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# The Hermon Connection

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Vol. 22 Issue 3 • May 2016

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## Bridge Year Students

Article By: Mr. Jesse Hargrove  
Social Studies Teacher  
Hermon High School

Hermon Bridge year students participated in the Maine National History Day competitions held at the University of Maine. The event brought over 320 students from schools across the state. Hermon entries did particularly well. Jordan Ryder and Kaarie Burns finished with a Silver medal for the second year in a row and are eligible to compete at National History Day Competitions in Washington D.C. held during June. Their project followed Theodore Roosevelt's exploration of the River of Doubt. Abbie Hartsgrove, Kelsey St. Louis and Samantha Eaton earned a Bronze for their exhibit on Dorothea Dix and her impact on mental health treatment. Alexis Hake, Racheal Cousins and Garret Kipler also earned Bronze for their documentary exploring Bar Harbor in the 1920s.



Kaarie Jordan, left and Jordan Ryder, right



Abby Hartsgrove, left, Sam Eaton, right, Kelsey St. Louis, back

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**The Hermon Connection**  
If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of *The Hermon Connection*, please send it to:  
scottwl@hermon.net  
Deadline for submissions:  
June 23, 2016

**School Budget Approval Meeting:**  
May 25, 2016 at 6:30 pm  
In the Hermon Middle School Gymnasium  
**Election Day:**  
June 14, 2016 at 7 am to 8 pm  
In the Hermon Elementary School Gymnasium  
**Annual Town Meeting:**  
June 16, 2016 at 6:30 pm  
In the Hermon High School Auditorium

## ANNUAL BUDGET AND TOWN MEETINGS

The Annual Town Meeting has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2016 at the Hermon High School Auditorium. The citizens of Hermon will be asked to approve the 2016 –2017 municipal budget for the period beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled at the Hermon Public Safety Building at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2016. The municipal budget is proposed at \$4,136,855 reflecting an increase of \$110,638 or 2.7%. Municipal revenues excluding property taxes will total \$3,397,792 reflecting an increase of \$69,333 or 2.08%. The overall increase is primarily due to increases for salary and employee benefits, additional hours for the Finance Office, firemen supervisory on-call pay, revaluation, and cost of living increases for the snow removal and household waste curb side pickup contracts.

The County assessment for 2016-2017 totals \$607,131.00 and reflects an increase of \$16,876 or 2.86%.

A copy of the municipal budget with all details may be seen on the town’s website at [www.hermon.net](http://www.hermon.net) or a copy may be obtained at the Hermon Town Office during normal business hours.

Approval of the school budget has been scheduled to take place at a Special Town Meeting to be held at the Hermon Middle School Gym at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday May 25, 2016. Ratification of the school budget will occur by secret ballot during the municipal election scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2016 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hermon Elementary School.

The local share for the school budget is being proposed by the School Board at \$4,547,222 reflecting an increase of \$134,445 or 3.05%. The overall increase is due primarily to increases for employee benefits, wages and salaries; leasing of a portable classroom and new school bus; additional hours for speech therapy, school nurse and special education techs; extra-curriculum cost by funding the football program in its entirety; and new capital improvements.

Every taxpayer is being urged to attend both the annual school budget meeting and the annual town meeting. Please also take the time to vote on the school budget referendum question scheduled for ratification June 14th at the Hermon Elementary School. It is your obligation as a taxpayer to attend both town meetings. If you choose not to participate in the budget process, as you are entitled to, you have no one to blame but yourself. Get involved. It is your right and responsibility.

### Budget Summary 2016 - 2017

Account#	Expenses	2016-2017 Budget	2015-2016 Budget	Change	Percent Change
10	General Government	\$ 839,583.00	\$ 766,377.00	\$ 73,206.00	9.55%
11	Economic Development	\$ 135,692.00	\$ 131,296.00	\$ 4,396.00	3.35%
12	Public Safety	\$ 802,481.00	\$ 773,137.00	\$ 29,344.00	3.80%
13	Public Works	\$ 878,719.00	\$ 861,103.00	\$ 17,616.00	2.05%
14	Solid Waste	\$ 563,446.00	\$ 555,640.00	\$ 7,806.00	1.40%
15	Recreation & Social	\$ 158,085.00	\$ 153,975.00	\$ 4,110.00	2.67%
16	Debt	\$ 100,749.00	\$ 105,089.00	\$ (4,340.00)	-4.13%
17	Capital Reserves	\$ 548,800.00	\$ 569,300.00	\$ (20,500.00)	-3.60%
19	Special Assessment	\$ 703,931.00	\$ 687,055.00	\$ 16,876.00	2.46%
25	General Assistance	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ (1,000.00)	-7.41%
	<b>Total Municipal</b>	<b>\$ 4,743,986.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,616,472.00</b>	<b>\$ 127,514.00</b>	<b>2.76%</b>
	Net Municipal Budget From Taxes	\$ 739,063.00	\$ 697,758.00	\$ 41,305.00	5.92%
	County Tax	\$ 607,131.00	\$ 590,255.00	\$ 16,876.00	2.86%
	Education (Local Share)	\$ 4,547,222.00	\$ 4,412,777.00	\$ 134,445.00	3.05%
	Total Town Budget from Taxes	<u>\$ 5,893,416.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,700,790.00</u>	<u>\$ 192,626.00</u>	<u>3.38%</u>
	Overlay	\$ 55,097.00	\$ 55,097.00	\$ -	0.00%
	Net Amount From Taxes	<u>\$ 5,948,513.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,755,887.00</u>	<u>\$ 192,626.00</u>	<u>3.35%</u>
	Projected taxes from new value	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>			
	Amount to be raised from taxes	<u>\$ 5,848,513.00</u>	(\$ 5,755,887.00)	\$ 92,626.00	-1.61%
	<b>Mill Rate 2015-2016</b>	<b>12.000</b>			
	<b>Projected Mill Rate 2016-2017</b>	<b>12.193</b>			
	<b>Mill rate increase</b>	<b>.193 mill or 1.61%</b>			

**Annual Town Meeting  
Budget Approval  
Thursday, June 16, 2016**

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hermon in Penobscot County, Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the **High School Auditorium in Hermon on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.**, then and there to act upon Articles 4 through 22 as set out below.

**Article 4:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate the revenues received for the following accounts to offset the associated expense accounts, for fiscal year 2016-2017 with approval of the Town Council?

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
10-130	Hermon Connection Revenue	10-13-04-05	Hermon Connection Expenses
10-121	Local Plumbing Fees	10-13-05-04	Local Plumbing Expenses
14-140	Transfer Station Fees	14-01	Landfill Expense
14-150	Tipping Fee Revenue (PERC)	14-02	Household Waste Expense
12-182	Police Revenue	12-01	Police Expenses
12-185	Fire Dept. Revenue	12-02	Fire Dept. Expenses
35	Recreation Enterprise Revenues	35	Recreation Enterprise Expenses

*(Explanation: The listed revenue accounts are special funds received by the Town for specific purposes. Approval by the citizens will allow the Town Council to expend these revenues for the expense accounts listed above.*

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 5:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money for each of the listed reserves?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

HERM01	Police Equipment Reserve	\$20,500
HERM02	Unemployment Reserve	\$5,000
HERM04	Cemetery Reserve	\$8,500
HERM05	Fire Equipment Reserve	\$53,000
HERM06	Highway Improvement Reserve	\$250,000
HERM08	Public Works Facility Reserve	\$25,000
HERM08	Public Works Equipment Reserve	\$52,000
HERM09	Recreation Equipment Reserve	\$2,500
HERM09	Recreation Facility Reserve	\$20,000
HERM11	Municipal Office Reserve	\$8,000
HERM12	Sewer Maintenance Reserve	\$28,500
HERM13	Public Land Acquisition Reserve	\$2,500
HERM14	Planning and Ordinance Reserve	\$3,000
HERM17	Public Safety Building Reserve	\$10,000
HERM19	Town Office Equip. & Tech. Reserve	\$10,000
HERM24	School Tax Stabilization Reserve	\$25,000
HERM28	Jackson Beach Reserve	\$2,500
HERM29	Transfer Station Site Reserve	\$12,000
HERM30	Rural Fire Protection Reserve	\$1,800
HERM32	Veterans Memorial Park Reserve	\$3,000
HERM34	Sick Leave Reserve	\$6,000
<b>Total Appropriation to Reserves</b>		<b>\$548,800</b>

**Article 6:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$8,000 from the Recreation Facility Reserve (HERM09) to pay for one-half the cost of sealing the tennis courts at the Hermon High School?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 7:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$23,360 from the Fire Equipment Reserve (HERM05) for the purchase of 40 SCBA air bottles?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 8:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$75,000 from the Highway Improvement Reserve (HERM06) in addition to the amount raised in the annual operating budget for drainage improvements for several Hermon Roads?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 9:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$76,000 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account (HERM08) to purchase a backhoe (\$70,000 plus the trade-in of the existing Case backhoe) and snow blower (\$6,000) for use by the Public Works Department?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 10:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$12,000 from the Sewer Reserve (HERM12) to install a SCADA System at the Odlin Road Pump Station?

**Recommended by Town Council**

**Article 11:** Shall the Town vote to transfer the balance of the funds remaining in the Credit Reserve (HERM15) to the Office Equipment & Technology Reserve (HERM19)?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 12:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$6,000 from the Office Equipment/Technology Reserve (HERM19) in addition to the \$5,000 raised by the Town Council from the Economic Development Reserve to update the Town's website?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 13:** Shall the Town vote to authorize expenditures of up to \$80,000 from the Economic Development Reserve (HERM16) for improvements to Printers Way (\$70,000), and surveillance cameras for the business parks (\$10,000)?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 14:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$200,000 from the School Tax Stabilization Reserve (HERM24) to offset a portion of the cost for the Hermon Middle School debt service in addition to the local appropriation for education?

**Recommended by Town Council**

**Article 15:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$80,000 from the School Repair Reserve (HERM07) for repair of the roof at the Middle School?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 16:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$10,000 from the School Capital Improvement Reserve (HERM21) to set up a new modular classroom at the Hermon Elementary School?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 17:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of funds from Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Revenue to TIF Revenues Account #10-167 in the amount of \$424,806, to off-set authorized expenditures for Economic Development general accounts #11-01-01-01 to 11-01-20-06 in the amount of (\$54,006); for account #16-01-25-01 Water & Sewer Extension Deb Service in the amount of (\$85,000); for account #17-01-35-05 Fire Equipment Reserve HERM05 (\$15,000); for account #17-01-35-12 Sewer Maintenance Reserve HERM12 (\$25,000); for Account #17-01-35-16 Economic Development Reserve HERM16 (\$139,000); for account #11-02-20-33 Town Technology and Hermon Wireless (\$10,000); and account #19-02-25-03 TIF Credit Enhancement Agreements (\$96,800)

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 18:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$40,000 from the School Capital Improvement Account (HERM21) for Phase 2 architectural services for the Hermon Elementary School?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 19:** Shall the Town vote to approve a Development Agreement with Ryder Trucking, LLC which provides economic development incentives that are beneficial for the citizens of the Town of Hermon?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 20:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 the following sums of money?

**Appropriation by category:**

General Government/Administration	\$839,583
Economic Development/Technology	\$135,692
Public Safety	\$802,481
Public Works	\$878,719
Solid Waste	\$563,446
Recreation/Social Service/Library	\$158,085
Debt Service	\$100,749
Reserves	\$548,800
Special Assessments	\$703,931
General Assistance	\$12,500
<b>Total Municipal &amp; County Appropriation</b>	<b>\$4,743,986</b>

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 21:** Shall the Town set the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Tax Commitment excluding the Overlay Account as follows:

Municipal Expenses:	\$4,136,855
County Assessment	\$607,131
Local contribution to Schools:	\$4,547,222
Total Expenses	<b>\$9,291,208</b>
Less Municipal Revenues	<b>(\$3,397,792)</b>

**Total Commitment less Overlay**                      **\$5,893,416**

**Article 22:** Shall the Town appropriate from Overlay Account an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for tax abatements? **Recommended by the Town Council**

**NOTE: The above is not a true copy of the Official Warrant to be posted. Changes may be made by the Town Council at final approval. You may request a copy of the Official Warrant from the Town Clerk once the final warrant is approved.**

## **Solid Waste Options Post PERC 2018**

### **From the Town Manager**

The Town Council has examined four separate options available to the Town once the PERC Agreement terminates in April 2018. The following is a quick review of the options and the highlights for each option.

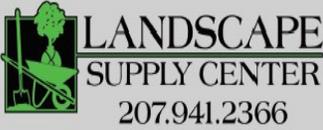
**PERC** - PERC has offered a 15 year contract with an initial tipping fee of \$84.36 per ton with an annual cost of living escalator. The Town also has access to \$475,000 in a Tipping Fee Reduction Reserve Account managed by the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) that will be received at the end of the contract with PERC to apply against the tipping fees over the length of the new contract. The contract requires no guaranteed annual tonnage and will allow the Town to recycle. PERC is a proven entity except when the agreement terminates in 2018; they will lose subsidies from the sale of the power they generate which will result in higher cost to them. PERC believes they have developed a model that will allow them to sell their power at peak times and operate the plant only during those hours. They also have a long term contract with Juniper Ridge in Old Town to dispose of their ash and bypass when the plant is unable to operate. Of concern is whether PERC will be able to obtain enough tonnage to operate especially if the Fiberight Project goes forward. The estimated cost over the 15 year period, based on the current tonnage and application of the funds in the Tipping Reserve, is \$2,513,701.

**MRC/Fiberight** - Fiberight has offered a 15 year contract with 5- five year renewals at the initial tipping fee of \$70.00 per ton and annual cost of living escalator. Funds in the Tipping Fee Reduction Reserve will not be available to the Town except during the first three years, the tipping fee will be reduced by \$5.00 per ton. The remaining funds will be used to support the development of a site in Hampden where Fiberight proposes to build a new Anaerobic Digestive Solid Waste Facility. The contract does not require guaranteed annual tonnage from each member but does have an overall guaranteed annual tonnage (GAT) requirement of 150,000 tons. If the tonnage falls below the required GAT, each participating member will be required to pay their share of the penalty based on the percent of waste delivered to the plant. There is also serious concern regarding the risk each participating community must assume should unacceptable waste be disposed of at the facility that may cause damage to the facility or bodily injury to employees. Pursuant to the Maine Torts Claims Act, municipalities may be liable up to \$400,000 per occurrence. Obtaining insurance to cover this liability is extremely difficult and is very expensive. Unless Fiberight agrees to share the risk, this issue may be very difficult to overcome. Also of concern is whether Fiberight will be able to avoid an increase greater than the cost of living. The technology proposed does not exist anywhere in the world except on a small scale in Virginia. The MRC has not provided a Performa to members which would help determine the financial feasibility for this option. Fiberight is offering a rebate program once the facility reaches a pre-determined level of return on investment. The rebate program is not available to members who join after June 30, 2016. The estimated cost over the 15 year period based on current tonnage and without taking into consideration any of the issues addressed above, is \$2,496,894.

**Crossroad Landfill** - The Crossroad Landfill in Norridgewock has offered a five year contract which can be renewed for an additional five years if capacity is available. Currently, capacity is expected to run out by 2025 unless an expansion is granted by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The initial tipping fee has been proposed at \$64.50 per ton with an annual cost of living increase. The cost of trucking the waste to the facility from Hermon is estimated at \$24 per ton. Based on its limited capacity and cost of transportation, a long term cost is difficult to determine. If, however, the facility was able to provide a 15 year contract and the cost of transportation is \$24 per ton adjusted by annual cost of living and offset by the use of the funds in the Tipping Fee Reduction Reserve, the overall cost during the life of the contract will be \$3,046,447.

**Eco-Maine** - Eco-Maine has offered a 20 year contract with the initial tipping fee of \$70.00 per ton amended each year to reflect the cost of living. The Town also has access to \$475,000 in a Tipping Fee Reduction Reserve Account managed by the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) that will be received at the end of the contract to apply against the tipping fees over the length of the new contract. The contract requires no GAT and will allow the Town to recycle. The Eco-Maine facility is located in Portland and is owned by a group of municipalities. The facility, which includes an incinerator and landfill, has been in operation for many years. There would be very little risk with this choice except for the cost of transporting the Town's waste to Portland. At the time of this report, the cost transportation to the facility is not known and for that reason this option will not be considered.

**The Town Council proposes to deliberate the issue at the June 9 Town Council meeting.**  
**All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.**



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## Coming Events At Ecotat Gardens

Hermon School Department  
Adult and Student Steel Pan Concert  
Thursday, June 2, 2016 - 6 pm  
(Rain date: June 7, 2016)

Sebasticook Valley Community Band  
Sunday, June 19 - 5:30 p.m.

Please bring a lawn chair and park in  
The Annis Road parking area.



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# Covey Physical Therapy



*Helping you restore a stronger you.*



It's been quite a year for Covey Physical Therapy! Moving from lease to ownership after purchasing property on Route 2 in Hermon meant engineering design, contractor coordination and running a business out of a temporary location at the same time! Ann Covey and her husband Dale have completed a project that Hermon and the central Maine region can be proud of! Their new state of the art facility located at 2263 Route 2 provides customers with exceptional therapy services.

Services for restoration and pain relief after injury include mobile services where professional therapists come to your workplace, gym, school or home setting. CoveyPT also provides aquatic therapy at area pools, health and wellness consultations and outpatient clinical work including Physical/Occupational/Speech Language Pathology services to all age ranges.



Covey's licensed therapists have years of experience treating and rehabilitating all types of injuries and diagnoses for every age range. Their experienced therapists develop personalized programs for each individual patient on a case-by-case basis. They know every individual is unique and will work to customize the best possible care for their customer's rehabilitation to get them back to health - and back to their life.

At Covey Physical Therapy their main goal is to get you back to normal. Ann and her staff will work with you to relieve your pain and mobility issues by providing rehabilitation programs specifically designed for your needs.

Call or visit them today at their new location and learn what they can do to help you improve the quality of your life!



Visit Covey Physical Therapy on the web at: <http://www.coveypt.com/>  
Phone: 848-9009 Fax: 404-2562

## Local Group Promotes a Unified Message for Prom and Graduation Parties

By: Robin Carr-Slaunwhite



Pictured (left to right) Holly Cough (HHS Health Teacher), Ben Nichols (junior), Melody Pereira (senior), Sgt. Bobbie Pelletier (Penobscot County Sheriff's Office), and Matt Nichols (junior) Photo By: Kim Nichols

*Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking®* is a national campaign that educates parents about the health and safety risks associated with serving alcohol at teen parties and increases awareness of and compliance with state underage drinking laws. The initiative takes place throughout the U.S. and concentrates on celebratory times for youth, such as homecoming, holidays, prom, graduation and other times when underage drinking parties are prevalent.

This year, the Hermon Drug-Free Communities Coalition is implementing the PWHLM campaign throughout the months of April and May through a variety of strategies. The coalition is comprised of school faculty, law enforcement, parents, youth, and community members all working together toward the common goal of reducing and

preventing youth substance abuse. Their work is supported in part through a federal Drug Free Communities grant.

One of the initial steps the coalition took was to ask the Hermon Town Council to sign a proclamation designating April 2016 as **Parents Who Host Lose the Most Month**. The council graciously allowed the group to give an overview of the initiative at their March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The council asked several questions, and gave exceptionally positive feedback about the working being done by the coalition to reduce underage drinking in Hermon. Likely the most compelling aspect of the evening was input given by Hermon High School student, Melody Pereira who gave her perspective on youth alcohol use, and spoke about some of her future aspirations.

A brief overview of the project was also provided to the Hermon School Committee earlier this month. The group was again met with words of support and praise.

"We're so fortunate in Hermon to have the support of many including law enforcement, school faculty and administration, and town officials", says Kim Nichols, Drug Free Communities Coalition Chairperson.

"We're hoping to elevate this issue locally, and get it on the minds of more people. Right now our state is grappling with some very challenging issues related to substance use disorder. The evidence is clear that these problems most often begin with exposure to alcohol and tobacco early in adolescence. In fact, youth who start drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop dependence or addiction. That's why making it a priority to reduce youth access and exposure is so vital."

Additional strategies the group is implementing are:

- A video PSA featuring local community members and law enforcement
- Sticker Shock – a partnership with local business who sell alcohol
- Information for parents of high school students included with report card mailings
- Signage in businesses and public places
- Student education

If you're a parent who'd like to learn more about how to talk with your teen about alcohol, check out [www.MaineParents.net](http://www.MaineParents.net). If you'd like to learn more about the Parents Who Host Lose the Most campaign, visit: [www.drugfreeactionalliance.org](http://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org)



## News from the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office

Article by: Sgt. Bobbie Pelletier

As spring approaches the weather will be nicer and warmer. People will be out and about more often. Here are a few safety tips to help prevent crime in your area:

1. If you leave your home, lock all your doors and windows. Even if it is for a short time. Daytime burglaries are more frequent as burglars know that residents are usually at work during the day time hours.
2. During the night time hours, lock your doors and single level windows. Also lock the doors to your vehicles and never leave the keys in the ignition. People are out and about at night, as the nights are warmer. Motor vehicle burglars typically do not target locked vehicles and they move on.
3. If you keep valuables in your vehicle, store them out of plain sight.
4. Leave outside lights on at night or install motion detection lights. Burglars do not like to be visible at night and often this can create a deterrence.
5. If you go away to camp, go on vacation or leave for the weekend tell a neighbor. This is a good way to meet your neighbors and maybe you can return the favor for them if they go away.
6. If you go away make your home look occupied. Connect interior lamps to automatic timers.
7. Don't let daily deliveries of mail or newspapers build up. Contact the post office or have a trusting neighbor or friend pick them up for you.
8. Arrange your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended period of time.
9. Always lock your garages, shed and basement windows.
10. Never leave notes on your door such as "gone shopping", "gone for the weekend", etc.
11. If you observe suspicious people, vehicles or activity, report it to the police immediately. Write down license plate numbers and descriptions. Do not wait! You have to be the eyes in your neighborhood.
12. If you notice a burglary report it immediately. Do not enter your home or vehicle. Do not touch or clean up anything. Call from a cell phone or a neighbor's residence. Wait for the police to arrive.

If you follow some of these tips you are less likely to become a victim. **DON'T BE A VICTIM!**

Have a safe and enjoyable spring and summer.

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## Economic and Community Development

Article By: Scott Perkins

When you think of Economic and Community Development its brush can be quite broad in nature. Development projects that improve quality of life such as workforce training initiatives and new loan products from local banking institutions are all in the works to give our businesses an edge on the competition!

Another area of community development is involving public safety and improving the standards by which we deliver services to our residents. The Public Safety Committee made up of interested residents, Town Councilors, Town manager, our local police force, Hermon Fire Department and emergency response people discussed a security camera program that would improve our essential services reaction and the quality of their response to local emergencies. The committee's idea was to utilize our existing IT program at Hermon Schools and its infrastructure and combine that resource with capitol improvement planning goals over time so that a system of cameras at our several important public areas would be available for use by municipal officials.

After Public Safety Committee presentations and approval by the Town Council, budgets were built to purchase, install and implement the security upgrade program late in 2015. The equipment is currently being installed incrementally at locations such as the Freedom Industrial Park entrance and the Public Works areas at Hermon Town office as test locations. The interface to operate the system is under improvement simultaneously so that emergency responses by our trained professionals can be elevated for everyone's benefit concerning safety.

Line of sight wireless technology purchased and installed by Hermon IT personnel at our several public areas such as Jackson Beach, the Recreation areas, Hermon Schools and other public facilities is becoming a reality because of citizen involvement. Hermon Schools, Hermon Public Safety, Hermon Town Office and the office of Economic and Community Development are invested together in this effort.

Imagine that in each police and emergency response vehicle a lap top screen could show an important section of public property under duress as the crews were mobile and on the way to a scene? That instantaneous information will allow our public safety teams to arrive at a destination and be extremely effective in the first minutes of their operations while assisting the community.

Thanks to our Public Safety Committee, the Town Council and other interested community members working together, Hermon does not have to imagine a program like this any longer...it is becoming reality! With every new installation site we accomplish, Hermon leads the central Maine region with technology upgrades that are useful and important to the people who live here.



**HERMON MEADOW  
GOLF CLUB**



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Date: June 13th — June 17th

Time: 5:00pm — 8:00pm

Where: Hermon Elementary School

Cost: \$85 for the week

RSVP: Kaitlin Saulter, camp director  
[saulterk@gmail.com](mailto:saulterk@gmail.com)

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## The Senator's Corner

Geoff Gratwick

The Hermon One Act Drama Club recently won a regional competition against nine other schools — but then it didn't. Instead, the students won a lesson in integrity.

The club staged Ray Bradbury's "Kaleidoscope," a story about astronauts in the distant future whose ship is destroyed by a meteor. They are left floating in space, wondering about the significance of their lives as gravity gradually pulls them to their ends as shooting stars. The staging is dramatic, with floating black-lighted astronauts drifting across the stage. It was quite a production, and the students were rightfully proud of their achievement.

However, the day after the competition, Hermon's coach Kathy Toole carefully examined the judges' scoring. The figures didn't add up. She talked with her principal Brian Walsh, they called the judges, and scores were recalculated. It turned out Hermon had not won after all but had come in second. The kids were disappointed but the next day, after talking with Ms. Toole, they realized their success would be shallow unless won fair and square.

Ms. Toole did not need to report the judges' error. Had she not done so no one would have been any the wiser. But, as she told me, "it was the only thing to do."

And so the drama students at Hermon had an unexpected lesson in integrity. It came from a place where what is right often is in conflict with the desire to win. It was not part of a lesson plan.

Our public arena is so filled with people acting contrary to Ms. Toole's spirit that it is important to celebrate and recognize those who are quietly guided by total honesty. They make our world a fairer, more livable and better place.

There is a great deal of talk in Maine's educational circles about the alphabet soup of Learning Results, proficiency-based diplomas, and core curriculum. But our educational guidelines rarely pay attention to the moral underpinnings of character, to the quiet internal place where deliberations between right and wrong take place. Integrity cannot be measured and cannot easily be taught. It needs real-world examples.

I am very proud of Ms. Toole. By example, she has taught her students about integrity, the bedrock foundation of our civil society. Her worth and that of other Hermon teachers like her is immeasurable.

---

### *From the Desk of State Representative Roger Reed*



I believe you have sent me to Augusta to be a good steward of your taxpayer's money. House Republicans believe we need to be fiscally responsible given the uncertainties the upcoming November referendum places on our businesses and the taxpayers. This, along with the usual anxiousness that accompanies a presidential election, demands that we make sure our state government lives within its means.

We are just 9 months into a two year budget that raised state spending by \$315 million dollars, including a recent additional \$15 million for our schools. It is time we show some discipline in our state spending. A supplemental budget is typically done to solve some unforeseen crisis that demands the Legislature's immediate attention. There is no crisis that needs to be solved with knee-jerk state spending.

Your state government has a Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF). Credit rating agencies, such as Moody's and Standard & Poor's, have warned the State of Maine for years of the consequences if Maine doesn't maintain or increase the balance of our BSF. We should have enough in this fund to run state government for 30 days. It is sad for me to report that \$111 million dollars would run the state for about 8 days and this is woefully insufficient. In the past, we have waited until the last day of the fiscal year to determine what money the state will put into savings. This is not a responsible way to run a government. Any supplemental budget would siphon money from this fund for more state spending. Items in any supplemental budget at this time can be found through existing resources. There are pressing needs, like our jails and support for our law enforcement, that can be resolved without a supplemental budget full of unnecessary spending.

It is not enough to be just a 'voice' in Augusta, but to meet our fiscal challenges head on. 'Business as usual' in Augusta does not serve the people of Maine well. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns about your state government.



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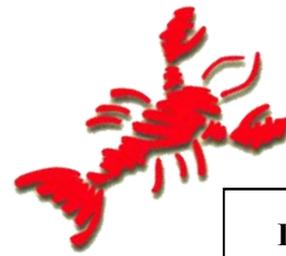
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# CABBAGE ISLAND

## Clambakes



You will board the Cyr Bus at the Hermon Elementary School, Billings Road in Hermon at 9:30 a.m.. We will travel to Boothbay Harbor where you will board the *Bennie Alice* at approximately 12:30 p.m. and enjoy a scenic & relaxing tour of the beautiful Boothbay region. The tour will cruise along Maine's quaint and picturesque coastline, where you'll see lighthouses, seals, ospreys and fishermen hauling in their traps. Once arriving at Cabbage Island you enjoy the *Original Downeast Clambake of Boothbay Harbor!* This authentic meal includes a cup of traditional New England Fish Chowder, two luscious bright red lobsters or a half-chicken, tender white steamed clams wrapped in foil, sweet golden corn on the cob, egg, onion and potatoes. For dessert, Blueberry Cake with hot fresh coffee or iced tea. We will board the boat and return to the mainland for a 4:30 p.m. departure back to Hermon.

**Date of Trip:**  
Wednesday, July 6

**Registration  
Deadline:**

Friday, June 17

You may register at [www.hermon.net](http://www.hermon.net) or contact the Rec Office at 848-4075.

\$90.00  
Per Person

*-Minimum  
Participation  
required -*

### Senior Citizen Community Meals

**Where:** Hermon Elementary School  
**When:** 3rd Wednesday of each month  
**Time:** 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Fee:** \$3.00 per person

Reservations please:  
Contact the Rec office at 848-4075  
or email [mthayer30@gmail.com](mailto:mthayer30@gmail.com)



**Wednesday - May 18**  
Chicken Enchiladas  
RSVP by May 13

**Wednesday - June 15**  
Pizza  
RSVP by June 10



### Happy New Year!!! 2017

**Come Celebrate With Us As We  
Welcome in 2017!!!!**

This is going to be a celebration  
you do not want to miss!

Hermon Recreation is working closely with the Morgan Hill Event Center, Fast Dogs Entertainment and the Holiday Inn in Bangor to bring you a great night of entertainment...food and FUN!

For more information visit us at  
[\*\*www.hermon.net\*\*](http://www.hermon.net)



The **Friends Of Hermon Football** would like to hear from you if you have a child or children in Pre-K through 2nd grade this fall (2016) that may want to play flag football including punt/pass/and kick.

Please email [harris3006@aol.com](mailto:harris3006@aol.com) to let us know if your son or daughters are interest in this potential program as without the interest and input there may not be a program.

Be sure to keep an eye out for fall sign up's for the new 3/4 tackle football program along with the 5/6 & 7/8 tackle football programs in May and June at Hermon Recreation's webpage.

Thank you to the businesses and individuals who have supported football in Hermon last year and if you would like to be a supporter in the coming year please let us know!

Did you know that the Hermon recreation program also includes children from Carmel, Levant and other surrounding communities without football programs.

We invite you to like our Facebook page to keep up to date on everything football in Hermon @ Friends of Hermon Football (FOHF)



Ted Harris - Chair 207-356-7902

## **Josh Berry Residential Lister**



Josh has accepted the position as Residential Lister for the Town of Hermon and will be responsible for inspecting and recording the properties for the revaluation purposes.

He resides in Hermon with his wife, Rachel, and two children, Russell and Saylor. Josh is a county boy from Houlton and has been working in the Property Maintenance/Residential Carpentry field for the past 10 years.

He looks forward to getting to know the Hermon residents and to help ensure a prosperous future for the town and its businesses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Josh at 848-1049.

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## **HERMON CADETS RENOVATE CROSSING LIFE CHURCH**

*Article and Photograph by Cadet PFC Tayler Magliozzi*



A few dozen cadets from the Hermon Hawk JROTC Battalion volunteered their time and skills to help renovate the Crossing Life Church in Carmel on Saturday, March 12th. Students of the program promoted duty and pride within the community as they worked to finish renovations for a combination thrift store and food pantry in the lower level of the church. Proceeds from the thrift store will benefit the accompanying food pantry at the church, helping to feed those in need. The thrift store is currently open and operates Thursday and Fridays 10am-3pm and Saturday 9am-3pm.

The Crossing Life Church was built in the early 1970s before it was purchased by Stewart and Christie Greener in February of 2016. The service-learning project gave cadets experience applicable to the real world, and the opportunity to serve their community. Cadets learned various painting techniques and how to handle and clean materials as they refinished three rooms and two bathrooms at the church. Cadets also developed the ability to easily work with others to execute jobs in order to please a client as they executed the renovation of the thrift store.

“Doing the service-learning project opened doors for me to help my community in ways I would have never been able to previously.” Said Cadet First Sergeant Connor Magliozzi, “It was a great team effort for all involved, and I can’t begin to express how proud I am for the job we did.”

Cadets look forward to facilitating the annual Spring Special Olympics in early May. Cadets will assist Participants, assemble their equipment, and help carry out basic needs of competitors and staff, assuring the perfection of the occasion.

## Postal Customer

### **Municipal Elections are right around the corner.**

*Article By: Ruth Nickerson*

- May 13 - Absentee Ballots are available for voters.
- May 25 – School Budget Approval Meeting
- May 26 – Public Hearing for Municipal Budget
- June 14 – Election Day - Polls will open at 7am.
- June 16 – Annual Town Meeting

A heartfelt thank you goes out to those individuals who have stepped up and made a commitment to serve our Town. Tony Reynolds and Anne Smith are running for School Committee. John Snyer, Steve Watson and Jeanne Jacques are running for Town Council. 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 School Committee or the Town Council 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 personal 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)*

### **Public Library**

The Town of Hermon does not have a public library, but does provide library services in cooperation with Hermon High School. The public may access this service at Hermon High School when in session during the hours of 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. There is no charge to use the facility. Access can be obtained either through the front lobby or the side entrance where the gym is located. All citizens who choose to have access to a public library should take advantage of this wonderful service. You will find the librarian to be very friendly and helpful. We are very thankful Hermon School Department has agreed to allow the public to use the facility. Please let us know what your experience was like when you do use the facility. Both the Hermon School Department and Town would like to hear your comments.

