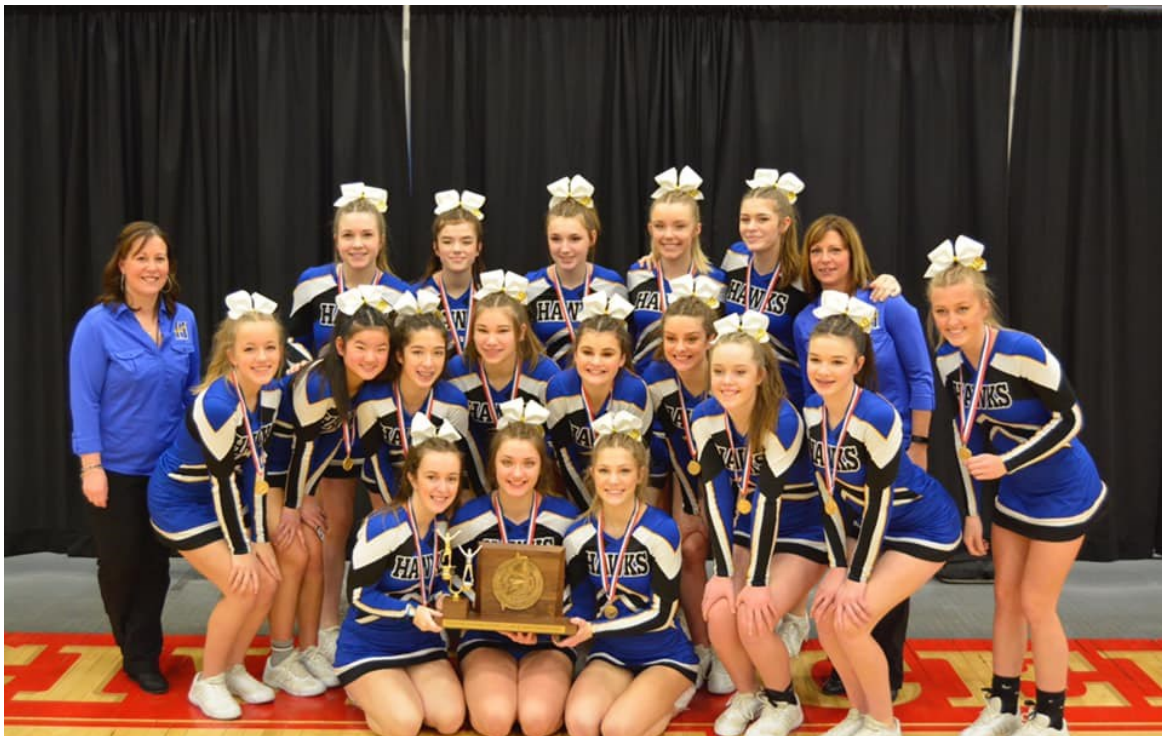


The Hermon Connection

Vol. 28 Issue 2 • March 2019

Congratulations to the Hermon High School Cheerleaders 2019 Class B Cheering STATE CHAMPIONS!

Photo by: Jessica Raymond



Front row: Mercedes Davis, Hannah Morin & Olivia Nash
Middle row: Alexis Raymond, Kristen Lusignan, Jasmine Boulter, Cali Cyr,
Brooklyn Brown, Riley Perry, Maddie Despault & Maddy Higgins
Back row: Coach-Christina Paradis, Hailey Gogan, Caitlinn Whitehouse,
Alanna Berube, Ella Campbell, Torria Whitmer, Coach-Kristie Reed & Kalley Curry

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: April 22 2019

From the Town Manager



CONGRATULATIONS! I want to take this opportunity to commend the Hermon High School Cheering Squad on winning the State Championship! A lot of hard work and dedication went into their preparation and planning and it has paid off! WELL DONE! I also want to take a moment to recognize all of our student athletes who are doing great things in both the classroom and field. Your efforts are noticed and you should be proud of representing your school and town.

SPRING IS ON THE WAY Once the winter season is 'really' over (probably June!) the Town will start to prep for spring and summer operations including sand removal from streets/roads/shoulders, cleaning up cemeteries and preparing athletic fields for play. If you have any questions on damage you think was caused during the winter please call Ralph Shaw, Public Works Foreman, at 848-1010 to have him review the damage with you.

ELDERLY HOMEOWNER TAX LIEN ACT

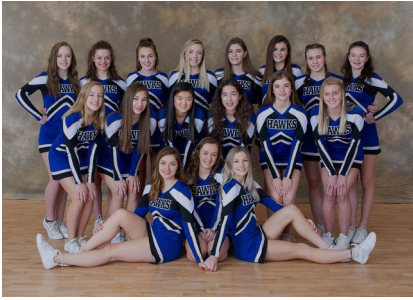
Last September, the Legislature enacted LD 1629, *An Act to Protect Homeowners Affected by Tax Lien Foreclosure*. It will apply to 30-day demand notices sent after that date. It also imposes a special sale process for some tax-acquired real estate sold after that date.

The new special sale process applies only to real estate: (1) that, on the date the lien certificate was recorded, was owned by at least one person who was 65 years of age or older and occupied the property as a "homestead" as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 681(2) (the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption law); and (2) whose former owner(s) meet income and asset requirements stated in the new law (outlined below). To qualify for the special sale process, the former owner(s) must demonstrate that:

- *On the date the lien certificate was recorded, the real estate was owned by at least one person who was at least 65 years old and who occupied the real estate as a "homestead" as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 681(2); and*
- *The former owner's income, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 5219-KK(1)(D) (Maine income tax laws) was less than \$40,000 after medical expenses are deducted, for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year in which the lien foreclosed; and (2) the value of their liquid assets is less than \$50,000 for one person (or \$75,000 for two or more persons). "Liquid assets" means "something of value available to an individual that can be converted to cash in three months or less and includes bank accounts, certificates of deposit, money market or mutual funds, life insurance policies, stocks and bonds, lump-sum payments and inheritances and funds from a home equity conversion mortgage that are in an individuals' possession whether they are in cash or have been converted to another form." The former owner(s) must provide documentation verifying income and assets.*

Winter Sports

Article By: Rick Sinclair



The 2018-19 Winter Sports season was filled with success. The Cheering team continued their dominance of Class B competition. The team competed in four competitions this year. They were crowned champions in the Big East Competition, and the Penobscot Valley Conference Class B competition. The girls were the Runners-Up in the Northern Maine Class B competition at the Cross Insurance Center and capped their season off with their 10th state championship at the Augusta Civic Center. This is the third state title in a row for the Hawks.

This years Boys Indoor Track team was the most successful team in the schools history. The Boys team finished as State Runners-up at this years event held at Bates College. The team scored 57 points at the state meet which is more than any other team in school history. On the individual side Zach Beaton continued his storied athletic career at Hermon with two state championships. Zach won the High Jump and the 200m run. He finished his indoor track career at the school with five individual state championships.



The Girls Basketball team was impressive again this winter. They finished with a regular season record of 16-2 and qualified for the MPA Regional Tournament with a second place finish in the final heat point standings. In the post season the girls defeated Presque Isle in the quarterfinal round with one of their best performances of the year. Their season ended with a semifinal round loss to a very good Waterville team. Individually, Senior Cait Tracy was named to the

All- Tournament team, she was named First Team All Big East Conference, and she was also chosen for the Maine McDonalds Senior All Star Game. Other individual awards were given to Senior Madi Curtis and Junior Paige Plissey who were both named to the Big East Conference Second Team.

The Boys Basketball team was dominant again this winter. The boys finished the regular season with a record of 18-0 and a number one seed in the regional tournament. In the post season the boys defeated Presque Isle in the quarterfinals, they defeated MCI in the semifinal round and fell just a little short to Caribou in the Northern Maine Regional Championship game ending the year with a 20-1 record. This also concluded a two year run with an incredible 42-1 overall record. Individually, Junior Isaac Varney was named to the Big East All Conference First Team. Seniors Cody Hawes and Garrett Trask earned second team all conference recognition as well. Coach Mark Reed was named Big East Conference Coach of the Year. In addition Garrett Trask was named to the Maine McDonalds Senior All Star Team.



I would like to thank the community for all of their support for these teams and their student athletes. We are looking forward to a great spring season as well.

Roadway Parking



It is illegal to park in or on roadways during a storm in the State of Maine, per Title 29A, 2069.

The Town of Hermon follows the state law in regards to parking on the roadways during storms.

Parked in violation. A law enforcement officer or the Department of Transportation may cause the removal of a vehicle or require the operator to move the vehicle from a location in violation of section 2068, subsection 1 to a location

where parking is permitted.

Interfering with snow removal, normal traffic movement. A law enforcement officer may cause the removal to a suitable parking place, at the expense of the registered owner, of a vehicle interfering with snow removal or the normal movement of traffic or parked within the limits of a right-of-way. The Department of Transportation may take the same action for a vehicle standing on property under its jurisdiction.

Liability for damages; charges. The State, a political subdivision of the State or a law enforcement officer is not liable for damage that may be caused by removal of a vehicle or for any towing or storage charges.

The fine for the summons of the above law is \$152.00.

WARNING: Extended Warranty Scam

By SSgt. Bobbie Pelletier



Over the past month, some citizens from Hermon have received telephone calls from scammers trying to sell you extended motor vehicle warranties. The scammers have “spoofed” my telephone number of the Hermon Public Safety Building (207-848-1014) to show up on your caller ID.

Please do not give the callers any personal information.

This is a scam. If you should receive a similar call, just hang up the phone and do not say “yes” to anything.

I want to ensure everyone that I am not in the warranty business and I will not try to sell you anything over the phone.....Well, unless you have an arrest warrant???

Annual Earth Day Community Clean up

Please join us for the Annual Earth Day Community Clean up event on
April 27, 2019, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Please meet at the Lynde Lodge #174, located at 2500 Route 2 at 9:00 AM to receive a map and assigned area.

This is an opportunity to volunteer and make a difference in our community by cleaning up litter in our local neighborhoods, parks and roadways. Past events have been very successful! With more people, we can extend out to all parts of town.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Gloves, bags, safety vests and water will be provided. The event is rain or shine, so please dress accordingly. As always, trucks and trailers are needed to help assist with the pick up and transport of large items and trash bags.

We hope to cover all of the Hermon. Sponsorships and donations are always welcomed to assist with the funding of gloves, bags, safety vests, water, snacks, advertising and other promotional materials.

The Event is hosted by Boy Scout Troop 25 of Hermon. For more information, please call Joseph Davis at 207-745-9439, or by email at jtmmdavis@msn.com.



The Senator's Corner

Article By: Senator Gratwick



We all know that Maine is the oldest state in the nation and our work force is dwindling. Deaths and births are almost equal in number, a 'demographic winter', which bodes ill for our future. What can we do to attract young people to live here? Finding answers to this question is an underlying theme of many of the bills now before the Legislature.

Many of the proposed solutions are easy to talk about but hard to do. They take time, planning, and money. We need to create more and better paying jobs, increase salaries, decreasing health care costs, improve our low-moderate income housing stock – and much else besides.

Then there are other legislative recommendations that can reverse the trend sooner – but each of these too has its drawbacks. We could increase the number of educational loans for students of all ages, encourage kids to come to college here (some will stay when they graduate), and provide paid family medical leave (a special inducement for families that are just starting off). Someone suggested to me last week that we could offer to pay the hospital expenses of new mothers. We could encourage immigration from other states and overseas, underwrite high speed internet expansion, and support the young people that are here right now to the fullest extent possible.

We need to help older people stay in their homes and assure they have good medical care. Young people from away worry about their own parents and they should see Maine as a place where old people matter.

As you read the news from Augusta look at it through the lens of the next generation. I am interested in hearing your suggestions.

geoff.gratwick@legislature.maine.gov; 947-0637 home

Introducing a new Hermon business...



Romi and Dani Patel are making a commitment to Hermon in a big way! For the last two years, the Hermon EZ MART project had made progress through the planning stages and building construction phase. It came to fruition at a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 16, 2019 attended by a majority of Hermon staff and Town Councillors.

Romi and his wife were married in 2011 and eventually made their home in Hermon to start a family. As proud owners of this new state of the art market and deli they will offer fresh food, fuel, convenience items and one of the best drink and refreshment selections in the area! The EZ Mart will also open a new car wash so customers can accomplish one stop shopping at 1739 Hammond Street. This section of Hermon has most recently become a bustling center for business expansion.

With plans for development in the works at the Hammond street area near the store, Hermon EZ Mart is poised to service a growing number of clients utilizing the traffic corridor on Route 2.

"Hermon offered a great location with strong traffic flows...we were looking for a location like this," said Patel.

The store will feature a "walk in" cooler and a large selection of beverages with healthy food options. Visit their FACEBOOK page for a copy of the menu items made to order daily which include breakfast foods, calzones and over two dozen sandwich ideas to go with their standout pizza selection!

The Town of Hermon congratulates the Patel family on their new business venture and wishes them success in the future!



HERMON EZ MART
1739 Hammond Street
Hermon, Maine 04401
Phone: 848-0892

Monday – Friday 5:00am - 9:00p
Saturday 6:00am - 8:00pm
Sunday 7:00am - 8:00pm

www.facebook.com/HermonEZMart

Help by Serving your Community

Have you been thinking about how you can serve your community? Do you ever wonder what happens at a Council Meeting or School Committee Meeting? Your town needs you and your input.

Soon there will be three vacant seats on the Town Council as well as two vacant seats on the School Committee. Nomination Papers will be available in the Clerk's Office on Friday March 1, 2019. Once you have collected a minimum of 25 signatures those papers need to be returned to the Clerk for validation, by Friday, April 12, 2019.

The Municipal Election will take place on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at the Patricia A. Duran School Gym. Polls open at 7:00 AM and will close at 8:00 PM. Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to follow on Thursday June 13, 2019, at 7:00 PM, at the Hermon High School Auditorium.

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Transfer Station

The Transfer Station is scheduled to reopen on April 20, 2019. This date is subject to change depending on the condition of the road at the Transfer Station.

The Transfer Station will be open on Saturdays from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

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Garland**



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CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

Planning Board Meetings

Meeting Times: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month 6:30 PM – Public Safety Building

The Planning Board meetings are now live on the public access channel. 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.



ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

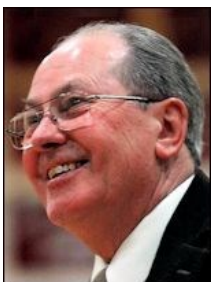
Business Personal Property Forms Have Been Sent Out

Would you like some help saving \$\$\$ on your Personal Property tax bill? We can help!

For qualifying property, placed in service after April 1, 2007, the Business Equipment Property Tax Exemption (BETE) program is offered by the State of Maine. This program is commonly referred to as the "BETE" program. The exemption applies to most depreciable business equipment, however, certain items are excluded, such as, vehicles subject to excise tax, office furniture, lighting, gambling equipment, and property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity. A **NEW** BETE application must be filed **ANNUALLY** with the tax assessor by April 1 of each year, extensions may be granted up to May 1st .

To find more information on the BETE Exemptions and other exemption programs offered you can visit our website at WWW.HERMON.NET/ASSESSING , shoot us an email at Assessor@hermon.net or give us a call at 848-1044 or 848-1042.

Representative Reed to serve on State and Local Government Committee



Reed is Republican Lead on what is expected to be a busy committee

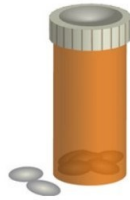
STATEHOUSE – State Representative Roger E. Reed (R-Carmel) has been appointed to the 129th Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. The Committee is one of the more sought after legislative assignments, since it is responsible for state government oversight. Its jurisdiction also includes: administrative procedures; legislature, municipal and local government; county and regional government; state contracts and fiscal procedures; administrative procedures and public services.

"Maine's economy and state budget is in a great position heading into the 129th Legislature," said Reed. "We have a healthy state surplus, money in the bank and our debts are paid. The economy is growing and revenues have increased because Republicans lowered taxes. Now is not the time for overspending our resources or abandoning policies that have improved family budgets and created jobs."

Rep. Reed, a retired teacher, was recently reelected to a fourth term representing District 103: Carmel, Etna (part) and Hermon. He is now the Ranking Republican Member and Committee Lead. He also serves on the House Standing Committees on Engrossed Bills.

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Reminder:

As set by the Town Council,
all tax payments will be **due**
in full by April 1, 2019.

Interest will start accruing on April 2,
2019 at a rate of 8% annually on any
unpaid taxes.

If you have any questions,
please contact:
Rachel Grass, Tax Collector
or Samantha Miller,
Deputy Tax Collector at 848-1010

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Zumba, Adaptive Dance, Wedding Choreography

Hermon School Committee

2018-19 Goals Mid-Year Update

Article By: Gary Gonyar

1. Support the development and implementation of a locally designed proficiency based education system that meets the needs of all Hermon students.
 - a. Based on input gathered from a variety of stakeholders, the HSD will be awarding credit based diplomas while keeping in place many of the proficiency based concepts that are in the best interest of our students.
 - b. All pertinent policies have been reviewed and updated.
 - c. Teachers in K-8 continue to work with the Great Schools Partnership on proficiency based education design and pedagogy.
 - d. Hermon High School continues to add different pathways toward graduation as a way to encourage all students to earn a high school diploma and be career & college ready!
2. Prioritize and review district policies that support academic achievement, safety, and a positive educational experience for all students.
 - a. The Committee continues to systematically review all district policies to make sure they comply with all laws and serve our students and employees well.
3. Explore opportunities to collaborate and share services with our partners RSU 87 and SPRPCE to enhance the student educational experience and maximize the effective use of resources.
 - a. This is the first year we have shared a Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment with RSU 87. Both districts are very pleased with the relationship and see many benefits from sharing this position. We also share a Food Services Director.
 - b. The Regional Service Center we formed with our past partners in SPRPCE has provided many opportunities for the HSD to save money and also increase opportunities for our students and staff. Examples of sharing are nursing services, professional development, special education programs, and the formation of a leadership academy.
4. Increase opportunities to promote the district image, improve communication, and advocate for the district.
 - a. The Committee is looking carefully into purchasing the services of a company that would create a phone app to support the accomplishment of this ongoing goal.
5. Continue to develop a district facility plan that will meet the long-range needs of students.
 - a. The Committee now has a 5-year capital improvement plan for the Patricia A. Duran School and Hermon High School. Next up is a plan for Hermon Middle School. We also have a 10-year enrollment projection report to guide our decision making in the future.

Your Help is Needed to Update the list for Boston Post Cane Recipients

Dorothy Overlock is currently our oldest citizen, born on November 6, 1917 and holds the honor of the Boston Post Cane in Hermon, Maine.

It is generally believed the Boston Post Cane tradition of honoring each town's oldest male resident began in 1909 when the Boston Post gave gold-headed, ebony canes to 700 New England towns for that purpose. The intent was for towns to loan the cane to the designated recipient. Over the years many towns lost canes and many towns no longer honor the tradition.

In 1930, after much controversy, eligibility was opened to women.

Hermon continues the tradition of honoring its oldest citizen by awarding a complimentary cane, while the original cane remains on display for all to enjoy.

If you were born before 1935 and have lived in Hermon for a significant part of your life, we want to know. Please contact the Town Clerk's office at 848-1010 if you or someone you know should be considered to receive the recognition of being a Boston Post Cane holder.

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6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
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Reservations please:
Contact the Rec office at 848-4075
or email wernerd@hermon.net

March 20

Boiled Dinner: Corned Beef,
Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage,
Dessert



April 17

Biscuit topped Chicken Pie
Applesauce
Dessert

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Volunteers will soon begin spring
gardening tasks at



and we need YOU!

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Just bring your enthusiasm and desire
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Regular volunteer sessions are Wednesdays,
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