
The Hermon Connection

Vol. 21 Issue 2 • March 2015

Hermon Boy Scout Troop 25 lends a hand and presents a donation to Samaritan Inc. Food Pantry at Hermon Baptist Church

Article & Photo By: Sally Hartford



Left to right: Aiden Thompson, Kent Raymond, Tyler Thompson, Lane Hartford, Colby Stokes, Peter Stokes, Amber Stokes, Debbie Belanger

The Boy Scouts of Troop 25 recently decided to make a monetary donation to Samaritan Inc., a mobile food cupboard open every Monday at Hermon Baptist Church. The Troop contacted Debbie Belanger, president of Samaritan Inc., to arrange for the delivery of the donation from the proceeds of a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser held at the Lynde Masonic Lodge earlier in the year. On November 24, members of Troop 25 and their families presented the donation and also spent a couple of hours assisting in the setup and organization of the food pantry products, helping food pantry patrons during the food pickup, and breaking down the food pantry.

The experience for both organizations was mutually beneficial. The Samaritan Inc. group appreciated the extra help from the Scouts, and the Scouts were able to put to use some of the points they live by - "A Scout is ... Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind..."

To learn more about Boy Scouting in Hermon, contact Scoutmaster Kevin Hartford at 848-4933.

The Samaritan Inc. Food Pantry offers produce, meats, boxed and canned goods that have been donated from local grocery stores. To learn more about Samaritan Inc., visit their website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/samaritaninmaine>.

<p>Town of Hermon Roger Raymond <i>Town Manager</i> PO Box 6300 Hermon, ME 04402 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316 raymond@hermon.net www.hermon.net</p>	<p>The Hermon Connection</p> <p>If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of <i>The Hermon Connection</i>, please send it to: scottwl@hermon.net</p> <p>Deadline for submissions: April 20, 2015</p>	<p>Inside This Issue:</p> <p>Town Manager..... 2 Senator Gratwick 3 Rep.Reed 3 Around Town 4 Town Tidbits 5 Featured Business..... 6 Featured Business..... 7 Economic Development 9 Friends of Football 10 JROTC 11 Assessing Office 12</p>
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From the Office of the Town Manager

By: Roger Raymond, Town Manager



As we begin to develop the town budget for 2015-2016, we face many uncertainties due to the Governor's proposed budget for the upcoming biennium. The Governor has proposed to eliminate the income tax over the next four years and to shift all state and local cost to the sales tax and property tax. This is a major change in tax policy as it exists today which will have a major impact on the property tax in the future if the proposal is adopted by the Legislature. What is most difficult about the

proposed change in policy is determining who will be the winners and losers.

As I review the proposed biennium budget, the following is the potential impact for the Town of Hermon:

In 2015-16 the Governor proposes to double the Homestead Exemption for Maine homesteaders 65 years and older and to eliminate the exemption for all homesteaders under the age of 65. For a typical household in Hermon at the current mill rate, homesteaders age 65 and older would receive a \$240 reduction in their tax bill while homesteaders under age 65 would realize a \$120 increase in their tax bill.

The Governor also proposes to increase the Local Mill Rate Expectation for schools from 8.10 to 8.48. This would increase the Hermon School Department's share of Essential Programs and Services by approximately \$180,000 for 2015-2016 fiscal year. This does not include increases for personnel or operational costs due to inflation. In addition, the school department must address a space need at the Hermon Elementary School due to high enrollments in the lower grades. At this time, the amount of the increase is difficult to determine but at minimum could range between .75 to 1 mill and result in a 6% to 8% increase in the mill rate. For a homeowner this would result in an increase ranging from \$75 to \$100 for every \$100,000 of value annually.

In 2016-17 fiscal year the Governor proposes to eliminate the Maine Revenue Sharing program resulting in a loss of \$150,000 annually or .30 mill. For taxpayers, the results would be an additional \$30 per \$100,000 of value annually.

In 2016-17 the Governor also proposes to exempt all property currently enrolled in the Business Equipment Tax Rebate program (BETR). For Hermon the estimated revenue loss as best determined at this time is \$126,447 or a .27 mill rate increase resulting in a \$27 increase for every \$100,000 of value annually.

In order to minimize the impact of the losses noted above, the Governor proposes to allow municipalities to tax non-profit entities that have more than \$500,000 of value. The proposal continues to exempt churches and public schools. The Town of Hermon only has one non-profit that has a value exceeding \$500,000. The new tax dollars generated by this non-profit would be less than \$1,200 annually, way short of the \$150,000 lost from the Maine State Revenue Sharing program.

In addition, the proposal would allow municipalities to tax telecommunications property. It is estimated there is approximately \$600 million worth of this type of property in Maine. However, the Maine Revenue Service is unable at this time to identify the municipalities this property is located in. To the best of our knowledge the Town of Hermon does not have significant value in this category.

Our Governor's argument for the major policy change is to allow taxpayers to have more opportunity to direct how your tax dollars are being spent. By shifting the local cost to municipalities, taxpayers are being given a better opportunity to have a say. If you fail to take advantage of the opportunity then you have no reason to complain. You can be involved in the budget process by attending budget workshops and town meetings held by the school department and municipality. These workshops and town meetings are well announced and usually held in the evening to provide better opportunity for citizens to attend.

If you have issue with the policy change proposed by the Governor, you should contact your local Senator and/or Representative to share your views. Their contact numbers are: Representative Roger Reed, 287-1440 and Senator Geoff Gratwick, 947-0637.

Please feel free to contact me at 848-1015 or 356-2914 if you have any questions or comments regarding the contents of this article.

Your Senator's Corner

By: *Senator Geoff Gratwick*

Senate District 9, Hermon and Bangor

In early February, Governor LePage gave his State of the State address to a Joint Session of the Legislature. His address started a conversation we have put off for too long: what should be our priorities as we spend the money we collect from Mainers as taxes? We can no longer afford the haphazard luxury of making changes to our tax structure year after year and still end up with a system no one can understand or defend.

What is the proper balance between spending on health care, education, transportation, municipal revenue sharing, environmental protection – and the many other areas for which we hold the government responsible? What proportion of our taxes should we spend on programs for young people, for the elderly, for those desperately poor, for the struggling middle class and on helping businesses to prosper and grow?

And where should the money to fund our State government come from? How much should be paid by those with low incomes, the middle class, the wealthy, from businesses, and property owners? In short, what is a fair tax system for Maine?

A first look at the budget seems to show that the Governor has answered these questions in a way that benefits those who are already economically the most secure. This concerns me. On the other hand, his call to step back and rethink suggests there are possible areas of consensus.

Members of the Appropriations Committee have already begun digging into his 600-plus page document. Over the next few months, we will reach agreement on a joint legislative/executive budget and tax structure, after a long process of hearings, arguments, and inevitably, excitement but also inevitably, compromise on all sides. The budget will go through extensive public hearings and work sessions before it reaches the House and Senate floor for a vote and I expect all citizens – including those who vote only occasionally - will have an interest in the outcome.

As I weigh what I believe should be changed and what should be kept, I will listen, of course, to the concerns of our municipal officials in Hermon and Bangor. I also want to hear from you as a voter. I will be hosting community forums throughout the district in order to give you a chance to talk about how you think we should collect and spend our public resources here in Maine. You can contact me at home at 947-0637 or by email at ggratwick@legislature.maine.gov.

This year could be a chance to do some needed rebalancing. I hope you'll participate.

Your State Representatives Corner

By: *State Representative Roger Reed*

District 103 - Hermon, Carmel and Etna (part)

Without question, the most contentious issue being batted around the halls of the Maine State House is Governor LePage's biennial budget proposal. Love it or hate it, it's a bold and transformational approach to revamping Maine's antiquated tax code. A tax code that was written back in the days when Maine was a Manufacturing economy and it made more sense to tax income as the primary source for state revenue. But those days are gone and we need to move in a new direction.

The bottom line is that Governor LePage and all Maine Republicans want to put in place policies that make Maine a more attractive destination spot for businesses and by extension young people. There are a myriad of issues that we need to resolve in order to make that vision a reality. If you look at the budget in a vacuum, as just one stand-alone policy, then it's easy to poke holes in it. But when you look at it as part of a comprehensive plan to fix what ails the state, then we could be on to something. Imagine a Maine with no income tax, estate tax or tax on military pensions. Where the welfare rolls are shrinking by the day and more people are working. That is the Republican vision for a more prosperous Maine. I applaud Governor LePage for his courage in starting a dialogue that is long overdue in Maine.

For the lovers of the Governor's budget proposal and the haters, I ask for your patience. This is a comprehensive proposal with a plethora of moving parts and the budget process in Augusta is a marathon not a sprint. We're a long way from seeing this budget in its finished form and the document that came out of the Governor's office a few weeks ago will look far different than the one that hits his desk in June.

I would also like to share some potentially good news coming out of Augusta. The Maine State Treasurers Office is once again looking to return unclaimed financial property to thousands of Mainers. Every year incorrect addresses, misspelled names and forgotten accounts cause Mainers to lose financial property they are entitled to. I consider it my personal responsibility to make sure my constituents receive any and all unclaimed property that is rightfully theirs.

This year, there is more than \$20 million worth of money sitting in Augusta just waiting to be returned. One of my colleagues in the House Republican caucus recently informed a constituent that they had \$153,000 worth of unclaimed financial property. There is a simple way to check if you have any unclaimed property. Go to maine.gov/upsearch and you can search by town to see if you, a member of your family or someone you know is on the list.

Please take a moment to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about your state government. My email address is Roger.Reed@legislature.maine.gov or call me in Augusta at 287-1440.



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Tricia Watson @ 478-1620
Danielle Perkins @ 852-2402
Vicki Gonyea @ 356-0441

Receiving A High School Diploma

Article & Photo By: Gaynor Reynolds



Maine Statutes allow secondary schools to award a diploma to veterans who attended school in that district and currently reside in the district where they left school prior to graduation to serve in the Armed Forces during WW II, the

Korean Conflict or the Vietnam War.

On February 10, 2015, Mrs. Patricia Duran, Superintendent of Schools, was pleased to present Mr. Wendall Overlock, Class of 1964, with his Hermon High School diploma. Mr. Overlock left school to serve our country in Vietnam and is thanked for his service during the Vietnam War.



**Hermon Recreation
Adult & Community Programming**

(Formally adult education)

2015 Spring Session

Be sure to check our website beginning March 16 to register for our upcoming spring session. This session will begin the week of April 6. We have some exciting new additions to our programming and also a full schedule of senior citizen activities!

Contact us:

Hermon Recreation Department
Michelle Thayer - Recreation Programmer
PO Box 6300
Hermon, Maine 04402
thayerm@hermon.net
207-848-4075

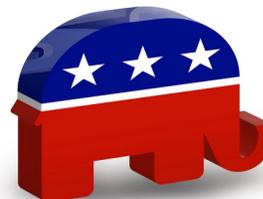
Republican Committee Meeting

The Hermon Republican Committee will be holding a meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Meeting Room at the Hermon Fire Station.

Roger Reed and other state politicians will be there to discuss and explain the Governor's Budget.

All Republican's are welcome.

For more information please contact:
Terry at 848-8139.



Have you ever considered serving the community you call home?



There are two Town Council seats and two School Committee seats that will be vacant at the end of this fiscal year. The Town of Hermon's Municipal Election will take place on June 9, 2015.

Nomination papers will be available from the Town Clerk on March 13, 2015. You must be at least 21 years of age, a registered voter of the Town and shall reside in the Town during your term of office.

Nomination papers must be signed by at least 25 registered voters of the Town of Hermon and returned to the Town Clerk for validation by 5:00pm on April 22, 2015.

Transfer Station



The Transfer Station is scheduled to reopen on April 3, 2015. This date is subject to change depending on the condition of the road at the Transfer Station.

Updates scheduled to take place this spring include a 50' x 50' paved composting pad where residents will be able to dispose grass clippings, vegetative waste and leaf waste.

The Transfer Station will be open on Saturdays from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Real Estate And Property Tax Due Date is Fast Approaching



All 2014 real estate and personal property taxes are due April 1, 2015 as set by the Council.

Interest will start accruing on April 2, 2015 at a rate of 7% annually on all outstanding taxes.

If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please don't hesitate to contact:

Rachel Grass, Tax Collector
or
Kristen Cushman, Deputy Tax Collector
at (207) 848-1010.

So You Think You Know Hermon (then and now)



From 1906-1919 Dr. LaForest J. Wright was a doctor in Hermon and to help him get around during the harsh winter months he drove an unusual Model T Ford car which had ??? on the front and with a ??? on the back of the car. The rest of the year he drove an ordinary car.

Answer to January question:

In 1822 the area from Billings Road to the Glenburn town line including the side roads was called "North Hermon" and was approximately 2 miles square.

One of the side roads was named the Roundy Road, but is now known as the Mansel Road.

Covey Physical Therapy



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Dear Patients and Community Members,

Thank you for all of your support over the years. We wanted to let you know that we have some new and exciting changes for 2015. We are moving our practice out of the Danforth Plaza in Hermon to a temporary location down the street on Rt. 2 to Morgan Hill Event Center (82 MORGAN HILL LANE). We will be there seeing patients starting March 2, 2015. There will be no interruption of care during this move.

We have purchased a piece of land across the street from this location to build our new and permanent home for Covey Physical Therapy. Once our new building is completed we would love for everyone to join us for a grand opening :) The plans include a walking path on the property to allow for our patients, as well as community members, to have a safe, off street place to get a good walk in.

Thank you for all of your continued support. We enjoy assisting you in your care and look forward to our very permanent home in Hermon.

Ann and Dale Covey

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Invironments, formerly known as b&d fabrication by design, is a full service architectural millwork company specializing in the fabrication and installation of fixtures and point-of-purchase displays for the convenience store, retail, financial, health and food service industries. Some of their clients include local businesses and franchises such as RH Foster, CN Brown, Amato's, and Pine State Trading Co as well as national names like McDonalds, Dairy Queen, Exxon Mobil and Irving. In addition, they've partnered with Maine banks, like Bangor Savings Bank and Machias Savings Bank, to develop and build the millwork portion of their brands.

Bob and Mitzi Skehan, both Maine natives, purchased *Invironments* and moved to Hermon in 2005. Over the past 10 years, *Invironments* has evolved to become a progressive, innovative millwork company that focuses on customer service and product quality.



We are hiring! *Invironments* has grown significantly over the past several years and 2015 promises to be no different. If you are a skilled craftsman who takes pride in their work and wants to be part of a dynamic team, contact Bob Skehan.

Bob and Mitzi live in Hermon with their two daughters and spoiled German Shepherd, Scout...



mitzi@invironmentsusa.com



bob@invironmentsusa.com

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Economic & Community Development

Article By: Scott Perkins

Recently a letter from the Town of Hermon was mailed to all addresses on our business list discussing the opportunity to become part of the Economic Development Committee. This group will work with area professionals in finance, real estate, developers and business owners to write an Economic Development plan for Hermon. If you have an interest in this process, please contact my office directly and I will submit your name to the Hermon Town Council so that you can be considered for membership. Email: SPerkins@Hermon.net; Office phone: 848-1010

The following is an abbreviated version of the monthly Council report...

Completed TIF agreements for *Northeast Restoration* and *Carmel Electric* in January for new Omnibus District.

Jim Saffian of *Pierce Atwood* of Portland worked together with the Hermon Economic Development office to add job training/camera funding, storm water control, creation of an economic development plan and other items to our existing list of TIF related items for approval by the State DECD office next month after a formal Council vote in April.

Worked on entrance security at our parks and public areas by requesting quotes and methods from HSD and a private Hermon security company to determine a range of services and costs for the project in anticipation of a council presentation some time during budget season.

Submitted plan to BACTS for BTIP (Biennial Transportation Improvement Plan; 6 and 20 year) federal funding for Coldbrook road and Emerson Mill/Odlin/Coldbrook intersection work during the 2018 CAP plan process. We are seeking a 1.5 inch overlay, ditching where needed, access management plan implementation for curb cuts, etc., and an intersection improvement including raising the wires that lead into the Dysart's truck stop entrance.

Contacted manager at Garelic Farms to chat about status of distribution center at Greenway Holdings site. Currently, they are planning to stay at that location. They ship milk by truck every night to Bangor area from Massachusetts to distribute product in our area.

Met with Peter Marely, AARP with Roger to discuss plans for senior living facilities in Hermon. Peter directed us to consider gathering a group of seniors for consultation concerning what services are needed and at what scope for the future before we proceed to the next step. Currently the legislature is looking to add/assist in funding with a certain number of new facilities in Maine.

Worked with Jeff Allen, engineer on design for Greenway Holdings/ Town of Hermon storm water design at Freedom Parkway by sending mapping, information on elevations, inlets and outlets for existing pipes along with information about previous DEP permits.

Attended BRDA presentation at Bangor Hilton Gardens for regional Leading Economic Indicators discussion with area businesses and finance people. Banks, attorney and EMDC representatives along with area development interests attended the meeting.

Attended the MEREDA show in Portland and represented Hermon in the BRDA booth. 600 real estate and finance professionals were in attendance.

Timely Additions to Hermon Recreation Fields

Article & Photo By: HOFH Committee



As spring's warmer temperatures continue melting the snow and frost from the recreation and elementary school fields, work will resume on improvements that will benefit multiple sports teams, all made possible by Friends of Hermon Football.

More than a decade has passed since Hermon Football's founding fathers and mothers began the process of bringing this sport to student athletes in Hermon, Carmel and Levant. Today, the Rec program starts with third and fourth graders playing flag football. Their tackle program kicks off at the fifth

grade level and Rec's seven/eight (grade) players represent Hermon in the Eastern Maine Middle School football League. The high school's JV and Varsity programs continue to draw large enthusiastic crowds for Friday night lights.

Friends of Hermon Football (FOHF) is an active group of volunteers from Hermon, Carmel and Levant who work behind the scenes to help support all player levels. "Our mission," states Chairperson Sally Hartford "is to do whatever we can to help these programs grow. We understand the budget constraints of the town and school department, so we focus our efforts on fundraising for the extras these programs need."

This past year, FOHF provided a substantial gift to the Recreation Department for the purchase of goal posts and field improvements. With the help of lead sponsor Hartt Transportation, the group purchased a new scoreboard for the recreation field. FOHF Vice-Chair Ted Harris spent months researching the various styles and options. "Initially, we were looking at one that would serve just the football program. But when it came time to finalize placement of the scoreboard on the field, we decided to do a little extra for the town." In November, the group opted to donate additional funds to enable the scoreboard to swivel, so the soccer, field hockey and baseball teams could use it too. "Yes, it cost our football program a little more than originally planned, but we really felt it was the right thing to do."

Though Hermon is relatively new to Maine's football scene, the programs have shown steady growth. Our middle school team had a very successful 2014 season going five and three against some of the region's larger and more seasoned schools. Hermon's Varsity games consistently attract well over 1,000 spectators.

In addition to the successes on the field, Hermon's football programs have quickly become a community asset. When FOHF member Rebecca Kiritsy and her family decided to move to Maine, they only looked at communities close to Bangor that offered football. "Hermon High School is a quality school and our son is able to play his favorite sport. It's been a great fit for our family."

Planning for the 2015 season is underway. FOHF will continue to do what they can to assist the recreation and school department staff and coaches. The group recruits sponsors and manages two successful fundraisers. The October Prize Calendar supports things on the coaching staff's wish lists, as well as scholarships to help families with the player fees. The ever popular "Hawk Cards" sale supports the operational costs of the high school program.

Hartford cautions, "We're not just a fundraising group. We do a lot of hands on things like helping out at the annual Summer Sizzler and Football Clinic, hosting spaghetti dinners for the players, Organizing half-time shows for the home games. We're a group of parents who love the game and who have come to realize that this game is generating a lot of community spirit and Hawk pride."

"Like" the Friends of Hermon Football Facebook page to keep informed about upcoming meetings and activities. For more information about how you can get involved, call Sally Hartford at 848-4933 or email hartfords@hermon.net

Hermon High School JROTC Gives Back With Bangor Mall Angel Tree

Article by: Cadet 2LT Emma Shaw
Photo by: First Sergeant Rob Jenkins



From left to right Cadets Barnes, Bemis, Zapsky, Lana, Greener, and Barnes.

This past December, Hermon High School's JROTC demonstrated the key Army value of "selfless service" and supported the Salvation Army Angel Tree by representing the charity in the Bangor Mall. The group sacrificed a few hours of their evenings for two nights as they collected donations for the fellowship. Participating students would receive community service credits for each hour they dedicated to the service.

The Salvation Army USA began the Christmas effort in 1979 in Lynchburg, Virginia, by Majors Charles and Shirley White, who both hoped to make the holiday season a beneficial time for children of needy families. It gained its name from the famous Hallmark cards featuring angels that children would write their wishes and needs inside. The program became well known in

Nashville, Tennessee in 1982, when it gained media attention after it's founders moved to the city.

"I volunteer so I can get community service," says second year cadet Sergeant Christian Greener, "and it's a good deed as a citizen."

Greener, a sophomore at Hermon High School, is an active participant in the school's growing JROTC program. A member of both the Color Guard and Drill teams, he was pleased to see the amount of participation with the Angel Tree, and expects that it will continue and even grow in years to come.

Only a life lived for others is a life worth living.
- Abraham Lincoln

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Note From The Assessors Office

Article By: Benjamin Birch, Assessor

Dear Resident:

The proposed state budget for the next two years was released on Friday, January 30th. I am writing to you today about one of the specific parts of the proposed budget, the homestead exemption. You are currently receiving this benefit, which reduces your tax bill by \$120.00 per year. Included in the budget is a proposal to immediately eliminate the homestead property exemption for homeowners under the age of 65, while doubling the homestead exemption for homeowners age 65 and older. The homestead exemption change will take effect immediately for the 2015 tax year.

In anticipation that the Governors proposed budget will be adopted long past the required date of April 1, 2015, and in order for citizens to have timely paperwork in for homestead exemptions, we are requesting that if you are age 65 or older as of April 1, 2015, to please provide proof of your age (in the form of driver's license, birth certificate or legal document showing proof of age) to the Assessing department at the Town Office in order to continue receiving your homestead exemption.

If you are under the age of 65 and this proposal become law, you will lose your \$120.00 homestead benefit this year. If you are unhappy with this change, we strongly encourage you to contact your local representative to share your concern about this proposed change.

Hermon Representatives:

Senator Geoff Gratwick
District 9
(207) 947-0637
Email: ggratwick@legislature.Maine.gov

Representative Roger Reed
District 103
(207) 287-1440
Email: Roger.Reed@legislature.maine.gov

Finally, this is just one of many complex changes to tax policy recommended in the proposed budget. I encourage you to be informed about all the changes so that you might judge the merits of each of them. As always, the Town staff is available to assist you with any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact the Town Office at 848-1010 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday through Friday.