
The Hermon Connection

Vol. 23 Issue 2 • March 2017

Hermon High School Winter Carnival



For a number of years, Hermon High School students have celebrated Winter Carnival the week before February school vacation. Graduating classes have written the history of their high school years citing the themes of the fall Spirit Week and of Winter Carnival and naming their classmates who served as Winter Carnival class royalty. They decorate for their class banquet with the banners class members created each year around the Winter Carnival theme. They laugh about relay races on sleds created from cardboard and duct tape. Winter Carnival traditionally includes an afternoon of activities that see a wide range of friendly competitions: hula hoop spinning, hacky sack kicking, ping pong, whiffle ball, board games, guessing games, digital games, and capture-the-flag or soccer on snow-covered fields.

Thanks to the Blizzard of 2017, memories of this year's Winter Carnival will be different. With two days house-bound, first watching snow fall and then cleaning paths to escape the house, and the threat of a third winter storm, activities this year were abridged. Nevertheless, students dressed up to reflect the "Music Makes the World Go Around Theme," showing off their Western Wednesday attire, their Throw Back Thursday tribute to the sixties, and a whopping 87% wearing school colors and Hermon Hawks clothing for Fight Song Friday. They participated in a school-wide assembly on Friday afternoon that heard the loudest class cheer (Sophomores), and witnessed the competitive spirit of all classes as they played Dodge Ball and Crab Soccer, and pulled for Tug-of-War championships. They celebrated school mates who participated in winter sports activities, including the 2017 Class B state champion Cheerleading squad, and cheered on boys' and girls' varsity basketball and indoor track teams as they prepared for tournament games and a state meet. The Seniors, class of 2017, were happy with their recognition as Winter Carnival 2017 winners.

Town of Hermon
Howard Kroll
Town Manager
PO Box 6300
Hermon, ME 04402
207-848-1010
Fax: 207-848-3316
krollh@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:
April 23, 2017

Reminder

As set by the
Town Council,
all tax payments
will be due
in full by
April 1, 2017.

From the Town Manager

CONGRATULATIONS! I want to take this opportunity to commend the Hermon High School Cheering Squad on winning the State Championship! A lot of hard work and dedication went into their preparation and planning and it is paid off! WELL DONE!

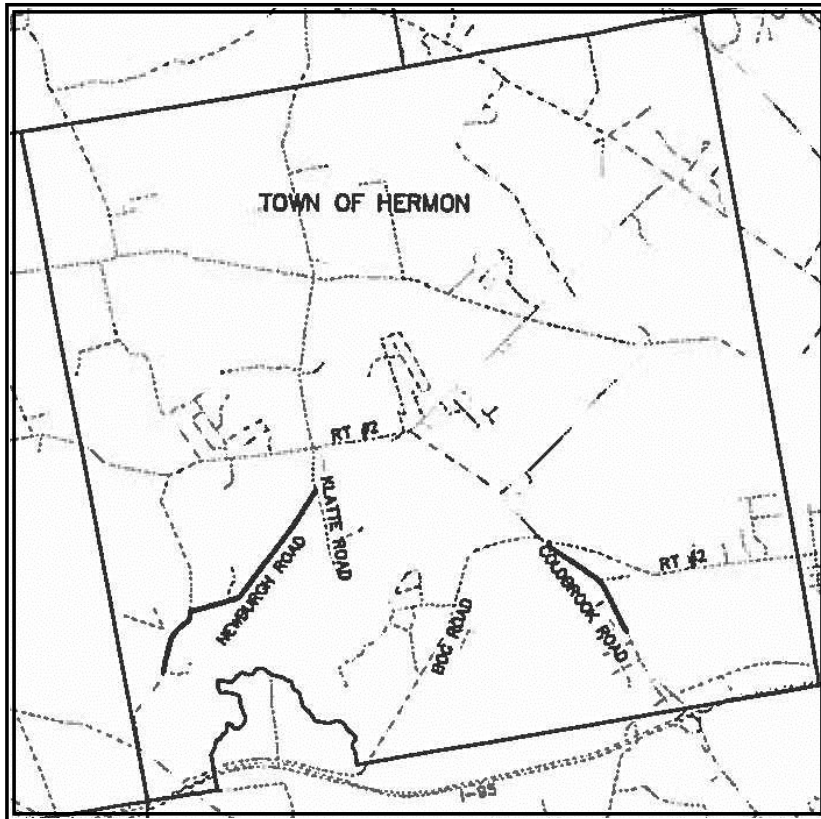
RECYCLING COMMITTEE- The Town Council has made forming a recycling committee a goal for FY 2016-17. The Committee is tasked with looking at recycling options for the Town and to make recommendations to the Town Council to consider implementing. Currently we have 5 containers behind the Public Safety Building that residents can drop off eligible recycling material.

If you are interested in serving on the Recycling Committee please contact Scott Perkins, Public Works Director, @ 848-1010 ext. 6513.

COLDBROOK AND NEWBURGH ROAD- The Town is requesting invitation to bid on paving projects for the Coldbrook and Newburgh Roads. These roads are in need of rehabilitation and repair. In a partnership with the Maine Department of Transportation the Town is responsible for 50% of the cost. MDOT is responsible for the remaining 50%. Here is a breakdown for each road:

Coldbrook Road Construction: Reconstruction activities will be over approximately 6,725 ft. of the Coldbrook Road as shown on the plan set. This project will consist of replacing and rebedding culverts, installing Type A gravel in driveways and shoulders as needed to provide a smooth transition from the 1.25" overlay. Mill to a depth of 1.25" from station 0+26 to station 10+50. The shim and overlay work will be performed by others. The contractor is responsible for prepping the road for paving and final grading. Contractor to coordinate final base grading and compaction work with Town's paving contractor. Once the final base grading is accepted by the Owner the paving contractor will pave the road. Contractor to return within seven (7) days of paving by Town's paving contractor to complete shoulder work.

Newburgh Road Construction: Reconstruction activities will be over approximately 12,025 ft. of the Newburgh Road as shown on the plan set. This project will consist of replacing and rebedding culverts, ditch improvements, installing level spreaders, 10" deep reclaim over the travel way and shoulders, grading desired cross slope and profile and installing Type A gravel in driveways and shoulders as needed to provide a smooth transition from new pavement. Four inches pavement over the travel way will be preformed by others. Construction activity in specified areas will consist of full road base reconstruction including the placement of a non-woven geotextile fabric. 18" of Type D gravel, 6" of Type A gravel and a total of 4" of hot mix asphalt as specified on the plans and details. Pavement work will be preformed by others. The contractor is responsible for prepping the road for paving and final grading. Contractor will coordinate final base grading and compaction work with Town's paving contractor. Once the final base grading is accepted by the Owner the paving contractor will pave the road. Contractor to leave a window of excess reclaim material and return within seven (7) days of paving by Town's paving contractor to complete shoulder work.



Vicinity Map

Bids will be accepted in March 2017 and project will be awarded in April. We hope to have these projects started this summer and completed this year. In the next addition of the Connection I will provide firm dates so you can adjust your driving habits.

The Senator's Corner

There is a lot of good energy in Augusta these days. The air is full with the promise of new ideas, initiatives, bills, and ways to move Maine forward. The first several months of any new legislature are a time of optimism.

Reality will set in soon enough – the reality that new visions cost money, that money means taxes, and that no one wants to pay more taxes. So we will soon be into the business of deciding which needs are vital and which are simply good ideas. Our list of needs is long: better funding for schools, health care, and the disabled; fewer potholes and safer roads and bridges; more revenue sharing for our towns and cities; the opioid crisis; and more, much more.

But our resources are finite. So we will spend the next four months balancing our dreams with fiscal reality. Our final budget will not please everyone but I think it will be good; we as legislators are working well together this session. I am optimistic that we can come up with a plan that is fair, funds current expenses, invests in our future, and leaves money in our pocketbooks.

I now know Augusta well enough so that I am on the Government Oversight Committee this session, that committee charged with ferreting out waste and malfeasance. It is important and interesting. I am also on the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee and the new Opioid Task force which is dealing with our tragic drug crisis. These along with my health care initiatives are keeping me busy.

My time for hanging out locally is more limited now but as always I like to hear from you if you have comments, concerns or ideas. I can be reached at home at 947-0637, in Augusta at 287-1515, or by email at geoff.gratwick@legislature.maine.gov.

Tips for Safe Spring Driving

By Sgt. Bobbie Pelletier

Yes, spring has almost officially arrived. This means it's time to tweak our driving habits and our vehicles. Here are a few tips to help you enjoy spring driving in safety:

1. Don't be too eager to take off your winter tires. It is Maine and sometimes Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate no matter what time of year it is. We can still get some snowfall which means snowmelt and wet roads. Often these roadways tend to freeze during the night time hours when temperatures fall below freezing. If you notice these conditions, expect ice and SLOW DOWN.
2. As the weather warms it will bring out motorcyclists and cyclists. Please remember to practice good vision techniques and stay focused on spotting these smaller road users. Remember to share the road and ALWAYS LOOK TWICE.
3. Warmer weather brings more children outside. Slow down and pay extra attention in residential and school zones. Be alert for teenagers who tend to be fixated on their texting, socializing and cellphones and as a result, won't be paying much attention to traffic.
4. Keep your distance from the vehicle travelling in front of you. Dirt and rocks are more present on the roadway from winter sanding. This will prevent your windshield from being struck by a rock causing damage. It will also prevent you from having a rear end collision should another vehicle have to quickly brake or swerve to avoid unexpected potholes, frost heaves or debris in the roadway.
5. Heavy spring rains and snow melt can cause localized flooding on roadways. When encountering a flooded road please slow down. Never try to cross a flooded section of roadway under the water that could have been washed out. Turn around and seek an alternate route.
6. Warmer temperatures and snow melt mean soft gravel shoulders or washouts. Use extra care if you're pulling off the roadway or if you drop a wheel on the shoulder.
7. Many animals will be on the move due to winter hibernation and also looking for forage. These animals tend to move more frequently during the early morning, dusk and night time hours. Please slow down and be vigilant. Animals can often spook and be unpredictable when meeting a vehicle. They often dart out into traffic.
8. Also just a reminder that driver distraction is a leading cause of traffic accidents. It is important to stay focused and please stay off your cell phones. Remember text messaging while driving a motor vehicle **is against the law!**

- PLEASE DRIVE SAFE AND BUCKLE UP!

Lynde Lodge Events

- 1.) Lynde Lodge, Hermon's Masonic Lodge, has NEW plans to hold a PUBLIC SUPPER every THIRD SATURDAY of the month to benefit the Lodge's public outreach for various community projects, including our traditional (free) Thanksgiving Dinner. Suppers are 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. and cost \$7.00 per person, with children under 12 years old FREE. We've had two suppers so far this year and it has been a resounding success.
- 2.) Lynde Masonic Lodge will be putting on a CELTIC/CAPE BRETON STYLE "Musical Evening" with local professional musicians led by Hermon resident Wayne Burt with Dana Flood and Julie Monroe. All very talented musicians in their own right. They are fantastic when they get together. This is a "don't miss" evening. 4:00 to 7:00, Saturday, MARCH 11th. Tickets will be \$8.00 at the door, and Lodge members will be selling light fare: hotdogs, chili, soups, coffee, chips, sodas and other items from the kitchen. Ticket and food sales are intended to cover the cost of this Hermon Community Event, with profits to go toward further Community programs and Lodge efforts.

Any questions call Kevin Weatherbee, Lynde Lodge secretary, at 848-5600.

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Hermon Business Spotlight...

There are great stories about Hermon and the people who live here that speak to our collective identity and heritage. Many people who experience our community and attend the Hermon Schools choose to stay and make the town their home. After graduating from Hermon High School, Kit McCall attended NESCOM at Husson University. He quickly became known as the last student professors saw each night and the first one to greet them in the morning. Kit began his professional career in 2003 freelancing video productions. In 2005, *Kit McCall Productions, LLC* was created. Kit specialized in all types of high-end video productions which resulted in local and national recognition. Businesses, educational institutions and non-profits have enjoyed McCall's creative touch when it comes to marketing. In early 2015, *Kit McCall Productions* merged with another firm to create "*Up Country Productions, Inc.*". The new team produced a weekly 30 minute show which is currently broadcasting throughout Maine and New Hampshire Sunday mornings at 11am on WLBZ 2 & WCSH 6.

"*Growing Home*" is an inspiring series that tells the stories of U.S. Veterans who are now serving their communities by farming and raising livestock throughout Maine. The show is a first-of-its-kind television series that tells the stories of veterans who continue to serve their country by providing high-quality agricultural products. *Growing Home* features intriguing individuals who like to get their hands dirty doing what they love—working with the land, and serving people. Viewers immersed themselves in Maine stories that value our rural culture and history.



Kit McCall attended the New England School of Communications from 2001-2003 earning an Associate of Science in Communications, TV-Video Production. Kit was the first student to receive the *Outstanding Achievement in Television/Video Production and Sound Recording* awards simultaneously.

Kit currently resides on the Newburgh road in Hermon.

www.GrowingHomeTV.com Kit@UpCountryPro.com



Growing Home is hosted by former US Navy SEAL and NFL player Clint Bruce. A standout football player, Clint Bruce took his talents to the United States Naval Academy and became one of the most decorated Navy athletes in the academy's history. Clint was raised a patriot and when he was given the opportunity to become a Navy SEAL, he left the NFL. As a SEAL officer, he deployed in various positions of command and leadership with three platoons all over the world in direct support of counter-terrorism missions and the global war on terror.

The award winning team at *Up Country Productions, Inc.* works together to showcase veterans and their families in our state that promote healthy living, hard work and love of country. Visit their website today to learn more about this Hermon business!



Story by: Scott Perkins

Squeeze The Throttle

VINTAGE SNOWMOBILE RACES

— MARCH 18, 2017 —

Registration: 8:00-10:00AM

Races Start: 11:00AM

10 DIVISIONS OF RACING Classes Available:

Vintage Single Cylinder Stock

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\$5.00 Students 12 & Under

**\$20.00 per class registration costs
with 80% Payback**

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

THE ASSESSING OFFICE HAS MAILED THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATION FORMS (706 REQUESTS)

Maine Business Equipment Property Tax Relief Programs

The State of Maine has two business equipment property tax relief programs designed to reduce the burden of personal property taxes that businesses pay. The programs vary based on the date the property was placed in service in the state.

Business Equipment Tax Exemption Program (BETE)

For property placed in service after April 1, 2007, the Business Equipment Property Tax Exemption (BETE) program applies; commonly referred to as the “BETE” program. The exemption applies to most depreciable business equipment, however, certain items are excluded, such as, vehicles subject to excise tax, office furniture, lighting, gambling equipment, and property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity. Retail equipment will continue to be covered under Maine’s Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program, (BETR) as discussed further below.

A BETE application **MUST be filed ANNUALLY** with the tax assessor by April 1 of each year, but an extension to May 1 is automatically granted. Further extensions beyond May 1 may be requested in writing to the local assessor. Filing the BETE application on time is critical, as property will be disqualified from the exemption for any year the report is not considered to be timely filed. The exemption application **MUST LIST ON THE APPLICATION** all eligible exempt property purchased after April 1, 2007 *each year*, not only in the year of purchase. There is no time limit on the number of years the exemption may be claimed, but the business or business owner must apply annually with a completed application and itemized list of personal property requesting exemption on.

Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR)

The BETE program described above is in addition to the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement referred to as (BETR) program. This program applies to eligible equipment first placed in service in Maine after April 1, 1995 and on or before April 1, 2007. Certain retail equipment excluded from the BETE program continues to be eligible for the BETR program (retailers should consult Maine Revenue’s Guidance Document mentioned above).

The BETR eligible personal property definition is essentially the same as for BETE, and can be claimed at 100% of the assessed amount for 12 years. Beyond 12 years the reimbursement rate is reduced to 75% or less of the assessed tax.

There is a two-part process for receiving reimbursement under the BETR program. First, Form 801A (for the first 12 years) or 801B (for subsequent years), Assessor Notification, must be filed with the local assessor. The assessor has 60 days to complete the form. Second, Form 800, Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Application, is filed by the taxpayer with the State along with the completed Form 801. The State releases these forms August 1st of each year. The reimbursement program is for taxes paid in the prior year, which means payments made in 2016 will be reimbursable between Aug. 1st through December 31st, 2017. Form 800 must be filed with the state by December 31, 2017.

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See store for details. Appointment may be required.

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Pre-K Registration At Hermon Elementary School

Hermon Pre-K Registration will begin on **March 15th**, for Hermon children entering Pre-K in the fall.

Children must be 4 years old by October 15th, 2017, to be eligible for Pre-K.

Parents are invited to come into HES on **March 15th from 5:00-6:30** to fill out Pre-K registrations. Following the March 15th registration session you may obtain registration packets between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Hermon Elementary School office.

Students will be placed on the enrollment list and waiting list in a first come first serve fashion. We will fill 40 slots (20 am and 20 pm) and hold 4 slots (2 am and 2 pm) for extenuating circumstances (needs based), until August 21st, at which time any remaining slots will go to the students next on the waiting list.

What you will need for the registration to be complete and your child to be placed on the list:

- ♦ Completed registration packet
- ♦ Proof of residency (example: tax bill, lease, utility bill, etc.)
- ♦ Child's state issued (not hospital-issued) birth certificate
- ♦ Current immunization record.

Pre-K open house will take place in May and will be scheduled at a later date.



Kindergarten Registration At Hermon Elementary School

Kindergarten Registration will begin on March 6th, for Hermon children entering school in the fall.

Children must be 5 years old by October 15th, 2017, to be eligible for Kindergarten.

Parents may obtain registration packets between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Hermon Elementary School office, beginning MONDAY, MARCH 6th.

Completed packets should be returned to the school by Thursday March 30th.

You will need to provide:

- ♦ child's state issued (not hospital-issued) birth certificate
- ♦ current immunization record
- ♦ proof of residency (examples: tax bill, utilities bill, lease, etc.)

Kindergarten screening will take place and be scheduled at a later date.

From the Desk of Hermon Public Works...

Hermon Public Works
333 Billings Road
848-1010 ext. 6513
sperkings@hermon.net



Questions & Answer Edition with links!

Q. Did you know that residents can get free sand mixed with salt at the Public Works yard for private residential use?

A. <http://www.hermon.net/driveway-sand/>

Q. Did you know that "Bids and Proposals" can be viewed at the following link?

A. <http://www.hermon.net/bids-proposals/>

Q. Are you aware that some mailboxes are illegal and considered fixed deadly objects?

A. <http://www.hermon.net/mailbox-policy-installation-guide/>

Q. How do I get rid of Electronic and Hazardous waste?

A. <http://www.hermon.net/electronic-hazardous-waste/>

Q. Does Hermon offer free zero sort recycling and how does it work?

A. <http://www.hermon.net/zero-sort-recycling/>

Q. Is there a *State and Local Road* map so I can contact with the right person for help with problems in the right of way?

A. <http://www.hermon.net/state-local-roads-map/>

We take pride in working for Hermon and want to partner with you to improve our service. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Hermon Town Office at the contact information above or visit www.Hermon.net

HERMON RECREATION SPRING DATES TO REMEMBER

Parent's Night Out

March 11 and May 13

Adult & Community Classes

Registration begins March 27

2017 Summer Program

Registration begins April 1

Springtime Celebration

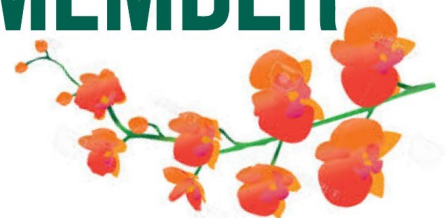
April 8

2017 Youth Soccer & Football

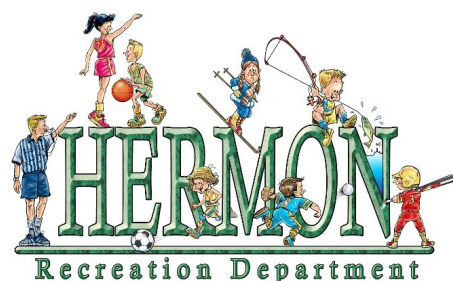
Registration begins June 1

Pancakes & Pajamas

June 10



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



Postal Customer

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 - March 15
Spaghetti/Meat Sauce
Salad, Garlic Bread
Brownie w/Ice Cream

Wednesday - April 19
Mac & Cheese w/Ham
Cranberry Sauce, Carrots
Apple Crisp



Are you interested in how Municipal Government works? Do you want to be a part of the Town's leadership as we move into the future? Do you see things in Town you would like to help improve? If so, you should consider serving your community as a Councilor or a School Committee Member. Nomination papers will be available in my office on March 20, 2017. If you have questions about what serving entails and requires, don't hesitate to call me or stop by and see me. I will answer your questions and explain the process.

There are two open seats on the Council and there is one open seat on the School Committee that will need to be filled. Terms are for three years.

This years Municipal Election will take place on June 13, 2017 followed by the Annual Town Meeting on June 15, 2017.

You can reach me at nickersonra@hermon.net
or by calling 848-1011.

Ruth A. Nickerson, CCM, Town Clerk



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