

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 28 Issue 2 • March, 2021



It started with a picture of the Leathers Corner School donated to the Hermon High School Library Media Center by Dolly Hackett, long term Hermon Resident. Dolly is an Overlock and a Pomeroy; two families that have lived in Hermon since the 1800s. I received framed pictures of children at a schoolhouse dressed in “Little House on the Prairie” or Laura Ingalls Wilder style clothes. Because I did not know where or when the photos were taken, I contacted Dolly Hackett, and my historical journey began.

Dolly and I met and she informed me of the history of her Family, both the Overlocks and the Pomeroy’s journey to Hermon. I learned that the Pomeroy’s of Normandy, France

were connected to William the Conqueror. Ralph de la Pomereau was a knight for William. He was the chief of staff for the Battle of Hastings. The Overlock history was equally fascinating, and she informed that their name was originally Oberlach, when the Overlocks were still in Germany. They were Lutheran and came to America to practice their faith more freely. Dolly is cousin’s with Hermon High School’s Ricky Overlock. They share great Aunts and Uncles. Jacob Overlock settled in Hermon Maine in 1835. Most of the historical Overlocks can be found at the Snow’s Corner Cemetery in Hermon, and at the Hermon Pond Cemetery.

According to the family history books schools started in Hermon just two years after it was incorporated as a town in 1814. Three school houses were built in Hermon in 1816. By 1832 there were 7 schools and 328 students. Hermon High School now boasts over 500 students. The town has grown!

Dolly also included a list of all the families in Hermon who can trace their heritage to the Pomeroy/Overlock family. Dolly believes her family, the Overlocks and the Pomeroy’s, helped build the town of Hermon that it is today. Many of their descendants are Hermon residents to this day. The Hermon High School Library Media Center plans to upload photos to our website. It is our hope that looking at these historical pictures will inspire the next generation of Hermon to visit the past. The library also has the framed photos of the Leathers Corner School from 1894 when the grandchildren of the first Overlocks and Pomeroy’s to settle in Hermon were in attendance.

Dolly’s mother Helen Snow Hasey, an Overlock and a Pomeroy and Marvin Overlock, her cousin and a teacher at Hermon High school, collected pictures and texts for years. Dolly has saved them and committed the history to memory. Some notable Overlocks and Pomeroy’s are William Overlock, born 1918 married to Olive Pomeroy (Ricky Overlock’s grandparents). William also known as Willie was a decorated World War II Veteran. Jacob Overlock served in the War of 1812 as a private in Thatcher’s Third Regiment. One of Jacob’s sons, Christopher Overlock, died in the Civil War. And Dolly’s mother, Helen Snow Hasey, put all this information together for her children to remember, and now future generations can learn about their history in Hermon thanks to Helen, Marvin, and Dolly.

Children pictured are: Dorothy Pomeroy Overlock, Lucy May Overlock Nowell, Susie Cole (teacher), Alton Nowell, Clara Overlock, Nelson?, Gladys?, Willie?, Blanche?, Howard Bowers, Linnis Overlock, Maude Braley, Leo Wombolt, Clara Veazie, Willie Wombolt, Hazel Goodspeed, Norman Overlock, Harold Tibbetts, Harold Sawyer, 2 unknown

Submitted By: Kara Schwartz, Library Media Specialist

Town of Hermon
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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 23, 2021



From the Town Manager

COVID CLINICS Northern Light Health and the Maine CDC are urging eligible Mainers to fill open appointment slots for the COVID-19 vaccine at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor. Maine CDC Director Dr. Nirav Shah made the announcement Thursday during a coronavirus briefing. He said that when

Northern Light Health staff reviewed their scheduled appointments, they found many openings. You do not have to be a Northern Light Health patient to get a vaccine at the Cross Insurance Center.

The appointments are only for people eligible under the state's phased approach: currently, that includes Mainers age 60 and older, and those in Phase 1A.

Northern Light said they also have appointments at clinics in Palmyra, Presque Isle, and "a limited number" of appointments in Blue Hill.

You can call 207-204-8551, or visit covid.northernlighthealth.org.

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.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FY2022

Hermon Town Council has approved a Capital Improvement Plan for Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, 10 June 2021. Included in the plan include:

Repairing Billings Road from Fuller Road to Route 2. This is a joint project with MDOT that is sharing the cost equally. The project will be primarily paving with some groundwork.

Repairing a section of Black Stream Road from bridge to Route 2. This section of road needs attention in drainage, ditching, shoulder repair and paving. This is going to be a phased project over a few years due to the road being local and the cost is the responsibility of only the Town. Here are just a few of the projects we plan on for the summer of 2021:

Repave and repair Hermon High School parking lot- School Department will repave and repair the Hermon High School parking lot including the entrance, drainage and resetting the storm water basins.

Purchase an SCBA Decon Washer for the Fire Department – Fire Department is interested in purchasing an SCBA decon washer system for personnel's SCBA equipment. This is a long overdue purchase that will complete the washing and cleaning of SCBA equipment.

Purchase a new Fire Truck to replace engine 401 - This request is for the replacement of Engine 401. 401 is a 1995 Freightliner commercial engine manufactured by Metalfab out of Canada. The unit was purchased used in 1996. Maintenance and operating costs on this unit are climbing and the truck is a major system or frame failure from going out of service. Most recently a major pump overhaul was conducted at a cost of \$23,000.00. Annual maintenance costs are at approximately \$8,000.00 per year.

The HME engine being requested would come with a 36-month general bumper to bumper comprehensive warranty, a 10 year structural warranty and a 20 frame warranty. Maintenance costs on this new engine should be nearly 0 out of pocket for at least three years.

The Town has done a great job saving money toward the replacement purchase over the past decade so that the purchase is going to require no debt. Total cost of the truck if agreed to is \$585,000. Truck will be delivered in summer of 2022.

ROAD POSTINGS

Each town road has been posted for weight limits- we strictly enforce the law on these since the roads are important to our resident's safety and travel. While we understand heavy trucks need to get to various locations passing over Town of Hermon roads above 32 degrees is not allowed. Please obey the law- everyone pays for these roads!

FY2020 AUDIT RESULTS- The Town of Hermon, including the School Department, recently had its financial statements audited by RKO (Runyon, Kersteen and Ouellette, Certified Public Accountants). During the audit RKO reviewed all of our financial transactions and policies and determined the Town is in extremely good financial condition due to excellent procedures and oversight from our Finance Department led by Michael Chamings, Finance Director and Wendy Wiles-Scott, Bookkeeper. I want to personally thank them for their attention to detail and job well done!

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION- If you haven't received your homestead exemption for your home please contact Josh Berry, Assessor, for the application and any questions you might have regarding eligibility. Josh can be reached at 848-1042.

I wish all of you a great spring, if you can get a COVID-19 vaccine please strongly consider getting one for not just your health but your family and friends as well, wear your masks in public spaces and most of all keep your spirits up as we strive to get back to some sort of normalcy and regular life.

Take care of yourself and be safe!



BEWARE: IRS Scam!

Article By SSgt. Bobbie Pelletier

It is that time of year again when everyone is busy filing their 2020 taxes. With this we begin to see an increase in telephone scams. Last year we received reports of scammers who were impersonating the IRS. They were targeting seniors around the Town of Hermon, along with other neighboring towns. Callers would claim to be from the IRS, telling intended victims they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. The scammers threaten those who refuse to pay with arrest, loss of a business or loss of a driver's license.

The callers who commit these IRS scam's often:

- Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
- They know the last four digits of the victim's Social Security number.
- They make your caller ID appear as if the IRS is calling.
- They send bogus IRS emails to support their scams.
- They sometimes call a second time claiming to be the police or DMV. They spoof your caller ID with a local LE agency phone number to help support their claim.

The truth is the IRS usually first contacts people by mail about unpaid taxes and **NOT** by phone. The IRS won't ask for payment using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfers. The agency also won't ask for a credit card number over the phone.

If you receive a suspicious call like this and don't feel comfortable, **PLEASE** make contact with the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office (945-4636). We are more than happy to answer any of your questions and we do not want anyone, including our seniors to be defrauded. Please do not become a victim of these scams no matter what they tell you!



HOMEOWNERS: DO YOU QUALIFY FOR A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION?

Article By Josh Berry

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, or is 100% disabled, may pick up an application at the town office or find it on our website:

www.hermon.net/assessing

All applications must be returned to the Assessing office **by April 1, 2021**



Reminder:

As set by the Town Council,
all tax payments will be due
in full by April 1, 2021

Interest will start accruing on
April 2, 2021 at a rate of 8% annually on
any unpaid taxes.

If you have any questions,
please contact
Michael Chamings, Tax Collector

Or Courtney Brown,
Deputy Tax Collector
at 848-1010



Did you know?

Pollinators are critical to our ecosystem
including the production of fruits, vegetables
and flowering plants. Please consider
supporting pollinators by using native plants in
your gardening and landscaping projects.

Welcome Spring! Volunteer opportunities at
Ecotat will begin when spring weather
conditions permit.

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

Contact us: ecotatgardensarboretum@gmail.com

Parking at 25 Annis Road, Hermon

Mail: 333 Billings Rd, Hermon, ME 04401

www.ecotat.org



Hermon Community CLEAN UP DAY



Organized By: **Hermon Troop 25 Boy Scouts**

Sponsored by: **Lynde Lodge & Town of Hermon**

April 24 8:00 AM

Meeting at
Mason's Lynde Lodge # 174,
2500 Route 2, Hermon



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PRIDE!

REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE
PROVIDED BY THE
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LYNDE LODGE
#174



For More
Information,
Please Contact:
Joe Davis
jtmmdavis@msn.com

ELECTIONS

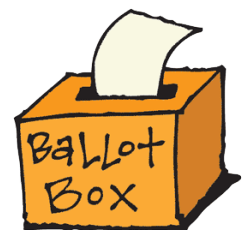
Elections will be here before you know it.

On June 8, 2021 we have a Municipal Election. The Town Council has two seats 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 4:00pm on April 1, 2021.

On November 2, 2021 we have a potential Referendum Election for the State of Maine.

Sincerely, Kristen Cushman,
Town Clerk



History of the Boston Post Cane

Article & Photos By: Kristen Cushman

On August 2, 1909, Mr. Edwin A. Grozier, Publisher of the Boston Post, a newspaper, forwarded to the Board of Selectmen in 700 towns (no cities included) in New England a gold-headed ebony cane with the request that it be presented with the compliments of the Boston Post to the oldest male citizen of the town, to be used by him as long as he lives (or moves from the town), and at his death handed down to the next oldest citizen of the town. The cane would belong to the town and not the man who received it.*

The canes were all made by J.F. Fradley and Co., a New York manufacturer, from ebony shipped in seven-foot lengths from the Congo in Africa. They were cut to cane lengths, seasoned for six months, turned on lathes to the right thickness, coated and polished. They had a 14-carat gold head two inches long, decorated by hand, and a ferruled tip. The head was engraved with the inscription, — Presented by the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of (name of town) — “To Be Transmitted”. The Board of Selectmen were to be the trustees of the cane and keep it always in the hands of the oldest citizen. Apparently no Connecticut or Vermont towns were included (at one point it was thought that two towns in Vermont had canes, but this turned out to be a bit of a myth).

In 1924, Mr. Grozier died, and the Boston Post was taken over by his son, Richard, who failed to continue his father’s success and eventually died in a mental hospital. At one time the Boston Post was considered the nation’s leading standard-sized newspaper in circulation. Competition from other newspapers, radio and television contributed to the Post’s decline and it went out of business in 1957.

The custom of the Boston Post Cane took hold in those towns lucky enough to have canes. As years went by some of the canes were lost, stolen, taken out of town and not returned to the Selectmen or destroyed by accident.

In 1930, after considerable controversy, eligibility for the cane was opened to women as well.

On the evening of December 17, 2020 Ms. Winnotta Reynolds was asked by her family to take a ride and look at the Christmas lights. On the way back home Ms. Reynolds daughter, Sharon, stated the town office needed speak to Ms. Reynolds regarding her taxes. Ms. Reynolds said Sharon could handle this and she would come in if needed. As Ms. Reynolds came into the Council meeting and had a seat with her family, Manager Kroll went on to talk about the Boston Post Cane and the meaning. Manager Kroll stated we have a VIP among us this evening...Ms. Winnotta Reynolds. She was born on May 20, 1924 making her 96.75 years. It was a pleasure to present Ms. Winnotta Reynolds the Boston Post Cane and a certificate in her honor. Her name will be displayed on the plaque in the Town Office for all residents to view and admire.



Introducing a new Hermon business...



What do you get when two businesses join forces to offer quality food and exceptional service? *Hero's Take-Out & Dairy Bar!*

Scott Cray established "*The Maine Scoop*" in 2019 at Danforth's Plaza offering the community ice cream products along with delicious food items. The menu included lobster rolls and other traditional Maine fare through the drive up window for a convenient take-out opportunity...



Fast forward to fall of 2020 and the merger of two successful eateries was taking place at the plaza!

Quinn and Christina Paradis already owned and operated the well known *Hero's Sports Grill* in Bangor when they were approached by the *Maine Scoop* to merge at the Hermon location. They added a large commercial kitchen capable of offering a wide range of popular menu items to accompany the ice cream choices customers had previously enjoyed!

By utilizing the existing drive-through, the experienced restauranteurs have made it incredibly easy for customers to enjoy the most popular Hero's items. Newly added menu options for the Hermon location along with on-line ordering and positive customer experiences have generated great reviews.



"I ordered at 3:30 to pick up at 5:30. I shopped at Danforth's just before time to pick up so it was convenient. Friendly service, food was ready when I drove through and food was delicious. Thank You! We will be back again!"

Testimonials like this are common on social media with a resounding theme that includes "*friendly and thoughtful staff*" providing excellent service!



Call *Hero's Take-Out & Dairy Bar* today and experience quality food items prepared by the best in the business!

Hero's Take-Out & Dairy Bar

2402 Route 2– Danforth's Plaza
Hermon, Maine 04401

To order call: 207-605-0308

herosportshermon@gmail.com

<https://www.herossportsgrill.com/hermon/>

Story by: Scott Perkins, Hermon DECD

Hermon Track Committee Update

By Steve Thomas Committee Chair



Please join us to hear about plans for a new track facility at the special Council workshop meeting at the High School Auditorium March 10th at 7:00 p.m. Attendance will be limited to 50 residents with masks to allow social distancing. Participation will also be available via Google Meets (meet.google.com/hpd-ybkh-emo) and this information will be posted on the Town website and Facebook page.

The Hermon Track Committee is excited to present a plan to build an 8-lane rubber surface track facility and improve the playing conditions of Pottle Field at the high school complex. The track committee, consisting of school committee members, town councilors, residents, and ex-officio members, have invested considerable time and work over the past 18 months measuring community support for the project, evaluating placement options, and working with an engineering firm to cost effectively convert our ideas into building plans designed to meet Hermon's burgeoning athletic program. Committee members will present the background information that led up to our recommendation and answer your questions at the March 10th meeting.

Pottle Field has hosted spectacular clashes in soccer and football and has been a family gathering site for a generation of Hermon athletes. The Track Committee felt it was important to continue this legacy and worked to keep Pottle Field at the heart of this expanded complex. The proposed track complex will be constructed west of Pottle Field behind the tennis courts and designed to host regional and state conference meets. Considerable engineering was required to fit the track within property boundaries and include space for throwing events, spectator viewing, and equipment storage. The design will also provide capacity to expand the Booster Club's concession stand for all student events. Pottle Field will be rebuilt, starting with ledge removal. A new base will be installed and finished with commercial quality sod to provide an exceptional natural playing surface. With voter approval in June, the track complex and Pottle Field will be completed prior to the fall 2022 season.

We look forward to presenting the plan and answering your questions March 10th!

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Hermon's Economic and Community Development office...*what does it do?*

Article By Scott Perkins

The Economic and Community Development office in Hermon is charged with providing business assistance, incentive creation, marketing, infrastructure improvements and public property management at commercial and industrial areas. The director maintains relationships and develops agreements with area real estate professionals, legal firms, finance leaders, engineering firms, Maine Department of Transportation, Maine DEP, State of Maine DECD, Penobscot County Commissioners and the U.S. Economic Development Administration in order to utilize resources and information helpful to our goal of providing quality customer service for our business clients and the residents who live in Hermon.

Hermon DECD also manages all connectivity and infrastructure project development for businesses and municipal needs with CMP, Emera Maine, Bangor Natural Gas, Bangor Wastewater and Bangor Water District. When planning efforts regionally and locally identify projects to address growth, Hermon DECD leads by initiating engineering and design upgrades for targeted improvements while simultaneously completing regular maintenance routines for public utilities in our industrial, commercial and village commercial districts.

When the operations of Hermon DECD work best, it is collaborative with the manager, staff and Council in order to set standards for relationship building locally and regionally. Hermon residents also play a critical role in our form of government at the annual and special meetings by considering our investment strategies. Historically, community support and involvement with long term goal development has helped to maintain Hermon's superior competitive advantage regionally.

We can continue providing attractive opportunities for businesses and families in the future! The Town remains a State wide leader concerning the delivery of quality municipal and business assistance. With responsive administrative leaders, quality educational opportunities and business attraction methods that rival larger communities...Hermon is a complete package for any business owner looking for excellence in municipal services and steady positive growth for its bottom line!



Hermon continues to be a great place to live and own a business! Want to learn more?
Call our office at 848-1010 or email SPerkins@Hermon.net.



Economic and Community Development

333 Billings Road
Hermon, Maine 04401
207-848-1010 (office)
207-852-2403 (cell)

www.hermon.net/economic-development/

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Zumba, Adaptive Dance, Wedding Choreography



Postal Customer



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

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station will open in April. Keep checking the website/town office for the actual date.

The hours will be every Saturday from 8:00 to 4:00 and every Wednesday from 12:00 - 7:00 except for holidays.

Don't forget to get your yearly permit at the Town Office.

