

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 26 Issue 6 • November 2018

Ecotat Trust Spirit of America Award

Article & Photo Submitted By: Julie Clark

Ecotat Trust was recently awarded a 2018 Tribute award for commendable community service by the Spirit of America Foundation. Board members and volunteers representing Ecotat attended the ceremony on October 9th to accept their award.

The Spirit of America Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that was established to encourage volunteerism. The Maine chapter reviewed internet and annual town report information to select Ecotat as a winner of this award. Ecotat Gardens, located at the intersection of Route 2 and Annis Road, is maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Volunteers are encouraged to join—no experience or time obligation is required. It's a fun way to make a difference and contribute to the community by helping to maintain this natural resource for future generations. Please visit the Ecotat website and Facebook to contact us today as we plan and look forward to the 2019 gardening season.

Pictured From left to right:

Bill Collins, Kris Selleck, John Wedgwood, Mary Deane, Sharon Sieberg, Dave Sieberg, Peter Baldacci, John Selleck.



Town of Hermon
Howard Kroll *Town Manager*
PO Box 6300, Hermon, ME 04402
Tel: 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316
krollh@hermon.net, www.hermon.net

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 23, 2018

From the Town Manager



THANK YOU- I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the many Hermon businesses who worked with the Town on various projects throughout the community this past summer and fall- Gardner Construction, Fine Line Paving, Alan Dorr Construction, Tim Richardson Sr., Tim Richardson Jr., D&D Construction, Aggressive Cuts LLC and many others. We greatly appreciate your attention to detail and superior work- Well done!

ELECTION- PLEASE VOTE! As many of us are aware the Gubernatorial Election on Tuesday, November 6th is extremely important to our state. In addition to the various election races both state and federal, Hermon voters will be asked to vote on 5 different questions (1) A citizen's initiative to create the Universal Home Care Program, (2) A bond issue for \$30 million to improve water quality and support the planning and construction of wastewater treatment facilities across the state, (3) A bond issue for \$106 million to repair and construct highways and bridges as well as equipment related to transportation, (4) A bond issue for \$49 million matching \$49 million in private and public funds to improve Maine's public universities in order to expand workforce development; and (5) A bond for \$15 million to improve educational programs by upgrading facilities at all 7 of Maine's community colleges in order to provide Maine people with access to high-skill, low-cost technical and career education.

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 Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk/Registrar, @ 848-1010 ext 6503.

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 to 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 2018 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, @ 848-1010 ext 6538.

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!

The Senator's Corner

Article By: Senator Gratwick



I have been knocking on many doors over the past six months and have been left with many images and impressions. One of the most powerful occurred recently. On a chilly day, I met an elderly woman at the door of her once-nice but now run-down home. She is living on a small fixed income, the cost of her medicines is skyrocketing, her food is too expensive. Last winter she could not afford oil and went without heat for two months. I looked up at the cracked and peeling windows of her house. Several lacked panes. None had storm windows.

She said she is getting by and doesn't like asking for help. Notwithstanding, I called several agencies; they are gearing up to help.

This is a woman of extraordinary quiet courage, a woman with pride, a woman who values her independence. To me she tops all the superheroes, macho tough guys, and brave talking pundits that take up so much space in our culture.

We have just gone through an election marked by wasted money, incivility, twisted truths and blindness to the reality faced by many Mainers. We would do well to think of our neighbors right here, close to home, a few of whom are truly remarkable role models. We are, after all, a community. And a community is should be a group of people who live within a circle of caring for each other.

Get Ready for Winter!



When we turn our attention to fall and the associated duties ahead, winter isn't far behind! That means maintaining the roads so that our residents can be safe as they travel. A few tips and reminders for all of us to be aware of concerning snow removal and right of way issues, along with some safety suggestions are listed below:

- Never plow snow into the road or right of way - the snow that falls on your property needs to be placed or stored on your property
- Park cars and vehicles off the street before and also during any storm - even with small amounts of snow, our trucks work to clear the roads for safety. Please help by keeping your vehicles on your own property during each snow event
- If you have a question about plowing, contact the Town office at 848-1010. NEVER stop a plow driver during his route to discuss plowing issues on the road during a storm.

Another hardship brought by winter storms to our residents is when their mailboxes are damaged inadvertently during snow removal. Some mailboxes seem to live for years without being touched, while others are hit more often. There are a lot of factors that go into the reasons why some mailboxes have a better survival rate, but one of those is design. Suggested mailbox designs that are more likely to survive frozen banks being pushed back, a small nudge during low visibility and direct hits when the plows are crowded to the roadside by oncoming traffic can be found at:

<https://www.maine.gov/mdot/winterdriving/mailboxpolicy/>

Remember that anything placed in the right of way, is placed at your own risk. This includes mailboxes that are not considered "break away" support posts. Never place anything in the right of way that is categorized as a "deadly fixed object" as described in the MDOT M.R.S.A 1401-A mailbox policy.

The Town of Hermon and its snow plow contractor work hard to provide safe roadways in the cold winter months. Give us a call if you have questions or suggestions to improve service.

From the Desk of State Representative Roger Reed

Tax Conformity: At a Glance



Legislature Approves Tax Conformity.

Following months of negotiations and false starts, the Maine Legislature approved LD 1655 “An Act To Update References to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 Contained in the Maine Revised Statutes”. The bill helps simplify the Maine tax laws by aligning, or conforming, with the federal tax law.

Compromise Bill Prevents Mainers from Filing Amended 2017 State Income Tax Returns.

On May 17, 2018, Maine Revenue Services announced that amended returns may be required due to the retroactive tax provisions included in the Conformity and Family Tax Relief Act (CFTR) but not passed into law. The conformity compromise relieves Maine taxpayers of this burden by adopting all retroactive tax Provisions in recent federal tax law.

A History of Conforming to the Federal Code.

Maine has traditionally mirrored the federal tax code through tax conformity. The agreement conforms fully with most provisions of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), which benefits both individuals and business filers by improving and simplifying tax compliance and tax planning.

Provides Additional Property Tax Relief to Maine Families.

Expands Maine’s Property Tax Fairness Credit program by **\$11 million**, providing relief from municipal property taxes directly to the taxpayer.

Individual Tax Provisions

Establishes a \$300 Child and Dependent Credit, benefiting low and middle income families more than the existing personal exemption.

Expands Maine’s Property Tax Fairness Credit.

Extends the TCJA’s Paid Family Medical Leave Credit to Maine.

Conforms Maine’s tax treatment of 529 plans to TCJA changes, allowing more Mainers to invest in their family’s future.

Repeals the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax, a provision of current law that has proven to be dated.

Maine Benefits from Tax Conformity.

- Conformity will provide **\$75 million** in tax relief to individuals and small businesses over four years.
- Approximately **435,000 Maine families** will see a tax reduction this tax year.
- Allows Maine Revenue Services to benefit from federal rules and regulations in administering Maine’s tax laws and prevents the unnecessary bureaucratic growth associated with nonconformity.

A Responsible Plan to Provide Tax Relief.

Tax conformity provides measured, responsible tax relief to Maine families and businesses. More than half of the tax reductions are paid for through conformity with the TCJA’s deemed repatriation provisions, which will net the State of Maine approximately \$31 million in new revenue. The remainder is funded with surplus tax dollars collected as a result of ongoing economic growth.

Time to Prepare For Winter Weather

Article 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:

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.

Check your vehicle's antifreeze. Make sure the level is appropriate and it is conducive to sub-zero freezing temperatures.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

WARNING: "Fire Support Fund" Telephone Scam

Over the past month, Maine residents (including myself) have received telephone calls from scammers seeking donations in support of the "Fire Support Fund". The callers will explain that the effort is to help support local firefighters, but the group is not affiliated with any fire department in the State of Maine. Please don't be a victim of this scam and be cautious about what information you give out over the phone.

Republican U.S. Senator Susan Collins says the Senate Aging Committee has received "several" such complaints. Senator Collins advises residents who believe they are receiving such a phone call to hang up and contact the Aging Committee's fraud line at 855-303-9470. You can also contact the Sheriff's Office at 945-4636 if you have any questions.

For information on other recent scams, please visit the Town's website at Hermon.net. You can find information on other scams listed under Police Department Frauds and Scams .



Article By: Scott Perkins

Billy and David Russo exemplify everything you want in good business owners. They are a proud, veteran owned company with 25 years experience in the industry who enjoy the challenges of providing exceedingly good customer care and attention to detail. They also love the Hermon Community and being part of our business family!

The company moved from lease to ownership in 2017 and transformed a section of Odlin road with quality improvements that fit their needs and helped future expansions in the area.

"Staying in Hermon was a natural choice for us,...the Town was a good partner when we needed one during the expansion and growth phase", said Russo.

Landscape Supply carries bulk aggregates, custom blended soils and all natural bark mulch to make your property improvements come to life. They sell a complete line of A.M. Leonard tools backed by a lifetime warranty, Redmax Power Equipment, Bobcat Mowers and many other items to complete your outdoor projects.

Delivery of specialty products is also available in the local greater Bangor area! Choose from decorative landscape stone, final stage loam or a variety of mulches to make the perfect finish. From finely screened farm soil with seafood compost to "Earthlife" compost that is high in organic content, microbial life and valuable slow release Nutrients...Landscape Supply can provide excellent results for your lawns and flowerbeds. They also offer a complete line of bagged products like organic fertilizers, sterilized mulch straw and seven different grass seed mixes!

Landscape Supply additionally offers commercial and residential construction services such as excavation for building projects, site work including drainage projects, building lawns with sod placement or loam, and seed and mulch installation.

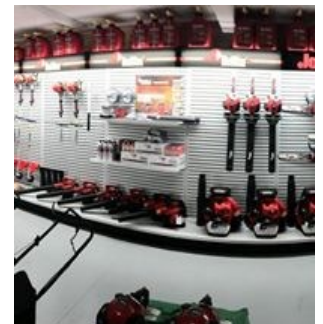


Call the professionals at Landscape Supply for all of your outdoor improvement needs!



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Tax Assessing & Code Enforcement Department

In House Revaluation Completed



We are very happy to announce that the In-House revaluation for the town has come to an end. We appreciate everyone's patience as we have worked hard this summer to close out this project. All taxpayers had an opportunity to discuss their new valuations with Assessor, Josh Berry, and the overall response was very positive. We hope the revaluation has provided a stable tax base for years to come and will help with Hermon's bright future.

Tax Commitment

The Assessing Department executed the annual tax commitment at the end of October and you should be receiving your tax bills shortly. If you would like to know what the mill rate is for this year or to get your tax amount, prior to receiving your bill, please call the Assessing Department at 848-1044.

Planning Board Meetings

Meeting Times: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month 6:30 PM

The Planning Board will be going live on the public access channel this fall. If you are unable to make it to the regularly scheduled meetings I encourage you to tune in on the Tuesday nights we hold our meetings. Check the Town Calendar (top left) on the www.hermon.net website to see when we will be meeting. We only hold meetings when we have agenda items to discuss.

The Planning Board plays a vital role in the development of the town, ensuring all new uses and developments are complying with the town's Land Use Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. Board members Edward Marsh (Chair), Jaylyn McCue (Vice Chair) Sherry Andrei, Josh Pelletier, Shannon Giles, Marylyn White and Brett Danforth deserve a round of applause for the time they have put in to serving this very important board.

**If you have any questions or concerns regarding these departments please contact
Josh Berry at 848-1042 or by email at josh.berry@hermon.net**



Just a reminder to *PLEASE* change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you change the time on your clocks.

November 6

State of Maine
Referendum Election.
Polls open from
7AM – 8PM at the
Patricia A. Duran
Elementary School Gym.



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Senior Dinner

Hermon High School
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
\$5.00 per person

Reservations please:
Contact the Rec office at 848-4075
or email wernerd@hermon.net

November 24
Chicken Noodle Casserole
Cornbread
Dessert



December 13
Shepherds Pie
Beets, Dinner Roll
Decorate your own
Christmas Cookie

2018 Mill Rate

The town council has set the 2018 Mill Rate at 11.6.
For a home with an evaluation of \$200,000.00, the
tax decrease will be \$120.00.

The council also set the tax due date to be April 1,
2019 with interest beginning on April 2, 2019 at a
rate of 8%.

Dog Licenses Due



Remember, your dog must be
licensed each year by December
31st. Residents licensing dogs after
January 31, 2019 will pay a state
mandated late fee of \$25.00 per
dog. Licenses are available at the Hermon
Town Office. You may also license your dog
online at: [https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/
online/dog_license/index.pl](https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl)

Please call the Town Office
with any questions at 848-1010.

YOUTH BASKETBALL



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REGISTER BETWEEN
OCT. 1ST - NOV. 15TH

News from the Hermon Recycling Committee

Article & Photos Submitted By: Fran Tracy-Dunn

The Hermon Recycling Committee would like to report a Big success with our Electronic E-Waste event that took place from 8am-noon on Saturday, October, 6th! You all deserve a big thank you for helping promote and attend our event. We had taken in three flat beds & one box truck worth of E-Waste totaling 18,460 pounds of materials.

The committee would like to thank all of you who attended, help promote the event by placing flyers or sharing on Facebook, but most of all the volunteers that worked that day. We received many compliments about how nice it was that customers didn't even have to get out of their cars. We offered full service that day. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped the day of the event: Electronics End, LLC employees & owners, recycling committee members, community and high school student volunteers.



During our four-hour event we also collected \$681.31 and 79 non-perishable items for the local food pantry: *Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Community Pantry* located beside Danforth's. The pantry is open two times a month and welcomes any donation or people in need.

Please contact the Director of the Pantry: Carol Lackedy 207-299-5186.

As a friendly reminder, ALL boxes are required to be broken down; even the one that you use to carry your recycled items. We ask that you place ALL shipping/corrugated boxes in the slotted bins. Yes, this does take work (breaking them down), but saves space in the containers for other recyclers' use and corrugated card board is currently a hot commodity in the recycling world. Currently the recycling market finds the corrugated card board more valuable and reduces space in all of our zero sort bins. Most processed foods come in a wax card board box: soda, cereal, cracker boxes, which need to be placed in the regular zero sort bins; these items are not corrugated card board.

Recently found items that contaminated (ruins the bins) the zero sort bins are as follows: cigarette butts, plastic bags, (bags that come from the grocery store, trash bags and the inflated shipping bags with the recycle symbol), food items, styrofoam & straws. Even though something might have the recycle symbol, such as plastic shipping inflatable bags that replaced shipping peanuts, it doesn't mean that it can go in the Zero-Sort bins. Clean plastic bags with the recycle symbol can be taken to Danforth's (lobby area box) to be recycled into composite decking.

The Recycling Committee would like to remind residents to review the website of what can be recycled in the zero sort bins (can also be found on the bins); recycle, reuse and repurpose. Keep up the good work!

Tip for the day: Remember proper recycled items should not smell.

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Postal Customer



Curbside Trash Rules

Placement at Roadside

Rubbish will not be collected unless the following conditions are met:

1. Rubbish shall be placed in rodent proof, leak proof and essentially air tight metal or plastic cans or in tied plastic refuse bags.
2. Containers or bags shall be placed as accessible to the roadside as possible so as not to interfere with vehicles, pedestrian traffic or snow removal activities.
3. Containers, bags or bundles shall not exceed (40) forty pounds.
4. Rubbish shall be placed roadside on the designated day of collection by 7:00 a.m.

For more information please go to ordinances at hermon.net.



Transfer Station Update

November 17 will be the last Saturday the transfer station will be open this year. The spring opening is usually the third Saturday of April. A complete schedule of items that are accepted, prices, and hours of operation can all be found on www.hermon.net.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Office at 848-1010.

Curbside Pick-up Schedule

There will be a ONE day delay on trash pick-up for the Holidays listed below:



New Years Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Thanksgiving
Christmas

All other holidays will be on the regular pick-up days.