

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 27 Issue 6 • November, 2020

Student Representatives to Hermon School Committee

We welcome Hermon High School Student Representatives to the Hermon School Committee.

Article By Jody White



Photo by Sally Viner

My name is Mackenzie Stepp and I am the senior representative on the Hermon School Board. This will be my second year on the school board. I have gone through the Hermon school system since I was in kindergarten. At Hermon High School I am the president of student council, a member of Key Club, and a member of National Honor Society. Outside of school, I teach dance at a local studio and also attend dance classes myself. I also have been going to UTC and partaking in their Medical Assisting Program. I plan to graduate Hermon High with my Medical Assistant certificate and many college credits from taking AP classes at the high school. After I graduate high school I plan on attending college and get my degree to be a Pediatric Physicians Assistant.

My name is Madison Despault. I am a Junior at Hermon High School. I am the oldest of three girls. I enjoy playing sports as I am involved in fall cheering, winter cheering, and softball. During the winter season I am an assistant coach for Tri-Town cheering. I participate in Civil Rights and Student Council. I am Vice President for the class of 2022 as well as Vice President of Key Club. After high school, my plan is to study nursing as I aspire to work in the field of Pediatric Oncology.



Photo by Douglass Photography

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: December 18, 2020

From the Town Manager

WINTER IS COMING: Winter weather is unpredictable and at times dangerous. Driving this time of year requires extra caution and attention. Be safe and enjoy the season. Gardner Construction is responsible for plowing most of the municipal roads and streets from Fuller Road to I-95. The only exception is Billings Road and Newburgh Road. The Fuller Road intersection toward Union Street and all of the side streets and roads off of Union Street are maintained by The Town of Hermon Public Works. If you have questions regarding plowing please call Ralph Shaw, Public Works Foreman @ 570-6494.

Mailboxes are the responsibility of the property owner and they must be installed within USPS standards. The Town assumes no liability for mailboxes damaged during winter plowing operations.

TAX BILLS – The Town has once again kept the current mil-rate @ 11.99 per thousand dollars of property taxes. For every dollar raised .80 cents goes to the school department, .10 cents goes to Penobscot County, and the other .10 cents goes to municipal operations such as fire, law enforcement services, public works, code enforcement, etc. I would like to thank Michael Chamings, Finance Director and Josh Berry, Assessor for putting together this year's tax commitment. It was great to see the teamwork required for this important part of our operation.

ELECTION - Town Clerk Kristen Cushman and her staff have done an excellent job on the presidential election. This election, at the time of this writing, has been historic in voter turnout and requests for absentee ballots. I would like to thank all who participated in this event.

NEWBURGH ROAD AND BILLINGS ROAD - for those of you that live or travel on either of these roads you have noticed a fair amount of construction taking place. Next summer we plan on coming back and finishing the remaining sections. If you have any questions on timelines or areas of construction please call Scott Perkins, Economic Development Director, at 848-1010.

VETERANS DAY! - On behalf of the Town Council I want to thank our veterans for their sacrifice and service to our country. The Town will be observing Veterans Day on Wednesday, 11 November 2020.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING! - I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a great fall!

On behalf of the Town of Hermon Town Council and Staff we wish you all a great Fall!
Stay safe everyone!

Hermon JROTC

Article & Photo By Autumn Perley

On August 27th, 2020, Hermon High School began for the 2020-2021 school year, as did their school sports. Due to Covid, there have been a lot of things changed about the sports many students love. Several of the cadets in the school leadership and citizenship program, JROTC, are competitive athletes, and the pandemic has challenged their leadership skills in new and unexpected ways.



Dylan Fowler, a senior on the Cross Country team, said that he found he could “apply [his] leadership skills more effectively because as a leader you need to motivate people, which people definitely need because it’s hard to stay motivated when there are Covid restrictions.” He added, “The fact that no spectators are allowed makes it hard as well because it’s up to the team alone to cheer on [their] teammates.”

Another athlete and cadet (in his fourth and final year in the program), Devin Smith, also said, “We don’t let it get us down, we still feel great for even having a sports team this year... I’m full of joy that we have what other schools sadly couldn’t have; just grateful for the opportunity.” So even though there have been many changes in the teams’ dynamics due to mask-wearing rules and social distancing, the school athletes, with the JROTC members leading them, have accepted the challenge head-on.

From the Town Clerk’s Office

Article by Kristen Cushman

November 26 & 27 - Town Office Closed – Thanksgiving and day after Thanksgiving

December 24, 2020- Closed at Noon

December 25, 2020 - Closed for Christmas Day

December 31, 2020 - 2021 Dog registration due date

January 1, 2021 - Closed for New Year’s Day

February 2, 2021 - \$25.00 per dog late fee starts today.

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:

1. 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.
2. Check your vehicle's antifreeze. Make sure the level is appropriate and it is conducive to sub-zero freezing temperatures.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 charger, 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.
7. 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!

REMINDER: MDOT road construction is scheduled to start this fall at the four-way intersection of Route 2, Klatte Rd and Annis Rd. Commuter traffic on Route 2 is very heavy in the mornings and early evenings. Please be patient with traffic issues as the construction, heavy commuter traffic and school traffic will be busy during these times. Please keep in mind that traffic may be delayed (especially in the mornings) and you may have to adjust your schedule to arrive at your destination in a timely manner.

PLEASE BE PATIENT.

Thanksgiving Dinner

This year Lynde Lodge will again provide a free Thanksgiving Dinner. Due to the pandemic, the dinner will be curbside pickup from 11-2.

If you would like a meal, please call 207-659-2486 and leave your name and how many meals you would like.

**Thank you and
Happy Thanksgiving**



**Thank you to everyone
who visited Ecotat during 2020.**

During this season of giving,
please consider a tax-deductible donation to
Ecotat Gardens and Trails.
Your gift will help us preserve and expand
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Thank you.

Happy Holidays!

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Ecotat Trust, 333 Billings Rd., Hermon, ME 04402-6233

Credit Card donations may be submitted online at gofundme.com
Just search for Ecotat



Welcome Back !

**Annette Merrithew has agreed to the position
of Code Enforcement Officer once again!**

**Her office hours will be Monday and
Tuesday 8-4 and Thursday 8-12.**

**Her work experience, background and
knowledge are an asset to the town.**

Transfer Station Update



November 21 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.

Marita's School of Dance - Est. 1968

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CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

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

Community News

By: Scott Perkins- DECD Director

Food Pantry moves to new location at Danforth's Plaza...



The USDA estimates that more than 11 million children in the United States lived in food insecure households in 2018. Food insecurity is defined as limited or uncertain access to food. Food insecurity is a household-level economic and social condition of limited access to adequate food. It is distinct from hunger, an individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has increased. By the end of April 2020, **more than one in five households** in the United States, and two in five households with mothers with children 12 and under, were food insecure.

With 30 million children in the U.S. dependent on school for one or more of their meals each week, extended school closures and loss of family income mean food insecurity rates will continue to rise. Fortunately for students living in our sending districts, the schools have worked hard during the pandemic to alleviate this issue by delivering lunches to homes during this period of uncertainty.

Local food pantry efforts like *Neighbors Supporting Neighbors* make a real difference to those in need. After establishing nonprofit status in May of 2008, a dedicated group of volunteers began serving perishable and non-perishable food products, pet supplies and clothing at a Northern Maine Junction location. From there, they operated at Hermon Snowmobile Club until landing in a new location at Danforth's Plaza. A grand opening is scheduled for November 5, 2020. With help from *Ellis Property Management* at the Plaza, *Neighbors Supporting Neighbors* will continue to serve the residents of Hermon, Carmel, Levant, Etna, Dixmont and Hampden.

Programs currently include Thanksgiving boxes with the traditional fare along with a Christmas effort for children under 18 and Seniors over the age of 65.

"Moving from the smaller space at Danforth's Plaza where we lived for 5 years to the new larger space in the same mall will allow us an opportunity to provide clothing and pet supplies in addition to our regular food effort...it's an exciting time for our program!" says Carol Lackedy. Carol has organized the effort with base volunteers and community support since the pantry's start.

Do you have items that you want to donate or ideas on how to improve their effort? Contact Carol Lackedy at the information shown below. Assistance during this period is especially appreciated!



Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Food Pantry
2402 Route 2 Hermon, Maine 04401

Email: clackedy@yahoo.com

Phone: (207) 299-5186

<https://www.facebook.com/Neighbors-Supporting-Neighbors>

Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

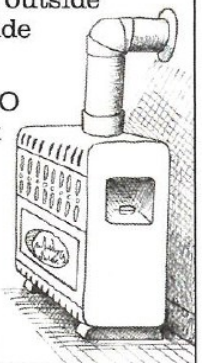
- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



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Article Submitted by Frank Roma

Greetings from Ecotat

Article & Photos by Julie Clark



Thank you to the Hermon Middle School Builder's Club who recently constructed a Little Free Library located near the kiosk at the 25 Annis Road entrance to Ecotat. The students did a great job with this project. Promoting reading and providing access to books is a valuable resource for the community.

Thank you to everyone who visited Ecotat Gardens and Trails in 2020. We've welcomed first-time visitors as well as returning visitors, we've enjoyed seeing photographers using Ecotat as a beautiful backdrop for their photo sessions, and we've seen visitors gather at Ecotat where it's easy to practice social distancing and enjoy walking the nature trails.

A small group of dedicated volunteers along with the board of trustees work to maintain this natural resource for visitors to enjoy with no admission fee.

We understand that 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone but we hope that during this season of giving, you'll consider a gift to Ecotat to help us continue our mission to preserve and expand the gardens and trails. Ecotat Trust is a 501(c)3 organization and appreciates continued support by donors and volunteers.

We welcome volunteers to join our Ecotat Plant Group and Ecotat Trails Team. Please contact us to learn how easy it is to be part of this fun team and make a difference for your community. We hope you'll join us in 2021!

Please visit Ecotat – no admission fee – and visit the Little Free Library – take a book/leave a book at any time, no fees.

Happy holidays from our garden to yours!

Ecotat Trust, 333 Billings Rd., Hermon, ME 04401-0412

Find us on Facebook www.ecotat.org ecotatgardensarboretum@gmail.com



Tax Assessing Department

Article by Josh Berry

Tax Commitment

The Assessing Department executed its annual tax commitment October 7th 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

Quarterly Reviews

The Assessing Department is committed to keeping its real estate information as up to date and accurate as possible. In order to do so, we will be conducting field reviews on 25% of the town, each summer/fall, to verify that our assessing information is still accurate and up to date. This will not require anything from home or business owners and we appreciate your cooperation in keeping accurate information.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Assessing department please give Josh Berry a call at 848-1044 or email him at Josh.Berry@Hermon.Net



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GOOD NEWS CLUB

Article & photo by Sharon Nickerson

In spite of the COVID-19, Good News Club is open for all home schoolers and students of the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School. This year the students will be released from school at 3:15. We will do a temperature check, board the Hermon Baptist Church GREEN bus and go to the church for club. We will conclude at 5 o'clock at which time the parents may pick up their children. Good News Club consists of games, snacks, memorizing Scripture, Bible stories that will build character, missionary stories, singing and contests. We will conform to COVID-19 restrictions and guide lines. We started on the 13th and 14th of October, but students are invited to begin this week. When school is in session, every Tuesday and Wednesday will be club day for the children who are in school that day. Permissions slips may be picked up at C & K Variety or the Hermon Town Office. Children will not be released to our care without a signed slip. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Sharon Pedersen at 385-6035.

For those students who attended last year and earned GNC dollars, we will have the store for them on the 17th and 18th of November.



Middle School students are also invited. If they are allowed to walk to the end of the sidewalk across from C & K, a Good News Club teacher will be there to walk them across the busy highway. We have a lesson for them at 2:30 and when the Elementary Students arrive, we will have the Middle School students join them for snacks and games, etc. They will be free to leave around 4:30 or stay and become involved with helping the younger children.

Come and see if you would like to be part of Good News Club.

Get Ready for Winter!

Article Submitted on Behalf of Public Works



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.

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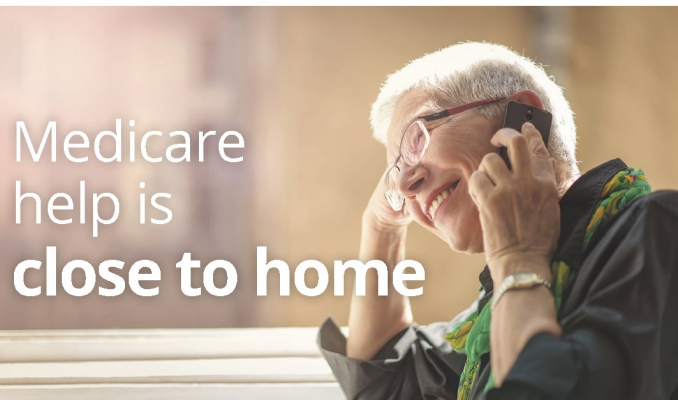
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Postal Customer

Holiday Mittens

Article By Jenny Perry



Looking for a way to help a child this holiday season? Have a group looking for a great community project to support? Help us....The Patricia A. Duran School staff and PTA will collaborate, again this year, to help support elementary families in need, during the holiday season. We will be collecting gift donations and providing them to children in need. We welcome your donations.

We will have a mitten board outside the Elementary school "Welcome" canopy from the hours of 7am-9am and 3pm-6pm Monday through Friday, from November 2nd to November 30th.

You can stop and grab a mitten with a child's gift wishes on it. Purchase the gift and drop the gift with the mitten attached in the school lobby. The mitten is coded to the child and will be delivered to the child's family. Mittens can also be found on the elementary PTA Facebook page.

Gifts are not to be wrapped. We provide the families with wrapping materials to wrap the presents. Gift Cards and monetary donations can also be made if that is easier for you. Mrs. Perry will make the mitten selection and gift purchase for you. Please send or drop off gift cards or monetary donations to Mrs. Perry at the elementary school office clearly labeled for "Helping Hands".

Thank you for helping us make this a special holiday season for all of our kids!