

# The Hermon CONNECTION



Vol. 32 Issue 4 - July 2025

Updates • News • Events • Information



## Thank You, Hermon – HFD's First Ambulance Is Now Home!

Article & Photos Submitted by: Chief Cody Sullivan

The members of the Hermon Fire Department would like to thank the citizens of Hermon for their ongoing support of our department as we continue to grow and add additional services offered by the HFD. With that being said, we are pleased to announce that the HFD's first ever ambulance, unit 409, is home in Hermon. We are excited to begin the process of putting this unit in service and hiring the additional staffing needed to provide this service to the citizens of Hermon.

If you're driving by the firehouse and the doors are up, please stop and check out this great piece of equipment and chat with the professionals that will be providing patient care in this unit.

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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: [ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov](mailto:ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov)  
Deadline for submissions: August 25, 2025  
Next Edition will be published mid-September

## Message from the Town Manager

The Town officially closed the fiscal year on June 30, 2025. Throughout the fall, the Auditor Team is collaborating with both town and school finance staff to conduct data analysis and provide the financial statements and reports. This year's Annual Town Meeting and election were a great success. Thank you to all who participated, and a special thanks to the residents who volunteered as candidates for the Council and School Committee. Congratulations to our newly elected and re-elected municipal officers. As we begin the new fiscal year, we look forward to continued progress in financial management and organizational operations alongside our dedicated town staff. I would also like to express my gratitude to the local and regional contractors—and their hardworking employees—who help keep town operations running smoothly.

A heartfelt thank you to the former Council members and to the community for your support during my first year as Town Manager. I am excited to continue working with you to support development, growth, and long-term planning.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Summer Sizzler in August—an opportunity to enjoy fun, entertainment, and community spirit. It's one of many events that bring neighbors together and welcome new residents.

As always, I encourage everyone to stay safe and make the most of the summer in A Great Little Town in the Heart of Maine to Live, Work and Play.

Stephen Fields, PSHRA-SCP

## 2025-26 Before & After School Program

**MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT OPENS AUGUST 1ST!**

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# FALL YOUTH SPORTS



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**GRADES PREK-1**  
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**GRADES PK-6**  
**REGISTER BY 8/24**



**GRADES 2-5**  
**REGISTER BY 8/24**



**GRADES PK-5**  
**REGISTER BY 9/7**



**REGISTRATION FOR FALL SPORTS IS OPEN NOW!**

**PLEASE VISIT [HERMONREC.COM](http://HERMONREC.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



## Penobscot Snowmobile Club Update

The summer is whizzing by at a rapid pace and snow will soon be flying. But... SHHHHH!!!!!! We are not ready for that just yet! Hope you are enjoying the warm sunshine!!

We would like to congratulate the three Hermon High School graduates who recieved the Kevin Call Jr. Memorial Scholarships this year.

Jacob Gawrych, who will attend Husson University to study Business Management. Max Cannon, who will attend UMaine to study Mechanical Engineering. McKaeyla Morin, who will attend Western New England University majoring in Health Studies. We wish the three of you all the best life has to offer!

We would like to thank Darling's and all of our other sponsors for the support and participation at the Kevin Call Jr. Memorial Truck Pull. Hoping you were able to attend this July family-friendly, fun event at the clubhouse. The proceeds from the pull go directly to fund the scholarships for future graduates from Hermon High School.

We have an amazing piece of equipment at the clubhouse we affectionately call "The Tucker". It's a trail grooming machine with a Cummins diesel engine operated by a dedicated group of drivers every winter. It has a plow on the front for moving roadside snowbanks at trail crossings, blades for cutting snow drifts and snow humps in fields or in the woods and packing plates for leveling and smoothing out the snow for the best riding conditions. When you are sitting in the heated cab you are five feet off the ground! If you would like to meet "Tucker" you will find us at the Hermon Summer Sizzler on August 23, 2025!

Our local landowners make the trail system in Hermon accessible for us to ride on and enjoy the fresh air and beauty out there in the woods in the winter. One of our valued land owners is Kurt Thomas. Thank you Kurt, so much, for your continued support throughout the years. You are a pleasure to work with for sure!

The clubhouse is available for rent for gatherings up to 45-50 guests. We have a full kitchen, air conditioning, two bathrooms and plenty of parking. The fee is \$150.00 which includes club membership. Please reach out to Chuck at 207-478-8280 if you are interested.

The best place to find out what we are doing next or for upcoming events follow us on Facebook at Sled Hermon or call Andy at 207-852-8214.





Back for the 2025 Season...

# DISCOUNTED TICKETS

Tickets are valid anytime during the 2025 season, all sales are final. For more information, please call 848-1010



**\$23**

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Save \$11 per ticket!*



**\$49**

*Gate Price: \$59,  
Save \$10 per ticket!*



**\$14**

*Gate Price: \$18 (11 and older),  
Save \$4 per ticket!*

**Save money and time at the gate by purchasing tickets  
at the Hermon Town Office! Open Mon-Fri 8am-4pm**

## Field Day Fun Wraps Up an Incredible School Year!

*Article Submitted by: Melissa Davis, Ed.D.*

As the school year wrapped up, we ended on a high note with one of our favorite traditions—Field Day! This year's event had an extra spark of excitement thanks to our new PE teacher, Miss Rollins. Her energy, creativity, and enthusiasm were felt in every game and activity.

From parachute fun to water balloon tosses, students spent the day laughing, moving, and cheering each other on. Miss Rollins put so much thought into making sure the day was fun, inclusive, and full of good old-fashioned teamwork.

A big thank you goes out to all of the parent volunteers who helped run stations and support our students throughout the day. Your help made everything run smoothly and added to the community spirit we're so proud of.

And just when the kids thought it couldn't get any better—the Hermon Fire Department showed up with popsicles for everyone! It was the perfect way to cool down and celebrate a sunny, fun-filled day.

As we say goodbye to another great year, Field Day reminded us why we love this school community so much. Thank you to Miss Rollins, our volunteers, and everyone who made the day so memorable. We're already looking forward to doing it all again next year!

### **Want to contribute to the *Hermon Connection*?**

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](mailto: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 located 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 its primary purpose marketing products or 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!

## Ecotat Welcomes Visitors and Volunteers

*Article & Photos Submitted by: Julie Clark*



The gardens are blooming with everchanging colors of florals and greenery. Located at the intersection of Route 2 and Annis Road in Hermon, Ecotat is a beautiful backdrop for your favorite photos and is a local natural resource where you can enjoy beautiful display gardens.

Garden maintenance tasks of weeding, mulching, planting and transplanting is maintained by a small group of volunteers. We can use your help!

Whether you are an experienced or novice gardener, all volunteers—no experience needed—are welcome. 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 may be 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.

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.

We invite you to visit Ecotat in 2025 and please join us as a volunteer. The gardens are open daily for all to enjoy with no admission fee. Visitors' parking is located at 25 Annis Road.

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## New Life to A Little Library

*Article & Photo Submitted by: Lily Raleigh*



The Little Library located outside of Hermon Middle School was a Sliver award project done by Girl Scouts Lily Raleigh and Laura Taylor of Troop 1340 in 2020. The Sliver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadet can earn. Their Little Library was built from scratch, using mostly recycled wood. It took a few hits from storms over the next few years, and the door had to be replaced.

In 2023 the girls where Heartbroken to find out that the library was actually vandalized. The door was completely ripped off, parts missing and books destroyed. Some Hermon residents stepped up to help repair it but it still had to be strapped shut.

Last year the Troop was contacted by a Scouting America parent, their Son Alex Rancourt, a scout with SA Troop 24 and HMS Student, was interested in restoring the library. Over the past winter Alex team up with Lily and a couple adults to revitalize the library in the basement of the Mason Hall. The group not only fixed the library but also gave it a fresh new coat of paint. On May 27 it was placed back in the ground with a more stable base. The library now stands proudly once again, a showcase of community, teamwork and resilience.

## Hermon Hawk Battalion Commander Accepted into Four Star Leadership Program

Article Submitted by: C/PFC Nanette Holmes

To be considered for admission into General Tommy Franks' Four Star Leadership Program, you need to demonstrate strong leadership qualities, specifically in communication, integrity, accountability, creativity, and decision making. It is clear Aubrey excels in all of these areas. Aubrey Searway, The Hermon Hawk Battalion Commander, was accepted into the Four Star Leadership program for this summer. This year, The Four Star Leadership program accepted 76 students from across the country to join them in Oklahoma during the week of July 13-18.

The Four Star Leadership program was created in 2008 and has accepted over 1,100 sophomores and juniors since then. To add into this amazing opportunity, the entire program is fully paid for and can earn the recipient over 40,000 dollars in scholarships if they are eligible. General Tommy Franks, the founder of the program and former general with 36 years of service and multiple medals, aims to create the same opportunities for everyone, no matter their economic status. This program not only teaches their students about communication and developing core leadership values, but also teaches about ethical decision-making abilities. Aubrey intends to take full advantage of this learning opportunity to better the battalion and take her leadership skills with her throughout her adult life after high school.

The submission and interview process of this program was shared to us by Aubrey herself. Aubrey found out about the program very late in the timeframe to submit an application. Fortunately, she only had to wait about a week for the interview process to take place. One of the things that made Aubrey stand out from the other applicants was her involvement. Aubrey happens to be one of two students chosen to represent the school during school board meetings, she was one of 40 students for the Northern Light volunteer program, she served as class of 26's class historian, she's very involved in student council, has over 600 hours of community service, and as of May 14, 2025 is the Hermon Hawks JROTC Battalion Commander. "I was able to highlight my community involvement, dedication to service, and ability to lead based on the clubs and events I submitted in my application." Aubrey stated in an interview about this program.

We wish her well on her new experiences during this leadership conference to help take our JROTC program to the next level.







**The annual Hermon Summer Sizzler will be returning this year on August 23rd, at the Patricia A. Duran School!**

**Join us and celebrate our town with a day of fun-filled activities for people of all ages. Activities throughout the day will include:**

**Slime Run  
Car Show  
Cornhole Tournament  
Indoor VR Gaming  
Performances  
DJ  
Inflatables & Games  
Vendor Booths  
Food Trucks  
and Fireworks!**

**To register for events and for more information, visit [hermonrec.com](http://hermonrec.com)**

## **One-Party Rule Leaves Out Maine Families**

Dear Friends,

For the third time in a row, Maine's state budget has been passed without any input from Republican legislators. Democrats, holding complete control in Augusta, once again chose to bypass the traditional bipartisan budget process. This so-called "Majority Budget" adds hundreds of millions in new spending to the already record-high \$11.3 billion plan passed earlier this year—bringing the total to over \$11.6 billion.

When Republicans last had a seat at the table, the state budget stood at just over \$8 billion. That's a dramatic increase in government spending in just a few short years.

What's most disappointing is that despite all this new spending, the budget does little—if anything—to help reduce the cost of living for Maine families or provide meaningful tax relief. Instead, it introduces and expands a series of new taxes and fees that will hit working people, retirees, and small businesses the hardest.

### **Key Tax Hikes in the New Budget:**

- Cigarette Tax Increase: A \$1.50 per-pack hike, raising \$110 million over two years. This tax hits low-income Mainers especially hard.
- Digital Streaming Tax: A new 5.5% tax on services like Netflix, Hulu, and Spotify.
- Cannabis Tax Increase: Recreational marijuana taxes will rise from 10% to 14%.
- Pension Deduction Limits: Reduced deductions on private pensions, putting more pressure on seniors with fixed incomes.
- New Paint Fee: A 50-cent charge per gallon of paint will increase costs for homeowners, contractors, and DIYers.
- Outdoor License Fee Hikes: Increased costs for hunting and fishing licenses.
- Real Estate Transfer Tax: A steep increase in the tax on property sales over \$1 million, adding pressure to Maine's already strained housing market.

### **No Reforms to Growing Welfare Costs**

Beyond the tax increases, the budget fails to address the unsustainable growth of welfare spending—particularly within the General Assistance (GA) program. Another \$4 million will be allocated over the next two years with no reforms, oversight, or accountability.

- From 2019 to 2024, Portland alone received more than 80% of all GA funding statewide, totaling over \$123 million. Meanwhile, smaller towns are left with fewer resources to support their own residents.

### **ICE Cooperation Blocked**

Adding to the concern, Democrats passed legislation that prevents Maine law enforcement from cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), even when violent criminals are involved. This comes at a time when border-related arrests in Maine have reached a 24-year high—113 individuals from 16 countries were arrested here in April alone.

It is reckless to block cooperation with federal immigration officials in the face of these numbers. Public safety should not be a partisan issue.

### **A Missed Opportunity**

Not a single Republican in the House or Senate supported this budget—not because we're against solving problems, but because we offered real solutions that would have avoided tax hikes and introduced responsible reforms. Unfortunately, those ideas were ignored.

This budget expands government, increases taxes, and avoids the tough decisions needed to ensure long-term stability. Mainers deserve better—a budget that respects taxpayers, protects the vulnerable, and supports a strong, sustainable future.

If you have any questions or want to share your thoughts, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov).

Thank you for allowing me to represent you in Augusta.

Sincerely, Rep. Jim Thorne



**Disclaimer** - The Town of Hermon does not endorse any political party or candidate.



*Matthew Sforza*

# *Spaghetti* **DINNER** **SILENT** **AUCTION**

**MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
FUNDRAISER**



**Saturday, July 19th**



**4 - 7 PM**



**Hermon High School  
2415 US-2, Hermon, ME**


Please join us at Hermon High for a memorial scholarship fundraiser coming up on July 19th! This fundraiser, dedicated to the late Matthew Sforza, will help raise scholarship funds for an existing Hermon High School student who will be attending the University of Maine or a community college with a Business Management degree. There will be a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, and spaghetti dinner by donation. Matthew, our only child, passed away on March 19th, 2023 in a car accident. He attended the University of Maine and received his degree in Business Management in 2022. We hope that you can help us make this event a success; We truly appreciate it.

- Scott & Darlene Sforza

# **HAWKS FOOTBALL** **YOUTH NIGHT**

**v. WELLS**  
**9.12.25**

**@ POTTLE FIELD**  
**7 PM**





## Don't miss your shot at a great day of golf!

2nd Annual Pins and Pines Golf Scramble to benefit Pine Tree Camp

**When:** Saturday, July 26 | Tee off at 9:00am

**Where:** Hermon Meadow Golf Club

**Cost:** \$320 per foursome

All registrants receive a complimentary \$30 greens fee for a future game.

Scramble format. Try your luck at the casino hole, straightest drive, chipping hole, and putting contests. Net and gross prizes. 50/50 raffle. Lunch provided by Dysart's.

### Learn more and register:

<https://pinetreesociety.org/pins-and-pines-golf-scramble-for-pine-tree-camp/>

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### Contact:

Adria King  
Chief Development Officer  
207-386-5915  
[aking@pinetreesociety.org](mailto:aking@pinetreesociety.org)



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