has now progressed to tackle. In today's competitive sports world you can see the significant difference in this age group & subsequent age groups when they have been shown proper techniques for safe and responsible play.

The FOHF would like to thank the Town Manager, The Council, and The HRD for accepting the donation of \$12,000 in new tackle football equipment for the new 3/4 tackle program. This was raised by raffle calendar sales during the 2014/2015 football seasons, by players and their families in 3rd through 8th grade along with a very generous donation from **Hart Transportation** and the **Hart family**.

In the past 2 years FOHF, through donations from businesses and football families, has raised over \$40,000 for improvements at the elementary school, including field improvements, installation of goal posts, and a pivoting scoreboard used by football, soccer, baseball and field hockey.

FOHF/HRD would like to know if there is enough interest to offer a K-2 grade Flag program which will also feature punt-pass and kick. If you have a son or daughter who would like to participate in this program for 1-2 hours once per week in the fall please email or call FOHF chair Ted Harris at harris3006@aol.com or at 207-356-7902.

I personally would like to thank The HRD and the 5/6 tackle football coach **John Mailloux** for offering and accepting the challenge of our first female tackle football player in Hermon, whom also just happens to be my daughter. John you handled this Hermon first **valiantly** and Breanna and I are **thankful for you, your staff and her teammates**. Breanna and I are in hopes and encourage more young ladies take advantage of this great sport in years to come in Hermon!

Hermon Rec will be hosting informational meetings for the football program on March 2 in Carmel, March 16 in Levant and March 30 in Hermon. Please visit the Hermon Rec website for more information.

For an interesting article about youth football I encourage you to check out an article from Emilie Throckmorton. ("One Mom in Maine" Things I never thought I'd say about football) featured in the BDN on 11/2/15 or at www.onemominmaine.com.



Senior Citizen Community Meals

Where: Hermon Elementary School
When: 3rd Wednesday of each month
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Fee: \$3.00 per per person

Reservations please:
 Contact the Rec office at 848-4075
 or email mthayer30@gmail.com



Wednesday - January 20
 Baked Mac & Cheese, ham,
 carrots, roll, pies
 RSVP by January 15

Wednesday - February 17
 Meatloaf, potato, corn,
 biscuit & cookies
 RSVP by February 12



2016 Father Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 6 from 5:00 to 7:00
 at the Morgan Hill Event Center.

This is a "semi-formal" event with attire ranging from blue jeans to suits and gowns.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

Hermon Residents \$20.00 per couple
 Non-Residents \$30.00 per couple
 Add \$5.00 for each additional daughter

Register online at www.hermon.net
 beginning January 24, 2016

Reservations will not be confirmed until
 payment has been received.

Limited tickets available
 No tickets will be sold at the door

Join us as we head to Boston to
 cheer on the Boston Red Sox vs.
 Tampa Bay
 at historic Fenway Park!



When: Thursday, April 21 (school vacation week)
Departure Time: 7:00 a.m. (Hermon High School)
Game Time: 1:30 p.m.
Return Arrival Time: approx. 10:00 p.m. (HHS)
Cost: \$75.00 pp*

Leave the driving, parking and all the other hassles to us and join us on a comfortable Cyr Bus to Boston for the game!

*Price includes motor coach transportation and grandstand ticket to the game!

To reserve your tickets visit the Hermon Rec website or call 848-4075.

- Minimum participation required -



February 12 - 14

Hermon Recreation along with the New Hermon Mountain will be promoting a weekend to connect with friends and neighbors while enjoying the outdoors! Some activities planned are: an ice fishing derby, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowboarding & tubing. Visit our website at www.hermon.net for more information about all activities taking place!



New Hermon Mountain
 Newburgh Road
 Hermon, ME 04401

Postal Customer

Jobs In Hermon

The Town of Hermon is starting a new link on our website for Hermon businesses that have job openings. If your Hermon business has a job opening in Hermon and you would like us to help advertise the position, please contact us.

We also have a section for “spaces for lease”. If you are a Hermon business or a Hermon business property owner and have a Hermon space for lease or sale for a business and would like to advertise it on our website, please contact us.

The links will be on the Economic Development page of our website.

For both of the above items, the contact information is:

sperkins@hermon.net or
scottwl@hermon.net

Frontier Girls Troop #362

Article & Photo By: Heidi Fairbrother

The Frontier Girls Troop #362 is a new scout troop that is open to any girl K-12.



For the girls’ first community service project, their families collected food for Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. The girls made turkey boxes to give to those families who rely on the food pantry during the upcoming holiday.

Please email HermonFrontierGirls@outlook.com with any question.