

# The Hermon Connection

Vol. 29 Issue 2 • March 2022

## Patricia A. Duran School Students Participate in WinterKids Winter Games

by Melissa Davis

Students from the Patricia A. Duran School participated in the WinterKids Winter Games for four weeks beginning January 17, 2022. Students competed in a series of outdoor physical activity and nutrition challenges designed to help them be active in the winter and learn healthy habits. Each school was encouraged to involve volunteers, parents, healthy eating and active living organizations in their community, and hold a winter carnival to close out the month's events. This year's WinterKids Winter Games theme was the Winter Olympic Games.

This year, 22 schools reaching 3805 children and over 900 teachers and staff, competed. The Patricia A. Duran School was one of the schools in Penobscot County. Schools competing in the WinterKids Winter Games receive a toolkit full of resources and incentives to help students earn points, including the brand new *WinterKids Learn Outside Guide*—an easy to use resource to help kids move, learn, and explore outdoors while meeting education standards.

The highlight of our WinterKids Winter Games experience was the family event night. Teachers and administrators collaborated on a “Learn to Snowshoe” event where all families were invited to participate. We were excited by the great turn out and the opportunity to engage with our families. We look forward to planning more outdoor family events and to participating in the WinterKids Winter Games in the future.



Town of Hermon  
Howard Kroll *Town Manager*  
333 Billings Rd, Hermon, ME 04401  
Tel: 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316  
krollh@hermonmaine.gov  
www.hermonmaine.gov

If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of *The Hermon Connection*, please send it to: [scottwl@hermonmaine.gov](mailto:scottwl@hermonmaine.gov)  
Deadline for submissions: April 21, 2022

## **From the Town Manager**

I have worked in a few Maine towns and cities most with well-respected law enforcement departments whose staff were dedicated, honorable, and loyal. All excellent in their performance and commitment to protect and serve the public to the best to their abilities. I am proud of our law enforcement officers.

Their job isn't easy. Often it is thankless. Yet most return the next day motivated to make their community a better, safer place.

Law enforcement officers possess the potential to make a tremendous impact or influence on the community, citizens, our children, business owners, educators, fellow officers, and sometimes yourself with simple communication and interaction. This is an extremely valuable tool they can chose to use at any given moment or situation. It comes with incredible responsibility.

Law enforcement officers understand their badge indicates the officer has knowledge of the law and ability to enforce the law equally, regardless of race, religion, or gender.

The badge also indicates the officer is trustworthy, honest, has great integrity, and most importantly they are willing to protect and serve even at the expense of their own well-being or ultimately their life.

When I think of all those characteristics and attributes one officer comes to mind.

### **Staff Sergeant Bobbie Pelletier of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department**

Staff Sgt. Pelletier and I started working together in September of 2016.

He quickly impressed me with his ability to defuse confrontational situations, listen and communicate with citizens fearing for their safety and well-being, showed compassion for those individuals less fortunate than many of us, and most of all his genuine care and love for those he served and protected.

He understood what community policing was all about.

I am grateful for his service to the Town of Hermon, Penobscot County, and the State of Maine.

Staff Sgt. Pelletier was unfortunately involved in an accident on February 20th that claimed his life.

Bobbie was a great police officer.

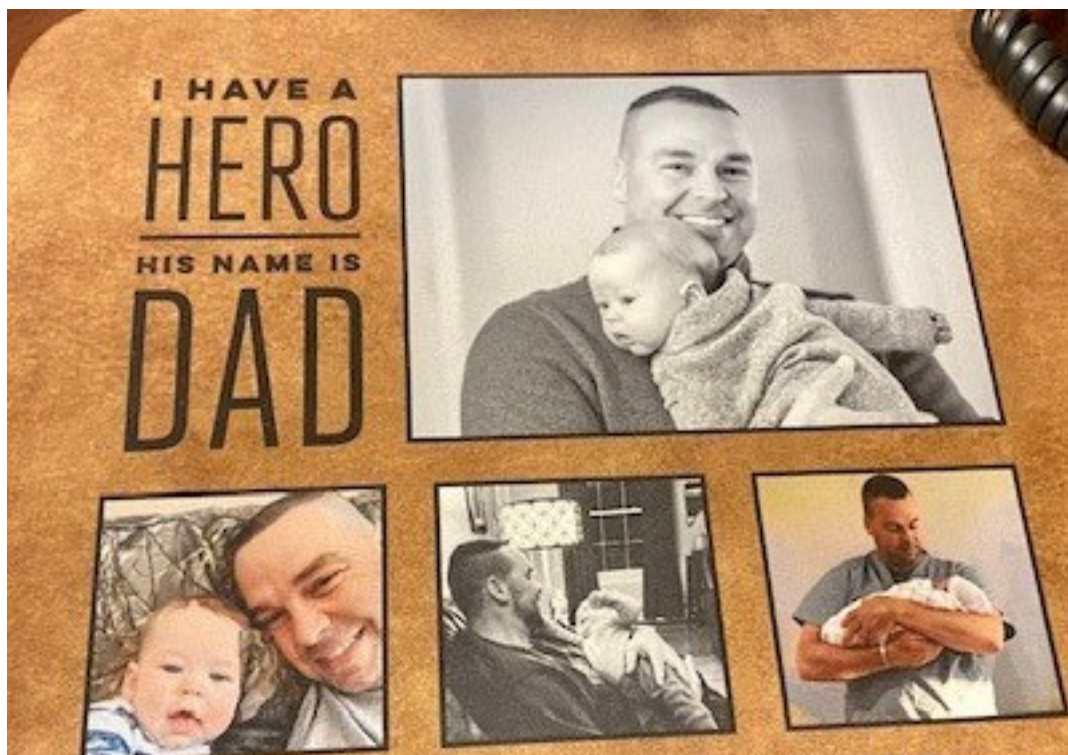
He was an even better father, husband, son, brother, uncle, cousin, veteran, advocate, friend, and human. His family was his life.

He found his soulmate and eventual wife Jessica and together they were blessed with a son, Bryce. Bobbi found true happiness.

We have all been spoiled over the last 5 ½ years seeing a sheriff cruiser making its way up Billings Road, Fuller Road or Route 2 and seeing the smile and getting the wave.

I miss the wave, smile, and Bobbie greatly. We consider him family.

He may be gone but never forgotten. Rest in peace Bobbie.





## From the Town Manager

**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 570-6494 to have him review the damage with you.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FY2023**

Hermon Town Council has approved a Capital Improvement Plan for Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, 16 June 2022. Included in the plan include:

***Repair Hermon Recreation Department baseball and softball fields***

***Repair the High School Roof Phase II***

***Purchase a new Motor Fuel Tank at the Middle School***

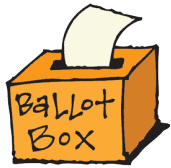
### **ROAD POSTINGS**

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!

**FY2021 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 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 Chammings, Finance Director and Wendy Wiles-Scott, Bookkeeper. I want to personally thank them for their attention to detail and job well done!

**I wish all of you a great spring be safe and take care of each other.**





## Elections

On June 14, 2022, we will have a Municipal Election along with a Primary and Potential Referendum Election for the State of Maine.

The Town Council has three (3) seats, and the School Board has two (2) seats that will all expire June 30, 2022. 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 7, 2022. Candidates are required to obtain 25 valid supporting signatures. Those signatures are due back by 4:00pm on April 5, 2022.

On November 8, 2022, we have a General and Potential Referendum Election for the State of Maine.

*Kristen Cushman  
Town Clerk*

## Assessing Department

### 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 in your 2021 tax bill do not need to reapply. The exemption will stay with you property year to year and the exemption will be increased to \$25,000 for this tax year.

**New Hermon residential property owners or residents who have relocated from a Hermon owned residential property to another in Hermon:** You will need to apply for the Homestead exemption. Go to the website listed below to download an application or pick one up at the Town Office to see if you qualify. The exemption amount for this tax year will be \$25,000.

<https://www.hermonmaine.gov/exemption-forms-information/>

All applications must be emailed to [Assessor@hermonmaine.gov](mailto:Assessor@hermonmaine.gov) or returned to the Assessing office **by April 1, 2022**

*Josh Berry  
Assessor*

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## Mailbox Guidelines

*Article From: Ralph Shaw*

Winter poses many challenges; your mailbox should not be one of them. While plow drivers try to avoid mailboxes sometimes it cannot be avoided especially when a vehicle is coming the other way. The plow truck cannot always move over to go around your box.

Here are some guidelines to help you from the headache of a broken mailbox:

The height of the wing on our plow trucks are 43", therefore the height of the lowest point should be at 45". The front of your mailbox should be 12"- 18" from the edge of the pavement, this still allows for your mail to be delivered, as well for us to clear the roadway, and the shoulder.

These are the two best types of posts to put your mailbox on.

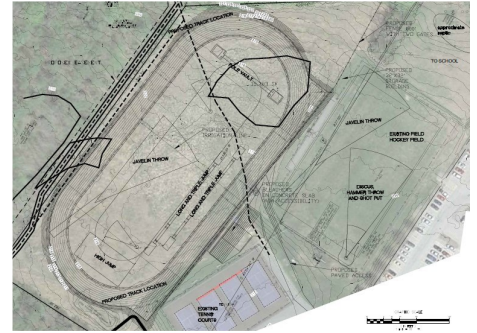


By meeting these measurements this is the best possible way to alleviate the headache of a broken mailbox, as we do our best to go around your mailboxes it is not always possible to go around, when there is traffic coming from the opposite direction, the truck can not go around your box, the edge of the dust pan (front plow) sits on the center line with the end of the wing going off the pavement.



## Community Development Projects – 2022/2024

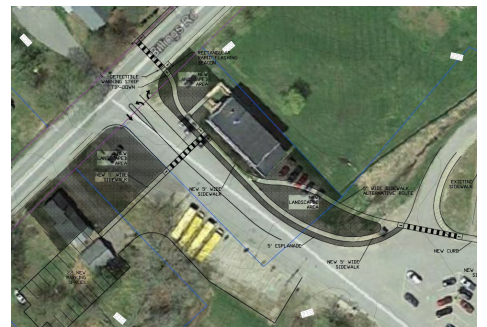
At the June 2021 election, voters approved a ballot question for an eight lane track project as an addition to the Hermon High School athletic complex. Design components include track and field event stations, concession building improvements and grandstand seating. Included in the planning process are improvements for the soccer/football field area with new drainage and installed sod to cure playing surface issues as a finish. A dedicated irrigation system to supply the area with suitable capacity will afford the field surface the water needed for strong grass growth creating safer playing conditions. The project is on schedule and expected to be completed summer 2022.



With the completion of the projects, Hermon joins a growing list of communities in eastern Maine that are adding opportunities for fitness and wellness that connect their students and residents. Athletic renovation projects, recreational trails, school facility upgrades and performance arts venues have been supported recently in Bangor, Brewer, Orono and Hampden. These investments offer long term benefits for communities interested in improving the quality of life for people of all ages. Hermon's track project will directly benefit a growing group of families interested in track and field while simultaneously offering a fitness opportunity for residents who desire a safe environment for walking and running!

*For more information on the Hermon High School Track Project, please contact the committee chair, Steve Thomas or Principal Brian Walsh at Hermon High School*

On February 3, 2021, the Town of Hermon applied successfully for a MaineDOT BikePed grant to facilitate a “safe route to schools” improvement at Hermon Middle School and Billings Road. The *Hermon Middle School Sidewalk Project* connects a major residential subdivision at Schoolhouse Lane with Hermon Middle School and Hermon High School including village commercial businesses, religious and non-profit facilities and a shopping plaza. The primary goal is to solve a safety issue for middle school pedestrians walking to Hermon Middle School for educational purposes or after hours programming. The project improves the Billings Road in part which is a “State Aid” highway (minor collector) providing access to the residential, educational and service businesses listed above. Near “misses” between pedestrians and vehicles have been experienced at this location due to gaps in the sidewalk across parking lots, roadways without crossings/flashing beacons and no connectivity currently to the existing sidewalk which would be cured by the project.



*For more information on the “Safe Route to Schools” grant project, please contact Scott Perkins at the Hermon DECD office or email: [SPerkins@Hermonmaine.gov](mailto:SPerkins@Hermonmaine.gov)*

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## Scams: **Keep These Tips in Mind**

Recently, the Penobscot County Sheriffs Office has been investigating a lot of scam/fraud complaints, especially in Hermon. Below are a few tips that we'd like to share from the Maine Attorney General's Office.

As a general rule, all scams have similar traits. Here are some obvious ones that raise red flags in the Consumer Protection Division that you should keep in mind.

**You are contacted out of the blue.** Anyone who calls, emails, sends you a letter, texts or comes to your dooryard out of the blue may not have your best interest at heart. You don't have to respond right away, make a decision or even answer the door.

**You have to send money up front in order to receive a prize.** You haven't won anything if you have to pay for it.

**You need to send money via wire transfer or a reloadable card.** This is frequently the preferred way for scammers to ask for money. Remember, this is just like sending someone cash - you'll never see it again.

**You are asked for personal or financial information.** Never provide your personal information (DOB, SSN, etc.) or bank account information to someone you don't know. Your bank or credit card company will not call and ask to confirm any account or personal details they already have on file. Anyone asking for this information out of the blue is trying to scam you.

**Don't tell anyone.** Scammers want to keep you under their spell. If you tell family and friends, someone may ask dissuade you from interacting with them. If you're asked to keep it a secret, it is a scam.

**ACT NOW!** If an offer is really good, it can wait for you to sleep on it and get back to them tomorrow. Too many times though, scams have to be acted on today only. We advise you to be slow to say yes and quick to say no.

**You get a real looking check.** If you get a check and are asked to send money back, it's a scam. If you really think you've come upon unexpected good fortune, take your check to the bank and ask them to verify whether it is real.

For more information on the most recent scams, please log onto Maine.Gov at <https://www.maine.gov/ag/consumer/scams.shtml>

**Always listen to your gut. If it sounds too good to be true, it is!**



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## Legislative Update

*2022 Legislative Session Update  
With Rep. Jim Thorne  
House District 103 - Carmel, Etna (part), and Hermon*

### Legislature considering Governor's Supplemental Budget

The Legislature met for only the third time in 2022, to hear Governor Mills deliver her State of the State address. Since then, we have met in session a couple of times, even though most of Maine is getting back to normal. Constituent work has not stopped, but committee work continues to be done remotely.

I hope that we can begin to return to meeting regularly in person. There is a real value in meeting face-to-face because it builds relationships, leads to better cooperation, and less partisanship on issues that we should all agree on. The legislature should operate more like the people we represent, not insulate itself from the world around us.

The Governor has proposed a number of potentially good ideas in her Supplemental Budget. We are carefully reviewing how she proposes to allocate the projected \$822 million increase in revenues. Thankfully, the Maine Constitution requires a balanced budget, so all funds must be accounted for. I will continue to advocate for returning as much tax review to struggling Mainers as possible. It is their money, and it is needed to pay for the unprecedented increases in living costs being borne by all of us.

Government should not grow bigger as family budgets get smaller due to inflation and higher heating, gasoline, electric, food and other items necessary for daily life. Although the Governor has agreed to return \$411 million taken from taxpayers by sending out \$500 checks, I believe there should be a serious discussion about structural tax reform. The revenue imbalance should not be allowed to continue in the future.

I am not optimistic that there will be any tax reform, or a commitment to letting people keep more of their earnings, until we have a Governor and legislature that understand what is happening in communities across Maine. Part of your money will likely be sent to you before November. If that is the case, people need those funds as soon as possible.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your State Representative, and welcome your thoughts, suggestions and advice. If I can be of assistance to you, feel free to contact me at [Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov).

*Sincerely, Rep. Jim Thorne*

### Representative Thorne Announces Local Projects in Maine DOT Work Plan

AUGUSTA – State Representative Jim Thorne (R-Carmel) is pleased to announce that the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) Work Plan for Calendar Years 2022, 2023 and 2024 is available. The estimated value of work in the plan totals more than 2,316 individual work items with a total value of \$3.17 billion. This represents a substantial increase from last year due to anticipated federal funding.

The MDOT Work Plan for House District 103 includes \$755,000 for two projects:

Etna: Highway Safety, Spot Improvements, and Large Culvert Improvements located .73 of a mile east of Etna Road.

Hermon: Pedestrian safety improvements in Hermon, including a sidewalk on the west side of the road extending to Schoolhouse Lane.

“MDOT Work Plan projects will benefit our local communities in many ways,” said Rep. Thorne. “I am pleased to see MDOT projects scheduled for the next three years in our area. They will make our roads safer and benefit local economy.”

The full work plan, searchable by municipality, is available at the Maine Department of Transportation's website: <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/projects/workplan/search/>.

*2022 Legislative Session Update With Rep. Jim Thorne  
House District 103 - Carmel, Etna (part), and Hermon*



## Hermon JROTC

Article By: Cadet Second Lieutenant Hailey Welch

On Tuesday, February 8th, the Hermon High School JROTC Hawk Battalion, a leadership and citizenship course, went to Hermon Mountain to help out with the annual, winter Special Olympics. It had been almost two years since the Special Olympics had been held due to Covid concerns and restrictions. All the cadets enjoyed watching the athletes have fun in the snow and participate in the races. The cadets who attended the Special Olympics helped with the snowshoe race. Cadets also helped put on snowshoes, time the races, and cheer on the participants. The Hermon JROTC program is also planning on helping with this event in future years as well as the spring Special Olympics sometime in May.



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### Reminder:

As set by the Town Council, all tax payments will be  
due in full by April 1, 2022

Interest will start accruing on April 2, 2022 at a rate  
of 6% 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



## Postal Customer



### HERMON MEADOW'S GOLF CLUB

#### GET READY FOR THE 2022 MEN'S SENIOR GOLF LEAGUE

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CALL THE PRO SHOP (207-848-3741) FOR THE EXACT STARTING DAY AND TIME. Last year play began the first week in April at around 9:00 am.

The LEAGUE welcomes players of all skill levels to participate in the "BALL DROP" every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning once the course is playable. In mid summer Thursday golf will be a club sponsored OPEN format. If you want to give us a try, be at the course's Putting Green ready to play. (Pay standard green and cart fees/memberships at the Pro Shop.) Introduce yourself and enjoy a friendly golf match.

We play a team Stableford format and Closest To Pin on all par threes. Its \$3.00 to play and all money is paid out at the end of the round. There are no additional LEAGUE fees (NONE!!!) and you don't need to make a tee time-just show up.

So if you're looking to make new friends, always have a ready made foursome and enjoy some fun golf just put your golf ball in the ball rack. Inquire at the Pro Shop or give them a call at 207-848-3741. Or call the LEAGUE chairman John O at 207-735-7694 anytime for more details.

*Article Submitted By: John Olesniewicz*