

The Hermon Connection

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RECYCLING CHANGES- Currently the Town is recycling cardboard only. I know this is not popular, however with individuals placing televisions, propane tanks, horse saddles, lawn furniture, kitchen knives, soiled diapers, household trash, food waste, filled oil containers, animal carcasses, couches, recliners and many other non-recycling items into clearly marked recycling dumpsters, we were forced to make this unfortunate move. Since the dumpsters have been removed we have actually experienced material that was accepted as recycling versus being spoiled and eventually incinerated. What are we going to do in the immediate future for this service? Security cameras have been installed and we can clearly read license plates to enforce recycling. In addition we are working with Casella on bringing back additional dumpsters for certain types of recycling material so co-mingling of recycling will be eliminated. I anticipate this to happen in the next few months. It is too bad a few people, including non-residents, abused this service and created an inconvenience for you. All I ask, if you are going to use a Town of Hermon Service, can you please have the courtesy to remove your name from your trash that you decided to put in our recycling bins. I greatly appreciate the comments from residents who are rightfully upset over this. While I take no pleasure in reducing a service it has made our recycling efforts better and it will improve over the next few months.

Thank you for your patience.
Howard Kroll, Town Manager



Town of Hermon
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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 18, 2021

From the Town Manager

COVID-19 EFFORTS- The COVID 19 pandemic is by far the worst health crisis most of us have experienced in our lifetimes. Everyone has to do their part in keeping themselves, family, friends and strangers safe. Take the time to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, stay out of crowds and social distance. I know the school department has done a good job with keeping the schools open, it is a struggle. If someone you know needs a mask we would be more than happy to provide you with one. Be safe - stay vigilant and wear a mask.

SNOW REMOVAL- As you know, with winter, snow and ice is part of the season. To keep the roads safe Gardner Construction is under contract to remove snow and ice. As you know or might not know the Town of Hermon has a mailbox policy that states the Town is not responsible for damage to your mailbox. A mailbox is in the municipal right of way and it is required to be installed to USPS standards - which is 40 inches above the ground.

BILLINGS ROAD- Phase I of the Billings Road was completed during the summer of 2020. Gardner Construction, through a competitive bid process, was the low bid and deemed the most qualified firm. The project consisted of repaving, shoulder work, ditching and vegetation removal from Union Street (Maine State Route 222) to the Fuller Road intersection. MDOT was extremely happy with the end product as is the Town. THANK YOU.

Phase II of Billings Road is scheduled for the summer of 2021. The project will be from the Fuller Road intersection to Route 2. The project will be mostly paving with little ditching and culvert replacing. I expect the project will be bid out in mid March and completed by the end of August- just in time for school to open in September 2021. If anything changes we will notify the public in the next edition of the Connection.

BLACK STREAM ROAD- Phase I of the Black Stream Road project was completed during the summer of 2020. Hopkins Paving did a superior job in reclaiming one of the worst sections of local roads in Hermon. Driveway culverts, ditching and vegetation removal were part of the scope as well as pavement placement.

Phase II of the Black Stream Road project is hopefully going to occur in the summer of 2021. This will include further replacement of driveway culverts, ditching and tree removal to improve site distance issues along the road. I will keep you posted on this project's status in the next version of the connection.

Economic & Community Development – January 2021

Scott Perkins– DECD Director

The DECD office is responsible for a majority of infrastructure improvements and planning for commercial and industrial sections of the Hermon community. During FY 2020, we managed the projects to widen Route 2 at Hammond Street, the Bangor Area Compact Signal Upgrade at “Dysart's” intersection, sewer lift station flow meter and pump upgrades, Route 2 & Annis Road Safety Improvement project, Billings Road Municipal Partnership Initiative and natural gas extensions for Odlin road, Coldbrook Park and Logistics Lane. These projects are partially funded with grants and tax increment financing accounts in order to keep Hermon's mill rate low for residential and business tax payers. A favorable mill rate remains one of Hermon's most competitive advantages regionally when businesses and potential new homeowners consider where to make their investments. Currently, there are six major commercial projects underway with new residential developments under construction simultaneously.

The development side of our office will suggest capital planning for FY 2021 regarding identified safety issues and highway upgrades for Federal, State Aid and local roadways. A safer crossing option at Hermon Middle School for students and pedestrians is being planned along with local paving rehabilitation and drainage projects at Billings Road, Blackstream and New Boston roads. Many other overlay projects have been suggested along with a future MDOT Partnership Initiative to improve safety at the Vafiades Avenue and Route 2 intersection at outer Hammond Street.

Please call our office for more information regarding any development project related to economic or community development!



Hermon Economic & Community Development
333 Billings Road, Hermon, Maine 04401
Phone: 207-848-1010 ; Mobile: 207-852-2403
Email: SPerkins@Hermon.net

Website: <https://www.hermon.net/economic-development/>

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Hermon community creates drive-by parade for army veteran

*Article & Photos By: Jodi Hersey
Article originally printed in the November 19 Penobscot Times*

It's not every day you get a parade in your honor, but a few days before Veteran's Day, residents in Hermon organized one to roll past the home of Veteran Norman Michaud. The 65-year-old who served in the army is in the final stages of ALS (or Lou Gehrig's disease,) a neurodegenerative disease that weakens muscles and impacts physical function.

"We'd arranged for him to come outside in his wheelchair by telling him we booked a photographer for family pictures outside due to COVID," explained Melissa Charette, Michaud's daughter-in-law and parade organizer. Michaud could hear a commotion on his street, Mountainview Drive, and once outdoors he was greeted by fire trucks, ambulances, officers from the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office, motorcyclists, Hermon High School's Army JROTC as well as friends and neighbors all honking, waving and thanking him for his service.

"I was dumbfounded," Michaud said as he wiped away tears. "I saw all this traffic and thought, 'What is going on? I thought we were doing family pictures.' "

Michaud joined the U.S. Army after he completed high school in St. Agatha and served 24 years. After that, he worked an additional 22 years as a federal government employee.

"He deserves this. He deserves it all," his wife Wanda said, as she watched the parade drive by.

And the community agreed. Neighbors decorated their lawns with homemade signs, banners, and small American flags, showing their love and support for Michaud. They also made baked goods, handmade cards and delivered balloons and small gifts of thanks to him and his family.

"I'm with the Maine Troop Greeters. This is a Troop Greeters coin. Thank you for your service," one parade-goer said as he placed the memento in Michaud's hand. "Thank you," Michaud replied before he began to tear up again.

"I got to tell you, watching these parades makes me emotional," said neighbor Diane Paine. "We feel so honored that we were invited to sit out here and cheer him on. Norman is a great guy and what he's going through is heartbreaking."

Because Michaud's family doesn't know how many more holidays they'll have to spend together, they felt compelled to put together a parade celebrating their very own veteran this Veteran's Day.

"He's a very sentimental guy and his love of country is huge," Charette explained. "What a blessing to honor him while we still have him and for him to know how much he's loved."



Veteran Norman Michaud and his family gather for a family photo outside his Hermon home where the community held a small Veteran's Day parade just for him on Nov. 7.

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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 \$25,000 on your 2020 tax bill, do not need to reapply.

New Hermon residential property owners or residents who have relocated within Hermon: You will need to apply for the homestead exemption. Go to the website listed below to find an application and see if you qualify.

www.hermon.net/assessing

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, 2021; served during a recognized war time period and is not already receiving the exemption, may pick up an application at the town office or find it on our website:

www.hermon.net/assessing

From the Clerks Office

DOGS: 2021 dog tags are available. Please license your dog before January 31. The State of Maine demands a \$25.00 late fee for any dog licensed after 1/31/2021. If your dog was licensed in 2020 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 to license please let us know here at the Town Office at 848-1010.

ELECTIONS: Elections will be here before you know it. On June 8, 2021 we and the School Board has two seats that will all expire June 30, 2021. 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 March 1, 2021. Candidates are required to obtain 25 supporting signatures. Those signatures are due back by 5:00pm on April 9, 2021.

Respectfully,
Kristen Cushman
Town Clerk

Renée Bacon
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**We look forward to seeing you
at Ecotat in 2021!**

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