

The Hermon CONNECTION

Vol. 33 Issue 3 - May 2026

Updates • News • Events • Information



SAVE THE DATE: HERMON SUMMER SIZZLER!

Article by Lindsey Ouellette, Photos by Todd Douglass

Hermon Recreation is excited to announce that the Summer Sizzler event will be returning this year on **August 15, 2026** at the Patricia A. Duran School. We have a fun filled day of events for people of all ages to enjoy that will bring the community together and celebrate our town including food, bounce houses, music, a slime run, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, car show, and of course, a fantastic fireworks display to end the event!

2026 Summer Sizzler Events

Our current schedule
(subject to change):

7:30 AM:

5K/10K Road Race

8 AM:

Sizzler Slime Run

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM:

Car Show

12 PM - 5 PM:

Carnival Land

12 PM - 5 PM:

Booths & Food Trucks

4 PM - 6 PM:

Community BBQ



**Business Sponsors, Volunteers & Vendors
Wanted! For more information, please visit
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: June 19, 2026
Next Edition will be published mid-July

Message from the Town Manager

Greetings to the Residents and Businesses of Hermon,

During the March Town Council meeting, I had the opportunity to recognize Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk, for her recent achievement of becoming a Certified Clerk. This accomplishment reflects Kristen's dedication to the Town and her commitment to carrying out her duties and responsibilities with the utmost care and professionalism.

Congratulations!

The Town's FY2027 budget process will conclude in June, with the legislative body—you, the voters—determining the direction the Town and School Department will take to ensure quality services and long-term sustainability. Please take the time to vote on Tuesday, June 9, to elect Council and School Committee members, and attend the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, June 11. Both events will be held at the High School on their respective dates. I would like to cordially invite any individual with questions on the budget to stop by the Town Office during normal business hours or call to schedule an appointment.

Town staff and administration continue to work diligently to streamline processes while improving transparency and sustainability for the future of our Town, our children, residents, businesses, and visitors.

Enjoy the warmth of the season. Please stay safe and take time to appreciate the wonderful community we share here in Hermon—a great little town in the heart of Maine to live, work, and play.

Stephen Fields, PSHRA-SCP
Town Manager

A NOTE TO OUR READERS...

For a long time, The Hermon Connection has been a way for the Town of Hermon to share updates, stories, and announcements from across our community. We appreciate the contributions from town departments, residents, and local businesses who help make each issue informative and engaging.

Effective July 2026, The Hermon Connection will transition from a bi-monthly publication to a quarterly schedule, with issues released four times per year: Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring. This change will allow us to better manage production while continuing to provide timely and meaningful information to our residents.

We remain committed to keeping the community informed and connected, and we thank you for your continued support and participation.

New Connection Deadlines:

Fall 2026 - Deadline is August 1, Published early September
Winter 2026/27 - Deadline is November 1, Published early December
Spring 2027 - Deadline is February 1, Published early March
Summer 2027 - Deadline is May 1, Published early June



MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMMING



H-Nation Youth Camp 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!

VISIT HERMONREC.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

JULY 29TH



JULY 17TH



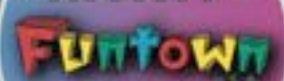
JULY 24TH



JULY 10TH

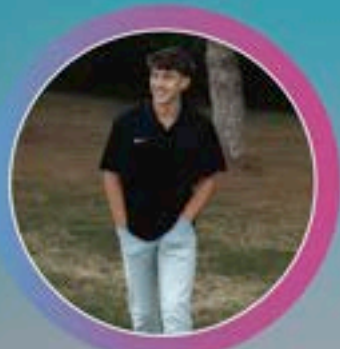


AUGUST 7TH

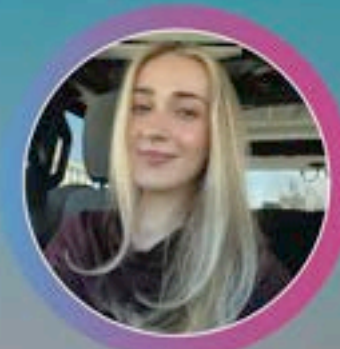




STAFF



DYLAN PHAIR
SUPERVISOR



GABBY



DYLAN YEO
SUB LEADER



NATE
ASST. SUPERVISOR



CAMDEN
LEADER



JACKSON
COUNSELOR



BECCA
COUNSELOR



COLLIN
SUB LEADER



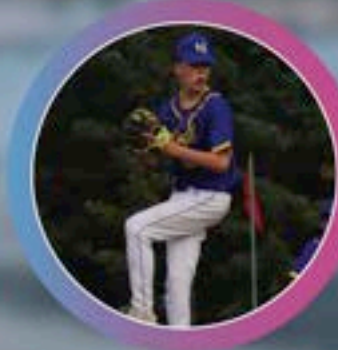
BRYNN
OPENING MANAGER



LONDON DOW
COUNSELOR



DAIJHA
COUNSELOR



LONDON WILCOX
COUNSELOR



QUINCY
COUNSELOR



AUSTIN
COUNSELOR



Investments made in Maine during the 132nd Legislature

The Second Session of the 132nd Legislature has come to an end. While we will return one more time before the end of the month to deal with any bills the Governor may have vetoed between now and then, the 132nd Legislature is effectively finished with its business. I'm proud of what my colleagues and I have accomplished. We are moving Maine forward and making it a better place to live for the working class that is the backbone of this state. This month, we passed a supplemental budget that was signed by the Governor and aims to protect everything we hold dear as Mainers. It invests in child care, housing and health care so that those who keep our economy running can afford to live and raise a family here.


Additionally, we've made the tax system in Maine more fair by asking those earning the highest income in the state to pay just a small percentage more. This additional revenue will enable us to make and protect key investments in the state, including delivering \$11.4 million in direct property tax relief through increasing the maximum benefit of the Property Tax Fairness Credit. With this revenue we're also able to increase minimum teacher salaries, improve school bus safety and continue free community college, which will bring more trades workers to Maine. A stable budget where the wealthy pay their fair share means we can protect and advance investments in Bangor International Airport, Penobscot County Jail and retirement benefits for workers at Dorothea Dix Hospital.


The end of the 132nd Legislature also marks my final term in the Maine Senate. It has been the greatest honor of my life representing the City of Bangor and the Town of Hermon. I look forward to spending more time in our district, meeting with you, and continuing to serve you for the rest of the year. Please to not hesitate to contact me at Joe.Baldacci@legislature.maine.gov, or call my office at (207) 287-1515.




Spaghetti **DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION**

3RD ANNUAL MATTHEW SFORZA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

 **Saturday, July 18th**

 **4 - 7 PM**

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

School and Municipal Voting

Submitted by Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk

May 7 - Public Hearing for School Budget & Municipal Budget
Public Safety Building 6:00pm

May 11 - Absentee Ballots are available for voters and walk-in voting at Town Office

June 9 - Election Day to vote on Article #1 for moderator at 6:45am and Article #2 for School Committeeperson and Town Councilperson
Hermon High School gym from 7:00am to 8:00pm

June 11 - Annual Town Meeting – School Budget meeting with warrant articles and Municipal budget with warrant articles
Hermon High Auditorium 6:00pm

The Town Council has two vacant seats. Tristan Friend, Christopher Gray, Dana Hewes and John Snyder III have submitted nomination papers for the seats.

The School Committee has one vacant seat. Christopher Cousins has submitted nomination 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)

Town Manager Stephen Fields Earns CMM Designation

The Town of Hermon staff proudly recognizes Town Manager Stephen Fields for earning the Certified Maine Municipal Manager (CMM) designation through the Maine Town, City and County Management Association.

The CMM designation represents a significant professional achievement in municipal government. To earn this certification, candidates must complete a comprehensive program that includes formal coursework, demonstrated experience in municipal administration, and continued professional development. The program focuses on essential areas such as municipal law, budgeting and finance, human resources, and effective public management.

This accomplishment reflects Mr. Fields' strong commitment to professional growth and to serving the residents of Hermon with a high level of knowledge, integrity, and leadership. Through his continued leadership and professional partnership with employees, grounded in integrity, accountability, mentorship, and empowerment, Mr. Fields has helped strengthen Hermon's team and foster a culture of effective, collaborative leadership.

The CMM program ensures that municipal managers are well-prepared to meet the complex challenges of local government.

The staff of the Town of Hermon congratulates Stephen on this well-deserved achievement and thanks him for his continued dedication to our community.



CONGRATS!

Hermon Hawk Battalion Introduces New Instructor: Sergeant Major (R) Michael Knights

Article Written and Photo by : C/1LT Nanette Holmes



With the new semester in session, a new instructor comes along with it; welcome aboard Sergeant Major (Retired) Michael "Jaime" Knights! Sergeant Major(R) Knights was a part of the U.S. Army National Guard for 29 years. "Initially," he states, "It was because of the college benefits." However, soon he felt like he found his people. He would then sign up for another six years. "So, after the first 6-year enlistment, I signed up for another six and knew I would stick around for at least 20." With those military college benefits, Sergeant Major earned an associates in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Business Management from Eastern Maine Technical College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Maine in Orono. From the short amount of time he's been here at Hermon High School serving as the assistant JROTC Instructor in the Hawk Battalion since this past January 2026, we all knew he'd fit right in. Sergeant Major states that he wanted this position because he heard from Major(R) Marcel Fortier, the Senior Army Instructor, and other instructors working in local JROTC programs

who spoke highly about the unique opportunities instructing a JROTC leadership and citizenship course in high school. Now that he is in the classroom, Sergeant Major has integrated into our program as if it were second nature. For the future in this program, he hopes his experiences and values will add something positive to the group. While he's only been here a few months, we can already see this taking shape. As one of the two Hawk Battalion Instructors, we thank you for your service to our country in the Maine National Guard and the positive impact you've already had on our program and the cadets. We hope you continue to work with us for many years to come.

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 ouelletel@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!

Growing Readers, One Story at a Time

Article & Photos Submitted by Melissa Davis, Ed.D.



Spring has been an exciting and inspiring time for literacy at the Duran School. From March through April vacation, our students, staff, and community came together to celebrate the joy of reading in meaningful and engaging ways. One of the highlights of the season was our schoolwide Reading Challenge. Students committed to reading at least 20 minutes each day for 25 days, building consistency and stamina as readers. Research consistently shows that daily reading practice—even as little as 20 minutes—can significantly improve vocabulary, comprehension, and overall academic success. We were proud to see so many students rise to the challenge, demonstrating dedication and a growing love of reading. Those who completed the challenge were entered into a special drawing for a brand-new bicycle, generously sponsored by Hermon's Lynde Lodge. We are incredibly grateful for their support in encouraging literacy and rewarding student effort. Students also had the opportunity to explore the work of Maine author and illustrator Kevin Hawkes. Classrooms read and discussed his books, and students voted on their favorites. This experience became even more memorable when Mr. Hawkes visited the Duran School. He presented to students and staff during the school day and joined us again for a special family night, sharing insights into his creative process and inspiring our young readers and writers. We were also thrilled to welcome community members into our classrooms during Community Reader Day. Guest readers shared their time and

favorite stories with our students, helping to strengthen the connection between school and community while modeling a love of reading. Our commitment to literacy has also been strengthened through our ongoing partnership with the University of Maine. This year, we collaborated with UMaine literacy teaching students, who brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm into our school. In April, they designed and led interactive literacy games as part of our annual Literacy Night and Art Show. The event was a wonderful celebration of student learning, creativity, and community connection. We are proud of the excitement around reading that continues to grow at the Duran School. Thank you to our staff, families, and community partners for supporting our students on their literacy journey.

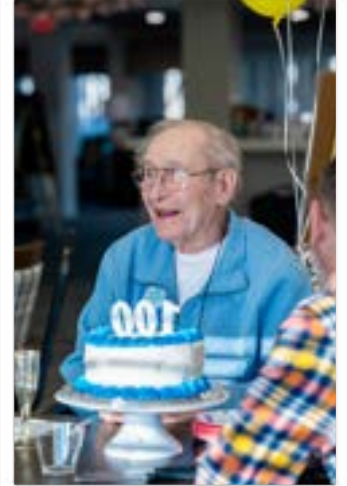


**Scan the QR
codes for more
information!**

Happy 100th Birthday to Garrett Lovett!

Article and photos submitted by Jan Hedrich

Hermon's most senior citizen, celebrated his 100th birthday on April 8 with all nine of his children in attendance. From left to right behind Garrett are: Elaine, Ellen, Garrett Jr., Charles, Dennis, Robert, Stephen, Jan and Jon; all graduates of Hermon High School.



THANK YOU, ACE FLAGG!



Closed Doors, Open Checkbooks: Maine's Budget Problem

2026 Legislative Session Update with Rep. Jim Thorne, House District 35 - Carmel and Hermon

Maine people work hard. They meet their obligations, pay their taxes, and reasonably expect to have a voice in how those dollars are spent. Yet once again, that voice has been sidelined.

In Augusta, a \$500 million supplemental budget was recently passed and signed into law by Governor Janet Mills after a narrow vote in the Legislature. The process matters as much as the outcome—and in this case, the process was deeply flawed. This budget was developed behind closed doors, without meaningful input from Republican lawmakers, effectively excluding representation for nearly half of Maine's population.

That alone should give pause.

This comes on the heels of years of strong state revenue. Despite that, taxes were raised last year on working families to offset significant MaineCare shortfalls. Rather than correcting course, the current approach doubles down.

Today, more than one-third of Maine residents—over 400,000 people—are enrolled in MaineCare. That participation rate is roughly twice that of neighboring New Hampshire, a state with a comparable population. Such growth raises legitimate concerns about long-term sustainability and fairness to those funding the system.

Instead of confronting those structural challenges, the supplemental budget exhausts available resources and goes further still. It taps into the Budget Stabilization Fund—commonly understood as a safeguard for true emergencies or revenue declines. Neither condition appears to exist here.

When guardrails are reinterpreted to justify additional spending, it undermines confidence in the system itself.

The broader fiscal pattern continues in tax policy. After increasing the burden on lower-income earners last year, the focus now shifts to higher-income taxpayers. However, those individuals often have the flexibility to relocate. When they do, Maine risks losing not just tax revenue, but also investment, job creation, and economic stability.

Meanwhile, core priorities receive insufficient attention. Infrastructure, agriculture, and the forest products sector—pillars of Maine's economy—are too often overshadowed by expanding expenditures elsewhere.

The result is increasingly visible: higher costs for residents, strained public services, and growing concern that the system is misaligned—rewarding non-participation while placing greater pressure on those who work and contribute.

Compounding these concerns is the issue of oversight. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General identified at least \$45.6 million in improper Medicaid payments tied to autism services in Maine. Findings of this magnitude typically demand swift corrective action.

Instead, the Legislature adjourned without resolving the issue, leaving taxpayers exposed to potential federal repayment obligations that could reach tens—or even hundreds—of millions of dollars.

That is not a theoretical concern. It is real money, already spent, that may now have to be returned.

For years, Republicans have advanced proposals centered on transparency, accountability, and disciplined fiscal management. These have included calls for reform and stronger oversight mechanisms. Those proposals have not gained traction under the current balance of power.

With one-party control of state government, fiscal decisions are being made with limited opposition influence, and the trajectory raises legitimate questions about long-term sustainability.

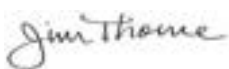
External scrutiny is increasing. Federal investigators are paying attention. So are Maine people.

There remains an opportunity to reset—to restore balance, reinforce accountability, and ensure that government operates with both transparency and discipline.

Maine can do better. With responsible leadership, it will.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about this issue—or any matter involving state government—please do not hesitate to reach out at Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov. My office is here to help.

Jim Thorne



Investments made in Maine during the 132nd Legislature

Article Submitted by Senator Joseph Baldacci

The Second Session of the 132nd Legislature has come to an end. While we will return one more time before the end of the month to deal with any bills the Governor may have vetoed between now and then, the 132nd Legislature is effectively finished with its business. I'm proud of what my colleagues and I have accomplished. We are moving Maine forward and making it a better place to live for the working class that is the backbone of this state. This month, we passed a supplemental budget that was signed by the Governor and aims to protect everything we hold dear as Mainers. It invests in child care, housing and health care so that those who keep our economy running can afford to live and raise a family here.

Additionally, we've made the tax system in Maine more fair by asking those earning the highest income in the state to pay just a small percentage more. This additional revenue will enable us to make and protect key investments in the state, including delivering \$11.4 million in direct property tax relief through increasing the maximum benefit of the Property Tax Fairness Credit. With this revenue we're also able to increase minimum teacher salaries, improve school bus safety and continue free community college, which will bring more trades workers to Maine. A stable budget where the wealthy pay their fair share means we can protect and advance investments in Bangor International Airport, Penobscot County Jail and retirement benefits for workers at Dorothea Dix Hospital.

The end of the 132nd Legislature also marks my final term in the Maine Senate. It has been the greatest honor of my life representing the City of Bangor and the Town of Hermon. I look forward to spending more time in our district, meeting with you, and continuing to serve you for the rest of the year. Please to not hesitate to contact me at Joe.Baldacci@legislature.maine.gov, or call my office at (207) 287-1515.

HERMON HIGH SCHOOL'S NEW NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES



Seated from left to right are HHS juniors and new NHS Members, Hannah Waning, Hazel Leclerc, Mary Kelly, Grayson Heal-Hedger, Leia Guerette, and Olivia Adams.

CONGRATS

Photo submitted by Barbara Sargent, Ed.D.

OPEN FOR THE
SEASON...

HERMON TRANSFER STATION



Location: 200 New Boston Road
Hours of Operation: 8 am to 4 pm (or dusk)
every Saturday except holiday weekends

For more info, visit www.hermonmaine.gov or call 207-848-1010

For over 100 years, this hat has been a real Maine favorite...
...and it makes a great Fishing Hat!



FOGGY MOUNTAIN

Real Maine

CRUSHER HATS

Made in USA



Traditional Red
Gun Metal Gray

Midnight Black

Hunter Green
Blaze Orange

...and
The Flapper

FoggyMountainLife.com

Available Locally at
Hermon ACE Hardware

It's got style, and crushable too!
Black, Green, Brown & Blaze

Maine Outdoor Solutions, LLC
Hermon, Maine 207-478-6426



Music in the Garden

FREE Community Concerts

June 14 at 4:30 pm

Sebasticook Valley Community Band



July 9 at 6:30 pm

Harold J. Crosby Community Band



**Bring your lawn chair and
enjoy live music in the garden**
 Ecotat is open daily, FREE admission

Ecotat Gardens and Trails

Parking at 25 Annis Road, Hermon

Mail: 333 Billings Rd., Hermon, ME 04402



Sinclair's Home Heating

has been Hermon's *hometown* full service
oil company since 2003



- Home-Town Discount
- Automatic Delivery
- 24-Emergency Service for our oil customers
- Annual tune ups

Come join our family of satisfied customers!

*We are not comfortable in our home
Until you are comfortable in yours.*

207.848.2036



Find us on
Facebook

We use an organic compound to
STOP Ticks, Mosquitoes
and Biting Flies

Full-season and single event options available

Call Jen or Jim at

(207) 242 - 1771

or email us at
mainemosquitomanllc@gmail.com
for a free quote

We are local and look forward to hearing from you!
mainemosquitoman.com

Invested in our neighbors.

We're proud to support the Hermon community.



Camden
NATIONAL BANK

Member
FDIC

HERMON MEADOW
GOLF CLUB



HERMON MEADOW GOLF CLUB
AND
DRIVING RANGE

Come enjoy a day of golfing at one of Maine's finest golf courses!

We are a Par 72, 18 hole course with tees for both juniors and experts.

📍 281 Billings Road | Hermon, Maine 04401 USA

🌐 www.hermonmeadow.net

📞 (207) 848-3741

Danforth's
Down Home Supermarket

We proudly carry Hannaford brand products



\$10 OFF

Purchase of
\$100 OR MORE

OR

\$5 OFF

Purchase of
\$50 OR MORE

Excludes alcohol, tobacco and any service desk purchases. Must present coupon to redeem.

We are a second generation, family-owned supermarket committed to serving the greater Hermon community.

Thank you for shopping with us!
Brett & Kasey Danforth

FIND US AT:

2402 Rt. 2, Hermon ME
www.danforthssupermarket.com
or, for online ordering and curbside pick-up

Coupon Expires 6/19/2026 PLU# 550

The Switzer Agency

Medicare help is
close to home



Brian Switzer

Licensed Insurance Agent

PHONE: (207) 299-5557

EMAIL: theswitzeragency@gmail.com

LOCAL OFFICE: 2060 Glenwood Ave, Hermon

HEALTH | MEDICARE | SMALL GROUP | LIFE | SUPPLEMENTAL



ESTABLISHED 1975

Desk jobs aren't for everyone.
Some of us want work that moves.
Work you can see. Work that matters.

Others might call it "dirty." But we don't mind.

At Casella, hard work isn't just a means to an end.
It's something you can build a life on.
And it's important work that keeps society moving.

GOOD PAY. GOOD PEOPLE. GOOD LIFE.

That's the power of hard work.



To apply, text **CASELLA** to 97211
or visit powerofhardwork.com



MAINE'S PREMIER EPOXY FLOORING COMPANY!



- ✓ DURABLE
- ✓ EASY TO MAINTAIN
- ✓ QUICK INSTALL

CALL US TODAY!
207-659-4895

LOCALLY OWNED IN HERMON, ME



REQUEST A FREE QUOTE ONLINE
WWW.MIDNIGHTEPOXY.COM



YOUR VEHICLE NEEDS IT

Why? It's the most cutting-edge paint protection technology in the world today.



THICKER, STRONGER, GLOSSIER.

MIDNIGHT CUSTOMS & DETAILING
2004 ODLIN ROAD - HERMON, ME

(207) 631-1440

MIDNIGHTCUSTOMSANDDETAILING.COM



333 Billings Road
Hermon, Maine 04401

Presorted Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bangor, ME
Permit No. 14

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

The advertisement features a background image of the Statue of Liberty at night with city lights. In the top left corner, there is a blue and red '250 REC' badge. The main title 'LIGHTS & LIBERTY' is written in large, bold, red and blue letters with a white outline. To the right, the text 'LIGHT UP THE TOWN FOR AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY!' is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, two lines of text describe the event: 'REGISTRANTS WILL HAVE THEIR HOMES PLACED ON A MAP FOR OTHERS TO VIEW' and 'RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE DISPLAYS'. At the bottom, it states 'CASH PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE HOMES BASED ON VOTES!' and lists the prizes: '1ST: \$500 - 2ND: \$300 - 3RD: \$200' with 'WINNER ANNOUNCED ON JULY 6TH' below it.

250 REC

LIGHTS & LIBERTY

**LIGHT UP THE TOWN
FOR AMERICA'S 250TH
BIRTHDAY!**

**REGISTRANTS WILL HAVE THEIR HOMES
PLACED ON A MAP FOR OTHERS TO VIEW**

**RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR
THEIR FAVORITE DISPLAYS**

CASH PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE HOMES BASED ON VOTES!

**1ST: \$500 - 2ND: \$300 - 3RD: \$200
WINNER ANNOUNCED ON JULY 6TH**