

The Hermon CONNECTION

Vol. 31 Issue 4 - July 2024

Updates • News • Events • Information

Town of Hermon Hires New Manager For Top Spot...

Article and photos submitted by: Scott Perkins, DECD Director

In the heart of every vibrant community lies a dedicated individual who ensures its smooth operation, handles its challenges with finesse, and champions its growth and well-being: the town manager. Town managers of local governance often work tirelessly behind the scenes, driven not by political ambition but by a deep-seated love for their communities and the people they serve.

Their job requires a delicate balance of pragmatism and empathy. Whether it's resolving conflicts between stakeholders, navigating complex zoning issues, or advocating for improved public services, town managers approach each challenge with a blend of professionalism and genuine concern for their residents.

On June 27, 2024, Stephen Fields was sworn in by the Town Clerk as our new Town manager. His experience is wide and varied in municipal government including leadership roles in the military with the 101st Logistics Readiness Squadron, Maine Air National Guard and human resources directorships at City of Biddeford. Mr. Fields also has law enforcement experience at the University of Maine and with the 101st Security Forces Squadron at Bangor. Most recently, Stephen was the Town manager at the Town of Corinth and previously held the Assistant City Administrator position in Westbrook, Maine.

With his previous experience, Mr. Fields has demonstrated a dedication to fostering community engagement, managing employees, promoting transparency, and achieving sustainable development goals. His vision includes enhancing local infrastructure, supporting economic vitality, and ensuring that every resident has a voice in shaping our town's future.

We want to welcome Stephen Fields to the Town of Hermon as he joins our team July 1, 2024!

To stay updated on town news, initiatives, and opportunities to engage with town government, please follow us on social media, or visit our town website regularly at www.hermonmaine.gov.



Town of Hermon
Stephen Fields, Town Manager
333 Billings Road, Hermon, ME 04401
Tel: 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316
sfields@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: ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov
Deadline for submissions: August 23, 2024
Next Edition will be published mid-September



Dear Josh,

As you embark on your next adventure, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude and bid you a fond farewell! Over the past eight years, your leadership, dedication, and friendship have left an indelible mark on all of us here at Town of Hermon. Over your tenure, you have been the driving force behind numerous achievements and advancements that have significantly shaped the landscape of our community. Through your leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence, the Town has experienced remarkable growth and progress in various aspects of community life!



Throughout your involvement, you've not only guided our town with wisdom and foresight but have also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among us. Your steady commitment to excellence and your genuine care for each employee has made a significant impact on our professional lives and beyond. You fostered a culture of teamwork, transparency, and inclusivity that has not only strengthened our organizational fabric but has also enriched our personal and professional lives...

Beyond the achievements and milestones we've reached under your stewardship, it's your kindness, approachability, and genuine concern for everyone that we will remember most fondly. You've been more than just a manager and Town employee; you've been a mentor, a role model, and a true friend to many who worked with you!



As you step into this new chapter of your life, we want to thank you for everything you've done for us and wish you the very best in all your future endeavors. May your path ahead be filled with as much success, happiness, and fulfillment as you have brought to our team and the community!

With warmest regards,

Staff at Town of Hermon

June 11, 2024 Election Results

The results of the June 11, 2024 election for School Board:

<u>Regina Leonard:</u>	<u>490 votes</u>
<u>Gregory Newell:</u>	<u>446 votes</u>
<u>Stephanie Oiler:</u>	<u>848 votes - Winner</u>
<u>Anthony Reynolds:</u>	<u>889 votes - Winner</u>

The results of the June 11, 2024 election for Town Council:

<u>Joshua Berry:</u>	<u>1043 votes - Winner</u>
<u>Jason Forbes:</u>	<u>558 votes</u>
<u>Terry Hamm-Morris:</u>	<u>724 votes - Winner</u>

June 18, 2024 Election Results

Question #1	142	Yes	18	No	
Question #2	31	Yes	128	No	1 Blank

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!

Kevin Call Jr. Memorial Truck Pulls

Article and photo submitted by: Andrew Jackson



The Annual Kevin Call Jr. Memorial Truck and Tractor Pull is returning again on July 20th. The Penobscot Snowmobile Club takes pride in how hard we work to bring in the sponsorships to make this event possible and also the tremendous amount of work the volunteers do to plan this successful event.

For all the citizens that don't know what this event is about here is a small history. Kevin Call Jr. passed away in a tragic motorcycle accident on August of 2020. Kevin was a well respected young man who would

help anyone that needed it. He was a tradesman by heart with extensive knowledge of trucking, construction, and mechanics just to name a few skills. Kevin would always lend a hand when asked and we remember him fondly for the times he helped us with a few of our events in the past by running a bulldozer to plow up snow for our vintage snowmobile race track. In 2021 The Penobscot Snowmobile Club worked with the Call family to set up a memorial truck and tractor pull to honor Kevin Jr. as he was a long standing member of the Maine Pulling Association. Since 2021 we have held this event with a portion of all sales going to a college scholarship in Kevin Jr's name. Every year we review submittals for Hermon graduates to reward a \$1000 scholarship, to be eligible for the scholarship the student needs to have been accepted into college or tech school for a trade such as construction, CDL, welding, etc. To this date we have awarded two scholarships to local young people and we hope to do that for many years to come.

To continue to make this event successful and to support local kids with their continued education we need your help! Come on down to the race on July 20th, the entry fee for adults is \$10 per person and children 12 and under are free. The event gates open at 8:00am and pulling starts at 10:00am. We will have full concessions on site with plenty of refreshments and an assortment of hotdogs, burgers, fries, and Italian sausages. This is a family friendly event and we encourage you to bring your kids, bleacher seating is limited so bring a lawn chair if you want to sit.

For event updates or sponsorship inquiries before or after the event please visit Sled Hermon on Facebook or call Andy Witham at 207-852-8214

HERMON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024 CONGRATULATIONS!



Submitted by
Hermon High School

Douglas
Photography

“Veto Day” was the final act of the 131st Legislature

The 131st Legislature held a “Veto Day” and concluded its business on May 10. The general effective date for nonemergency laws passed in the Second Regular Session is Friday, August 9, 2024. The session end included much drama within the Democratic caucus and with Governor Mills. Republicans were there to act on the bills vetoed by Governor Mills.

Veto Day is traditionally limited to consideration of bills that have been vetoed by the Governor. Her decision to prevent bills from becoming law can only be reversed with a two-thirds vote of the legislature.

This year, legislative Democrats attempted to take up dozens of additional items despite warning from Governor Mills. The Governor’s concerns fell largely into two categories, violation of the constitutional process and the long-term fiscal impact of additional spending on the state budget.

After a standoff that lasted several hours into the evening, the legislature adjourned after passing 35 additional bills that will not become law because of the flawed process that was used to pass them. Many have great merit and would have been positive had they been acted on months and weeks ago by majority Democrats.

Instead time was wasted by Appropriations Committee Democrats trying to take pension money away from retirees and the transportation budget in order to spend more money on other priorities not shared by the Governor and legislature as a whole. I am relieved that their efforts failed, with the exception of \$11 million taken from the transportation budget. With the missing federal match, there will be roughly \$33 million less that Maine DOT to spend on our roads and bridges.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer. I am available if you have any questions about what the legislature did or didn’t do this past session. Expect a district-wide report in the mail later this summer.

Even though the Legislature has adjourned, I am still busy doing constituent work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance with state matters. I can be reached at Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov or call 207 287-1440.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the Maine House. I love hearing your thoughts and concerns, and appreciate your input!

Sincerely, Rep. Jim Thorne

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Thorne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "J" and "T".

The Hermon Hawk Battalion Earns The Title of Honor Unit With Distinction

Article submitted by: Cadet PFC Mackenzie Oiler



For the Hermon Hawk Battalion, the 2024 school year marked the advent of the JROTC Program for Accreditation inspection. The last inspection occurred in 2021 when the battalion was awarded the Honor Unit with Distinction (HUD) title. The score is determined by adding the various activities, like a precision drill routine, color guard performance, each cadet's academic portfolio, select cadet portfolio interviews, instructor portfolios and interviews, supply inspection, and the completion of a service learning project and continuous improvement project which were briefed by the cadets on the final inspection day.

Hermon cadets worked hard since the beginning of the school year on their online academic portfolios where they would learn valuable lessons about leadership, communication skills, problem-solving, conflict resolution, self-awareness, anger management, first aid, bullying/cyberbullying, personal health habits, career development, leadership values, and several additional topics for more advanced cadets. Cadets also worked on a service learning project to improve the community and teach students valuable lessons and skills. The Hermon JROTC cadet leadership also devised a mentor/mentee continuous improvement project that focused on enhancing the battalion for this year and many more.

Closer to the day of inspection, a team of 13 cadets was organized for the battalion drill team. The drill team is a marching unit that follows a series of marching commands and teaches cadets involved the skills of precision, discipline, attention to detail, and leadership. Then, a team of 4 cadets formed the color guard and performed an additional precision drill routine for inspection. Both the drill team and color guard earned a perfect score.

After the inspection day, cadets eagerly awaited the inspection results. One week later, it was announced that their hard work paid off, and they were awarded the highest honor of Honor Unit with Distinction for the next 3 years. The Hawk Battalion Cadets would like to issue a special thank you to the Hermon High School administration, teachers, and parents who supported them throughout this stressful but fruitful process!



2024 Summer Sizzler Schedule of Events: (subject to change)

8:30 AM:
Sizzler Slime Run

10 AM - 1 PM:
Car Show (registration @ 9)

12 PM - 5 PM:
Carnival Land, Vendors, Food Trucks, Stage Performances

5:30 PM:
Live Music, Midnight Rose

8:45 PM:
Fireworks

Hermon Recreation is excited to announce that the Summer Sizzler is returning for another year on Saturday, August 17, 2024 at the Patricia A. Duran School. We have a fun filled day of events for people of all ages to enjoy that will once again bring out community together and celebrate our town! There will be plenty of food, bounce houses, music, a corn hole tournament and entertainment throughout the day and don't forget the amazing fireworks display to end the event! For more information on the event, updates to the schedule or to register for activities, please visit www.hermonrec.com.



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SIZZLER SLIME RUN

PRESENTED BY HMS PAC

ADULT 2K (AGES 11+)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 8:30 AM AUGUST 17

KIDS 700 METER (AGES 5-10)



2024

Follow Hermon Recreation on Facebook to be updated as more events are added to the schedule!

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The Hermon CONNECTION

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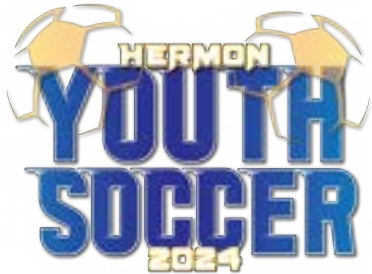
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REGISTER BY 7/31



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REGISTER BY 9/8



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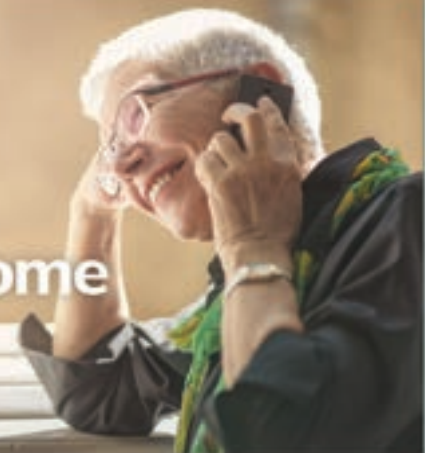
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