
The Hermon Connection

Vol. 23 Issue 6 • Nov 2017

Hiking the Appalachian Trail



5 months, 26 days. That's how long it took 23-year-old Casie Frederick, graduate of Hermon High School, to walk on foot from Georgia to Maine. She completed a northbound thru-hike of the 2,189 mile long Appalachian Trail just a few weeks ago; her journey traversed 14 states, required 5 pairs of shoes, and took her through notable terrain such as the Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah National Park, and the White Mountains.

The hiker came across 7 black bears, multiple species of snakes, a handful of mice in shelters, but more often than not, overly generous and helpful hikers and 'trail angels.'

Her inspiration derived from a backpacking trip 6 years ago in the '100 mile wilderness' with her best friend, Nicole

Turmel, and their two older brothers. Nicole also set off on the difficult journey of the thru-hike, and accomplished 600 miles before unfortunately sustaining a foot injury.

The overall life changing experience was composed of many highs and lows and physical and mental challenges, all of which Casie wrote about on her personal website, www.mostlyfreebird.com

She may be contacted there with any questions or comments.



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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 20, 2017

Welcome
Mary Cameron
Parks & Rec
Director

From the Town Manager



WELCOME ABOARD! I am happy to announce that the Town of Hermon has hired Mary Cameron of Hermon as the new Parks and Recreation Director! Mary is a world class candidate who is a former collegiate athlete, current Middle School Girls Soccer Coach and well experienced working in the private sector for Fortune 500 companies. She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to the position and will help

continue making our Recreation Programming better. Mary holds an MBA from Florida Institution of Technology and a Bachelors Degree from Husson University. I encourage you to contact Mary if you want to discuss our current programming as well as potential programs we don't currently provide.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! One of my goals this fiscal year is to create a Recreation Department Advisory Committee. This advisory committee will work closely with Mary Cameron (Parks and Recreation Director) to review our current programming, fee schedule, potential programs to consider offering, facility management and working closely with the Hermon School Department on coordinating better use of our facilities. The Hermon Town Council is seeking volunteers so please fill out a citizen involvement form. It can be found at: <http://www.hermon.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Citizen-Involvement-Form.pdf> and return to the Town Clerk, Ruth Nickerson at nickersonr@hermon.net.

ELECTION- PLEASE VOTE! As many of us are aware the Election on Tuesday, November 7th is extremely important to our state. Hermon voters are being asked to vote on 4 different questions (1) An act to allow slot machines or a casino in York County, (2) An act to enhance access to affordable health care, (3) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Highways, Bridges and Multimodal Facilities and Upgrade Municipal Culverts, and (4) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Reduce Volatility in State Pension Funding Requirements caused by the Financial Markets. 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, @ 848-1011.

VETERANS DAY! Since we will not have a Connection between now and January I want to wish all Veterans a Happy Veterans Day and personally thank them for the sacrifices they and their families have made for our country. We still have men and women deployed in harms way or have returned and we shouldn't forget them or their families that might need our help.



WINTER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER ☺! I am happy to report Gardner Construction of Hermon is the contractor for winter maintenance on over 50 miles of town maintained roadways including sidewalks. They did a great job in the winter of 2017 and I am sure they will continue to strive and do even better than last year! If you have any questions about the winter road maintenance I encourage you to call Ralph Shaw, Public Works Foreman, at 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!

HERMON HIGH SCHOOL JROTC TAKES ON PASSADUMKEAG RIVER

*Article by Cadet CPT Tayler Magliozzi
Photograph by Cadet CPT Jacob Lana*

Cadets of the Hermon High School JROTC battalion partnered with the Maine Outdoor Education Program on September 27th and 28th for a kayak trip down the Passadumkeag River. The Hawk Battalion partakes in a kayak trip annually. This year they were accompanied by MOEP to give students an exciting and enriching opportunity to learn more about environmental awareness and lifetime fitness. Cadets demonstrated professionalism and respect while on their outdoor adventure.

Students from Hermon High School in the JROTC program develop leadership skills throughout their high school career. Cadets learn the importance of respect and professionalism in the classroom and community. Their annual kayak trip is one of the many field trips the program takes each year. Second year cadet Alex Kivell remarked, "the kayak trip was fun. I liked the experience of going on the trip, and can't wait for next year." The battalion looks forward to the many opportunities to take part in the community in the upcoming year.





Time to Prepare For Winter Weather

by SSgt. Bobbie Pelletier

Autumn leaves are falling everywhere. When you put away the rake, be sure to start thinking about prepping your vehicle for winter driving before the weather hits us. The following are some steps people can take to prepare themselves for the upcoming winter season:

1. Check or change your vehicle's tires. Check your tire pressure. Make sure your vehicle is not equipped with summer tires or tires that are low in tread. If you are driving on freezing roads, ice or snow covered roadways you will not be able to maneuver your vehicle safely for the road conditions.
2. Check your vehicle's antifreeze. Make sure the level is appropriate and it is conducive to sub-zero freezing temperatures.
3. Check your vehicle's windshield wipers and washer fluid. Make sure you have adequate winter wiper blades and suggested de-icer washer fluid to prevent ice from freezing on your windshield. Make sure your windows and windshield are always clear of ice and snow.
4. Check your vehicle's battery to make sure it is fully charged and able to start in sub-zero temperatures. Your vehicle will not run without an adequate battery and being stranded in freezing temperatures is not fun.
5. Watch for animals while driving (especially at night). Deer and Moose are mostly nocturnal animals this time of year and are often visible during the evening and night time hours while they search for food. Make sure both of your headlights are working correctly. It is not uncommon for headlamps to "burn-out" when the temperatures start to drop below normal.
6. Think ahead and pack some items to keep in your vehicle that you may be able to use during an emergency situation. Items such as a cell phone, water, food or snacks, bag of salt or sand, shovel, reflective clothing, blankets, jumper cables, tow strap, first-aid kit, flashlight with extra batteries, extra coat, gloves or winter hat.
7. Most of all, SLOW DOWN. Make sure you drive using a "safe speed" conducive to the weather conditions. If the weather conditions mean you have to drive slower than the posted speed limit, then so be it! Plan ahead and give yourself time to travel safely. Your life and the life of your passengers are the most important factor of all!

DRIVE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLY!



Thank you to all who attended the Fire prevention Week Open House held at the Hermon Fire Station on October 14th! We had a great response from the community! We are including a few pictures from the event and look forward to an even bigger and better event next year!

As we move into the fall and winter months, now is the time to make sure you are ready to be fire safe and aware of the additional risks that come with the increased use of heating equipment.

- Heating equipment is involved in one of every six reported fires and one in every five home fire deaths. Have your heater, fireplace, flue and chimney checked now by a reputable heating company service technician.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from any heating source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- Test any smoke alarms that are in your home for proper operation . You should have at least one on every level of your home and in each sleeping area. If you need smoke alarms or assistance in testing them, please do not hesitate to contact us here at the fire department and we will be happy to assist you.
- Sleep with your door closed! A closed door can make the difference between being able to survive and escape a home fire, or not.
- A disabled smoke alarm cannot save your life. Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years, or according to the manufactures specifications.
- Develop an escape plan with at least two ways out of every room! Practice your plan with your family to ensure that everyone knows what to do if there is a fire! Need help developing a plan? Give us a call! We will be happy to assist you in developing a plan for your home.
- NEVER empty fireplace or wood stove ashes into anything other than a metal container and NEVER keep that container in your home or garage!! Keep ashes covered and stored OUTSIDE a safe distance from any building or structure.
- If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL 911!!



Introducing a new Hermon business!



A new Hermon business offering quality childcare with learning and enrichment opportunities will be opening soon at 17 Liberty Park in Hermon! Kelly Staples has worked in daycare and preschool settings for over 17 years including at the *Life Academy* supervising pre-school rooms. Her experience and interest in teaching and caring for children has lead her and her husband Corey to invest in a new facility that will serve central and eastern Maine with infant care up to educational opportunities for the 4-5 year old class. *"I have always enjoyed the childcare center environment because of all the great kids and families. For the last year Corey and I have been working on building a childcare center that will be a great place to work with children learning and having fun,"* said Kelly. Her professional staff includes "Miss Vanessa" who brings a bachelor's degree in Science and Educational Studies. Over the summer work developing a curriculum took place that includes subjects such as appreciating the environment from plants to the entire planet by recycling. Children in the 4-5 year age group will get a head start regarding nature, people and how they both work together before they enter Kindergarten.

Kelly and Corey Staples live in Hermon and are excited to be offering *The Early Learning Center* care choice to families with young children. *"The waddlers will be with Miss Ce-Ce who is excited to play music, dance and do lots of projects for parents while our infant care person will concentrate on plenty of 1-1 time for the youngest age group!"* -Miss Staples

Hermon is very fortunate to have experienced and caring service providers who add enrichment, learning and fun to a child's daily experience. Visit this new Hermon business at Liberty Park or call Kelly today to inquire about services!



The Early Learning Center

17 Liberty Drive, Hermon, Maine 04401

Email: kellystaples@hotmail.com

Phone: (207) 852-3068

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Early-Learning-Center>

Story by Scott Perkins, DECD Director

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 dowj@hermon.net

Wednesday - November 15
Chicken Alfredo
Broccoli, Breadsticks
Chocolate Chip Cookie



Wednesday - December 20
Chop Suey
Salad, Roll
Chocolate Cake w/
Peppermint Frosting

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Register On Line:

moritasschoolofdance.net,
msdancestudio68@hotmail.com
or 848-5083



2017 Mill Rate

The town council has set the 2017 Mill Rate at 12.2.
For a home with an evaluation of \$200,000.00, the
tax increase will be \$40.00.

The council also set the tax due date to be April 1,
2018 with interest beginning on April 2, 2018 at a
rate of 7%.

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The Senator's Corner



The issues that come before the **Joint Government Oversight Committee** both alarm and reassure me. The very existence of the committee reassures me. We conduct independent, objective reviews of State agencies and programs. Our mission is to ensure that public funds are effectively, efficiently and economically managed, and that they are spent for the intended purposes. The staff is excellent, professional, and vigilant.

What we uncover, however, can be alarming. Here are three programs we are currently investigating:

- 1.) Pine Tree Development Zones: These were established in 2003 and provide tax credits for companies that provide new jobs in economically depressed areas of Maine. Twelve business leaders testified before the Committee in strong support. The problem: the rules for getting these credits have loosened over time and the data on new job creation in rural areas is meager at best. We need to think carefully about whether we are spending our tax dollars wisely.
- 2.) Referenda: A careful reading of Question #1 on November's ballot calls attention yet again to the problem of ballot referenda financed by opaque and mysterious out-of-state entities. The source of the money behind Question #1 on November's ballot is almost as obscure as its message. The massive advertising campaign fails to even hint to the voter that the Title of Question 1 is *An Act To Allow Slot Machines or a Casino in York County*. The 5th Amendment protects the right to spend money on political causes but we need greater transparency.
- 3.) Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF): Is the Department of Health and Human Services providing adequate support for families, kids, the elderly, and others in Maine who are needy, hungry, and meet other TANF requirements? The total number of people served by TANF has decreased from 38,000 to 11,000 between 2010 and 2016 while the number of hungry Mainers has increased. Why? I brought this issue to the Committee because it is one of particular concern to me.

As always I am interested in your opinion. You can get in touch with me at home 947-0637, in Augusta at 287-1515, or by email at geoff.gratwick@legislature.maine.gov.

Thanks! Geoff

Mary Cameron has been hired as Hermon's Recreation Director



Mary, a resident of Hermon, is married with two children. Mary has made a transition into Recreation after 18 years of experience in increasingly responsible roles within the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. Her experience is enhanced by her Bachelor's degree in Business from Husson University and MBA from Florida Institute of Technology.

Mary has been involved in youth sports as a coach for over 6 years and is currently the Hermon Middle School Girls soccer coach. Her goals include restructuring the rec department to include a program director and forming a recreation board, update and expand current programming for all ages, maintain clean and safe recreation fields and parks, and provide outstanding service to the community.

"There is so much potential and opportunity with the continued support and forward thinking we can revamp the recreation department and continue to provide the community beneficial services".

Mary can be reached at 207-848-4075 or by email at cameronm@hermon.net.

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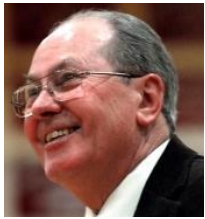
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*From The Desk of State
Representative Roger Reed*

State of Maine - Referendum Election, November 7, 2017 -
Listing of Referendum Questions

Question 1: Citizen's Initiative

Do you want to allow a certain company to operate table games and/or slot machines in York County, subject to state and local approval, with part of the profits going to the specific programs described in the initiative?

Question 2: Citizen's Initiative

Do you want Maine to expand Medicaid to provide healthcare coverage for qualified adults under age 65 with incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level, which in 2017 means \$16,643 for a single person and \$22,412 for a family of two?

Question 3: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$105,000,000 bond issue for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds, and for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings?

Question 4: Constitutional Amendment

Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to reduce volatility in state pension funding requirements caused by the financial markets by increasing the length of time over which experience losses are amortized from 10 years to 20 years, in line with pension industry standards?

Please visit: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/citizensguide2017.pdf> for the Citizen's Guide and details about what these questions mean to you. I have also placed several copies of this Citizen's Guide at the Hermon Town office. Please contact me should you have any questions.

My email is: Roger.Reed@Legislature.Maine.gov. Also, if you would like to receive my E-Newsletter or electronic copies of this citizen's guide, please let me know at the above email address.

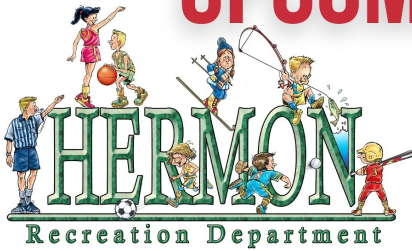


CODE ENFORCEMENT IS GOING DIGITAL

Josh Berry, Code Enforcement Officer

The Code Enforcement office has been working diligently the past couple months on improving our customer service experience and efficiency at our office. Over the next year the Code Enforcement office will be putting a plan in place to become 100% digital and eliminate all paper applications. By going digital, it will allow us to process permits and applications much quicker and give you the ability to start your projects almost immediately. The new website, www.hermon.net/code-enforcement, was rolled out in January of 2017 and has proven to be a great first step in going digital. The website is updated with all new permits, forms and other additional applications (mostly fill-able pdfs) that you may need for your building or home projects. When using the website, if you have any questions or suggestions on what would serve you better, please let us know and we will be happy to make adjustments. Email is the best way to get in touch with us (ceo@hermon.net or josh.berry@hermon.net) as we are able to respond remotely when out of the office. We look forward to working with you on this transition.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



REGISTER ONLINE OR BY PHONE:

www.hermonrec.com

848-4075 / 478-0297

YOUTH SPORTS

Register by November 17
Season begins in December
\$35 Participation Fee

Cheering

Grades
2-5

Basketball

Grades
PK - 6



CO-ED ADULT BASKETBALL

Offered once a week based on
gym availability. 6-7:30pm
Elementary or Middle School Gym



ZUMBA GOLD

Adult classes begin November 8
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:30-7:30
\$35 Participation Fee (6 classes)

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, December 15
6:30 - 10:30pm
Open to grades K - 8
\$15 Registration Fee
Pajama Party Theme!
SNACKS WILL BE SERVED



HERMON SENIORS

Mondays

Bowling at Family
Fun Lanes 11 am
\$2.50 per game,
shoes are free

Thursdays

Board & Card
Games at Boulter
Place 12 pm
Participation is free

A complete monthly calendar of events can
be found online or at the Town Office.

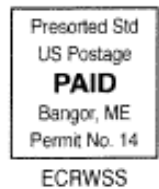
High School to Elementary School Trail Eagle Scout Project



The next time that you're walking on the trail between the High School and Elementary School you'll probably notice something new, or rather multiple new things. Maybe you even wondered who put them there. You will see signs identifying trees and wetlands of the area. Over the course of last fall and spring, with the help of friends and family the construction portion of my Eagle Scout Project was completed. Eagle projects teach project management, teamwork, budgeting and community service. It must benefit someone in the community, and I chose the Town of Hermon. I obtained permission through the parks and recreation department to place the signs on the trail. The idea for this project was pitched to me at the end of a scout meeting, and I thought it was such a good idea that I chose it. First, I identified the trees and

researched facts about them. After this, with the help of friends and family I constructed bases for informational signs that I would place in front of the trees. The signs were donated by a local company, DaVinci Signs, and they did a fantastic job. The signs have a very good text and image quality, and they are completely weather resistant. They should last for years. I won't tell which tree species were selected, you'll have to read all about them during your next walk on the trail...

Connor Petry
Boy Scout Troop 25



Postal Customer

The Clerk's Calendar

October 10 - 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 16 - Please remember to register your dog. 2018 tags became available on October 16, 2017. 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, 2018 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 7- The Election will take place at the Hermon Elementary School Gym on November 7, 2017. 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 10 - The Town Office will be closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

November 18 - The Transfer Station will be open for the final time this season on Saturday, November 18, 2017. The Transfer Station will re-open in spring.

November 23 & 24 - The Town Office will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

December 25 - The Town Office will be closed in observance of Christmas Day.