

# The Hermon Connection

Vol. 26 Issue 4 • July 2019

## SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD

Picture & Article By Howard Kroll

On Thursday, June 27, 2019, The Hermon Town Council awarded the 2019 Town of Hermon Spirit of America award to Mrs. Cathy Witham and Mr. Arthur Witham. These outstanding individuals have personally placed American Flags on veteran markers in Town cemeteries for over 30 years. Regardless of weather and their personal well being they placed flags in true American spirit. While neither has ever looked for recognition for their volunteerism it has been long over due. On behalf of the Town Council and citizens of Hermon I want to personally thank both of them for going above and beyond. Well deserved!



Front- Ms. Cathy Witham,  
Back-Howard Kroll, Town Manager,  
Doug Sinclair- Town Councilor,  
John Snyder- Town Councilor,  
G. Stephen Watson- Town Councilor,  
Tim McCloskey- Town Council Chair,  
Mr. Arthur Witham,  
Donna Ellis- Town Councilor,  
Steve Thomas- Town Councilor and  
Jeanne Jacques-Town Councilor.

**History of Spirit of America-** Spirit of America Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity established in Augusta, ME in 1990 to honor volunteerism. The Spirit of America Foundation Tribute is presented in the name of Maine municipalities to local individuals, organizations and projects for commendable community service. Since Alma Jones received the first Spirit of America award from Augusta Mayor William Burney on Nov. 26, 1991, the tribute has been presented at 500+ ceremonies!

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](mailto:scottwl@hermon.net)  
Deadline for submissions: August 20 2019



## **Town of Hermon to utilize CodeRED Emergency Notification system**

The Town of Hermon has contracted with OnSolve to license its CodeRED high-speed notification solution. The CodeRED system provides the Town of Hermon officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire municipality.

Frank Roma, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director, cautioned that such systems are only as good as the telephone number database supporting them. One of the reasons the CodeRED system was selected is it gives individuals and businesses the ability to add their own phone numbers directly into the system's database, which is an extremely important feature.

"No one should automatically assume his or her phone number is included," Roma said urging all individuals and businesses to log onto the Town of Hermon website, <http://www.hermon.net>, and follow the link to the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" page. Those without Internet access may call the Town (848-1046), Monday through Friday, (8AM-4PM) to supply their information over the phone. Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes), city, state, zip code, and primary phone number, additional phone numbers can be entered as well.

All businesses should register, as well as all individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who use a cellular phone or VoIP phone as their primary number.

Roma explained, "CodeRED allows geographically based delivery, which means street addresses are required to ensure emergency notification calls are received by the proper individuals in a given situation. The system works for cell phones too, but there needs to be an associated street address to provide relevant messages. CodeRED gives those who want to be included an easy and secure method for inputting information.

The data collected for this alert system will only be used for emergency notification purposes. Questions should be directed to the Town of Hermon, 848-1046.

**Uses** The CodeRED® system will be used to send critical communications, from evacuation notices to missing child alerts.

**Caller ID** When you see the following displayed, you will know the call is from us. If you would like to hear the last message delivered to your phone, simply dial the number back.

- Emergency Notifications  
1-866-419-5000 or Emergency Comm
- General Notifications  
1-855-969-4636 or General Comm

**Privacy** Your contact information remains private and will only be used for community notifications.

**Join Our Database** To make sure you receive notifications, please register by going to [www.hermon.net](http://www.hermon.net) and click on the CodeRED.

About OnSolve OnSolve is the largest global provider of SaaS-based critical communication solutions for enterprise, SMB, and government customers. The company's cloud-based software communications platform provides seamless and easy-to-deploy solutions for the exchange of critical information among organizations, their people, devices and external entities, with use cases designed to save lives, enhance revenue, and reduce costs. OnSolve solutions include MIR3®, the most comprehensive solution available for large enterprises and federal agencies seeking to manage critical events or natural disasters.



## From the Town Manager

**ROAD PROJECTS:** The Town has an aggressive road construction season this year. B&B Paving was awarded the contract for road paving. Feel free to contact Ralph Shaw in Public Works for more details- 848-1010.

**SUMMER SIZZLER!** Many thanks to Mary Cameron, her staff, volunteers and generous sponsors for coordinating the Summer Sizzler that will be on July 20th!

**WELL DONE!** I want to take this opportunity to thank Jeanne Jacques and Steve Watson on their dedication and commitment to the Town of Hermon during their terms as Town Councilors. Both represented the Town very well. I wish them great success in their future endeavors. I know both will do great things. I also want to congratulate John Snyder, Anthony Reynolds and Charles Lever, IV on their election victory. I stand by to assist them in making their term as Town Councilors positive and rewarding.

**On behalf of the Town of Hermon Town Council and Staff we wish you all a great Summer!**

## HERMON EARTH DAY

*Picture & Article By Howard Kroll*



The Town Council recognized Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts in May. They also recognized Cub Scouts at their regular meeting for their participation in Earth Day. Thank you to all that participated in Earth Day!

Pictured from left to right:

Benjamin Goodspeed  
Orion Kelsey  
Carter Goodspeed  
Nathan Henderson

Council Chair Tim McCluskey is in back.

## The Senator's Corner

By: Senator Geoffrey Gratwick



The first session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature finished its work at last Thursday. No one in Augusta within living memory remembers a legislature completing its work so near to the planned adjournment. Between January and June, we discussed nearly 2200 bills, passed 600, and carried over 80 that we will take up again next January. The Governor has vetoed 5 bills so far. We compromised, were remarkably efficient, and served the citizens of Maine well.

The hard work of the Legislature had taken place earlier in our Committees when we heard bills for the first time, listened to public comment, and had what were often very long work sessions. Most bills were straightforward and we voted them on to the legislature unanimously. However, a number were complex and contentious – e.g. vaccines, abortion, gun safety, local control, the budget, taxes, Death with Dignity and more. I learned a great deal by listening. In the end each bill came to an up or down vote, a seemingly simple end to a complex process, but in reality not so simple. The application of new laws is never simple.

We passed a \$7.9 billion budget to cover the next 2 years. It is an enormous amount of money and is a strong investment in ourselves, in Maine. It is less than that originally proposed by Governor LePage but still invests more money in K-12 education, revenue sharing, economic development, transportation, health care expansion, and the hiring of more child care case workers. Under Governor Mills there have been no new taxes.

Stepping back from the immediate issues, I am troubled by the fact that the Legislature focused too much on short term problems and not enough long term issues. We live in a culture focused on immediate gratification and do not invest sufficient time and resources in projects that will benefit us down the road. There is a gap between what we could do and what we should do.

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### Tax Assessing & Code Enforcement Department

#### Homeowners, do you qualify for a Property Tax Exemption?



**New Hermon residential property owners or residents who have relocated within the town:** You will need to apply, or re-apply, for the homestead exemption. Go to the website listed below to download an application or pick one up at the Town Office. If you meet the qualification requirements listed on the application we will add the exemption in.

Hermon residents already receiving the Homestead Property Tax Exemption in the amount of \$20,000 in your 2019 tax bill do not need to reapply. If you are not sure you are getting the exemption give us a call at 848-1042 or 848-1044.

[www.hermon.net/exemption-forms-information/](http://www.hermon.net/exemption-forms-information/)

#### Tax Commitment

The Assessing Department will be executing the annual tax commitment at the end of July or the first part of August. You should be receiving your tax bill by mid September but if you would like to know what the mill rate is, or how much your tax bill will be, give us a call at 848-1044 or 848-1042 the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August.

#### Patricia A Duran Elementary School Canopy Project

The canopy project for the school is well under way and D.P. Porter Construction Inc. has been working hard to keep things on schedule. They broke ground June 24<sup>th</sup> with an expected completion date of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. We look forward to seeing the finished project and hope the weather cooperates with the build!





## **Reminder: Hermon Consumer Fireworks Ordinance**

*By SSgt. Bobbie Pelletier*

I would like to remind the people of Hermon, that Hermon does in fact have a written ordinance banning the usage of consumer fireworks within town limits.

### **Prohibition:**

The ordinance states no person shall use, possess with the intent to use in the Town of Hermon, sell, possess with the intent to sell in the Town of Hermon, or offer for sale consumer fireworks.

### **Exception:**

This section does not apply to a person issued a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine pursuant to 8 M.R.S.A. 227-A.

### **Seizure and Disposal of Fireworks:**

The Town may seize consumer fireworks that the Town has probable cause to believe are used, possessed or sold in violation of this section and shall forfeit seized consumer fireworks to the State for disposal.

### **Penalty:**

Whoever violates any of the forgoing sections of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1000.00 for each offense. IN the event of legal action by the Town of Hermon is required to enforce this ordinance and the town is the prevailing party, it must be awarded reasonable attorney fees, expert witness fees and costs.

**We hope everyone had a pleasant and safe Independence Day!**

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Federal Express employees volunteered this spring to clean Coldbrook Business Park in order to beautify the area! Yolanda Castiglia organized the event for a second consecutive year with a goal of collecting refuse along the roadway and from ditches in the park. Federal Express looks for local community projects in an effort to assist with Town beautification programs and has previously worked on the Town Office gardens and at ECOTAT land trust.



Thanks to Federal Express for partnering with us on these community projects!

*Picture & Article By Scott Perkins*



## *Hermon business offers relaxation & wellness...*

Story by: Scott Perkins



*Call Float 207 today to  
schedule your session!*

### Float 207

1723 Hammond Street  
Hermon, Maine 04401

Phone: (207) 605-0146

Messenger: [m.me/Float207](https://m.me/Float207)

Website: <https://www.float207.com>

Email: [stayafloat@float207.com](mailto:stayafloat@float207.com)

In October of 2018, Float 207 opened its doors and offered something unique to the central Maine region and beyond...

Owners Roscoe Witham, 31, and Gabe Kingsbury, 28, offer float therapy: sensory-deprivation tanks, essentially, filled with salty, ultra-buoyant water that is heated to skin temperature. You get in, you lie down, and you try to let reality melt away for 90 minutes.

"You lay down in the water and you float." says co-owner of Float 207, Gabe Kingsbury. "There's no pressure points...you know it's not like you're laying on a really comfortable mattress where your shoulders and your hips are still pushing on the mattress. There's nothing. It allows your body to truly decompress."

According to the owners, studies have found one hour in the tank is worth four hours of sleep. They say that float therapy can be used to help people physically, like to treat symptoms of Fibromyalgia and chronic pain. Some use it to help themselves mentally in order to ease anxiety, PTSD or to improve sleep.

Athletes also use this wellness opportunity to prepare for their contests both mentally and physically. Tom Brady and Steph Curry and actress Jennifer Lawrence publicly promoted their use of float pods, and podcaster Joe Rogan glowingly described his many experiences floating on his show. "Because of Tom Brady and the Patriots, they actually have the same rooms in Gillette Stadium. Tom actually has one in his house," said co-owner Roscoe Witham. Forbes magazine reported in 2017 that floating was one of Tom Brady's favorite self-care rituals.

Float 207 also offers two infrared saunas, which are sauna-like wooden rooms that use infrared heaters to heat the body directly, rather than in a traditional sauna, which heats the air around the body. Kingsbury and Witham also plan to hire a massage therapist and an acupuncturist in 2019.

Float 207 is located in a section of the Doug Guerrette State Farm building on outer Hammond Street in Hermon. They offer exclusive floatation therapy services with three floating suites and two infrared saunas.

Congratulations to this new Hermon business offering fitness and wellness opportunities for Maine and beyond!

# Hidden Beauty

Shine bright for all to see



## Introducing a New Hermon Business!

Story by: Scott Perkins



Hidden Beauty provides professional hairstyling services including coloring, perms, facial waxing, manicures and special occasion styles at Morgan Hill Lane in Hermon. Heather has received an overwhelming response at her new business after only being open for six months. “The number of referrals and support from clients has been wonderful”, says Dempsey who points to our area as a great place to own a business and raise a family.

“We made a choice to be involved in Town programs and schools early as volunteers and to keep our Children active in the community’s enrichment opportunities.”



Heather has also stayed on top of the game in her profession over twenty years as a stylist by becoming *Shellac Pro* certified, a *Hot Heads Extensions Specialist* and receiving *Keratin Smoothing* certification over the course of multiple trainings from experts in her field.

The business currently carries a top quality line of products and understands their application for best results if customers need assistance. Hidden Beauty offers *Kenra*, *Verb*, *Schwartzkopf* and *Mitch* shampoos, conditioners and styling products. They also carry an extensive line of nail colors in both regular polish and shellac to complete the manicure and pedicure treatments that include shaping, grooming and massage..

Heather is committed to her craft and works to make sure clients are happy with her work. “I know how great it feels to walk out of a hair salon and be satisfied with the service I have received...our goal is to offer extensive consultation and personal service so my guests feel that same way”, says Dempsey. Giving customers the color and dimension they are looking for is a part of Heather’s expertise. Extraordinary personal service is her identity.

Hermon has a substantial number of owner operated businesses in our community that set the standards of excellence in their specific trades. Hidden Beauty can be added to the list as one of our newest business helping people “*Shine bright for all to see*”!



Contact this Hermon  
Business today for all of  
your beauty needs!

**Hidden Beauty**  
82 Morgan Hill Lane, Suite 4  
Hermon, Maine 04401  
Phone: 944-6135  
Book Online

@ [www.facebook.com/hhiddenbeauty](https://www.facebook.com/hhiddenbeauty)



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*Improving Operations on Both Sides of the Barrels*

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Common Warning Signs for Work Zone



Entering Work  
Zone  
Reduce Speed



Alternating Traffic  
Pattern



Be Prepared  
To Stop



Flagger  
Locate Worker &  
Follow Instruction

**44)**

Slow Moving Vehicle Warns Other Road Users that Vehicle Displaying Sign is Traveling Slower than the Normal Speed of Traffic

***"Life is Like Baseball, The Most Important Thing is to Get Home Safe"***

As you all know the construction season is upon us now in full swing. Hermon public works crews and various other contractors will be out performing road and driveway repairs. There will be a lot of paving, ditching, culvert work, tree removal, and a variety of other operations going on. There will be flaggers and crews working in the roadways. Please be patient and expect delays. Read and pay attention to the signs and cones. We will try to keep the delays to a minimum.

Please have a safe summer and help keep our crews stay safe as well.  
Thank you for your patience.



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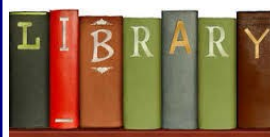
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through Friday, when school is in session  
only.

If you have any questions, please call the  
library at 848-4094.

## HERMON HIGH SCHOOL JROTC BATTALION MARCHES IN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

*Article and Photograph by Cadet 2LT Mollie Smith*



On May 27th, cars filled the parking lots and people lined the streets of downtown Bangor to honor and recognize the men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

The cadets of Hermon High School Army JROTC program are taught leadership skills through military values and are given many opportunities to serve the community.

Marching alongside veterans, the cadets showed those military values. The Hawk Battalion annually participates in the Memorial Day parade, taking the opportunity to honor fallen soldiers. "I feel a sense of pride and importance marching in this parade," commented cadet Morgan Doten-Bagley. "It's an honor to be a part of this event."

The Hawk Battalion looks forward to marching in the Veterans Day parade in the fall.

### Flag Day 6/14/19

The flag retirement ceremony was held on 6/14/19 by the Arnold R. Kelly American Legion Post 200. The proper way to dispose of an American Flag is to burn the flag and then bury the ashes. This ceremony is done every year on Flag Day by the Hermon Post in front of the Veteran's Monument on the Billings Road. If anyone has flags that are unserviceable, they may contact any American Legion member or drop them off at the Town Office and we will store the flag until next year for the proper retirement. Please contact Tom Carle for flag pick up at 207-307-7559.



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**5:00pm: Mad Science**

**7:00pm-9:00pm: Live Local Band**

