

## DON'T FEED THE BEARS - REALLY DON'T FEED THE BEARS!



Maine is home to the largest population of black bears in the lower 48 states. Our bears are most active between April 1 and November 1.

When natural foods are scarce, especially in the spring or dry summers, bears will venture into backyards and fields in search of easily accessible food such as bird feeders, garbage, grills and pet foods.

While hundreds of conflicts between bears and people are reported each year in Maine, many can be prevented by simply removing or securing common bear attractants. Removing these food sources will also limit other backyard visitors (raccoons, skunks, etc.), avoiding bear conflicts and protecting your property from damage.

The most effective long-term solution to conflicts between people and bears is removing, securing, and properly storing attractants such as bird-feeders, garbage, grills, pet and livestock foods, livestock, and bee

hives. Wildlife offices throughout Maine can provide assistance with securing or removing attractants.

Wildlife offices throughout Maine respond to bear sightings only when there is a threat to public safety or property. A sighting or the presence of a bear does not constitute a threat to property or public safety. Typically, no attempt will be made by wildlife agency staff to remove, relocate, or destroy the animal.

Although problem bears can be live trapped by specially trained wildlife professionals and moved to more remote areas, removal is expensive, time consuming, and seldom effective. Once a bear has tasted human food or garbage, it will remember the source and return again and again. Bears have been known to cover more than a hundred miles after relocation to return to a human food source. In addition, using tranquilizing drugs on bears to facilitate removal is not without risks to bears and humans.

When other methods have failed or the bear poses a threat to public safety, lethal removal of problem animals may be the only alternative. You can help prevent lethal removal by following the recommendations presented above.

Contact your regional wildlife office (Bangor Research Office, 650 State Street Bangor, ME 04401-5654 (207) 941-4440) for additional information and, in the case of an immediate emergency, call 911 or the state police.

The black bear is classified as a big game animal. A hunting and/or trapping license and bear permit (with the exception of resident deer-hunters during the November firearm season on deer) are required to hunt black bears during a 13-week fall season that opens the last Monday in August and closes the last Saturday in November.

Howard Kroll *Town Manager* krollh@hermon.net

PO Box 6300 Hermon, Me 04402 Phone: 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316 www.hermon.net

## From the Town Manager

**WELCOME TO HERMON!** I want to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Gary Gonyar to the Town of Hermon. Mr. Gonyar is the incoming Superintendent of Schools. He has been the Assistant Superintendent of the Five Town CSD (Camden Hills Regional High School) for the last few years. He is replacing Ms. Duran who has been an incredible asset to the community and will leave a legacy of superior educational services to Mr. Gonyar. He begins his new position 1 July 2017.

**<u>RECYCLING COMMITTEE</u>** - 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.

<u>SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS</u> - The Town of Hermon has a menu of great options for both young and old to get outside and become active. We have a walking trail that connects the Elementary School with the other schools as well as the downtown. I encourage visitors and residents alike to use this treasure.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION PROJECT** – Dunbar and Brawn of Bangor recently was selected to renovate the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School by adding a new wing for classrooms. Hermon Voters authorized spending up to \$6.9 million toward this project. Dunbar and Brawn have estimated that the project will be closer to \$5 million. We are early into the planning phase of this project but thus far we appear to be staying well within our authorized amount. Future Hermon Connection editions will include periodic updates on this project.

**HERMON RECREATION RENOVATION PROJECT**: Dunbar and Brawn of Bangor was recently selected to renovate the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School by renovating space for the Hermon Recreation Department. Hermon Voters authorized spending up to \$900,000 toward this project. Dunbar and Brawn have estimated that the project will be closer to \$660,000. We are early into the planning phase of this project but thus far we appear to be staying well within our authorized amount. Future Hermon Connection editions will include periodic updates on this project.

**INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A TOWN COMMITTEE?:** Currently there are openings for the Hermon Board of Assessment Review. This board desperately needs an attorney licensed in the State of Maine and a Maine Certified real estate appraiser to serve on the board. If you are interested please call Ruth Nickerson, Town Clerk @ 848-1010 for more details.

<u>SUMMER SIZZLER IS BACK!</u> - Generous donations from sponsors has allowed Summer Sizzler to return to Hermon! Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 5, 2017 for a day of fun and excitement!

## On behalf of the Town of Hermon Town Council and Staff we wish you all a great summer!

## The Senator's Corner

#### Article by Senator Geoff Gratwick



As I write this in late June at my desk in the Senate chambers, the major question before us is whether the government will shut down on July 1. I hope that by the time you read this good sense will have prevailed, we will have worked together, and Augusta will be back on an even keel. Because, if Maine's government has shut down as you read this, this will represent a major failure for us, for Maine, and for the concept of compromise – essential to the democratic process.

The core issue is always compromise. I hold my convictions strongly – but

realize that my opponents hold their convictions with equal passion. In a democratic society neither of us is going to get everything we want. Compromise means that both of us will always find something to dislike in the final decision but also things we like. A balance between pragmatism and ideology is essential if we are to make progress. When I am faced with contentious issues I expect to meet somewhere near the middle – or I'm even willing to go a little further – but I am not willing to be bullied, to play political chicken, or to be blackmailed by threats. I am not willing to give up on my core convictions. To do so would be to betray my values and those of the people I represent. It would lead only to worse problems with the next set of negotiations.

There are many advantages to a government that works, one that helps us solve our common problems. Getting to that place is never easy. It requires compromise; and compromise inevitably brings us home to near the middle of the political spectrum.

## **Burn Permits**

Article by Chief Roma



A burn permit is required within the confines of the Town of Hermon to burn any of the following material, Slash, Brush, Grass & Pasture and approved wood waste. The person to whom a burn permit is issued must have the permit in hand during the burn. Additionally, precautions must be in place to assure that the burn remains contained, and one or more adults must be present and oversee the burn operation. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should any flammable liquids be used to start an burn operation, or be in proximity to a burn. Only naturally occurring vegetation and brush may be burned. The burning of any painted wood, household trash, demolished building debris, plastic, rubber,

Styrofoam, metals, food wastes, chemicals, treated wood or other solid wastes, except for approved wood wastes, etc, is prohibited.

Permits are available at no charge through the Hermon Fire Department, at the fire station located behind Town Hall during regular business hours. On weekends, C & K Variety has been issuing permits as well. This practice will cease effective August 1, 2017. Residents may receive a permit through the online services link http://www.maine.gov/dacf/about/online\_services/index.shtml on the Department Of Agriculture, Conservation And Forestry web page on weekends, or any time if they wish. The cost for permits issued through this service is \$7.00 per permit. Permits are only good for day of issue.

The Hermon Fire Department will be glad to inspect any burn piles you may be wishing to dispose of prior to the burn, to assure that the location and make up of the materials to be burned are in conformance with acceptable standards. Just contact the on duty personnel at the station during regular business hours to arrange such an inspection.

Please call 848-5986 if you have any questions regarding open burning in the Town of Hermon.

## **Code Enforcement Office**

Article by Josh Berry



The Code Enforcement Office is responsible for encouraging safe and sound development within the residential, commercial and industrial zones of Hermon. Along with the Planning Board, the Code Enforcement Officer assists in the development, maintenance and enforcement of the Town's Local Code of Ordinances. The Code Enforcement Officer provides assistance with all aspects of development and building. It is the goal of this office to guide customers through federal, state and local rules and regulations in a timely manner.

Please keep in mind when undertaking a project to call us for property setbacks and whatever permitting may be necessary. Until further notice, we are requiring 3rd party inspections for compliance to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) on all residential and commercial construction.

For more information call your local Code Enforcement Officer, Josh Berry, at 207-848-1042 or visit our website www.hermon.net. We look forward to assisting you.

## The Hermon Hawk Battalion Places Flags at Mt. Hope Cemetery

Article and Photograph by Cadet CPT Tayler Magliozzi



Honor is an important quality for cadets of the Hermon High School JROTC battalion to bear. On May 24th, students of the program visited Mt. Hope Cemetery to place flags on the graves of veterans. Cadets could volunteer to visit the cemetery in the afternoon to pay respect to those who have served. The battalion participates in the placing of flags each year prior to Memorial Day as part of the many opportunities for duty throughout the school year.

JROTC is a high school leadership course that motivates young people to become better citizens. It focuses on the seven Army values to teach students how to become better leaders by serving the community. Paying respect to veterans by placing American flags at the top of former service member's graves is a crucial service that cadets felt privileged to be involved. "I enjoyed being able to pay respect to those who have served," remarked Cadet SGT Owen Shaw. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to do this."

The Hawk Battalion will continue to honor the men and women who have been in the service. Cadets plan on visiting Mt. Hope Cemetery next year to perform this task again.

## Hawks for Change

Article by Connor Patten



Hawks For Change, a group of students from Hermon Middle/High Schools, participated in "Project Sticker Shock" on Saturday, May 6th. This student-led group, along with teachers and members from local law enforcement, went to businesses in the area to place stickers on multi-packs of alcohol. These stickers reminded alcohol purchasers of the fine for furnishing alcohol to minors. The group's projects are all focused on preventing underage substance abuse. If you are a student who would like to get involved with Hawks For Change, see Mrs. Cough

at the high school or Mrs. Pinette at the Middle School.

## **The Hermon Connection**

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

August 23, 2017

## Morita's School of Dance Est. 1968

207-848-5083 msdancestudio68@hotmail.com moritasschoolofdance.net 2256 Route 2, Hermon, ME 04401



#### Registration for summer classes and camps now being accepted.

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## Hermon business under new ownership!









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> 151 Billings Road Hermon, Maine

HERMONFR2017@gmail.com

Tel: 207-848-5088

Brenda and David Belanger will tell you that running the Hermon Family restaurant is their dream. Both were originally from Fort Kent and cooked there for a combined 25 years. They describe starting their journeys in the food service industry at 16 years old.

When you go into the *Hermon Family Restaurant*, you notice an updated and clean appearance because of the renovations that brighten the room. After closer inspection you notice the signs and messages to service workers, public safety and our military recognizing them for their connections to the communities and people they serve.

The simple idea of creating a family atmosphere for patrons to be comfortable in while offering great portions at affordable pricing is working. Today, more cars are noticed in the parking lot at meal times than before. The American Flag waves proudly from the sign out front and is on the wall inside as part of the decorum. New people with fresh ideas have moved in.

The team at *Hermon Family Restaurant* loves what they do and it shows. *"Had the seafood platter. Was delicious and couldn't eat it all. Will have rest for lunch tomorrow!!! Excellent meal. Thank you"*, said Robbie Beaton of Hermon to Brenda and David Belanger via FACEBOOK.

The theme of most reviews seems to be high quality and low prices which is understood by the regular crowd. *"We have eaten there several times and the food is excellent and the prices are very reasonable. The owners and staff are very friendly"*, reported another patron who enjoyed the visit.

Daily specials, a changing menu with favorites to build around and owners dedicated to providing a comfortable hometown experience will cause this business to enjoy continued steady new growth in Hermon!

## Visit Hermon Family Restaurant today!

Story by Scott Perkins, Hermon DECD

# 5th Annual Hermon Car Show



Summer Sizzler ' Fun Day'

Saturday, August 5 2415 Route 2, Hermon, Maine Hermon High School



Vehicle Registration: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Awards @ 1:00 p.m.

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





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#### "Classes" (TOP 3 OF EACH CLASS RECEIVE TROPHIES)



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## From the Desk of State Representative Roger Reed



Maine voters have been united on one thing recently....Maine's economy needs to grow. I am concerned of the results of the November 2016 referendum questions and how they will impact Maine's economy...and your budgets. This Hermon Connection I would like to share some thoughts on the recent elimination of the Tip Credit within the Minimum Wage Referendum.

When Maine voters passed a referendum to raise the minimum wage, they also supported the elimination of what is called the "tipped credit." For those who may not know, the tipped credit allows

tipped workers to earn half the minimum wage which they more than make up for with their tips. The referendum that passed eliminates the tipped credit and replaces it with the new minimum wage that will be indexed up annually until 2020, maxing out at \$12 per hour. Regardless of what you may think of the new law to implement an ever-increasing wage mandate on businesses, there seems to be nearly universal agreement within the restaurant industry regarding the harm of doing away with the tipped credit.

A Recent Letter to the Editor sums it up quickly; "In 2017, the increase in the minimum hourly wage (\$3.75 to \$5) will result in a \$15,056 jump in its "front-of-house" payroll. By 2024, this figure balloons to \$99,371. It must be emphasized that these dollar amounts do not represent the restaurant's total payroll, but only the increase in payroll caused by eliminating the tip credit. And these inflated costs will apply to any restaurant, high- and low-end alike. What many people don't realize is that behind Question 4, that raised the minimum wage, was the language repealing the tipped credit. So while most of the people I have talked to those who supported increasing the minimum wage, many of them had no idea that the tipped credit would be repealed. *This is something that we fixed in the Legislature.* Some people have argued that the voters have spoken and we should not be making changes to the legislation approved by voters. When voters passed the legalization of recreational marijuana, my guess is they didn't actually want to legalize marijuana for children but that was what the bill, passed by voters, inadvertently did.

Please contact me should you have any questions about this or any other of the referendum questions. My email is: Roger.Reed@Legislature.Maine.gov

## Hermon Boy Scout Goes Green To Improve High School

Article and Photograph by Kendra Raymond



An Eagle Scout candidate from Hermon's Pack 25 recognized a need for improvements around the Hermon High School entry sign, and developed a project to make it happen. Kent Raymond, a tenth grade student at HHS planned, designed, fundraised, and managed work crews through the implementation of the new low-maintenance garden complete with LED lighting.

Following a year of preparations, Raymond began the process in early June and staff and students were able to enjoy the transformation just as the school year finished up. For a couple days, the large electronic sign at the entry to HHS read, "Check out our new garden...Thank you Kent Raymond...Congratulations Eagle Scout". This recognition, plus the many accolades from fellow Scouts, friends, family, community members, and HHS staff made the process worth the effort. All

in all, Raymond has clocked over 77 hours of service hours on the project, with more to come. Following an approval process by Katahdin Area Council, Raymond spent many hours fundraising at local businesses, preparing paperwork, plans, designs, and supplies. The next step includes writing a final report to submit for approval to the Eagle board.

The HHS garden was part of the original design for HHS back in 1995. In that time, little to no maintenance had been performed and the garden had fallen into disrepair. Rotted landscape timbers surrounded the weed-filled bed and overhanging trees had shaded the existing plants not allowing sun exposure. Raymond's plan included a complete demolition of the original garden, salvaging some healthy plants to be re-purposed. Work was performed by a volunteer crew from The Lane Construction Corporation of Hermon. New rock walls were created using landscape stone generously donated by Granville Stone and Hearth of Holden. Several loads of loam and mulch were donated by Landscape Supply Center of Hermon. Plant material contributions were made by Witherly's Greenhouse of Hermon, Sam's Club, Sprague's Nursery, Tractor Supply, and Lowe's of Bangor. The Lane Construction Corporation donated gravel and additional plant materials. Ace Hardware of Hermon also donated plants and grass seed. A group of volunteers consisting of HHS students, Raymond's parents, siblings, and fellow Scouts performed the planting. The group was fed by plentiful donations from Dunkin' Donuts, Danforth's Supermarket, and Subway of Hermon, as well as Frank's Bake Shop of Bangor.

Following the planting, new lighting fixtures to illuminate the sign were donated by Winlectric of Bangor and were installed by Pete Starr, electrician. The new Hermon High School entry garden serves as a focal point for staff, students, and community members travelling through Hermon or entering the High School. Raymond hopes to see a garden club established at HHS to oversee future maintenance of the entry garden.





## Summer Safety for Kids and Pets in Vehicles



Summer is a particularly vulnerable time for kids and pets being left alone in vehicles. According to NHTSA, 25 children die every year due to heat stroke caused by being left alone in a parked vehicle. Temperatures inside a vehicle can swell well above 100 degrees in as little as 10 minutes on a hot day. A cracked window cannot help because even on days when the temperature is cooler outside, your car can heat to a temperature that is intolerable to a child or pet on the inside. Here are a few tips to help prevent this from happening:

- 1. **Don't leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle whether it is running or not!** If you leave a child/pet in a running vehicle with the AC on, you take the chance of your vehicle being stolen with your child/pet abducted inside. Be responsible and take your child with you. Never leave them unattended!
- 2. Lock your doors and always check twice! When children are at home playing outside, don't take the chance that they may have snuck into your vehicle without you knowing. Lock your doors while at home to prevent children from accidentally locking themselves inside. If you go anywhere always check twice and check the backseat to make sure your vehicle is empty.
- 3. Leave your pets at home if you plan on leaving your vehicle! Remember pets have a blanket of fur on their bodies and can overheat quickly. Dogs have very few sweat glands unlike humans and they regulate their temperature by panting and breathing with their tongues hanging out. A pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke. Love your pet and leave them home!

Remember, safeguarding your loved ones from the dangers of being locked in a car starts with **prevention**. <u>Never</u> leave your child unattended in a vehicle, no matter how short of a period of time! Leave your pets at home if you have to leave your vehicle unattended. If you see a child or animal alone in a vehicle, **call 9-1-1** and stay with the vehicle.

## From the Desk of Hermon Public Works...

Article by Scott Perkins

The Coldbrook road pavement preservation project will take place late July 2017. It includes both Pan Am Railway and Central Maine and Quebec Railway completely rebuilding both of their crossings at the Route 2 terminus of Coldbrook and Route 2 and also at the end section of the project near Maine Energy close to Coldbrook Business park.

The project will afford a smooth pavement to rail transition for vehicles. Both companies will build a crossing section, excavate and compact new gravel base, install new track rubbers, hand place binder and surface for a finish to complete the project. The process will include an MDOT approved two day road closure with detours to redirect traffic.

The entire project will include milling about a thousand feet from Route 2, shimming the roadway and adding new surface pavement to preserve the existing roadway and improve conditions at this location. The project will not include the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation section of the roadway (about .75 miles) from Coldbrook Business Park to the I-95 bridge.

## Questions & Answers:

- $\tilde{Q}$ . How do I get a driveway entrance permit?
- A. Residents can get an application for a driveway entrance at the Code Office or on Hermon.net. Please fill out the application and return to CEO, Josh Berry at the Hermon Town Office.
- Q. Who answers questions about right of way, drainage, driveway entrances or sight distance issues if I live on a State Aid roadway?
- A. Bangor MDOT is responsible for any issue on any State Aid road section and may be contacted directly at 941-4500.





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## Senior Citizen Community Meals

Where: Hermon Elementary SchoolWhen: 3rd Wednesday of each monthTime: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.Fee: \$3.00 per person

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

Wednesday - July 19 Italian Sub Potato Salad, Chips Layered Dessert



Wednesday - August 16 Tacos Rice, Corn CHurros Dessert



The United States Flag Code states, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should

be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

The code doesn't specify procedures for flag burning, leaving the "dignified way" open to interpretation. Any procedure which is in good taste and shows no disrespect to the flag is appropriate.

Organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the Boy and Girl Scouts of America traditionally fold or cut the flag into strips before burning.

If you have a used, worn or tattered flag that you would like to dispose of, you may bring it to the Town Office. The Fire Department burns these flags in a dignified manner as a part of a flag burning ceremony once a year, or as may be needed depending on the amount of flags collected and on hand at a given time.