

The Hermon CONNECTION

Vol. 30 Issue 3 – May 2023

Updates • News • Events • Information

Helping Hands

Two Hermon 4th graders start volunteer jobs at Cole's Land Transportation Museum

Article & Photos by: Jodi Hersey

Two Hermon 4th graders are proving age is just a number when it comes to work. Eleven-year-old Wyatt Saucier and 10-year-old Frankie Veneziano head to Cole's Land Transportation Museum in Bangor every Friday after school to clean. Some of their tasks include dusting the exhibits inside the museum and helping to disinfect the tables and vacuum the floor in the museum's conference room. The duo takes their volunteer jobs very seriously.

"I like my job because it is helpful to the community and the museum but also it's just a great thing to do," said Frankie Veneziano. "My favorite vehicle to clean is the [military] half-track."

Many of the volunteers at the museum are veterans who participate in the student-veteran interview program and/or serve as tour guides. Some volunteers also work as greeters or cashiers, but Saucier and Veneziano, who are part of the cleaning team, are the youngest set of volunteers the museum has ever had.

"You really are never too old or too young to help," said Jennifer Munson, Cole Land Transportation Museum Director. "These two boys have learned

the value of volunteering at such a

young age. You just need the determination to give your time and the heart to want to help people. Frankie and Wyatt are so helpful, and the Cole Land Transportation Museum is lucky to have them."

The museum is always looking for some extra helping hands, so if you would like to volunteer contact the museum at 990-3600. The Cole Land Transportation Museum is open seven days a week from May 1 to November 11.



Town of HERMON

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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: ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov
Deadline for submissions: June 23, 2023

From the Town Manager, Josh Berry

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Our annual town meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 15TH, 2023. Please keep checking our website, www.hermonmaine.gov, for details as they are subject to change. The Annual Town Meeting Warrant will be on the Town's website once it is approved by the Hermon Town Council.

FIRE TRUCK Our new Fire Truck is on it's way! The Fire Department traveled to Michigan, on May 1st, to give final inspection. Please keep an eye out on the Fire Departments social media page for updates!

TRACK & FOOTBALL FIELD PROJECT (POTTLE ATHLETIC COMPLEX)

Location of future Track (left) and Football field progress (right).



School and Municipal Voting

May 15 - Absentee Ballots are available for voters

May 25 - Public Hearing for School Budget & Municipal Budget, Public Safety Building 7:00pm

June 13 - Election Day to vote on School Board and Town Council members, Patricia A. Duran School Gym from 7:00am to 8:00pm

June 15 - Annual Town Meeting - School Budget meeting with warrant articles and Municipal budget with warrant articles, Public Safety Building 7:00pm

June 20 - Election Day to vote on School Validation, Hermon Town Office 7:00am to 8:00pm

The Town Council has two vacant seats. Christopher Gray, Ronald Murphy and Kimberly Stewart submitted papers for the seats.

The School Board has one vacant seat. Kristen Shorey and Brian Veneziano have submitted papers for the seat.

Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of our community's election process. If you would like to participate as a write-in candidate for either the Town Council or School Committee a letter of intent to run as a write-in candidate must be filed with the Town Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the opening of the polls. The letter of intent must include the name, legal address and telephone number, and signature of the person intending to run. Votes for any person not filed as a declared write-in candidate shall not be counted. (*Town of Hermon Charter Section 9.09*)

Ecotat Volunteers: Always Needed, Forever Appreciated!

Submitted by: Julie Clark

Ecotat welcomes spring! Whether you are an experienced or novice gardener, all volunteers—no experience needed—are welcome at Ecotat Gardens and Trails located at the intersection of Route 2 and Annis Road. Individuals, families, civic organizations, senior citizen groups and businesses are invited to volunteer at Ecotat. We welcome students and Scouts who may need volunteer hours to complete service projects. At this time our regular volunteer group sessions are Wednesdays 5:00 pm to dusk but other times are available as well.

We also have Master Gardener Volunteers who actively participate at Ecotat by working at the garden as well as serving on the board of trustees. Volunteering at Ecotat is a great way to fulfill volunteer hours in order to obtain and maintain Master Gardener certification status.

One of the rewarding things about being a weekly volunteer is observing how the garden changes week to week. Springtime blossoms include rhododendrons, the beautiful Crosby irises lovingly propagated by Ruth Crosby, allium and roses, to name a few. The beautiful peonies welcome visitors in June and autumn brings its annual splash of color before snow blankets the garden and woodland trails.

Please consider volunteering to help continue the legacy of Howard and Ruth Crosby. We owe it to future generations to maintain Ecotat which is a local treasure that must be experienced in order to be appreciated.

*The Town Council members invite
you to...*

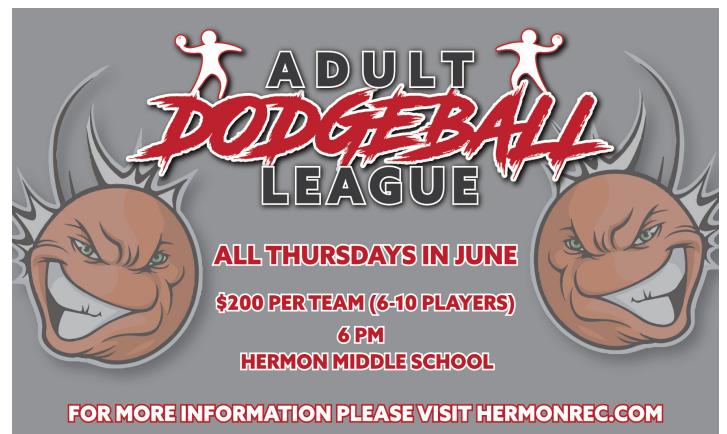
Coffee &
Conversation

*Join us on
6/6/2023!*

9:00AM-11:00AM

Council Chambers

333 Billings Rd





Article by: Scott Perkins, Hermon DECD Director

Managing Hermon's residential growth rates...what are next steps?

Ask any resident how Hermon should manage its growth and the answers will be wide and varied! Currently, the *Comprehensive Plan Committee* is tackling subject matter directly related to issues of growth to satisfy the *Maine Growth Management Act*. Essentially, the law requires direction from municipalities to designate most of the anticipated growth to specific “growth” areas and away from the “rural” areas in order to accommodate and stimulate economic growth, and, at the same time, conserve rural territories as working landscapes and natural gems.



The work we accomplish needs to manage growth in a way that preserves property rights, economic growth, environment, and equitable protection for established neighborhoods to prevent sprawl and undesirable results from reactionary short sighted measures.

Hermon's challenge is that while we have been extraordinarily successful at creating a quality workforce for the region, improving infrastructure and public safety while maintaining low taxes for businesses and residential property owners...the opportunity for a high quality of life in Hermon is well known regionally. This has made Hermon and our neighboring school sending districts a very attractive place in which to invest in subdivision development. My feeling is that even though we are embroiled in ideological discussions of importance currently, the growth issue should be our first, most important care.

Imagining how our community could be at its very best 10-20 years out is the exercise. Creating a viable plan to reach those goals is critical to well run municipalities and the entire region. It's about understanding the forces of change and working with them to achieve a better future. It will require taking a hard look at current policies and future trends, and a commitment to effective approaches likely to result in positive, measurable outcomes consistent with the community's overall goals. When considering our challenges we should understand that compared to the alternative, this is a good problem to have! How do we get a good end result while protecting our “high quality of life” in Hermon?

Adopt a *Smart Growth* policy that moves us from conventional economic development practices by emphasizing and building on our existing community assets with a targeted approach. We need to make the distinction between “growth” and “investment”. Incremental changes to our operations and strategic planning will provide the best long term result by suggesting changes to the land use ordinance as compared to the current “shotgun” approach to residential development. This will be a painful discussion.

The reward for Hermon after the discussion will be continued success for all of us as we continue to lead the region and the State of Maine as one of the best places to live, operate a business and to raise a family.

Town of Hermon Comprehensive Plan Survey results:

<https://www.hermonmaine.gov/town-government/town-committees/comprehensive-plan-committee/>

Income tax relief - If not now, when?

Legislative Update

2023 Legislative Session Update with Rep. Jim Thorne

House District 35 - Carmel and Hermon

State government continues to grow rapidly because it takes in too much money from individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. Many people are hurting because of rising costs for energy, gasoline, food, utilities, and everything else needed to live in Maine.

In January it cost an additional \$625 a month more than January of last year for an average Maine household to live in Maine. That is \$7,500 more a year.

Maine has the dubious distinction of having the third highest tax burden, by income, in the United States. Over the last year, Maine over-collected \$1.5 billion from taxpayers, then returned part of it by sending some people \$850 and \$450 relief checks. State government should not have taken that much money in the first place. We need to lower taxes so that it won't happen again.

I was elected to work for all the people of my district and Maine as a whole. That requires active problem-solving and an ability to work with others, regardless of political affiliation.

I am extremely disappointed that the majority party refused a Republican proposal for \$200 million in income tax relief, targeted toward low- to -middle income earners. That proposal was only 2% of a \$10.3 billion budget. The budget is expected to grow even larger, possibly to \$11 billion, when new revenue forecast projections come out in late April.

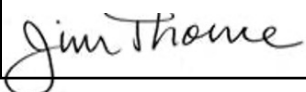
To avoid working with legislative Republicans, Democrats passed a one-party budget, then pretended that the Legislature had finished its work in March, not June 24, the statutory end date. Having "finished its work," the Governor then called the Legislature back into Special Session. We are now in that "Special Session" completing our work without a specific end date.

While I am disappointed that elected representatives of over 450 Maine municipalities representing 600,000 people were excluded from making a bipartisan budget, I will not stop calling for the Legislature to pass meaningful income tax reform so that struggling Mainers can keep more of their money.

The people I represent and taxpayers across Maine, deserve no less from us at this challenging time. State government should not grow larger while family budget get smaller.

I appreciate the support I have received from constituents and the opportunity to continue serving you in the Maine House. If there is anything I can do to assist you, or if you have questions or concerns involving state agencies, please contact me at Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov.

Sincerely, Rep. Jim Thorne



MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMMING



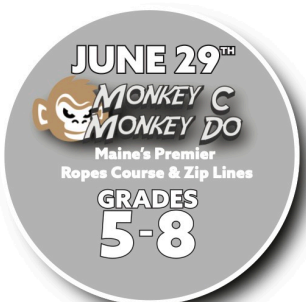
H-Nation is a summer day camp for middle schoolers with a focus on getting the kids out of the house, allowing them to spend time with their friends for daily activities, games, competitions, and weekly field trips!



VISIT HERMONREC.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION



Youth Summer Day Trips are trips for Hermon, Carmel, and Levant residents entering 5th-8th grade that are offered over summer vacation with Hermon Recreation! We currently have four trips scheduled but are looking to schedule more.



VISIT HERMONREC.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION



OPEN GYM

ALL WEDNESDAYS IN MAY

HERMON MIDDLE SCHOOL

AGES 18+

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Want to contribute to the *Hermon Connection*?

Have something you want to share with the community? If you have an item of interest pertaining to the Town of Hermon we want to hear about it! Submitting an article in the Hermon Connection is a good way for residents and organizations to share stories of interest with the community. If you would like to submit an article, please email it to Lindsey Ouellette at ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov. In order for Hermon residents and/or organizations to submit articles to be published in the Connection, the following criteria must be met:

1. The person submitting the article must be a resident of the Town of Hermon.
2. The organization submitting the article must be location within Hermon's geographic boundaries.
3. The organization has a lawful purpose which does not pose a threat to public order, to the safety of the public, or to the safety of any individual.
4. The organization does not have as its primary purpose marketing products of services or making a profit.

Please be aware that any articles and notices submitted by community members and community organizations may not contain offensive language, slander, advocate violence or unlawful activity, or pose a threat to public order or to persons or their reputation. When determining whether or not to submit an article, please be aware the deadlines for submission are approximately the 20th of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Once you have submitted your article, Town staff will be in contact with you to let you know if the article you submitted will be published. We look forward to hearing from you!



8.19.23

Duran School Students Celebrate Maine Literature

By: Melissa Davis

The Pew Research Center recently published a study on U.S. children and the frequency with which they read for fun. They found that 42% of children between the ages of 9 and 13 read for pleasure daily, which is a drop in nearly ten percentage points in the past ten years. At the Duran School, inspiring students to read for pleasure is one of our goals. We took the opportunity to celebrate reading in the months of March and April through an exploration of Maine literature.

We kicked off our exploration of Maine literature through celebrating Maine's birthday. We read Lynn Plourde's "Happy Birthday, Maine" and other books that share facts about our great state. Students were treated to a Maine-themed lunch (baked beans, hot dogs, and blueberry cobbler), and were invited to dress up in their favorite Maine-themed clothes (UMaine gear, flannels or bean boots, etc.). We then capitalized on March Madness by reading 16 books by Maine authors and narrowing the books down to our favorite Maine book: *Hattie and Hudson* by Chris Van Dusen. Finally, we culminated our book celebration by participating in the Bikes for Books program. Each year the Lynde Lodge provides two bikes per grade level. For each book a student reads, they are entered into a drawing for a new bike. We are very thankful for the Lynde Lodge's generous donations--it certainly gets students motivated to read!

The most exciting part of this initiative was students' excitement for learning about our state, and watching them share their favorite books with each other. The Maine books that were entered into our March Madness book celebration are listed below:

Counting Our Way to Maine by Maggie Smith

Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story by Angeli Perrow

We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

I Met a Moose One Day in Maine by Ed Shankman

The Wicked Big Toddler by Kevin Hakes

The Circus Ship by Chris Van Dusen

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

Down to the Sea with Mr Magee by Chris Van Dusen

Hattie and Hudson by Chris Van Dusen

The Sea Chest by Toni Buzzeo

Moose of Course by Lynn Plourde

The First Feud by Lynn Plourde

At One in a Place Called Maine by Lynn Plourde

Mother Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins

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@ HERMON POND

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8AM - 2PM

\$65 PER COURSE

(\$60 FOR H-NATION SUMMER MEMBERS)

For incoming 7th and 8th graders

Limited Participation (3 min - 5 max per course)

Personal flotation devices, paddles & canoes provided

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PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM

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**ADMISSION: \$10
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July 22, 2023

September 16, 2023

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Located at 534 Fuller Rd in Hermon

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Please join us for a performance by the

Harold J. Crosby Community Band



Outdoor concert
June 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm
Please bring your chair

Garden is open dawn to dusk
No admission fee
Self-guided tours
Volunteers welcome

Parking at 25 Annis Road, Hermon
Mail: 333 Billings Rd., Hermon, ME 04402
ecotatgardensarboretum@gmail.com





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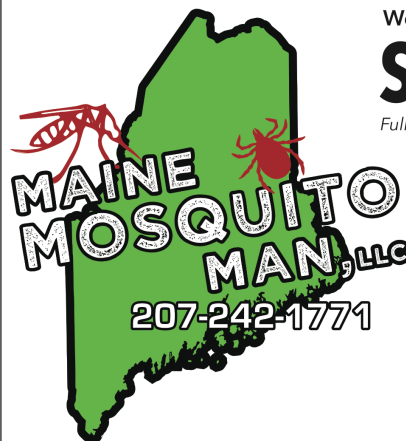
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