

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 21 Issue 5 • September 2015

Throughout the year, Hermon Recreation strives to provide this community with quality recreational options for all ages and greatly appreciates the participation and volunteers in all of our programs! This summer as a "thank you" to our youth participants and their families, we invited them to join us for an *"End of Summer Celebration"*. This event took place on Saturday, August 15 at the Hermon Elementary School. We had a full schedule of events ranging from a children's 1K road race sponsored by *Sweet Frog of Bangor* to a petting zoo, cupcake walk, scavenger hunt, bounce houses and obstacle course, water activities, crafts, music and yummy treats...*just to name a few!* Many families that joined our event donated school supplies to help us fill backpacks for children in our community. Special thanks to *Douglass Photography* of Hermon for catching the day's excitement!

The fall adult programming will begin the week of October 5th.
Registration for programs being offered will start on Monday, September 14.



Town of Hermon
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Town Manager
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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:
October 21, 2015

Correction/Apology Thank You

In the July Connection, the photo credit for all of the Jackson Beach and Boat Landing pictures was accidentally omitted. Bill Scott took all of those pictures.

Thank you Bill!

Town Manager's Report

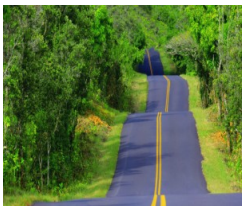


The Town Council, at their August 13th meeting, set goals for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. There are a total of thirty goals the Town Council wishes to accomplish with the support of the Town Manager and key staff members. During the fiscal year, I plan in each edition of the Hermon Connection to report the status of our achievements. The following is my report for this edition.



As it was previously reported, the existing public water supply that serves "Danforth's Plaza" has high levels of minerals which cause havoc with the equipment used by some of the businesses that occupy space at the facility. Since the Town could not provide a public water supply because of the impact it would have on taxpayers, it was recommended to the owner a new water supply

should be developed on property located across the street from the Plaza. The owner is currently seeking bids for construction of the new system and should have it installed before the winter months. In order to minimize the financial impact on the businesses occupying the facility, the Town Council agreed to amend the existing Credit Enhancement Agreement by accelerating the next three years and extending the agreement an additional 7 years. This will allow the Town to continue to capture the value created by the original improvements and to return a portion of the taxes paid to the owner of the facility to off-set the cost of the project. In turn, taxpayers and the businesses located within the facility will not be burdened with the additional cost of the improvements and the value of the improvements captured will continue to provide the revenues needed to fund the amended Credit Enhancement Agreement and will not impact school subsidies.



Route 2 Sidewalk and Road Improvements- As many of you are aware of, the improvements at the intersection are moving along well and should be completed within the next several weeks. The plans for the sidewalk project are still being reviewed by Maine Department of Transportation. The review should be completed by the end of August but has been delayed due to a new project manager assigned by MDOT. The next step is for MDOT to begin to acquire the

necessary right of way. Once the right of way issues have been cleared, the Town can bid the project which we expect will be sometime this winter or next spring. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2016.



Update the Cemetery Maintenance Plan- The maintenance of all town cemeteries is one which is very important for all Town Council members. During the last few years funds have been appropriated each year to the Cemetery Reserve Account in order to support improvements to the cemeteries. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, funds will be used to

enhance the access road leading into Pleasant Hill Cemetery and to complete road improvements in Snow's Corner Cemetery. The plan's emphasis is to maintain all access roads in good condition, repair all broken stones, prune or remove all trees and shrubs that have grown out of control, remove and keep back all brush growing around the perimeter of each cemetery and to improve the grounds. Because the cost of these improvements are extensive and none of the cemeteries have perpetual care funds, the Town Council will continue to have the above improvements done over a period of several years in order to minimize the cost for taxpayers. If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding the care of the town's cemeteries, please let one of your council members know or contact the Town Clerk.



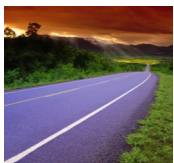
Update Assessing Records- The Town's Assessor, Ben Birch, has reported to the Town Manager the records in the Assessor's office require significant update. Many of the property cards do not include pictures and sketches. Most of the properties have not been inspected for years making it difficult to maintain equity between property types as well as the ratio. During the next year, efforts will be made by the Hermon Assessing Department to obtain the required information. At this time, the Town Council has chosen to attempt to update the records in house because of the cost; however, if the task becomes too burdensome, the Town will have to invest in obtaining the services of an outside firm to complete a revaluation. In the meantime, the Assessor will be seeking information that will minimize the time required when a formal inspection is made. We seek cooperation from all citizens. Should you have any questions regarding your property value or how your value has been obtained, please feel free to contact the assessing office at 848-1010.



Implement a new IT program for the Town Office and Public Safety- The Town continues to obtain its IT services from the Hermon School Department. The most significant change includes installing new equipment and software that meets today's standards. In addition, the School Department is providing a full-time staff person at the town office to provide daily support. We are excited about these changes and we look forward to a continued relationship with the school department. The goal is to provide town employees with a state of the art technology program that is proficient and cost effective. In addition, it is our intent to develop an alternative for storing town records, developing a camera system that will provide surveillance at all business parks, Jackson Beach and at the Public Safety Building, and to update the town's website.



Amendments to the Town Charter - The Town Council will be reviewing the Town Charter to address several issues that are inconsistent with state law as well as changes that will hopefully result in better representation for the citizens. These issues include but are not limited to term limits for School Board and Town Council members, clarifying the budgeting process, establishing conditions for unexpended funds balances and increasing the amount allowed the Town Council to expend for capital improvements. Whatever changes the Town Council may consider, all proposed amendments must be submitted for approval by secret ballot and a least 20% of the citizens who voted in the last gubernatorial election must vote on the proposed changes.



Update Highway Plan- Each year the members of the Road and Street Committee are asked to prepare a list of road and street improvements that should be included in the five year Capital Improvement Plan. This is a very important process used to identify the town's highway improvement needs and to prioritize them. The plan once completed by the Road and Street Committee is submitted to the Town Council for their approval. Citizens are encouraged to share their concerns regarding any road or street improvement needed by contacting the members of the Town Council or the Town Manager. This is your opportunity to have input on what streets or roads will be upgraded during the next five years.

Should you have any questions regarding any of the issues outlined by this article, please feel free to contact me at 848-1015 or by my cell phone at 356-2914. I accept calls after hours or on weekends if that is more convenient for you. You may also contact me via email at raymondnr@hermon.net.

Your Senator's Corner

By: Senator Geoff Gratwick
Senate District 9, Hermon and Bangor



This summer I had the rare luxury of some spare time. I used it to catch up on all those things that fell by the wayside during the legislative session in Augusta. Time with my family, for puttering around home, time on the water, time at camp, time to simply relax and recharge.

My hardest task: getting rid of thistles in the old fields out back of my house, my ongoing nemesis and plague. Mowing, cutting, weeding, many unkind words. My sheep didn't help and my goats don't deign to eat thistles. I am making progress but unfortunately thistles are smarter than I am. They surrender when I am before them with a sharp blade but a few always hide, scatter their seeds and are back again next year, laughing at my efforts. Thistles keep me humble.

With the coming of fall I am back at work again, thinking about the cost of medical care, the affordability of education at all levels (pre-K through college or other post-high school programs), a fair tax structure and economic development opportunities for our part of Maine. One of my projects left over from last session involves tele-medicine. It has great potential. I attended a great state-wide meeting in early August organized by Senator Angus King. Regulation that protects public health is one thing, but some regulations simply add to red tape. We have to get rid of unnecessary legal and regulatory barriers that stand in the way of making affordable care available to more people, particularly the elderly.

I am delighted that the Maine Supreme Judicial Court has chosen to hold its regular session on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at Hermon High School.

Beginning in 2005, the Court has held oral arguments in actual appellate cases yearly in high schools around the state. Since 2005, it has visited 29 schools and heard over 85 appellate cases before Maine high school students and faculty. In each school, a meeting space is turned into a real courtroom so that the students can observe the process. Students receive copies of the parties' legal briefs in advance of the oral arguments, and after the oral arguments the lawyers stay to answer questions. When the cases are decided, the schools receive a link to the decision.

The public is invited as well. The first case will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by two others at 9:45 and 10:30. The case schedule and legal briefs will be posted, on or before September 1, 2015 on the Court web site, at: http://www.courts.maine.gov/maine_courts/supreme/oral_arguments.shtml. While at the schools the Court will also have lunch with student groups with an interest in law or public service. Jessie Hargrove has been very helpful in helping me arrange this visit.

This is the time of year when I concentrate on meeting with you and listening to your point of view, before the Legislature convenes again in December. I'd like to hear from anyone who has specific concerns. Please email me at ggratwick@gmail.com or call 947-0637 so I will know what's on your mind.

Be well, do good work and keep in touch. Geoff Gratwick

Morita's School of Dance

207-848-5083
msdance@juno.com
moritasschoolofdance.net
12256 Route 2, Hermon, ME 04401



48th Anniversary
Registration-Sept 3rd & 10th, 4:00-7:00 PM
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A Special Thank You

From the bottom of our hearts we would like to thank all of the kind people in Hermon for your generosity towards our family. Thank you to all of the Fire Department and all of the Police Department for putting your lives on the line everyday. A special thank you to Jamie Kennedy and Mike Simmons for your quick thinking. Thank you to everyone at Hermon Baptist Church who has been praying for us. Words cannot describe the level of appreciation we have for everybody; letting us know we are not alone and that there are people who care. It is because of all of you that our family is together today.

Sincerely, the Parker Family



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Annual yard sale

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Hermon Public Safety Building
327 Billings Road
Hermon, Maine

From 8:00 am until 3:00 pm

We are looking for items in good condition to resell. (no electronics or mattresses)

Please call one of the people below to make arrangements for drop off or pick-up.

Mary DiBona - 570-6196

Ann Byers - 848-5067

Joanne Leonard - 848-5461

Vicki Gonyea - 848-5615

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Introducing a new Hermon Business...



When Jenny Dwyer decided to use natural products from Maine to soothe, bathe and provide specialized care treatments for dogs she never imagined that it would lead to her being honored as Maine's Best Pet Product By Downeast Dog News this past month! Mutt Nose Best now offers small batch blended products rich in aroma and healthy ingredients for specialty shops and her direct link customers alike!

Imagination, creative and unique product branding and a business model that stands out among her competitors has provided for both a growing business that is newly located in White Pine Business Park and a satisfied customer base of end users.

What inspires Jenny? *"In short, wagging tails, sloppy kisses & wet noses. My passion for dogs and the unconditional love and loyalty they give inspires me everyday!* Jenny leads a "PACK" of 5 employees, 3 volunteer family helpers, 1 intern, 9 dogs and a cat named "Puppy". Needless to say there is no "typical" day at Mutt Nose Best as they work handcrafting their care products !



"Gracie" with the "U. Berry Calm Puppy" line featuring wild Maine Blueberry, organic Maine oats and Sea Lavender ingredients!

MUTT NOSE BEST

16 White Pine Road

Suite 1A

Hermon, Maine 04401

Phone: 262-8773

Website: <http://muttnosebest.com/>



Jenny with "Bandit" and "Chloe"



Located at the top of Pleasant Hill on Union Street, Alan Adams and his wife Mischelle run a family owned business caring for both vehicles and the customers they call "friends". *"We love the hometown atmosphere of Hermon, getting to know our repeat customers has been a great experience,"* said Mischelle Adams.

Mischelle and Alan are very active community members in Hermon participating on local volunteer boards and helping to run town events. Between being active with their two children, Gabriella and Alaina at extra-curricular activities and supporting town projects, they run a automotive repair and restoration business that sets a standard of excellence for the area. Adams Automotive has been in business for eleven years total. The last eight years in Hermon has seen the business grow to include services that only major vehicle service centers can offer. The service department uses up to date computer diagnostics and ASE trained technicians. They offer major and minor services including complete engine and transmission replacement, air conditioning repair, fuel injector service and transmission fluid flushes just to name a few. They offer very competitive pricing for corrosion inhibiting "Fluid Film" and back these services with a "Worry Free Driving" Tech-Net Professional Auto Service warrantee. Add in the fact that they are a Cooper tire dealer and you can start to get a sense of what a locally owned full service dealership can offer the Hermon community.

Adams Automotive also stocks many parts including batteries, tires, wiper blades, filters and much more offering a full auto collision center as well. Brian Hawes is the owner of the Northeast Collision Center on site at Adams Automotive and has 30 years of experience. He recently renovated the "General Lee" for a local customer and has won best paint in some recent car shows that vehicle had been entered in by the owner. All auto body repairs at Northeast Collision are handled with ease. Brian takes the hassle out of having an accident by dealing with the insurance company on your behalf.

Adams Automotive is committed to serving their customers with professional, friendly automotive service and maintenance at a reasonable cost with qualified technicians. Their goal is to have you as a repeat customer by making your complete automotive experience friendly and successful!

They will even provide you with a loaner car or courtesy transportation if your service requires you to wait more than 30 minutes because they know your time is valuable!

Visit or call this Hermon business the next time you need service!



<http://www.adamsautomotiveme.com/>



Article by: Scott Perkins
Economic and Community Development

Our economic development committee work is headed towards a decision making moment that will set into motion something that Hermon has never had before, its own brand and marketing plan. Sounds kind of dry and dull when you type it on paper, but developing a good brand will set us apart and enhance our strong regional competitive advantage if implemented properly.

An effective brand strategy can give us a major edge in increasingly competitive markets. But what exactly does "branding" mean, especially as it relates to our Town's identity? Simply put, our brand is the promise we make to our residents and potential business customers alike. It tells people what they can expect from us concerning the delivery of services while differentiating our offering from competitors. The brand we create should be derived from who it is that we are, and who we want to be. A quality brand also is representative of who people perceive us to be.

Defining our brand will be a journey of self-discovery. We will need to understand and develop a mission that identifies our comprehensive business attraction strategy along with what the benefits and features are of doing business in Hermon. It will require us to do self examination so we can understand what people already think of us along with identifying strengths and weaknesses as compared to other municipalities. Do we lead the region with incentive programs that are fair for every business wanting to come to Hermon? Do we offer the best quality education for a future workforce who would like to reside here? Are we a town with frugal administrators who can provide high quality services simultaneously? Understanding who we are as a community will help create a strong brand for Hermon. Once a decision has been made on content, the marketing committee will work to perfect a logo, website and packaging materials that will be recognizable and consistent in its message and design.

After a defined brand is established, we will work to implement a branding *strategy* to create equity with our target audiences. Usually the branding strategy most often absorbed by consumers relates to products that achieve an added value because of brand consistent advertising. In other words, brand names can usually charge more for goods and services because of equity created with the public by immersing their target audience with symbolism and a connected message.

Our municipal branding goals are more complicated because in order to be successful we should try to blend a perceived intrinsic emotional connection with the real physical, financial and geographic advantages our town offers. If we can achieve this goal businesses will move here for more than just a low mill rate and a good location. They will move here because we offer a quality of life for our residents and our business customers that is second to none concerning community and family connectivity.

We will attract business professionals with our brand because they are interested in good schools, good roads, great recreational opportunities, cultural and artistic opportunities and top notch public safety infrastructure. This is good economic development and good marketing.

Do you have ideas that can help with our marketing and branding goals?
Contact our office at 848-1010 or email our committee members at SPerkins@Hermon.net.

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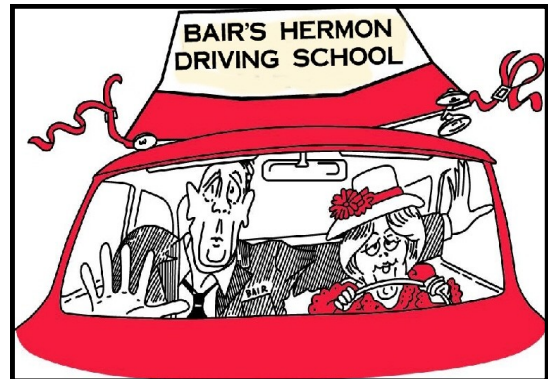
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10/26 -11/18
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Hermon Alumni News

Article By: Marvin Overlock

The 10th annual all years' Hermon Alumni Reunion was held on July 17th & 18th at the Bangor Ramada, celebrating the 50th reunion of the class of 1965. Classes with graduating years ending in 0 & 5 were recognized. The Saturday night banquet and dance were attended by 87 alumni, spouses, and friends. Awards and prizes were given to attendees, including those who traveled the farthest from north, south, east and west; the person who registered the earliest (Philip Hunt); and other categories. The following alumni were recognized and presented with a plaque.

ALUMNI AWARD – Gladys Butler Knowles, Class of 1959

who has contributed to the community with special service to the welfare of veterans and their families. She has served in the American Legion Auxiliary for many years~ as a member and also as president.

ALUMNI / STAFF AWARD - Gaynor Littlefield Reynolds, Class of 1965

who has served the Hermon School Department for 30 years as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools.

ALUMNI / FACULTY AWARD - David Richardson, Class of 1965

who was a Hermon student and a member of the Hermon School Department faculty for 28 years. David also served as a State Representative for 8 years.

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Robin Walls, Class of 1965 (see insert below)

The Ten-Year Service Award went to Aileen (Carle) Young.

The Friday night social was attended by 47 alumni and guests. Again this year the Hermon Baptist Church hosted the Saturday brunch for 80+ alumni and guests. Following the brunch, the annual bus tour was made of North Hermon and environs.

This area of Hermon is rich in history. There were at one time two schools in the area, a cider mill, the first church in Hermon, the nationally known Atlantic Spice Company, the site of the quarry from which the stone came for the Soldiers' Monument, etc. Larry Ault drove the bus provided by the Hermon Baptist Church with 30 people on board while Marvin Overlock narrated the tour assisted by Carroll Pickard, an alumni native from North Hermon.

The scholarship fund this year raised \$3000 for a total of \$14,700 awarded to Hermon High School graduates.

Again this year, the Hermon Baptist Church dedicated a Sunday service to the Alumni.

This year's corporate sponsors were: (listed in the order in which they were received)

C&K Variety, Pearson Oil, Camden National Bank, C. A. Newcomb, Pottle's Transportation, Murphy's Landscaping, Patten Insurance Agency, and Ted McCleod Well Drilling.

Please Mark Your Calendar for the
2016 Hermon Alumni Reunion:

July 15-17, 2016



Pictured are:

Robin Walls and his wife Robin of 35 years of Brunswick, his sister Suzette (Class of 1966) and husband Clinton Smith of Arizona, sister Sharon (Class of 1967) and husband Harland Stillman of Newburgh, and sister-in-law Vivian Burgess Walls-Patten (Class of 1958) and husband Dwight Patten (Class of 1961) of Machias.

Robin Walls, soon after graduation in 1965, met adversity head on. As a quadriplegic, he has lived a unique life with many personal achievements. Robin graduated from Husson College, worked at Bath Iron Works and has led a remarkably independent life despite insurmountable odds.

From the Desk of State Representative Roger Reed



With the First Session of the 127th Legislature completed, I would like to review some of the items in the new budget that may be beneficial to the residents of Hermon, Etna and Carmel.

- Retired Military families in Maine, your military pension income is exempt from state income tax for tax years on or after 2016.
- Your Homestead Exemption is doubled, increased up to \$20,000.
- Previously, the first \$2 million worth of large inheritances were exempt from the Estate Tax. Now, the first \$5.5 million is exempt from the Estate Tax. Families that want to keep property or farms in their family should be able to without having to sell due to a crushing estate tax bill.
- There is now a flat rate of 70% reimbursement for general assistance to all municipalities.
- Prior to this budget, Maine's highest tax rate (8.95%) kicked in at \$20,900 of income. That is not rich and this budget expands the amount of people in the lower tax brackets. Tax rates for income levels of zero to \$21K will be 5.85% and income levels from \$21K to \$50K will not be above 6.75%
- Sales Tax Fairness Credit
- Increase funding for those in assisted living and for Maine's struggling nursing homes.
- This budget creates incentives for families from the fear of losing too much in state benefits after making just \$1 over the eligibility cutoff. This gives incentives for Maine families on TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) to seek employment, or more importantly, seek higher paying employment without hitting the income cliff associated with those working to provide more for their families and themselves.

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



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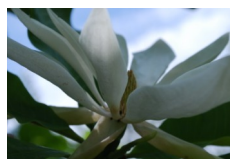


Earlier this year Hermon Troop #25 Scout Colby Stokes asked Ecotat trustees if he could replace the leaning birdhouse in the gardens.

With a resounding yes from trustees, Colby researched birds and their habitat as well as bird house design. He constructed, painted and installed an attractive and welcoming house for gold finches and house finches. This project was a requirement for his Life rank.

Colby, an eighth grader at Hermon Middle School, is the son of Beth Campbell and Peter Stokes and the brother of sixth grader Amber Stokes.

Troop #25 Scoutmaster is Kevin Hartford and Assistant Scoutmaster is Steve Berry. Thank you, Colby, for giving back to your community!

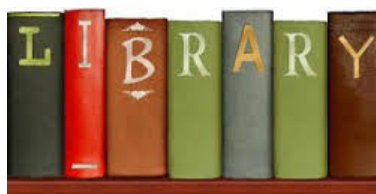


FALL WORKSHOP **at Ecotat Gardens**

Saturday, October 10 - 9 am-12 Noon
(rain date: Oct. 17)

Join us as we ready the gardens for winter.
We'll offer our thanks by serving you lunch.

Pre-registration requested: 848-5946
or info@ecotat.org



The Hermon High School Library Media Center is open to the communities of Hermon, Carmel and

Levant from 2:15pm to 6:00pm Monday through Friday when school is in session. We hope to see you at the library. We have wifi and computer access as well as many books.