

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 26 Issue 5 • September, 2019



Manufacturing jobs available for Hermon area residents to apply!

Mathews Brothers, America's oldest window manufacturer, is looking for Hermon-area staff for its manufacturing operations at 77 Logistics Way. The immediate plan is to move two individual production departments to the Hermon building, beginning in late fall or early winter, according to Jim Butler, Director of Human Resources.

Butler said, "Ideally, we'd like to hire associates from the Hermon area now." The full-time positions offer competitive pay, attendance bonus, health insurance, 401(k), paid vacation and more. Butler added, "We don't expect new associates to have experience making vinyl windows and doors. Reliability and a willingness to learn new skills are what we look for, and we highly value manufacturing experience. This is just the beginning of opportunities at our new plant, and it also opens up possibilities for expansion at our Belfast location, where we have just added a second shift."

For more information, go to www.mathewsbrothers.com and click on the Employment link on the home page, or e-mail Butler at jbutler@mathewsbrothers.com for an application.

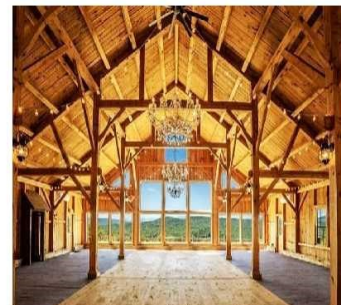


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207.338.3360 phone
207.338.6300 fax

<http://www.mathewsbrothers.com>

<http://www.mathewsbrothers.com/Employment.aspx>



From the Town Manager



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CANOPY PROJECT –

By the time you read this article the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School canopy project will be completed. I want to thank D.P. Porter and their team for doing superior job on putting the final touches on the overall school addition project. The canopy is a welcome addition to the school and will make dropping off/pickup our students safer and more enjoyable! Well done!



PERSONNEL CHANGES- Officer Michael Parady resigned from the Police Department and was hired by the Brewer Police Department. Best of luck to Mike in Brewer! Samantha Miller, Deputy Tax Collector also resigned and was hired by the City of Brewer- best of luck to Samantha! Town hired Angie Speed of Bradley and Courtney Brown of Hermon as Deputy Town Clerks- their first day was August 19th! Welcome aboard to Angie and Courtney!

ROAD PROJECTS- The Town has an aggressive road construction season with many roads in Town getting much needed repair and attention. I want to thank B&B Paving for doing a great job this summer. They have a few more roads to pave this year and we will start planning for next year's work.

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION! Hermon schools will resume their year in late August. Superintendent Gary Gonyar and his staff did a great job this summer on a number of renovation projects inside the schools. We look forward to a successful 2019-2020 academic year! Go HAWKS!

WELL DONE! I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hermon Little League team and the girl's youth softball team for their very successful seasons. While neither won their tournament's championship their maturity, discipline and commitment showed everyone that these young men and women have great futures ahead of them. We should be very proud of their accomplishments!

WINTER IS COMING! While we enjoy the awesome weather that comes with summer and fall I remind everyone that winter is just around the corner. Make sure your mailbox is within USPS compliance.

TAX RATE- Town Assessor Josh Berry and his staff prepared our tax commitment for and our tax rate is now 11.99. This is an increase of .39 per thousand in FY19 (11.60). If you have any questions when you receive your tax bill please contact Josh Berry, Tax Assessor @ 848-1042.

ADDRESS CHANGE- The mailing address for the Town Office, Fire Dept., Rec Dept., Police Dept., Public Works Dept., and the Economics Dept. has changed to 333 Billings Road. Delivery to the post office box ended 8/29/19.

On behalf of the Town of Hermon Town Council and Staff we wish you all a great fall! To all the students returning to school- WELCOME BACK! Good luck to our sports teams!

Town of Hermon
Howard Kroll Town Manager
333 Billings Rd, 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: October 20, 2019

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Tax Assessing & Code Enforcement Department

Tax Commitment

The Assessing Department executed its annual tax commitment August 16th 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, give the Assessing Department a call at 848-1044

Foundation Drains

Winter is rapidly approaching...don't shoot the messenger! Last year we had a very unusual winter with plenty of snow events, very cold temperatures and the icing on the cake was (pun intended) several rain storms toward the end of winter. We had more instances then I can count of water backing up into basements, driveway culverts freezing and roads being over come with ice due to these conditions. If your house sits on a full foundation, and maybe a slab, you should have a foundation drain leading somewhere. You may not know it but it's out there. Before the snow flies it would be worth locating your drain and periodically checking it, through out the winter, to make sure it's free from obstruction. If culverts look to be freezing up give us a call so we can come out to inspect and take action if needed. The more we stay ahead of winter the better!

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 meeting 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 give Josh Berry a call at 848-1042 or email him at Josh.Berry@hermon.net.

The Senator's Corner

By: Senator Geoffrey Gratwick



Slow down! Recently a car struck and killed a public service lawyer in Whitefield as he walked across the road to his mailbox. Authorities say 'neither speed nor alcohol were believed to be a factor'. Nonetheless, this pedestrian is dead.

UM Traffic Engineering Professor Per Garder thinks about such events. The speed limit along the Whitefield road was 40 mph. Google Street view shows a sight distance of 250 ft. At 40 mph a motorist will cover this distance in 4.3 seconds. With a reaction time of 2.5 sec the motorist will travel 150 ft., with another 50 to 60 ft. to brake (on dry road with perfect brakes). A pedestrian takes about 6 seconds to cross the road walking at 4 ft./sec. There is little margin for error. A car showed up very suddenly – with tragic results.

Professor Garder relates that in several experiments he drove at or just above the speed limit. He typically caught up with no one and everyone passed him. When he drove 8 mph above the speed limit, the same thing happened; he was the slowest. Speeding is the norm in our culture. People do not think twice about driving 10 mph over the speed limit. Every mile per hour faster a car travel increases its lethality to pedestrians. The average risk of death is 10% at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25% at 32 mph, 50% at 42 mph, 75% at 50 mph, and 90% at 58 mph.

The Maine Department of Transportation and other groups are exploring ways to encourage us to drive more sensibly. Options include:

- Conducting social marketing campaigns to encourage driving at safe speeds.
- Changing the geometry and design of roads to make speeding uncomfortable.
- Adding vertical elements like speed tables at crossings.
- Changing Maine law to permit the use of traffic cameras to enforce speed limits.
- Raising speeding fines and encouraging law enforcement to issue tickets for speeding.
- Holding drivers more accountable when they hit and injure or kill a pedestrian or bicycle rider.

The responsibility lies with us. We must change our habits. Each of us who drives the speed limit no matter how fast other cars are going helps to slow traffic and make the roads safer for everyone.

Town of Hermon

Giving Business the Edge!

Hermon is a vibrant community made up of young families, educated professionals, business owners and long term residents that anchor our Town. Our community helps provide a quality workforce regionally due to our unique geographical advantage offering a perfect blend of residential life with our business sector. Existing real estate inventories reveal some of the best remaining locations for business investments because of our transportation options including the Interstate system, multiple trucking and transport operations, Bangor International Airport and CMO Railway service extending from Canada to Searsport. By combining an exceedingly low tax rate, aggressive business support by customizing innovative incentive plans with our future growth prospects, Hermon is currently experiencing existing business expansion, new development in industrial manufacturing and increases in population.

A low tax rate is common in Hermon with rates often times half as much as neighboring communities. For over ten years the mill rate has not exceeded 12.2 which has encouraged growth in commercial projects that harmonize with our suburban and rural appeal. Symmetry in our business support model has created a strong diversified business base that takes advantage of the qualities that a well planned community can provide. Many of our business owners choose to live and work in Hermon to take advantage of our connected community identity and high quality of life.

Since 2014 when Hermon began systematically refining the techniques of customized incentive packages, business loan programs and development support our total town valuation has skyrocketed. Our business support accounts have also flourished with private investment creating new value in construction services, retail sales and industrial expansion. Simultaneously, investments in quality residential construction projects have continued at an extraordinary pace averaging 35 new building permits each year.

Since 2015, Hermon has realized an increase in its valuation of over 61.5 million dollars totaling \$552,137,200 by providing quality municipal and business services. Hermon's community development effort also includes investing in exceptional recreational opportunities and strong support for its schools. Hermon schools are funded at high levels with 80% of the regular operating budget supporting education. These qualities have caused our community to become one of the State's fastest growing communities per capita averaging over 100 new residents annually over the last 10 years.

Hermon's population boom remains one of our community's greatest achievements. The Town's population is expected to increase through 2032, as projected by the State Planning Office (SPO) to total 7,292 persons, an increase of nearly 31% from 2012. Since 2000, the Town of Hermon has witnessed a 26% increase in its population while most communities in Maine are experiencing a population decline. Hermon is defying the trend. Since 2010, Hermon was one



of only two communities in the central Maine area to witness a significant population increase. This population growth has brought in residents with higher incomes and levels of education, positioning the Town as a future workforce provider for the region and its business community.

Another strength for Hermon remains its commercial growth...

When Hermon considers its current industrial inventory, the four leading communities in our area are Bangor (4,189,721 sf), Hermon (1,318,629 sf), Brewer (1,058,195 sf) and Hampden (833,233 sf). Over the last four years our growth in industrial square footage creation outpaced all communities adding double the amount of square footage as our closest competitor in a recent 2018 market study.

The town recognizes the potential increased demands on infrastructure by meeting the challenge with aggressive investment in facilities and services. As the town moves forward, its potential future growth rates provide opportunities for regional transportation upgrades to increase supply chain business activity. The transportation sector has been highlighted as a top priority in Hermon's strategic planning in order to maintain a standard of excellence concerning moving goods to market efficiently by offering wide and varied logistical options for every business.

Hermon's low taxes and strong support models combined with quality educational opportunities and its premiere location have positioned Hermon as a dynamic leader regionally with regards to the State's future workforce and commercial activity. With responsive administrative leadership and business attraction methods that rival most communities our size, Hermon is a complete package for any business owner looking for excellence in both municipal service and steady positive growth for its bottom line.



Want to learn more?

Call our office at **848-1010** or email Scott Perkins at SPerkins@Hermon.net

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Hermon public safety officials encourage you to actively participate in emergency preparedness by remaining informed. Safety is a two-way street, so be sure to register today to receive the information you need, when it matters, regarding events such as:



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ROAD CONSTRUCTION/TRAFFIC ALERTS
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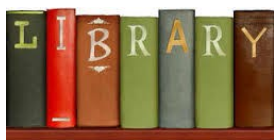
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Smith



Shari
Garland

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

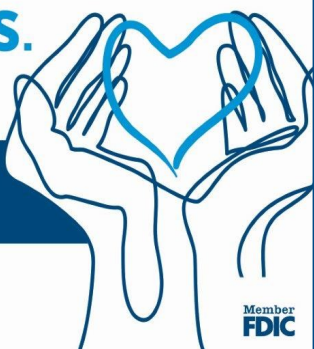
following the school calendar from 2:15pm to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions, please call the library at 848-4000, ext. 1156.

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HERMON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Special Education Child Find Notice

The Hermon School Department is in compliance with federal and state regulations regarding the delivery of services to all children with special needs.

Federal statutes (I.D.E.A.) requires that the School Department identifies, locates and evaluates all children with disabilities, ages 3-20, residing within the school district. Residents who believe that their child is in need of special education services, whether attending public or private school, should contact Cindy Badger, Director of Student Services, 31 Billings Road, Hermon, ME 04402, Tel. 848-4000, X 6004.

Annual Notice of Student Education Records and Information Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides certain rights to parents and eligible students (18 years of age or older) with respect to the student's education records. A copy of the Hermon School Department's policy statement and administrative procedure is available in each school.

Inspection of Records

Parents/ eligible students may inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of making a request. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building administrator in writing and must identify the record(s) to be inspected. The superintendent or building administrator will notify the parent/eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected. Parents/eligible students may obtain copies of education records at a cost of ten cents (\$0.10) per page copied.

Amendment of Records

Parents/eligible students may ask the Hermon School Department to amend education records they believe are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's right to privacy. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building administrator in writing, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the superintendent or building administrator decides not to amend the record as requested, the parent/eligible student will be notified of the decision, their right to request a hearing and information about the hearing procedure.

Disclosure of Records

The Hermon School Department must obtain a parent/eligible student's written consent prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information in education records except in circumstances permitted by law.

Directory Information

The Hermon School Department designates the following student information as directory information that may be made public at its discretion: name, participation and grade level of students in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight of student athletes, dates of attendance in the Hermon School Department, and honors and awards received, and photographs and videos of student participation in school activities open to the public (except photographs and videos on the Internet). Parents/eligible students who do not want the Hermon School Department to disclose directory information must notify the Superintendent in writing by September 15th or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

Military Recruiters / Institutions of Higher Learning

Military recruiters and institutions of higher education are entitled to receive the names, addresses and telephone numbers of secondary students, and the Hermon School Department must comply with any such request, provided that parents have been notified of their right to request that this information not be released without prior written consent. Parents/eligible students who do not want the Hermon School Department to disclose this information must notify the Superintendent in writing by September 15th or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

School Officials with Legitimate Educational Interests

Education records may be disclosed to school officials with a "legitimate educational interest." A school official has a legitimate educational interest if he/she needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. School officials include persons employed by the Hermon School Department as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); members of the Hermon School Committee; persons or companies with whom the Hermon School Department has contracted to provide specific services (such as attorneys, auditors, medical consultants, evaluators or therapists); and parents, students and volunteers serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting a school official in performing his/her professional responsibilities.

Health or Safety Emergencies

In accordance with federal regulations, the Hermon School Department may disclose education records without prior written consent in a health and safety emergency to any person whose knowledge or the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

Other School Units

As required by Maine law, the Hermon School Department sends student education records to a school unit to which a student applies for transfer, including disciplinary records, attendance records, special education records and health records (except for confidential health records for which consent for dissemination has not been obtained).

Other Entities / Individuals

Education records may be disclosed to other entities and individuals as specifically permitted by law. Parents/eligible students may obtain information about other exceptions to the written consent requirements by request to the Superintendent or building administrator.

Complaints Regarding School Department Compliance with FERPA

Parents/eligible students who believe that the Hermon School Department has not complied with the requirements of FERPA have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. The office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C.

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From the Town Clerk

- October 7 - Absentee ballots available.
- October 14 - Town Office Closed – Columbus Day
- October 15 - 2020 dog tags will be available. Your dog must be licensed for 2020 by 12/31/19 to avoid paying the \$25.00 late fee on 2/1/2020.
- October 15 - 2020 Snowmobile Registrations will be available for purchase.
- November 5 - State of Maine Election. Polls open from 7AM – 8PM at the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School Gym.
- November 11—Town Office Closed - Veterans Day
- November 28 - Town Office Closed – Thanksgiving
- November 29 - Town Office Closed
- December 24 - Closed at Noon
- December 25 - Closed for Christmas Day

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