

The Hermon CONNECTION



Vol. 32 Issue 6 - November 2025

Updates • News • Events • Information

Hermon's HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

GET READY TO SHINE BRIGHT FROM DECEMBER 5-25, 2025!

WE'RE INVITING ALL HERMON HOMES AND BUSINESSES TO LIGHT UP OUR TOWN WITH YOUR MOST FESTIVE LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS! STARTING DECEMBER 5, GRAB SOME COCOA, HOP IN THE CAR, AND CRUISE AROUND TOWN TO SEE ALL THE SPARKLING DISPLAYS! EACH PARTICIPANT WILL HAVE A NUMBERED LAWN SIGN, AND EVERYONE CAN VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE DISPLAY.

THE DISPLAY WITH THE MOST COMMUNITY VOTES WINS A \$150 CASH PRIZE!

THANKS TO OUR AMAZING LOCAL PARTNERS, WE ALSO HAVE:

- 👉 2ND PLACE: \$100 GIFT CARD TO DANFORTH'S
- 👉 3RD PLACE: \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO DEVON'S KITCHEN

🏆 WINNERS ANNOUNCED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN! PLEASE REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 30 TO BE INCLUDED ON THE COMMUNITY MAP! MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION: WWW.HERMONREC.COM

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: December 19, 2025
Next Edition will be published mid-January

Message from the Town Manager

Greetings to the Residents and Businesses of Hermon.

Since the last edition, summer was in full swing with beautiful days that led to back to school with fall. Now, November has arrived. Take a moment to look back and we realize how the time has gone so quickly. The community continues to foster and flourish with school activities, sports, and town recreation programs. Sense of community is an awesome feeling and shows that community will last.

Thank you for veterans and armed forces members still serving to protect our great nation and state.

I want to express my appreciation for all the federal employees who have been affected by the recent government shutdown and their steadfast ability to persevere and move forward.

Please continue to follow the town website, Facebook and social media for upcoming events.

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.

I hope you enjoy a warm, happy Thanksgiving with loved ones and take time to remember those we miss.

Stephen Fields, PSHRA-SCP
Town Manager

HERMON TOWN OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE SCHEDULE

November 11, 2025 – Closed for Veterans Day

November 27 & 28, 2025 – Closed for Thanksgiving
& day after Thanksgiving

December 24, 2025 – Closing at 3:00pm

December 25 & 26, 2025 – Closed for Christmas

December 31, 2025 – 2025 Dog registration due date

January 1, 2026 – Closed for New Year's Day

February 1, 2026 – \$25.00 per dog late fee starts

Happy Holidays!

WISHING YOU NOTHING BUT THE BEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Congratulations!



The Town of Hermon would like to extend their deepest congratulations to Vicki Gonyea, firefighter, EMT, and secretary of the Hermon Fire Department, on her retirement. For 25 years, Vicki has dedicated her time, energy, and abilities to the Town. Starting as a secretary, Vicki soon found herself taking classes and becoming a firefighter and EMT for the department. From that point on, whether it was an unexpected wildfire, or a regularly scheduled fire drill, residents and staff alike could count on Vicki to be there with a smile on her face and a calming presence around her. Her impact on the community and department will not be forgotten. Although we will miss her, we are beyond excited for her to start this next chapter!

Maine should adopt tax relief for working families

2025 Legislative Session Update with Rep. Jim Thorne, House District 35 - Carmel and Hermon

Last month, Governor Janet Mills issued a directive declining to conform the Maine tax code to several provisions in the federal "Working Families tax Cut Act." These provisions included the elimination of taxes on tips and overtime pay, as well as an increase in the standard deduction—changes that were designed to reduce the overall tax burden for working individuals. I also includes a new \$6,000 federal deduction for seniors and a new deduction for car loan interest.

Each year, Maine reviews updates made to the federal Internal Revenue Code to determine whether the state will "conform" with those changes. Conformity helps streamline the tax process for individuals and businesses, reducing confusion and ensuring consistency between state and federal returns. However, full alignment can also carry a significant cost to the state budget, which must balance many competing priorities.

Because Maine has not adopted these provisions, Mainers will not be able to take advantage of the lower taxes, credits and deductions contained in the federal law.

The administration cited fiscal constraints, noting that conforming fully to the federal changes would cost more than \$400 million at a time when roughly \$67 million was available for tax adjustments. While I question that estimate, years of overspending have left state government well short of the funds need to fully conform.

That is the result of years of overspending while the state collected record high tax revenues.

Since Governor Mills took office, Maine's overall budget has grown 77%, reflecting both new programs and expanded services. While this growth has funded many initiatives, it has also limited the state's flexibility in adopting new tax relief measures. That is regrettable, since many of the people I represent could use some tax relief to help pay for the ever increasing cost of living in Maine.

The Legislature will have an opportunity to look at conforming with the "Working Families tax Cut Act" when it reconvenes in January. I believe Maine should conform with federal tax changes that help seniors, workers and Maine families. My focus remains on finding ways to make Maine more affordable for families, small businesses, and retirees—while keeping the state on sound fiscal footing.

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. It is truly an honor to serve the people of Carmel and Hermon (District 35) and the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Thorne



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

DOG LICENSES: 2026 DOG TAGS ARE AVAILABLE



Residents who need vet care or rabies for their animals should make their appointments **NOW** for 2026 licensing. Information has been communicated by the State Vet Association that they are experiencing a vet shortage / lack of remote clinics and resources.

Please license your dog before January 31. The State of Maine demands a \$25.00 late fee for any dog renewal license after 1/31/2026.

Go to <http://bit.ly/3UWzln4> to license a previously registered dog or a new dog online from October 15, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

If you no longer have a dog to license, please let us know here at the Town Office at 848-1010 #3.

\$25 LATE FEE PER DOG WILL BE IN EFFECT AFTER 1/31/2026!



New Leadership Training Implemented - Blues Uniforms

Article & Photo Submitted by: C/PFC Nanette Holmes



Responsibility and leadership are two of the most important values in the battalion. Last week, we strengthened them. Recently, the JROTC Hawk Battalion has been enhancing the respect and care for our dress uniforms. Our upper LETs (Leadership, Education, and Training level; the 1-4 represents how many years you've been in the program) have been working on how to assemble the uniforms in the correct manner. Our LET 1s have been trained and tested about Command and Staff positions, ranks, and finally, how to set up both the male and female dress uniform coats.

As upper level cadets, it's critical that we help train the first year cadets in the correct assembly of dress uniform items without having to always rely on needing to use directions, so we can at least appear like we know what we're doing and can lead by example. The upper LETs, (LET 2s and above) were given the task to put together two dress coats, one for men's and one for women's. This included assembling basic uniform items and awards without looking for instructions from the book or getting help from peers. They were given time to study the knowledge packet and prepare the coats for a week. The cadets were tested on this knowledge and graded accordingly. Now that these upperclassmen are trained on all the details of dress uniform assembly, they are expected to lead their JROTC classes and assist the first-year cadets on their way to assembling their own dress coats! As the upper LETs worked on putting the coats together, the first year cadets learned the basics of the female and male coats through presentations followed by written exams. This test included identifying the proper location of the name plate, the HUD (Honor Unit with Distinction, gold star), the unit crest,

and last, but not least, where the torches of knowledge (the gold circles with torches) are placed. This knowledge of assembling dress uniforms is crucial for the young cadets to retain, not only this year for their own knowledge but also for future years when they become mentors for subordinate cadets.

Taking responsibility and respecting the male and female uniforms is an important part of our curriculum, whether it be maintaining the coat or assembling it correctly with care is mandatory, and respect for the uniform is an important part of our program. By instructing both the lower and upper LETs on how to assemble the uniform and why we place items where they belong, we teach them the importance of these tasks and why the cadets should respect the uniform and those who have worn it before us.

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. 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!

Penobscot Snowmobile Club News

Article Submitted by: Sonya Eldridge



Our summer and fall have both been very productive! Through a USDA grant, we have accepted delivery of a 2025 Kabota M6060 Series tractor that replaces some of our aging equipment. We have already made major improvements to our trail system by mowing and bush hogging. And when snow flies we will remove the tires from the tractor and attach a track kit for winter trail grooming.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this grant happen. This Kabota is a game-changer for trail work!

Our regular season meetings at 795 Bog Road have started with the first being October 1st. At this meeting we accepted the resignation of our Vice President Nick Pomeroy. Nick was member of our club who had donated thousands of volunteer hours of his time clearing land for our parking lot and truck pulling track in addition to maintaining and grooming trails over the years. Nick's work life has him traveling the state with much success at the job sights he is a part of. We wish you continued prosperity Nick, and we sincerely thank you for your volunteer work with us. Please stop in and say "hello" if you get a chance.

With Nick's resignation we have unanimously elected our next Vice President! Congratulations go to Andrew Jackson. Andrew is the kind of person every local snowmobile club needs! He is a young, jack-of-all-trades guy willing to do any task needed or to help in any way. Thank you Andrew for all that you do and we look forward to having you as our newest VP!

In September we hosted a BBQ ribs and spaghetti dinner to honor and thank all of our volunteers. In addition to the great food, we played corn-hole and had a friendly potato salad competition! When the judging from everyone who voted on the five potato salad entries was tallied, Deanna Witham was declared the winner. Well done Deanna!!

Many events we participate in are upcoming; including the Rotary Club of Bangor's Festival of Lights Parade. We will have a brightly lit float full of energy and fun! Join us in celebrating our community holidays at this annual event on December 6th at 4:30p.m.

Another one of our favorite events is co-hosting with Dysart's, the Pine Tree Camp Egg Run every winter. The dates for this fundraising event are Thursday January 29- Sunday February 1st. This is a wonderful weekend full of love, laughs, great food, a benefit auction, and a hilarious "egg ride"! Get the latest information and details at pinetreesociety.org or follow Pine Tree Camp on facebook.

We will also enjoy our annual Christmas party at the clubhouse. Every member is invited to enjoy a fabulous dinner and a fun Yankee Swap. Follow sledhermon on facebook for the details in December.

We meet the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. The third Wednesday meeting is always a potluck! At our October 15th meeting we enjoyed Mac & Cheese, Chili, Meatballs, Pizza, and a birthday cake. Please feel free to stop in at one of our meetings to learn about our trails, our volunteers, or if you would just like to meet new people. PARENTS! if you have a high schooler looking to fill volunteer hours for school credits, stop in and see if our club is a good fit for your family. You never know...it may lead to receiving one of our three scholarships awarded annually.

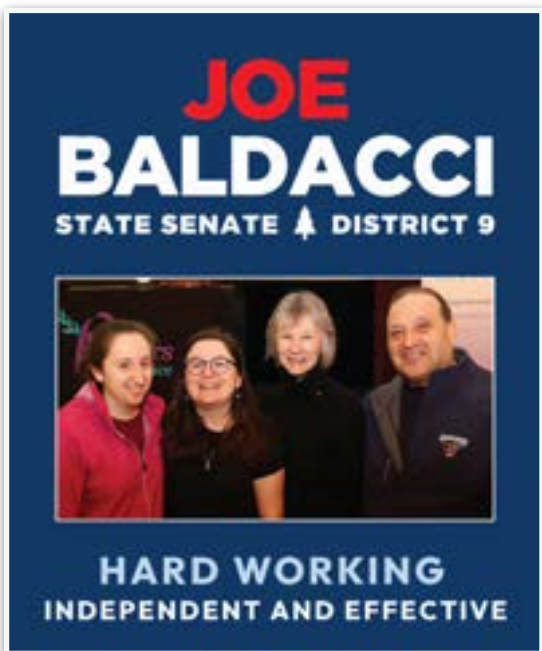
We would like to extend a big volunteer THANK YOU to Jim Chichetto!!! Jim is always willing to lend his time, his equipment and his expertise with trail work, our truck pulling event every July, or any other task. Thank you Jim. We appreciate you more than you know.

Our biggest club fundraiser is underway! We are selling 400 raffle tickets for your chance to win a new Ski Doo 600 Sport EFI or a new Can Am Outlander 500. Tickets are \$50.00 each and the winner will be drawn at Bangor Motor Sports on December 20th. You can purchase a ticket electronically on our sledhermon facebook page or by emailing Sledhermon2@gmail.com.

The Penobscot Snowmobile Clubhouse is available for rent for your gathering of 40-50 people. We have a full kitchen, two restrooms, and plenty of parking. The rental price is \$150.00 and includes membership. Please call Chuck at 207-478-8280 for availability. For all the most current happenings at our club check out our facebook page at sledhermon or call Andy at 207-852-8214. See You Soon!

Preserving Non-emergency Medical Transportation in Maine

Article & Photo Submitted by: Sen. Joe Baldacci



Earlier this month, I and several state representatives from Bangor and Orono gathered to hold a press conference on the increasingly dire situation regarding Modivcare and the state of non-emergency medical transportation in Maine. Some of Maine's most at-risk residents rely on this transportation; MaineCare recipients who are unable to drive themselves to the hospital rely on this service to receive dialysis, chemotherapy and similar routine medical procedures. It is more apparent than ever that Modivcare – owned by an out-of-state company – is unable to reliably deliver for Mainers.

After signing a \$750 million contract in 2023 to become the sole provider of non-emergency medical transportation for half of Maine's counties, [numerous complaints about reliability](#) and timeliness were raised. In August of this year, the company filed for bankruptcy, claiming they are an astounding [\\$1.4 billion dollars in debt](#). The company claims their [restructuring plan](#) would alleviate \$1.1 billion of this debt, but if this fails, it could mean a serious lapse in service. Additionally, any cost-cutting in the restructure could mean additional shortcomings in reliability.

This is why it is vital that the Governor's administration and the Department of Health and Human Services reissue the contract for Maine's non-emergency transportation program. Our local county community action programs like Penquis and Waldo CAP are more than capable of providing

this service to residents; they have done so in the past. With an equivalent contract, I'm confident they would have the necessary resources and financial stability to preserve this vital service for Maine's most vulnerable residents.

To stay up to date with ongoing events and legislation, subscribe to my regular newsletter at www.mainesenate.org. If you ever have any questions or concerns, or if I can be of any assistance at all, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can email me at Joe.Baldacci@legislature.maine.gov, or you can call my office at (207) 287-1515.

Get Town office closures, The Hermon Connection, news & more right to your email!



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REGISTER YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS BY NOVEMBER 30 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST! VOTING TAKES PLACE ONLINE BETWEEN DECEMBER 6-25.

JINGLE & MINGLE

FAMILY FUN HOLIDAY PARTY AT HERMON MIDDLE SCHOOL ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 FROM 5-7. PHOTO BOOTH, HOT COCOA BAR, MEET SANTA, ENJOY CRAFTS & GAMES.

LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS

WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA AND INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS SO SANTA CAN REPLY! BRING YOUR LETTER TO THE HERMON TOWN OFFICE AND DROP IT IN THE BIG RED MAILBOX IN THE LOBBY AT 333 BILLINGS RD, HERMON. ACCEPTING LETTERS UNTIL DECEMBER 14.

PAJAMA STORY TIME

DRESS IN YOUR COZIEST JAMMIES AND JOIN US FOR A STORY, SNACK AND A CRAFT TO TAKE HOME! WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT HERMON HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY. REGISTRATION IS RECOMMENDED.

55+ HOLIDAY PARTY & COOKIE SWAP

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE TIME ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18. BRING YOUR FAVORITE COOKIES (HOMEMADE OR STORE BOUGHT) AND WE'LL SUPPLY THE BAGS, APPETIZERS AND GAMES TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS TOGETHER. 12PM AT HERMON TOWN OFFICE.



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