

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 27 Issue 1 • January, 2020

Firefighter of the Year



Pictured above left to right are:

Scott Bragdon, Chief of Corinth
Mike Simmons
Tom Higgins, Chief of Bangor

Hermon Firefighter/EMT Mike Simmons was recognized by the Penobscot Fire Chiefs Association as the 2019 Penobscot County Firefighter of the year. FF/EMT Simmons has served as a full-time firefighter with the Town of Hermon since January, 2015. In addition to his fire and EMS duties, Mike heads up the HFD fire prevention program, (he provides fire and life safety education to all Hermon Elementary School students each year), is the liaison to Eastern Maine Community College for the student live-in program and is the lead CPR instructor for the department. Mike was further recognized by the Town Council with a proclamation acknowledging his achievement.

Congratulations Mike! The HFD is proud of you and all our members who serve our community day in and day out.



Pictured at right, left to right are:

Howard Kroll, Town Manager
Hilari Simmons, Mike's wife
Mike Simmons,
Tim McCluskey, Council Chair

Town of Hermon
Howard Kroll Town Manager
333 Billings Rd, Hermon, ME 04401
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: February 20, 2020

From the Town Manager

SNOW PLOWING CHANGE- The Town has changed snow plow contractors. Gardner Construction of Hermon will be plowing and sanding 45 miles of municipal roads for the rest of this winter and for 2021-2024. The Town will plow all side roads off of the Billings Road including the Wendy Acres subdivision and Patten Drive. The Town is also going to be responsible for plowing the Newburgh Road, Pendleton Drive, Creamery Road, Hopkins Road, Pendleton Drive, Swan Road and Klatte Road. I hope the change improves the quality of plowing and sanding in those areas of Town. The Town also hired Jeffrey Byers to maintain the municipal sidewalks for the rest of this winter and for 2021-2024. I am confident Mr. Byers and Gardner Construction will improve the quality and performance of this important service. I appreciate the feedback received from the public and hope you continue to contact me for both your positive and negative experiences.

PERSONNEL CHANGES- Starting January 1, 2020 Penobscot County Sheriff's Department will provide the Town with law enforcement services. The Town will no longer employ any law enforcement personnel, however the Sheriff's Department personnel will still maintain an office in the Public Safety Building and can be reached at 848-1014 and as always if you have an emergency call 911 and they can dispatch an officer to address your situation.

Dustin Davis has been appointed the Town's Animal Control Officer and is going to be responsible for all of our athletic fields, cemeteries and other municipal facilities. I am pleased to bring Dustin to our team!

Carolyn Duran started January 6, 2020 as a Deputy Town Clerk. She brings a wealth of management and financial experience with her and is a lifelong Town of Hermon resident. She is a wonderful person and I look forward to seeing her serve the public for many years to come!

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUDGET FY2021- I will be submitting to the Hermon Town Council on January 8, 2020 a proposed Capital Improvement Plan for FY21. Town Council has until February 29, 2020 to approve the plan for Annual Town Meeting. Some of the major projects we will be recommending to the Town Council include but not limited to: (1) Reconstructing a section of the Billings Road (Fuller Road intersection to Union Street) in a partnership with MDOT, (2) Installing a sprinkler system at the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School, (3) Repairing the Veteran's Memorial brick display, (4) Replacing the basketball backboard system at the Recreation Field complex, (5) Replacing all outdated computers in the municipal offices and paving some municipal roads.

I want to wish everyone a safe and eventful winter. You have a number of school basketball teams who represent the community with teamwork, commitment and dedication- I strongly encourage you to consider attending one of their games and supporting our student athletes! Best of luck to them this season! Check out their schedule for more details: <https://www.sites.google.com/site/hermonathletics/>

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 at krollh@hermon.net. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your comments. Enjoy the winter!



Winter Driving Tips

If you find yourself hitting the roads during adverse weather conditions, consider these driving tips to stay safe during your journey:

- 1. Inspect your vehicle.** Make sure you have adequate tires on the front and rear of your vehicle with good winter tire tread. Check your tire's air pressure to make sure it is adequate.
- 2. Make sure your vehicle and windows are clear of snow and ice.** Maintain good visibility of the road and of others. Check your windshield wipers and replace them if needed. Brush the snow off of your vehicle clearing your windows as well as the hood and roof. Don't let snow fly up or slide down onto your front windshield blocking your view. If it hasn't snowed make sure all of the ice and frost are also scraped from your windows.
- 3. Drive slowly.** A good rule of thumb is to reduce your speed by 50 percent in snowy and icy conditions. Leave enough distance between you and the vehicle in front of you in case you need to brake unexpectedly. Make sure you plan your trip accordingly and give yourself some extra time to reach your destination safely.
- 4. Pack a winter travel safety kit.** Include a cell phone, ice scraper and brush, tow rope, blanket, flashlight with good batteries, lock de-icer, matches, and even some snacks and water in case you get stranded along your way.
- 5. Keep a light touch on the controls.** Smooth operation is the key to keeping control in slippery situations. Nervousness can lead to a hard clench on the steering wheel, which can result in loss of control. Consciously loosen your grasp or stretch out your fingers from time to time to help prevent that white-knuckled grip.
- 6. Know how to recover from skids.** When braking on a slippery road, it's all too easy to "lock up" your wheels by stepping on the brakes a little too hard. If you start to skid, steer the vehicle gently in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go and don't touch your brakes. This used to be called "turning into the skid," but tests have shown that drivers often misinterpret these words in real-life situations.
- 7. If you get stuck, stay in your vehicle.** Stay warm and wait for assistance. Don't stand outside of your vehicle as another vehicle could lose control and skid in your direction. Stay in your vehicle for protection. Make sure that your exhaust pipe is clear of any obstructions, including snow and ice; if you don't, carbon monoxide gas can build up inside the vehicle.

Most of all take your time and DRIVE SAFE!!

Hermon Track Committee

A committee of Town Councilors, School Committee Members, and Hermon residents has been assessing the feasibility and interest in building a rubber surface track around an artificial turf athletic field in Hermon. While the Hermon Track Committee is still in the early stages of research including site location, design, and engineering, the most important part of the Committee's research is feedback from residents on the project that may cost up to \$1.9 million. The Committee needs to collect information from residents to determine the level of support for such an athletic complex and we are using Survey Monkey to administer the survey.

You can now access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HermonTrackTurf> or by QR Code .

The survey will be open until February 7th. You will also receive a postcard from the Committee as a reminder and likely see Facebook posts asking for your help completing the survey during the last two weeks of January. If you do not have internet access, paper surveys will be available at the Superintendent's office. After the survey window is closed, the information will be reviewed by the Committee to determine the next steps and the results will be shared on the Town's website.

The upgraded field surface and all-weather track would provide the following benefits:

- A safe place for community members of all ages to walk, run, and exercise.
- More competitive High School and youth sports programs by providing a lighted, all season playing field for soccer, football, and field hockey.
- A home track for practice and competitions for the HHS track team and Hermon Recreation Department track program.

Your opinion is very important and will help determine next steps in the process, possibly leading up to a ballot item in November. Surveys will be limited to one per household by IP address and we would like to receive input from as many Hermon residents as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 735-8977 or send me an email at thomas70ss@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Steve Thomas
Hermon Track Committee Chair

Reminder:

*DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!*

As set by the Town Council,
ALL 2019 taxes are due
April 1, 2020

Late fees will start on
April 2, 2020

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Introducing a new Hermon Business!



Jackie Allard, Jackie's Hair Studio

Jackie Allard has over 30 years worth of experience coloring and styling hair for customers that she considers both her family and friends. When you read the first hand testimonials from her clients served during her time in the industry the comments are personal and almost seem overly effusive. *Almost...until* you notice the trend and common theme in the comments describing excellent personal service delivered with a skill set only attainable with years of experience and a love for her trade. Customers connect with Jackie and grow strong bonds because of her abilities professionally and personally.

Jackie has moved back to Hermon after several years in Florida to help with family, open a business and to reinsert herself into the community where she grew up. After graduating from Hermon High School and the Maine State Academy of Hair design, Jackie moved to Pensacola, Florida and opened three different hair salons over the last 30 years while simultaneously training and perfecting her craft as a skilled stylist.

"I really love to see my customers smile after the styling session, it's enjoyable to be able to meet the needs of my customers and hear that they feel and look great", says Jackie. The salon accepts walk-ins and offers special appointments after hours if needed. Jackie's Hair Studio also offers a complete line of professional hair care products and other services such as waxing and protective treatments by *Olaplex* which is considered by colorists as the "go-to" product for maintenance and optimum conditioning.

Hermon currently has over 100 home based businesses providing a diversified and strong service sector for our residents and surrounding communities. The DECD office encourages everyone to support these entrepreneurs by doing business locally.

Hermon DECD congratulates this new business and would like to thank Jackie's Hair Studio for providing quality salon services to the region!



Jackie's Hair Studio

2657 Union Street
Hermon, Maine 04401
Call: (207) 561-7665

facebook.com/Jackies-Hair-Studio

Salon Hours

Wednesday- Friday 9-5pm
Saturday 9-1pm
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HOMEOWNERS DO YOU QUALIFY FOR A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION?

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: Hermon residents already receiving the Homestead Property Tax Exemption in the amount of \$20,000 in your 2018 tax bill will not need to reapply. It will stay with your resident property.

New Hermon residential property owners or residents who have relocated from a Hermon owned residential property to another in Hermon will need to apply for the homestead exemption. You can go to the website listed below to download an application or pick one up at the Town Office to see if you meet the qualification requirements listed on the application.

www.hermon.net/exemption-forms-information/

All application must be returned to the Assessing office **by April 1, 2020**

VETERAN EXEMPTION: Any residential property owner who is a veteran 62 years or older or the widow of a veteran who would be 62 years or older on April 1, 2020, who served during a recognized war time period and is not already receiving the veterans exemption may pick up an application at the town office or download one at:

www.hermon.net/exemption-forms-information/

Applications must be returned to the Assessing Office by April 1, 2020 with a copy of a DD214 or other official form verifying dates of entry and separation.

HERMON BUSINESS OWNERS Would you like to save some \$\$\$ on your personal property tax bill???

The annual Personal Property Declaration Forms, letter of instruction and personal property itemized assessment file will be mailed in February. Maine State law under Title 36 Sec. 706 Property Taxation requires by law under taxpayers to furnish the Assessor a true and perfect list of what they possess on the first day of April. The 706 or Declaration Form requests business owners to complete the forms and return to the Assessing Staff by April 15th. The completed form provides the Assessor with your current information allowing to correct the assessment list of items you may have removed or purchased during the year, or if you have sold or relocated the business. The letter also instructs businesses who qualify for the **Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE)** program to send in a new application with any items they feel qualify.

For additional information, please visit the Assessing Departments webpage at www.hermon.net or call us at 848-1042/1044.

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Congratulations to the Hermon High School Girls Soccer team on winning the Northern Maine Class B Championship.

The Girls defeated Waterville 2-1 in overtime at Hampden Academy.



Team members for the Hawks were:

Madison Baker, Allie Cameron, Charlotte Caron, Ashley Cote, Natasha Cowan, Ally Coxson, Sydeny Gallop, Madison Higgins, Kamryn Morin, Grace Page, Paige Plissey, Lyndsee Reed, Michaela Saulter, Leah Thibault-Myatt, Megan Tracy, Emily Treat, Ryan Vegiard, MacKenzie White, Elizabeth Wyman.

Coaches for the Hawks were:

MJ Ball, Chloe Raymond, and Morgan Buck.

Hawk Battalion Marches in Veterans Day Parade

Article by Cadet 2LT Mollie Smith

Photograph by ISG Rob Jenkins

The annual Veterans Day parade was held on November 11th to show honor and respect for all the past and current service members. The Hermon Hawk Battalion proudly came together to show those values while marching alongside Veterans. During the time students spend in the JROTC program, one of the first things they are taught are the seven Army values and are expected to display them in and outside of the class. While given many opportunities to serve the community, cadets displayed discipline and respect throughout the entirety of the parade.

The Hawk Battalion would like to thank the community for coming out and showing their support for our Veterans each year.

The Hawk Battalion looks forward to marching in the Memorial Day parade this spring





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Happy New Year!

As we look forward to Spring 2020,
please plan to visit
Ecotat Gardens and Trails,
your local garden
to explore with family and friends.

Watch for our
summer concert schedule and
make a difference in 2020 by
joining us as a volunteer.

We hope to see you at Ecotat!



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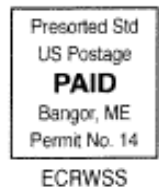


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From the Clerks Office

DOGS: 2020 dog tags are available. Please license your dog before January 31st. The State of Maine demands a \$25.00 late fee for any dog licensed after 1/31/2020. If your dog was licensed in 2019 you can go to: https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl and license on-line. If you no longer have a dog you licensed in 2019 please let us know here at the Town Office at 848-1010.

ELECTIONS: Elections will be here before you know it. On March 3, 2020 we have a Presidential Primary in addition to a Special State Referendum. On June 9, 2020 we have a State Primary for offices other than President in addition to our Municipal Elections. The Town Council has two seats and the School Board has one seat that will all expire June 30, 2020. If you are interested in serving your community and would like more information about what serving as an elected official in Hermon is about do not hesitate to contact me. Nomination papers will be available in my office on February 24, 2020. Candidates are required to obtain 25 supporting signatures. Those signatures are due back by 5:00pm on April 3, 2020. On November 3, 2020 we have a General (Presidential) and potential State Referendum Election.

I would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to those who made an effort to make the holidays better for their neighbors this year. Organizations and individuals made sure that the needs of others were met. They do not do it to receive recognition but that is why recognition is due. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season.

Respectfully, Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk