
The Hermon Connection

Vol. 22 Issue 4 • July 2016

I recently had an opportunity as a U S Navy veteran to walk with the Hermon ROTC in the Memorial Day Parade. In waiting to form up with the parade I had an opportunity to talk with many of the young men and women who are members. The parents of these young people must be very proud of them because I found them very friendly and polite. They had great pride in their participation (even though their feet and arms hurt) and especially proud to be carrying the banners of veterans who had passed away. Their leadership is excellent and they have great respect for their Master Sargent, he casually joked and ribbed them a little which they all enjoyed. They received applause from the spectators all along the parade route and I was proud to be walking with them. It was a great experience for me as a Vietnam Era vet.

*Terry Hamm-Morris, Proud Hermon Resident
Pictures courtesy of Sharon Rideout*



Terry Hamm-Morris , USN, DT2
with Troops



Master Sargent and
Harry Rideout, American Legion



American Legion Veteran, (unknown)

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

The Hermon Connection

If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of *The Hermon Connection*, please send it to:
scottwl@hermon.net
Deadline for submissions:
August 18, 2016

A Special
Thank You to
Roger Raymond
for your service and
dedication to this town.
Best Wishes to you and
Rella in your
retirement.

From the Office of the Town Manager

Roger Raymond

Paint Disposal

It has been brought to our attention by Pine Tree Waste some households are disposing partially filled paint cans as part of the weekly trash pickup. The agreement with PERC has identified paint as an unacceptable waste. If you have paint cans that contain paint, mix the paint with cat litter and let it dry. Once dry, you may dispose of the litter and paint as part of your household trash. Empty paint cans may also be disposed of as long as the paint is dry in the can. Please be reminded, a homeowner is liable for any damage that may be caused resulting from illegally disposing of a hazardous waste. Paint is considered a hazardous waste. We appreciate your cooperation regarding this matter. Should you have any question, feel free to contact the Town Office at 848-1010.

Route 2 Project

The Route 2 Sidewalk Project beginning at the intersection of the Billings Road and extending 2,700' to the Plaza is going out to bid the second week of July. Bids will be accepted until the early part of August in hopes the contract is awarded at the first town council meeting in August. The project should be completed by the end of November unless the time is mutually extended for cause. The project includes a new sidewalk, drainage, curbing, lighting, pedestrian traffic signal, and new pavement for the travel way.

Snow Removal Contract

The contract for snow removal beginning with the 2016-2017 snow season has been awarded to Gardner Construction Enterprises. The contract is for five years. The contractor will be responsible to plow and sand 51 miles of public way while the town crew will be responsible for 16 miles. I do not expect any changes in the routes but further information will be provided by the Public Works Department as we get closer to the 2016-2017 snow season.

New Members of the Town Council

I would like to congratulate the new members of the Town Council. The three new members are Jeannie Jacques, Steve Watson and John Snyder. We look forward to their participation beginning with the July 14th town council meeting. I would like to thank the three members of the Town Council who are leaving. Tim McCluskey, Alden Brown and Bill Scott have served the Town very well during their tenure. All three will be greatly missed.

Fire Chief Pipes Retires

Ray Pipes who has served as the Town's Fire Chief for the last five years has chosen to retire from the position after 25 years of service in the profession. During the next few weeks the Town will be advertising to fill the position. I would expect the positions to be filled by the end of August.

Full-time Office Clerk Retires

Donna Shorey, after 16 years of service with the Town, retired effective July 1, 2016. She served during her tenure as Deputy Excise Tax Collector, Motor Vehicle Registration Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, and Office Clerk. We wish Donna a healthy and resourceful retirement. Lisa Murray has been selected to replace Donna. She began on July 5, 2016. Lisa gained experience in a similar position she held with City of Old Town. We welcome Lisa and look forward to a long successful tenure with the Town.

Town Receives Notice of Grants

The Town of Hermon has been awarded two Partnership and Initiative Grants from MDOT to complete improvements to the Coldbrook Road and the Newburgh Road. The grant for the Newburgh Road is in the amount of \$360,984. The project calls for ditching, reclaiming and repaving the road base. The project begins at the intersection of the Klatt Road and extends to the intersection of the Swan Road. The second project is on the Coldbrook Road beginning at the intersection of Route 2 and extending 1.14 miles to the second railroad crossing. The grant is in the amount of \$173,150 to be matched by the Town. The work consists of drainage improvements and a shim coat of 1 ¼ inch of new pavement. The citizens will need to accept these grants and raise the 50% match at a special town meeting to be scheduled sometime in August. If approved,

the projects will be completed early next summer. I will propose the local share be paid from Unrestricted Fund Balance and funds appropriated in conjunction with the 2017-2018 Capital Improvement Plan. The Town's Public Works Director, Scott Perkins was instrumental obtaining these two grants.

Solid Waste Contract Post PERC 2018

At a town council meeting on June 30, 2016, the Council voted to enter into a 15 year agreement with PERC to dispose of the Town's municipal solid waste beginning on April 1, 2018 at which time the PERC Agreement ends. The cost per ton will begin at \$84 and the town will utilize its share of the Tipping Fee Reserve to lower the cost of the tipping fee over the life of the contract. The Town will also be initiating a committee of interested citizens to begin to put together a plan to improve the Town's recycling program which will help reduce the amount of trash being sent to the facility. Hopefully an enhanced recycling program will be in place by April 1, 2018. The decision to continue with PERC was based on PERC's reliability over the last 28 years and its success of reducing municipal waste by 90% in addition to an exemplary environmental record.

Howard Kroll Appointed Town Manager

Howard Kroll has been appointed as the new Town Manager effective September 12, 2016. Howard currently serves as the City Manager in Auburn and has previously served as Assistant City Manager in Brewer and Town Manager in Milbridge and St. Agatha. Howard is also a veteran and is still active in the Navy Reserve. Howard resides in Brewer with his family.

Sheriff's Contract Renewed

The Town Council has extended its contract with the Penobscot Sheriff's Office to provide administrative and supervisory services to the Hermon Community Policing Unit for an additional three years. The Sheriff and Chief Deputy will continue to work with the members of the Community Policing Committee to improve policing services in the Town of Hermon. If you want to become a member of the Policing Committee please contact the Town Clerk at 848-1010.

Goals for the Ensuing Year

At the town council meeting on July 14, 2016, the Town Council will be asked to establish goals for the ensuing year. I will be providing a list of the goals key staff and I have identified for consideration. Suggested goals will include:

1. Update the five year capital improvement plan to include components of the Sewer and Cemetery Maintenance Plan, the Economic Development Plan, School Improvement Plan, and Highway Improvement Plan
2. Pursue changes to the Town Charter
3. Complete and implement goals and objectives identified in the Economic Development Plan
4. Update the Sewer and Cemetery Maintenance Plans
5. Develop and implement a Salary and Wage Scale for all employees
6. Establish a Recycling Committee and study the merits of expanding the program in anticipation of Post PERC 2018
7. Continue to improve the working relationship with the School Board, Sheriff's Department and Hermon Rescue
8. Hire a new Fire Chief
9. Continue to maintain a Public Safety Advisory Committee and work to improve the public safety needs of the community
10. Update the Street and Road Improvement Plan
11. Complete the revaluation for all properties
12. Complete a study of the space needs at the Town Office and Public Safety Building
13. Continue to develop a recreational program that serves all age groups

If you have any issue you would like the Town Council to consider as a goal for the ensuing year, feel free to contact any of the members of the Town Council or the Town Manager at 848-1015.

The Senator's Corner

Geoff Gratwick

"Hermon Bargains"

The Legislature has finished its regular session. I have used some of my free time to poke around the back corners of Hermon and have come up with a list of local bargains that I want to share. The first is that living in Hermon is in itself a bargain. I suspect everyone who reads the Hermon Connection knows this already but Hermon has low taxes, well-funded schools, and good government. It is an oasis of prosperity and relative calm amidst the hurly-burly of the modern world, *a bargain*.

First, taxes: Hermon's taxes are low, arguably the lowest in the state for a town of its size. Hermon's mill rate is 12.00 so a house in Hermon valued at \$100,000 is taxed \$1,200. Bangor's mill rate is 22.00 so the same house would be taxed \$2,200; Orono's mill rate is 24.00 with taxes on that house of \$2,400.

The reasons for Hermon's low taxes are many: the trucking companies located in Hermon (Dysart's, Ryder, Rand, Kelly, Ross and others) pay their excise taxes to the town, not the state. This amounts to about \$1.4 million per year, a significant contribution to Hermon's \$17.7 million budget (\$4.8 million municipal and \$12.8 million schools). Hermon is close to Bangor, a service center; it combines services with other communities and the county; and it runs an efficient and lean government. Hermon residents have more money in their pockets at the end of tax season than their close neighbors. *A bargain*.

Hermon's schools are excellent. Kids get a boost on their start in life because of good teachers, good administrators, good funding and involved parents. Education is never problem-free but Hermon does well in state ranking. *A bargain*.

Town government is well organized, no larger than it need be. The staff is professional and the town council has long experience; both are essentially non-political. Many services - police, fire, and assessing - are regionalized for savings. Building permits are a steal. The Parks and Rec Department makes use of school facilities and offers an extraordinary wide variety of activities for all ages. Go to the town web site for details.

And then, on a different scale entirely, there is my favorite bargain of all: the **Senior Supper**. \$3.00 gets you a full three-course meal cooked by Melissa Mixer and served by local Girl Scouts. Appetizers, a different menu each time, desserts to die for. (6:00 p.m., third Wednesday of each month at the Elementary School.) Michelle and her staff would appreciate it if you let them know you are coming so they can plan (848-4075).

A down-home bargain that can't be beat.

From the Town of Hermon's Assessing Office

Property Owners Beware:

The State of Maine Bureau of Taxation has sent out a notice to Maine Assessors advising us to inform our residents of a scam that is being offered to property owners.

The notice reads as follows: "A taxpayer in the Town of Windham recently received a solicitation from "Record Transfer Services" of Westlake, California offering to provide the taxpayer with a copy of the taxpayer's own deed and property assessment profile for the not so small fee of \$83.00."

Although this solicitation of service may not be illegal it does concern the Assessing Professionals that some people/property owners may be confused into paying for these services. The services being offered are something you the property owner may already possess or could obtain from their local Assessor's Office with no fee charged.

Property owners typically have a copy of the deed of ownership for property they own. Property assessment profiles are available upon request from the Assessor's office or on the Town's website.

HERMON CADETS CLEAN COLE'S LAND AND TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM WALKING TRAIL

Article and Photograph by Cadet Tayler Magliozzi



The Cole Land and Transportation Museum recruited a group of cadets from the Hermon Hawk JROTC Program on April 28th to take part in the spring clean-up of the location's walking trail. The museum was founded by Galen L. Cole to preserve and display transportation equipment and military memorabilia that helped reshape America. A veteran himself, Cole encourages those who have served as well as the general public to enjoy the featured walking trail at the Bangor location. Cadets gained exposure to the use of equipment such as rakes and wheelbarrows as

they learned how to properly and productively use the tools while paying a duty to the community.

Hermon cadets divided the work and executed several jobs to remove leaves and trash to make sure the trail is a beautiful and safe environment for those who wish to enjoy it. Students worked to remove sticks from the trail by thoroughly collecting and expelling the excess debris. Cadets learned the importance of paying attention to detail and working as a team in order to leave the location without fault in order to ensure the trail's security. Third year cadet John Barr stated, "Hard work benefits not only the community, but it really builds character and teamwork skills."

The Cole's Land and Transportation Museum opens each year on May 1st, seven days a week from 9AM to 5PM. Cadets look forward to carrying on the task of the Cole Museum's Spring clean-up for many years in the future.

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Summer football clinic week
of August 15



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Hermon only league
3rd - 6th Grades - Tri-Town league
Games begin Saturday
September 10th

go to Hermon.net to register now





Article By: Scott Perkins



When I drove into the driveway of Bangor Auto and Truck Center, I noticed well appointed grounds, a beautiful structure with an inviting entrance and quality finishes. I thought about the fact that if that sort of attention to detail was their standard, their customers were fortunate to have caring employees to work on the personal vehicles and business fleets scheduled for repair.



I wasn't wrong about the team at Bangor Auto and Truck...

Bob and Tina Muecke are among the Hermon family owned businesses who have discovered the secret to running a successful enterprise. "The thing that we are most proud of is our dedicated and hard working employees", said Muecke. "We have had people join our team and become specialists in the auto trade as the business grew. All of our families have grown together personally and professionally over the years."



While touring Bangor Auto and Truck Center, you notice the inspirational quotes by Henry Ford in conspicuous areas tastefully done. Employee training areas with modern audio/visual equipment along with wireless tablet reporting technology for techs in the service center mixes the inspirational quotes of Ford from yesteryear with the modern diagnostic tools necessary for today's advanced vehicle maintenance requirements.



When you add those special characteristics to the programs that Bob and Tina incorporate to assist those in the auto trade, real economic development is taking place here in Hermon. "We offer any student accepted as an intern with us the opportunity to advance their career with degree level schooling to perfect their skills", says Muecke. "High School students, people with prior military service,...anyone who wants to learn are all candidates."



Stop by or call this Hermon business to meet the Muecke family and their team the next time you need auto repair or maintenance!

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F: (207) 848-9911

Visit Bangor Auto and Truck Center: <http://www.bangorautoandtruck.com>



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Hermon High School



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Show: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Awards @ 1:00 p.m.

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Truck; Tuners; Corvettes; Mustangs 1964 1/2 to
1973; Mustangs 1974 to 2005; Camaros/Firebirds to
1999; Foreign Cycles; American Cycles; Street Rods;
Rat Rods/Under construction; Antiques up to 1949;
Special Interest; Imports to 1999; Imports 2000-up

(EVENT AWARDS GIVEN TO BEST OF EACH CLASS)

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Sports Events • Children's Carnival
GHCAC Golf Tournament
Little Miss Hermon Pageant
9-11 Memorial Tribute
Spirit Week • Candidate Debates
Bangor Drive In Community
Movie Night

* Event list subject to change.

JUMP ON BOARD
*and be a part of making
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event a success!*

*Please join us in promoting
this celebration.*

We are looking for

- Community groups & volunteers to help with event planning
- Businesses to feature events

For more information visit www.hermon.net
or call the Rec Office at 848-4075



Senior Citizen Community Meals

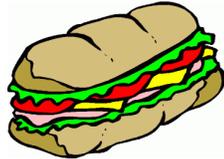
Where: Hermon Elementary School
When: 3rd Wednesday of each month
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Fee: \$3.00 per person

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



Wednesday - July 20
 Strawberry Festival
 Cookout
 RSVP please

Wednesday - August 17
 Italian Sandwiches
 Brownie Sundaes
 RSVP by August 6



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Open Monday - Friday
 Before School 6:30 - 9:00a.m.
 After School 2:30 - 6:00p.m.

We are also open during School Vacations,
 Snow Days, and Early Release Days!

Before School	\$6 Daily	\$30 Weekly
After School	\$8 Daily	\$40 Weekly
Before & After	\$14 Daily	\$70 Weekly
Vacation/Snow Days	\$20 Daily	

Beginning July 1st, register online @ Hermon.net
 for the 2016-2017 school year.

Ecotat Gardens



"Six Basin Street"
 Dixieland Band"
 Sunday, August 21 at 4 pm

Please bring a lawn chair and park
 in the Annis Road parking area.

Hydrangea Wreath Workshop
 Saturday, September 24, 9-11
 \$20.00/person

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 New Year!!!
 2017**

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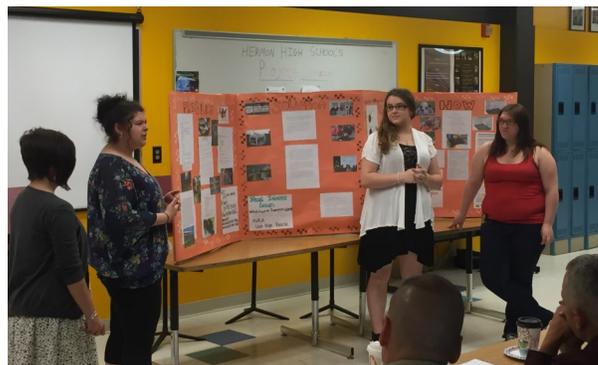


World & American Studies

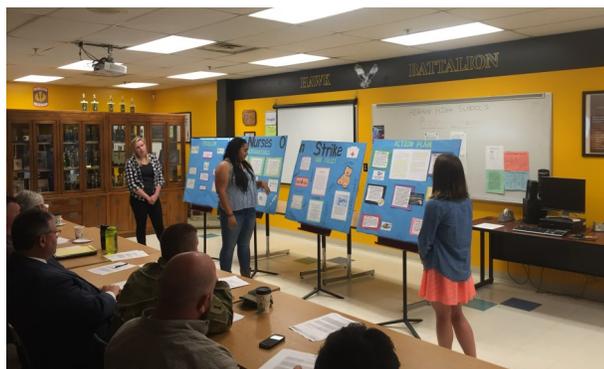
Article & Photos By: Jessie Hargrove

Hermon High School juniors and seniors took turns solving the world's problems towards the end of the year. Students enrolled in the World and American Studies III courses finished the school year by presenting their projects to a wide array of community members. The students conducted surveys, gathered evidence and investigated the various problems they see in society. They also developed and proposed solutions to these problems as well as the action plan to implement the solution. Mr. Petersen and Mr. Hargrove would like to extend their thanks to the following people for being eager participants and enriching the students' experience during the project:

Stefano Tijerina of the Bangor Peace & Justice Center
 Darci Lane of St. Joseph's Hospital
 Brent Slowikowski of Central High School
 Jeremy Labbe of Pine Tree Landfill
 Stacey Coventry of the Bangor Humane Society
 Ken Mitchell of the Maine Veteran Homes
 Pat Kimball of Wellsprings Substance Abuse Services
 Sargent Katsilas of Army Recruiting Center
 David Richmond of Bureau of Veterans Services
 John Doughty of Hermon Youth Minster
 Sargent Pelletier of Penobscot Sherriff's Department
 Scott Perkins of Town of Hermon Public Works



Students pictured left to right are: Alison Aspelund, Grace Cookson, Hanna Shorey and Victoria Hewey



Students pictured left to right are: Hanna Bemis, Paige Barnes and Katelyn Levasseur



Student pictured is: Seth Fern

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2015 Ecotat Annual Report

March 2015 marked the 20th anniversary for Ecotat Trust. A sincere thanks for their ongoing support goes out to each individual who has served as a trustee, and to each and every volunteer, member and business owner who has given of their time, talent or resources for their ongoing support. Town councilors and residents are thanked as well for without their financial support, our mission to “preserve and expand the gardens and trails for the enjoyment and use of future generations” would not carry forward.

In January gardener Avery Curtis relocated to San Francisco for year-round employment. His efforts and knowledge are acknowledged and were much appreciated. In May Daniel Buck of Bangor was welcomed as the gardener.

Tenant of six years vacated the Crosby House apartment May 31 and a new tenant took occupancy October 1.

Events included two weddings, hosting the June meeting Peony Society of Maine, a photo shoot for families and individuals organized as a fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop #25 of Hermon, two band concerts with one canceled by the weather, Hermon High School alumni tour, second annual Art in the Gardens, two family celebrations (40th anniversary and 1st birthday) and a balsam fir wreath workshop.

Erin Greenier, owner of Blue Burlap Designs of Hermon, is thanked for constructing and painting a wooden barn quilt of her design which she donated to Ecotat and which now hangs on the north side of the Guy Brown Building.

It should be noted that visitors registered from nearby communities and from as far away as Alabama, Arkansas and Florida. Geo-caching continues to be an attraction for enthusiasts.

Gaynor Reynolds, Secretary

Gardening Report

This report begins when I assumed responsibility as gardener in the second half of May 2015 and intends to detail activities and progress made throughout the summer of 2015, ending midway through October of the same year.

Volunteer Contributions:

As in 2014, volunteer meetings were held regularly on Wednesday nights and often drew crowds of 2-10 volunteers who assisted with many garden activities, though typically routine maintenance such as weeding and mulching newly weeded beds. Substantial contributions were made to gardening efforts by a Hermon Middle School student who worked closely with me on many occasions. Extraordinary volunteer contributions were made to the northern end of the garden (Cathedral and beyond, visitor parking area, etc.) by David and Sharon Sierberg of Levant who undoubtedly put in hundreds of volunteer hours over the course of the mid-to-late summer and on into the fall. Their activities included invaluable maintenance of the roadside visitor entrance on Annis Road, which greatly improved visibility of the gardens from the road and substantially increased walk-in visitor traffic. Further, the Siebergs completely remodeled many of the flower beds surrounding the visitor parking lot and to the west as far as the tree line. This included the removal of all flowerbeds (save the day lily beds) in the northwestern section of the garden below the cactus bed and seeding with grass those same beds. This particular activity was in following with the decision of the trustees to return the northwestern hillside to grass to create a larger lawn area for future community events. I relocated all salvageable plants from these beds to more central locations in the beds surrounding the Oval and Bridge gardens. Further still, the Siebergs remodeled much of the Cathedral itself, creating several stone-chip paths to break the largest beds into smaller ones and thereby consolidate the available plants. The overall effects of these actions substantially improved the aesthetics and accessibility of the garden as approached from the visitor entrance and significantly reduced the somewhat overwhelming task of finding plants to fill the hitherto mostly empty Cathedral beds.

Colby Stokes with Hermon Boy Scout Troop #25 constructed and erected a birdhouse for gold finches and house finches to replace a long standing but leaning house on the eastern edge of the Fairy garden.

Girl Scouts, Brownies and Daisies with Troops #25 and #1340 of Hermon brought their gardening gloves, rakes and youthful enthusiasm to help with spring clean-up of the grounds.

Hermon True Value donated a large number of annuals to the Breast Cancer bed and volunteer Kathy Clegg gave a substantial number of hours to maintaining this bed.

Contributions from the Gardener:

After a few days of becoming familiar with the garden grounds and performance of some minor maintenance/remodeling of beds near the Guy Brown building, my first major task was the elimination of as much comfrey as possible, which had grown rampant throughout the entire garden during the late spring and early summer prior to my arrival. This was primarily intended to prevent mature comfrey from going to seed and was completely successful by this metric. However, the terrifically resilient nature of comfrey root, as well as comfrey's proclivity for rapid vegetative growth, makes this species essentially impossible to completely remove from the premises. Ongoing efforts to contain its spread will unfortunately be necessary indefinitely.

Once the comfrey was dealt with to the best of my abilities, I turned my attention to Beds 37 and 38 - located between the Bridge garden to the southern edge of the Cathedral - which contains several large azaleas that (once freed from the suffocating grasp of chest-high weeds throughout the bed) blossomed brilliantly orange and pink for what was reportedly the first time in several years. Beyond being weeded (no small task in and of itself), Beds 37 and 38 were nearly completely remodeled with the addition of a rock wall along the northern edge, several statues, and transplantation of many species (foxglove, astilbe, more azaleas, lilies of several varieties) taken from other less visible areas of the garden. Stone chip paths were added leading from the Cathedral area toward the Bridge garden, which in combination with the previously existing wooden archway, created an aesthetic region in front of which two weddings were held in July and August respectively.

Postal Customer

Brownie/Girl Scout Troop 1340

*Article By: Michelle Raleigh
Photo By: Anne Lagrange*

The Brownie's of Girl Scout Troop 1340 decided to use some of their money from selling cookies to buy much needed school supplies for Hermon Elementary School. The supplies included pencils, baby wipes, rulers, high lighters, tissues, saltines and much more. They also donated 39 new books to the school library. The Brownie's included are Aaliyah Clark, Elizabeth Case, Evelyn Lagrange, Jennifer Clark, Laura Taylor, Lilli Kimball, Lily Raleigh, McKaeyla Morin, Mylee Farrar, Riley Higgins, and Taylor Sherrard.



Consumer Fireworks Ordinance

The Hermon Town Council recognizes that while the State of Maine has legalized the use of consumer fireworks, they still present a danger of injury and fire. To enhance the public safety and welfare of its citizens and community, the Town Council adopted an ordinance to prohibit use and sale of Consumer fireworks in the Town of Hermon.

No person shall use, possess with the intent to use, sell, possess with the intent to sell or offer for sale consumer fireworks in the Town of Hermon. This section does not apply to a person issued a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine pursuant to 8 M.R.S.A. 227-A.

Whoever violates this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of up to \$1,000.00 plus reasonable attorney and witness fees, plus costs if legal action by the Town of Hermon is required.

For more information please go to ordinances at hermon.net.