THE HERMON HAWK JROTC BATTALION COLOR GUARD

Article and Photo by: Cadet 2LT Tayler Magliozzi



The symbolic red, white, and blue of the American flag was a breathtaking contrast to the gray rain clouds present on the morning of September 11th when the Hermon Hawk Battalion performed the traditional color guard ceremony before the 9/11 Heroes Run on the Bangor Waterfront. The race raised awareness and remembrance about the tragic events that occurred on September 11th, 2001. The Hermon Hawk Battalion commenced the event festivities with a traditional ceremony that is executed during the playing of the national anthem by cadets or service members to honor the nation's colors.

During the duration of the JROTC course, students learn about leadership and gain beneficial skills through military values. By participating in color guard, cadets learn discipline and the

importance of responsibility, as the five participating members must all work in perfect synchronization while bearing the flags. This ceremony is accomplished with the five cadets standing in a row, shoulder to shoulder, with the outermost two members carrying rifles. In addition, the American, Maine, and school flags are carried in the order of their importance from right to left.

"It was really an honor to be able to present the colors and show respect to all those who lost their lives on 9/11", stated Cadet Second Lieutenant Halle Cole regarding the event. The Hawk Battalion has established a color guard team that will compete in meets throughout the state of Maine.

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: December 19, 2016

Ecotat Gardens and Arboretum

Balsam Fir Wreath Workshop

Saturday, November 26, 9am, \$20.00/person

Pre-registration requested: info@ecotat.org

From the Town Manager



THANK YOU! This is my first Hermon Connection and I thought it was appropriate to wish Roger Raymond the very best in his retirement. Mr. Raymond is without hesitation one of if not the best town managers to have ever served in the state of Maine. Hermon was extremely fortunate to have him serve in that capacity for 4 years. His attention to detail, commitment and enthusiasm for Hermon is very evident in what he left for the next town manager. I am truly blessed to be following him as Town Manager. The town is in solid

shape financially, project planning and for future growth. We can thank Mr. Raymond for providing that foundation.

ELECTION- PLEASE VOTE! As many of us are aware the Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 8th is extremely important to our country, state and the Town. Hermon voters are being asked to vote on electing our president, allowing marijuana to become legal in Maine and seeking approval to renovate one of our schools. This is an important election on many different levels and I encourage all residents to cast a ballot. It is your right and opportunity to voice your opinion. If you have any questions about the election please call Ruth Nickerson, Town Clerk, @ 848-1010 ext. 6503.

WELCOME TO HERMON! One of the last achievements Roger Raymond did before he retired was ensuring the Town hired a new Fire Chief. I am extremely honored to report that the Town hired Frank Roma as Hermon's Fire Chief. Chief Roma has world class skills and experience while serving in many different capacities in Pennsylvania, Texas, Hurricane Katrina and Maine. He is motivated to see the Fire Department work with all of our public safety partners, Hermon School Department and all of our residents and businesses to improve our level of service and cooperation. If you are interested in serving in the department please contact Chief Roma @ 848-1046. In addition, the Fire Department now has its own Facebook page so please check it out to see what great things are happening within the department.

Route 2 Project- FINALLY! As long as I can remember Route 2 in Hermon has been on MDOT'S radar for reconstruction. For some reason it never received the attention it deserved. Again Roger Raymond helped secure MDOT funds to make this project happen. I am happy to report Gardner Construction of Hermon is the contractor and is doing a great job with preparing the road for the winter and eventual completion in July 2017. If you have any questions about the project I encourage you to call Scott Perkins, Public Works Director, @ 848-1010 ext. 6513.

I have an open door policy and encourage the public to feel free to stop in and introduce yourself or give me a call at 848-1010 ext. 6505 or email me @ krollh@hermon.net. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your comments. Enjoy the fall!

Howard Kroll

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

On Ordinance 2



Recreation Program Improvements

On November 8, 2016, Hermon voters will have the opportunity to approve the construction of a recreation facility that will enhance the current Parks & Recreation programs and provide new offerings for all ages. The Town of Hermon's Recreation program is thought of well. We have great relationships with the Hermon School Department, local businesses, community groups and our residents. Our goal is to provide the residents of Hermon with recreational opportunities that enrich their social, physical and intellectual experience while they interact as a connected community. We are continuing to grow and appreciate your support for this project!

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST ME?

As a taxpayer, this renovation project will not affect your current tax rate.

HOW WILL IT BE FUNDED?

This project will be funded through our reserve funds and enterprise accounts.

This project will bring offerings such as:

Home for our Senior & Adult Programs

Secured space for our Before & After school and Summer Recreational Programs

Handicap accessibility improvements

New space for recreational purposes

Questions or concerns, please contact: Michelle Thayer, Parks & Recreation Director thayerm@hermon.net or call 848-4075



The Senator's Corner

Geoff Gratwick <u>ggratwick@gmail.com</u>

In this election cycle the noise of political rhetoric has risen to a new high, offensive to most if not all of us. People ask can our democracy recover?

Yes, it can. It turns out that we have been here before. When Thomas Jefferson ran against John Adams in 1800 he described Adams as "a hideous hermaphroditic character, who has neither the force nor firmness of a man nor the gentleness and sensibility of a woman." Adams responded that Jefferson was an atheist, an anarchist, a fool and a coward who supported incest. In 1828 John Quincy Adams accused Andrew Jackson's wife of being a bigamist and his mother a "common prostitute". Twenty years later Zachary Taylor referred to his democratic opponent Lewis Cass as a "pot-bellied, mutton headed cucumber". Even Abe Lincoln wasn't immune. His opponent Stephen Douglas described him as a 'horrid looking wretch...the most ungainly mass of arms and legs and hatchet face ever strung together on a single frame." Lincoln's response: Douglas' ideas were "as thin as homeopathic soup made by boiling the shadow of a pigeon that had been starved to death."

Mud-slinging may have become less imaginative and poetic but it is still part of elections. It is not, however, part of governing. We Americans are practical people. Once election fervor dies down we want results from our government - and civility so we can work together. We want a government that focuses on things that are important in our daily lives and prepares us and our world for the future. The wounds left by insults can take a long time to heal. It is best not to go there in the first place.

From the Desk of State Representative Roger Reed

Since 2012, I have been honored to serve as your Representative from House District 103. My goal has been to connect with you and to keep you informed and updated.

It is an honor and commitment that we all make to support our men and women in uniform in meaningful ways. In April, the Maine Legislature passed a comprehensive veterans reform package which included LD 1343, which provided tuition waivers for qualifying members of the Maine National Guard allowing them to attend post-secondary schools within the University of Maine System, Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy tuition free. Just six months later, according to school officials, 134 Maine National Guard members are earning their degrees tuition free, utilizing this program.

LD 1343 was sponsored by House Republican Leader Ken Fredette and cosponsored by Rep. Brad Farrin of Norridgewock who led the charge to get this bill passed.

"Here in Augusta, we often talk about honoring the men and women who serve our state and our nation, this bill is proof that this is more than just lip service to House Republicans," said Rep. Fredette. "Now, Maine's soldiers and airmen are on their way to a degree that they may not have been able to afford without this program. Prior to the passage of this legislation, Maine was the only state in New England that did not offer some type of tuition benefit for their National Guard members.

We knew it would be a great tool to help the Maine National Guard with recruitment and retention, two areas where they have struggled recently. And we hoped it would help keep our young people here in Maine. The fact that 134 soldiers and airmen are now earning their degrees tuition free is incredible. Thank you to all who contacted me to support our local soldiers and airmen. Please feel free to contact me at RogerReed60@gmail.com or 852-0595.

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News from the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office

Article by Sgt. Bobbie Pelletier

WARNING: CREDIT CARD "SKIMMING" DEVICES AT GAS STATIONS AND ATM MACHINES

Credit card and Debit Card "skimming devices" have stolen millions of dollars from consumers over the past couple years. Victims have been found all over the United States and more recently here in Hermon over the past few months. This is a fairly new fraudulent crime which has been working its way up the New England coast towards Maine. More and more cases of this card skimming trend are now being found here in Central and Southern Maine.

"Skimmers" are criminals who use fake card swipe machines and steal credit and debit card information (along with pin numbers). Skimmers have stolen millions of dollars from unsuspecting consumers at gas pumps and ATM machines by cloning your card information.

Skimming devices placed on gas pumps and ATM machines are almost undetectable. The devices are shaped and disguised to blend into the specific model of the machine. The skimmer goes in between the credit-card reader and the circuit board and collects data when your card is inserted. Some devices extract the credit card information, while others are Bluetooth capable and send information directly back to the criminal.

Some skimmer criminals also place "pin-hole cameras" which are attached to the specific machine. These cameras are hidden in attached trim pieces that are blended to match the existing machines trim. They have also been located hidden in attached brochure holders that have been added to the machine. These cameras face and point towards the existing number board on the machine. Criminals can record and collect your pin information when typing in your debit card pin number.

Once criminals collect your card information they then produce fake cards with your information on them. Criminals can then use the cards themselves or sell the cards to other criminals who want to scam your information.

For more information and actual photos and examples of different card skimmers and pin-hole cameras refer to the web address below:

http://www.ossianstatebank.com/uploads/page/How%20to%20Spot%20ATM%20and%20Pin%20Skimming%20Devices.pdf

HOW TO MINIMIZE RISKS POSED BY CARD SKIMMERS

- 1. Totally avoid becoming a victim and use cash only at the pump. This may also lower the price per gallon by paying with cash at certain locations.
- 2. If using a card at the pump or at the ATM, pull onto the card reader that is attached to the machine. A lot of the skimmer devices will pull off as they are simply placed over the existing card reader. If you do locate a skimming device, PLEASE contact the local police department and report it immediately.
- 3. If using a debit card at the pump, have the card processed as a credit card transaction. The pump will ask if the card is debit or credit once inserted. Select credit so you do not have to enter your pin number at the pump. Your purchase will still be debited from your checking account.
- 4. Look for the fake "pin-hole cameras" as described earlier. These may be difficult to detect but they are usually located in a relatively close location facing the number pad located on the machine.
- 5. Monitor your bank and credit card accounts regularly to identify unauthorized transactions.



Danforth's Plaza – 2402 US 2, Suite E Hermon, ME http://www.hermonfamilydental.com/ 207-848-3384 (84-TEETH)

In 2012, *Hermon Family Dentist* opened its doors at the Danforth's Plaza becoming a member of the Hermon business community offering professional services that deliver state of the art dentistry and a high quality patient experience.

Dr. Phillips, a general dentist, completed his undergraduate degree at Indiana University. He went on to Colorado State University for post baccalaureate coursework in biochemistry before attending the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, where he also completed an externship in oral surgery and a minor in endodontics.

When patients visit this business it's hard not to notice the special touches and thoughtful amenities that make their dental experience a cut above the rest...you can choose soothing chair features such as heat and massage to provide comfort during a visit and enjoy audio visual equipment offered for a patient's enjoyment.

With modern techniques and equipment such as digital imaging and low radiation devices their patient's safety and level of care are a first concern. "We like to educate and involve our patients concerning their dental care because that is how a family member should be treated," says Dr. Phillips.

Visit *Hermon Family Dental* for your family's dental health care needs and cosmetic dentistry. Dr. Ben and his staff will take the time to explain healthy options for your family concerning the spectrum of services offered from regular maintenance to comprehensive care.



Story by: Scott Perkins, Interim DECD Director



Dr. Ben Phillips is a member of the American Dental Association, Maine Dental Association, and Penobscot Valley Dental Society.
Dr. Phillips lives in Hermon with his family.

Note from the Assessors Office:

The State of Maine Revenue Services Preliminary 2016 State Valuation Report. This valuation represents the full equalized value of all **taxable** property in Hermon.

The State Valuation is compiled through office visits with assessors and meetings with other local officials to determining the approximate ratio of full value on which local assessments are made. The ratio is then adjusted by the local assessed values in accordance with the Rules of Procedure Used to Develop State Valuation (08-125 Chapter 201). State valuation in a mass appraisal estimate of the 100% market value of all taxable property of a municipality and is established annually by the State Tax Assessor.

- Hermon's State Valuation is \$491,900,000
- Hermon's Certified Ratio is 100%
- Hermon's Combined Sales Ratio is 95%
- Hermon's Residential Ratio is 95%
- Hermon's Average Selling Price is \$197,941

This report demonstrates the Assessing Office is performing the assessing function within the State's "assessing standards". This being a required 70% minimum assessment ratio and a maximum quality rating of 20 by Maine Property Tax Law Title 36 M.R.S.A. §327.

The Department's Property Lister has been working in the field taking photos and verifying sketches. To date about 62% of the Town's properties field work has been completed. At this time the Assessing Office would like to thank you, the property owners, for your ease of understanding in allowing the staff to visit your property and take the necessary measurements and photos. The Assessing Department appreciates your cooperation and support in working with the staff.

Within the next few weeks the Hermon Assessing Department will be mailing a second batch of Residential Data Verification Forms to property owners. This form should minimize the time required to perform inspections, therefore, saving tax dollars. We seek the cooperation from all property owners.

The Clerk's Calendar

October 11 – Snowmobile registrations are now available at the Town Office. The cost to register a new sled is \$47.00. A re-registration is \$46.00. You can process your snowmobile re-registration on-line. You will find the link at www.hermon.net.

October 15 – Please remember to register your dog. 2017 tags became available on October 15, 2016. If you are unable to come to the Town Office you may register your dog online. Online registrations cost a dollar more. You will find the link at www.hermon.net. Your dog must be registered each year. If your dog has been spayed or neutered registration at the Town Office will cost \$6.00; if not the cost will be \$11.00. If you have not registered your dog by January 31, 2017 you will be required to pay a state mandated late fee of \$25.00 in addition to the registration costs. Proof your dog has received its rabies vaccination is required for registration.

November 8- The Election will take place at the Hermon Elementary School Gym on November 8, 2016. Polls will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office now. Sample ballots are also available for viewing.

November 11 – The Town Office will be closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

November 19 – The Transfer Station will be open for the final time this season on Saturday, November 19, 2016. The Transfer Station will re-open in the spring.

November 24 & 25 - The Town Office will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.



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Hermon is Growing

It should come as no surprise to you that the Town of Hermon is growing. Hermon is a great place to live and work and apparently that word is getting out. New housing developments have opened, road and homes are being built and students are coming into the school system.

Along with that local growth, the state has adopted new guidelines for some school programs and Hermon must make some modifications in order to be in compliance.

Our elementary school is already feeling the impact of a slightly increased enrollment. Last year we moved the elementary school library to a portable classroom located behind the school. This move allowed us to add two additional classrooms and reduce the number of students per classroom in kindergarten through grade four. Our special education population has increased as have the services required to serve these students. We requested and were granted a temporary waiver allowing us to exceed the number of students assigned to each special education teacher. That waiver expired in June. In an effort to remedy the student - teacher ratio violation, we added two portable classrooms in front of the school to accommodate our growing enrollment.

A building committee was formed more than a year ago to look at this problem and propose a solution. When you go to the poll to vote on November 8th, you will be asked to vote on a construction project to add five K-4 classrooms, two pre-K classrooms, a library, special education spaces and some work areas. If approved by voters, we anticipate completing the project with little or <u>no additional</u> debt service expense. The current plan would have the town continue to pay the same debt service payment currently directed to the renovation at our middle school supplemented by reserve funds which have been set aside for this purpose.

Concurrently, additional space would be added to the elementary school to accommodate the expansion of the Hermon Recreation Department and its programming. This portion of the project would be funded through reserve funds which have been set aside by the recreation department. The proposed project is void of extravagance and quite essential. Please vote on this proposed project on November 8th.

With appreciation,
The Hermon School Committee

Hermon School Department

Special Education Child Find Notice

The Hermon School Department is in compliance with federal and state regulations regarding the delivery of services to all children with special needs.

Federal statutes (I.D.E.A.) requires that the School Department identifies, locates and evaluates all children with disabilities, ages 3-20, residing within the school district. Residents who believe that their child is in need of special education services, whether attending public or private school, should contact Mrs. Brandy St. Pierre, Director of Student Services, P.O. Box 6360, Hermon, ME 04402, Tel. 848-4000, X 6007.

Annual Notice of Student Education Records and Information Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides certain rights to parents and eligible students (18 years of age or older) with respect to the student's education records. A copy of the Hermon School Department's policy statement and administrative procedure is available in each school.

Inspection of Records

Parents/ eligible students may inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of making a request. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building administrator in writing and must identify the record(s) to be inspected. The superintendent or building administrator will notify the parent/eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected. Parents/eligible students may obtain copies of education records at a cost of ten cents (\$0.10) per page copied.

Amendment of Records

Parents/eligible students may ask the Hermon School Department to amend education records they believe are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's right to privacy. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building administrator in writing, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and

specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the superintendent or building administrator decides not to amend the record as requested, the parent/eligible student will be notified of the decision, their right to request a hearing and information about the hearing procedure.

Disclosure of Records

The Hermon School Department must obtain a parent/eligible student's written consent prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information in education records except in circumstances permitted by law.

Directory Information

The Hermon School Department designates the following student information as directory information that may be made public at its discretion: name, participation and grade level of students in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight of student athletes, dates of attendance in the Hermon School Department, and honors and awards received, and photographs and videos of student participation in school activities open to the public (except photographs and videos on the Internet). Parents/eligible students who do not want the Hermon School Department to disclose directory information must notify the Superintendent in writing by September 15th or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

Military Recruiters / Institutions of Higher Learning

Military recruiters and institutions of higher education are entitled to receive the names, addresses and telephone numbers of secondary students, and the Hermon School Department must comply with any such request, provided that parents have been notified of their right to request that this information not be released without prior written consent. Parents/eligible students who do not want the Hermon School Department to disclose this information must notify the Superintendent in writing by September 15th or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

School Officials with Legitimate Educational Interests

Education records may be disclosed to school officials with a "legitimate educational interest." A school official has a legitimate educational interest if he/she needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her Professional responsibility. School officials include persons employed by the Hermon School Department as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); members of the Hermon School Committee; persons or companies with whom the Hermon School Department has contracted to provide specific services (such as attorneys, auditors, medical consultants, evaluators or therapists); and parents, students and volunteers serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting a school official in performing his/her professional responsibilities.

Health or Safety Emergencies

In accordance with federal regulations, the Hermon School Department may disclose education records without prior written consent in a health and safety emergency to any person whose knowledge or the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

Other School Units

As required by Maine law, the Hermon School Department sends student education records to a school unit to which a student applies for transfer, including disciplinary records, attendance records, special education records and health records (except for confidential health records for which consent for dissemination has not been obtained).

Other Entities / Individuals

Education records may be disclosed to other entities and individuals as specifically permitted by law. Parents/ eligible students may obtain information about other exceptions to the written consent requirements by request to the Superintendent or building administrator.

Complaints Regarding School Department Compliance with FERPA

Parents/eligible students who believe that the Hermon School Department has not complied with the requirements of FERPA have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. The office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C.



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Wednesday - December 21
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw
Hot Dogs, Biscuit
Dessert





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