

# The Hermon Connection

Vol. 21 Issue 3 • May 2015

## ANNUAL BUDGET AND TOWN MEETINGS

During the town meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 11, 2015 at the High School Auditorium, the citizens of Hermon will be asked to approve the 2015 municipal budget for the period beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled at the Hermon Public Safety Building at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2015. The municipal budget is being proposed at \$4,025,381 reflecting a **decrease** of \$34,481 or (.85%). Municipal revenues excluding property taxes will total \$3,328,459 reflecting a **decrease** of \$4,869 or (.15%).

The County assessment for 2015-2016 totals \$590,255 and reflects an increase of \$27,218 or 4.83%. The proposed municipal budget and County assessment will result in **NO** new property taxes.

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, 8 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday.

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., Wednesday May 27, 2015. Ratification of the school budget will occur during the municipal election scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2015 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hermon Elementary School. It is important for the citizens to understand the Town Council no longer plays a role in the approval of the school budget. The process requires the Hermon School Board to propose the budget and for the citizens to act on the budget at the Annual School Budget Meeting noted above. The results will be ratified by Secret Ballot at the annual election of officers held on June 9, 2015.

A copy of the school budget may be obtained at the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours, 8 am - 4 pm.

The local share for the school budget is being proposed by the School Board at \$4,412,776 reflecting an **increase** of \$249,432 or 5.99%. The increase is due primarily to increases for employee benefits, wages and salaries, leasing of a portable classroom, hiring of three additional full-time teachers, new bus purchase, increase for Career and Technical education, and part-time finance staff. New property tax revenue required to fund the local share of education reflects an increase of 4.49% and will require a .54 mill rate increase. If the citizens approve the school budget as proposed, property taxpayers will realize an increase of \$54 for every \$100,000 of assessed value.

We urge every taxpayer 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 on the June 9th. In the Town of Hermon, the citizens approve the school budget and not the Town Council. If the taxes increase they do so with citizen approval. 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.

Expenses	BUDGET SUMMARY 2015-2016			
	2015-2016 Budget	2014-2015 Budget	Change	Percent
General Government	\$765,541	\$741,225	\$24,316	3.28%
Economic Development	\$131,296	\$176,811	-\$45,515	-25.74%
Public Safety	\$773,137	\$758,122	\$15,015	1.98%
Public Works	\$861,103	\$846,413	\$14,690	1.74%
Solid Waste	\$555,640	\$539,070	\$16,570	3.07%
Recreation & Social	\$153,975	\$149,374	\$4,601	3.08%
Debt	\$105,089	\$167,047	-\$61,958	-37.09%
Capital Reserve	\$569,300	\$586,800	-\$17,500	2.98%
Special Assessment	\$96,800	\$80,000	\$16,800	21.00%
General Assistance	\$13,500	\$15,000	-\$1,500	-10.00%
<b>Total Municipal</b>	<b>\$4,025,381</b>	<b>\$4,059,862</b>	<b>-\$34,481</b>	<b>-0.85%</b>
County Tax	\$590,255	\$563,037	\$27,218	4.83%
Education	\$4,412,775	\$4,163,344	\$249,431	5.99%
<b>Total Town</b>	<b>\$9,028,411</b>	<b>\$8,786,243</b>	<b>\$242,168</b>	<b>2.76%</b>
Less Municipal Revenue	\$3,328,459	\$3,333,328	\$4,869	-0.15%
<b>Net to be raised</b>	<b>\$5,699,952</b>	<b>\$5,452,915</b>	<b>\$247,037</b>	<b>4.53%</b>
Mill Rate	<b>\$12.54</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>		<b>4.49%</b>

**Increase for every \$100,000 \$54.00**  
**For every dollar of property tax raised \$.78 will be for education, \$.10 will be for County tax and \$.12 will be for the municipal budget.**

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**Annual Town Meeting Budget Approval**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium**

**Article 4:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate the revenues received for the following accounts to offset the associated expense accounts, for fiscal year 2015-2016 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
10-140 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 vote to establish a reserve account referenced as the Veterans Memorial Park Reserve (HERM32) for the purpose of raising funds to do improvements at the Veterans Memorial Park?  
**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 6:** Shall the Town vote to establish a reserve account referenced as Sick Leave Reserve Account (HERM34) for the purpose of raising funds to pay for accumulated sick leave in accordance to the provision of the Hermon Personnel Policies upon retirement or resignation? **Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 7:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money for each of the listed reserves?

HERM01 Police Equipment Reserve	\$20,500	HERM13 Public Land Acquisition Reserve	\$2,500
HERM02 Unemployment Reserve	\$5,000	HERM14 Planning and Ordinance Reserve	\$3,000
HERM04 Cemetery Reserve	\$8,500	HERM17 Public Safety Building Reserve	\$10,000
HERM05 Fire Equipment Reserve	\$53,000	HERM19 Town Office Equip. & Tech. Res.	\$22,500
HERM06 Highway Improvement Reserve	\$250,000	HERM24 School Tax Stabilization Reserve	\$50,000
HERM08 Public Works Facility Reserve	\$25,000	HERM28 Jackson Beach Reserve	\$2,500
HERM08 Public Works Equip Reserve	\$52,000	HERM29 Transfer Station Site Reserve	\$15,000
HERM09 Recreation Equipment Reserve	\$2,500	HERM30 Rural Fire Protection Reserve	\$1,800
HERM09 Recreation Facility Reserve	\$20,000	HERM32 Veterans Memorial Park Reserve	\$3,000
HERM11 Municipal Office Reserve	\$8,000	HERM34 Sick Leave Reserve	\$6,000
HERM12 Sewer Maintenance Reserve	\$28,500		

**Total Appropriations to Reserves \$ 569,300 Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 8:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$28,000 from the Fire Equipment Reserve (HERM05) for the second of a two year program to purchase seven self contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 9:** 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 10:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$50,000 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account to purchase a new dump body (\$10,000) and pickup (\$40,000) for use by the Public Works Department? **Recommended by Town Council**

**Article 11:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$40,000 from Sewer Reserve Account (HERM12) to extend the sanitary sewer line across Hammond Street to Lot # 83-1 of Map 22 and along Ellis Drive to Lot # 4 of Map 29? **Recommended by Town Council**

**Article 12:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of \$20,000 from the Credit Reserve (HERM15) to the Office Equipment & Technology Reserve (HERM19). **Recommended by Town Council**

**Article 13:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$20,000 from the Technology Reserve (HERM19) for the purchase of new software and hardware for the Town Office Technology program?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 14:** Shall the Town vote to authorize expenditures of up to \$93,000 from the Economic Development Reserve (HERM16) for drainage Freedom Park (\$50,000), three phase power Ellis Drive (\$8,000), waterline extension Ellis Drive (\$15,000) and Economic Development Plan (\$20,000)?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 15:** Shall the Town vote to authorize crediting the School Tax Stabilization Reserve (HERM24) the amount of \$150,000 received from the sale to Ray Wood of property located off Hammond Street?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 16:** 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 Middle School debt service in addition to the local appropriation for education? **Recommended by Town Council**

**Article 17:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$12,000 from the Sewer Maintenance Reserve (HERM12) for cleaning and televising the sanitary sewer drains along Route 2, White Pine Drive, North Street, Odlin Road and Vafiades Avenue? **Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 18:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of funds from Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Revenues to the municipal budget Account # 10-167 (TIF Revenues) to off-set the expenditure of maintaining the Economic Development Office in the amount of \$51,785 (Account # 11-01-20-06) and TIF Credit Enhancement payouts (Account # 19-02-25-03) in the amount of \$96,800, totaling \$148,585?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 19:** 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 \$141,000, to off-set authorized expenditures for account #16-01-25-01 Water & Sewer Extension Debt (\$85,000), account #17-01-35-05 Fire Equipment Reserve (\$15,000), account #11-02-20-33 Hermon School/Hermon Net cameras (\$10,000), Sewer Maintenance Reserve (HERM12) \$25,000 and account #14-04-20-25 Pump Station Improvements (\$6,000)?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 20:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$20,000 from the School Capital Reserve (HERM21) for architectural services at the Hermon Elementary School? **Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 21:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$32,000 from the School Bus Purchase Reserve for purchase of a new school bus? **Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 22:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 the following sums of money?

Appropriation by category:

General Government/Administration	\$765,541	Recreation/Social Service/Library	\$ 153,975
Economic Development/Technology	\$131,296	Debt Service	\$ 105,089
Public Safety	\$773,137	Capital Reserves	\$ 569,300
Public Works	\$861,103	Special Assessment	\$ 687,055
Solid Waste	\$555,640	General Assistance	\$ 13,500

Sub-total Municipal Appropriation \$4,615,636

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 23** Shall the Town set the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Tax Commitment excluding the Overlay Account as follows:

Municipal Expenses:	\$4,025,381
County Assessment:	\$ 590,255
Local contribution to School:	<u>\$4,412,775</u>
Total Expenses	\$9,028,411
Municipal Revenues	<u>\$3,328,459</u>
Total Excluding Overlay	\$5,699,952

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Article 24:** Shall the Town appropriate from Overlay Account an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for tax abatements? **Recommended by the Town Council**



## Transfer Station Improvement Update

By: Roger Raymond

The contractor is progressing very well with the improvements at the transfer station located off the New Boston Road even with the late spring. The facility opened on Saturday, May 2 for disposal of demolition debris, bulky items and metal. The fees and operating hours will be the same as last year. The information may be obtained at the Town Office or on line at hermon.net. Citizens who wish to use the facility may do so by obtaining a Disposal Permit at the Town Office or at the Transfer Station during operating hours. Since all of the improvements will not all be completed until August 1, only the disposal of demolition debris, bulky items and metal will be accepted.

After August 1, the facility will be ready to accept disposal of leaves and grass clippings at no cost to citizens. The composted waste will be mixed with top soil and used on town projects. We look forward to your comments once the facility is fully operational.



## Red Zone Internet Service

By: Roger Raymond

The agreement between Red Zone and the Town of Hermon to provide low cost internet service to Hermon residence was severed by the Town Council in July of 2012. The Town continued to provide Red Zone with some support that will be discontinued effective July 27, 2015. The Town Council chose to terminate the agreement because of the concern of violating the provision of the Maine Constitution that prohibits the use of public funds for private purposes. In 2005 when the contract was initiated with Red Zone, there were few internet service providers available to Hermon residences. Today there are several providers of which only one receives benefits from the Town. The Council felt the Town should not be using public funds to compete with the private sector.

We expect Red Zone will continue to provide service to their current users but it will have to be on a competitive basis. Should you have any questions regarding the change, please feel free to contact me or the members of the Town Council.

## Ecotat Gardens

Please join us for our annual meeting and barbecue on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 6 p.m. at Ecotat Gardens.

Visit us on Facebook for events and activities or email us at [info@ecotat.org](mailto:info@ecotat.org)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a member of / renew my membership to Ecotat Trust for 2015.

\_\_\_ Individual \$15 \_\_\_ Family \$25 \_\_\_ Donor \$50  
\_\_\_ Sponsor \$100 \_\_\_ Lifetime \$1,000

Checks should be made payable to Ecotat Trust and mailed to P.O. Box 6233, Hermon, ME 04402-6233.

Ecotat is a 501 (c ) (3) organization.

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Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



A Magnolia tripetala tree (commonly known as the Umbrella magnolia) is located to the east of the Crosby House.

Photo By: Gaynor Reynolds



The Hermon Recreation Dept. in partnership with the

Penobscot Sheriff's Dept. is planning a morning of safety and fun for kids in Grades 4 & 5!



Saturday, June 6th

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

# Bicycle Safety Rodeo

Bring your bike for a safety inspection.

Be sure your helmet fits properly!

Enjoy a skills course!

Have a chance to win a bicycle, helmets and bike accessories!



Event Site:

Hermon Elementary School Parking Lot  
Register online at [www.hermon.net](http://www.hermon.net) by Friday, May 29th to participate.

Questions: contact the Rec office at 848-4075 or [thayerm@hermon.net](mailto:thayerm@hermon.net)



Rain date scheduled for Sunday, June 7 - same time and place.



## IS YOUR BUSINESS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PERSONAL PROPERTY BETE EXEMPTION Business Equipment Tax Exemption ("BETE") Program

The BETE program is a 100% property tax exemption program for eligible personal property that would have been first subject to taxation in Maine on or after 4/1/08.

**When and where to file application?** The application is to be filed by April 1st of each year with the local assessor even if no changes in property status have occurred from the prior year. An automatic extension to May 1st is granted if the April 1st deadline is not met. An assessor may extend beyond May 1st upon receipt of written request.

**What property is BETE eligible business equipment?** Eligible business equipment is qualified property that would have been first subject to taxation in Maine on or after 4/1/2008 and includes repair parts, replacement parts, replacement equipment, additions, accessions and accessories to other business property and inventory parts.

**What property DOES NOT qualify for BETE?** Property that does not qualify includes office furniture, lamps and lighting fixtures used primarily for general office or worker lighting, property owned or used by an excluded person, telecommunications personal property, gambling machines or devices and property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity. (See \* Below)

**Who does not qualify for BETE?** Property owned or used by an "excluded person" does not qualify. Excluded persons include: public utilities, persons providing radio paging service, persons providing mobile telecommunications services, cable television companies, persons providing satellite based direct television broadcast services, and persons providing multichannel multipoint television services.

**What is excluded from BETE?** BETE does not apply to property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity. Such property may qualify for reimbursement under the BETR program.

\*A retail sales facility is a structure used to serve customers who are present at the facility for the purpose of selecting and purchasing goods or services at retail or for renting tangible personal property. A warehouse or call center facility is not considered a retail sales facility. Retail sales activity is associated with the selection and purchase of goods or services or the rental of tangible personal property. Manufacturing or processing is not considered retail sales activity.

Down load application at:

<http://maine.gov/revenue/propertytax/propertytaxbenefits/beteapplication.pdf>

**NOTE:** The application **must** be completed with all required information requested on the application by the State. If any portion is not provided, the application will be deemed denied by the Assessor.



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## Hermon JROTC Are Freezin' For A Reason With Special Olympics

Article & Photo By: Cadet 2LT Emma Shaw, Major (Ret.) Marcel Fortier

The Hermon High School JROTC cadets helped change lives this past February as they left for Hermon Mountain decked in camouflage and fleece-lined boots, eager to help out a local Special Olympics event. A handful of selected cadets would help the participants fit snowshoes, find their racing lane or find motivation to do their best February tenth. In the case of one athlete, the latter was just what was needed.



Elizabeth and Lily  
before the competition

Elizabeth was certain she would fail as she approached the upcoming snowshoe dash. But thanks to the kind words of surrounding cadets like Cassidy Barnes and Lily Price, she would find herself full of the pep and spark required to rise to victory. And that's exactly what she did - Elizabeth would cross the finish line first in her heat.

After the events, athletes and volunteers would gather in the lodge to collect their awards. Some were in shock that they had been so successful, but all were filled with excitement that they would display in front of a cheering audience.

The Special Olympics have been a national tradition since 1968, and there are no plans of stopping, according to leading volunteers at the event.

When asked if Elizabeth was proud of her newly earned ribbon, she answered, "I wouldn't have been able to get it without all of you. You're all so special, and never forget that. Everyone can be special - you just have to believe."

The Hermon JROTC cadets are planning to assist with this event in the future, especially after seeing how rewarding it is to work with the athletes who have such great attitudes. The Hawk Battalion also plans to assist in the upcoming Summer games scheduled for the May timeframe.

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## Bridge Year Program

Article & Photo By: Mr. Jesse Hargrove  
HHS Social Studies Teacher



Students enrolled in the Bridge Year Program at Hermon High School performed very well at the Maine National History Day Competitions held at the University of Maine in March. The annual competition has a different theme each year and draws entrants from schools around the state. Students choose which type of project to submit - Performance, Documentary, Website, Essay, or Exhibit - and whether to work as a group or individual. This year's theme was "Leadership and Legacy".

Hermon High School had 24 students to participate in the Senior Division, submitting nine projects. Six projects finished in the top three, including Gold for the Clara Barton exhibit developed by Maddy Jackson, Garrett Kipler, Rachel Cousins, and Kaylee Ouellette (left picture); Silver for the Deborah Sampson exhibit constructed by Kaarie Burns and Jordan Ryder (right picture); Silver for the Samantha Smith developed by Kayla McLeish, Amber Chasse, and Nia Watson; Silver for the Henry Ford essay written by Austin Morse.

Teams awarded a Gold or Silver are invited to National History Day competitions in Washington D.C. Kaarie Burns and Jordan Ryder have indicated their intent to participate in national competitions from June 14-18th.



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## **Bangor Drive-In re-opening in Hermon for Summer 2015**

After a thirty-year hiatus, the Bangor Drive-In will be re-opening in the summer of 2015. The drive-in is located in Hermon on outer Hammond Street, Route 2, near the Bangor line.

“We think the Bangor Drive-In will re-introduce a fun, family-oriented option to Bangor’s growing entertainment sector,” said Carol Epstein of Cinema Bangor LLC. “Drive-ins are a true American tradition, and generations of people in this area have wonderful memories of their drive-in experiences. We look forward to offering the next generation of movie goers this classic experience.”

The Bangor Drive-In initially opened on June 7, 1950, and closed in 1985 after a thirty-five year run. The target re-opening date is July 1, 2015.

Upon re-opening, the Bangor Drive-In will offer:

- An authentic 1950’s drive-in experience (sans the crackling speakers and sometimes shaky projections)
- Two screens offering double features seven days a week
- State-of-the-art digital projection for a crystal clear picture
- FM sound through your car stereo
- Pricing will be per carload. (No need to hide in the trunk anymore!)
- Full concession with hamburgers, fries, pizza, ice cream, soft drinks, and popcorn

Cinema Bangor LLC also operates the Bangor Mall Cinema ten-plex located on Stillwater Avenue. Cinema Bangor is a partnership of the Epstein family from Bangor and Joe O’Donnell of Belmont Capital from Boston. Both families have many years of history in the movie industry, operating and supplying movie theaters throughout New England.

The Epsteins started in the theater business in Bangor with the Graphic Theatre in 1917. Sid Epstein and his partners went on to be involved in many theaters including the Bangor Cinema on Main Street, theaters in Dexter & Dover Foxcroft, the Brewer Cinema 4, and, of course, the Bangor Drive-in.

Belmont Capital has been in the theater business for over 40 years, having managed over 30 indoor theaters and “a dozen or so” drive-ins, as well as having owned Theater Merchandising, the company that supplied wholesale candy and popcorn to most theaters in New England for decades. Belmont owns the Rustic Drive-In, the only drive-in operating in Rhode Island.

“For 35 years, the flickering light of the movie projector has played across the face of the Bangor Drive-In’s giant screen,” wrote A. Jay Higgins in Bangor Daily News on July 25, 1985. “The projectionist shut his ‘magic lantern’ off for the last time after the conclusion of ‘Rambo: First Blood Part II... The Bangor Drive-in closed its gates to the young families and romantic couples who once flocked to outer Hammond Street for the shows that ran ‘from dusk to midnight.’”

According to the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association, at its height of popularity in the 50’s, there were over 4,000 U.S. drive-ins. In 2014, there were 393 drive-in locations in the continental U.S., with five in Maine. According to UDITOA, “there have been a number of new-builds and reopened theaters in the last decade marking a resurgence of interest in the drive-in entertainment option”.

“Like” Bangor Drive-In on *Facebook*,  
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additional information coming soon at:  
[www.yourneighborhoodtheatre.com](http://www.yourneighborhoodtheatre.com)  
[www.bangordrivein.com](http://www.bangordrivein.com)



### 1701 Hammond Street, Hermon, Maine

There are few companies today that can offer the key ingredients of serving the public and managing a successful product line simultaneously. It takes professionalism, pride and an ability to service what you sell each time a client walks through the door to keep customers coming back. It is a labor of love and wanting to be the best at what you do that builds a great business.

On March 30, 2015, Tyler and Mitchell Smith opened their new location at Hermon Maine on outer Hammond Street in order to provide excellence to the community of people who prefer their line of products.

Along with a complete line of John Deere Equipment, Greenway sells complimentary products from assorted manufacturers to outfit any homeowner, landscaper or municipality with all of their outdoor power equipment needs. This business is a full service dealership offering pickup and delivery service for repairs, a mobile service unit and an experienced parts department with over 100 years of collective knowledge in the trade.

At Greenway Equipment you can become part of a customer service maintenance program, or custom order a utility vehicle or tractor with the *John Deere Buy Online* website. The available number of products in-stock is also impressive and items can be financed with *John Deere Credit* to fit your budget!

Greenway enjoys a reputation of paying attention to the details that matter and their business has grown in size because of it. Tyler, Mitch and all of the employees at Greenway Equipment want to invite you to discover why a growing number of customers are fully satisfied with the service traditions that continue in Hermon at the new location on Hammond Street.

Visit them online at: <http://www.greenwayequipment.com>, or call 990-4433 today!



Tyler Smith, Owner



Mitchell Smith, Owner

# Economic Development Report

Article By: Scott Perkins



On April 1<sup>st</sup> the Town of Hermon hosted the first Economic Development Committee meeting at Hermon Public Safety building. This group was formed by the Town Council with the purpose of developing an economic development plan for Hermon and to become an advisory board to the Town Manager and Interim Economic Development Director. Members in attendance were: Troy Devoe, Tony Reynolds, Jeff Young, Debra Bell, Rich Armstrong, R. Scott Jellison, Alden Brown, Steve Thomas, Shannon Giles, Ben Phillips, Mike Soucy, Gina Bennett, and Don Pelletier. Alden Brown was elected chair. Roger Raymond discussed the committee's purpose and discussion ensued.

The group is wide and varied in its specific skill sets covering many aspects of economic development such as finance, real estate appraisal, infrastructure and public highways. It has business owners in service industries, health care and property development. There are three councilors, one school committee member and the Town Manager as interim director, all serving as ex-officio members of the board.

Hermon's economic development plan will be an important document because it will directly address the quality of life issues our residents enjoy. Planning for the future based on considering an inventory of our resources will provide guidance for an economic development office as its work plan. These items below are an initial listing of topics developed by the committee for inclusion concerning our economic development planning process:

- ◇ Create tax increment financing incentive guidelines
- ◇ Financial incentives for business
- ◇ Recruitment strategies
- ◇ Establish ongoing contact system with existing businesses
- ◇ Communicate networking opportunities for businesses
- ◇ Create a brand for Hermon to use in marketing for all media communications
- ◇ Complete a Hermon business/community marketing plan
- ◇ Existing business retention and expansion strategies
- ◇ Develop strategy for implementing senior and affordable housing projects
- ◇ Develop a transportation plan
- ◇ Create strategy for attracting supply chain businesses
- ◇ Natural resource planning
- ◇ Land use review to identify/monitor business expansion areas
- ◇ Technology improvements for targeted locations
- ◇ Facade program development for Village Commercial District
- ◇ Update business list and convert to a real database
- ◇ GIS mapping of community infrastructure
- ◇ Natural gas for all business parks
- ◇ Introduction letter-review and approve quick reference letter identifying town services
- ◇ Regularly review grant opportunities for community development projects
- ◇ Partner with Husson University and University of Maine for workforce training initiatives
- ◇ Seek specific businesses such as medical, financial, legal and related professional services
- ◇ Create a stronger website for business attraction and information distribution
- ◇ Work on informational packet to give prospective businesses looking for introduction to Hermon's regional advantage
- ◇ Produce video highlighting Hermon using business testimony and quality of life images

## Gardener Wanted



Seasonal position for local land trust. Some experience and knowledge of perennials/annuals helpful but not required. Should be able bodied with a willingness to learn. Wage based on experience. Mail resume and qualifications to:

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## Your Senator's Corner

By: Senator Geoff Gratwick  
Senate District 9, Hermon and Bangor



In April the Democrats came up with an alternative budget to that proposed by Governor LePage in January. It mirrors a number of the Governor's proposals but not their overall thrust. The Governor's budget benefits the well-to-do and corporations more than working Mainers and the middle class; the Democratic budget does the opposite. The Legislature will spend the next several months on the details, hopefully arriving at an agreement by mid-June.

The principles that I look for in a state budget are -

The poor need a living wage, a safety net against disaster and a chance to get ahead. Public programs should not foster dependency but we cannot close our eyes to the serious need we see around us.

The middle class needs the opportunity to find work and to see that their work is rewarded; their income should allow savings that bring security.

The wealthy know that entrepreneurial spirit and ambition have made America great – but need to remember that individual success is always dependent on having a strong, safe society and a well-functioning public core.

Businesses need to recognize that we all value their initiative, imagination and industry but that excessive income inequality is destructive of the kind of society they and we need to prosper.

The Democratic budget is based on the total taxes citizens will pay - property, income and sales, not just a part of the total. The plan is neither a promise to nor a loan from the future; it is paid for in this budget cycle. The reality of our political system is that the decisions of one legislature cannot bind the next and that we must balance our books as we go. There will be much discussion and hopefully compromise.

Besides the budget there are many other important issues before the legislature. I am immersed in health insurance, mining regulations, library funding, education, expansion of broadband and substance abuse to name a few.

As always, I am interested in your opinion on any of these matters. I am in Augusta to represent you. Let me know.

*Thanks. Senator Geoff Gratwick, 947-0637 home, ggratwick@gmail.com*



### From the Desk of State Representative Roger Reed

This month I would like to give the citizens of Hermon some information for those who may be looking for employment. The unemployment rate of 4.8 percent for March was down from 5.0 percent in February and 5.8 percent one year ago. The number of unemployed declined 7,800 over the year to 32,100. The unemployment rate was the lowest since February 2008.

I have included some upcoming and ongoing events that may be helpful for those who are looking for employment or looking to increase employment skills. The rate of hiring is going up, so now is a good time to increase your job skills, which increases the chances of increasing your salary!

#### **18th Annual Spring Career Fair will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at the Bangor Mall, 663 Stillwater Ave, Bangor from 10am to 2pm.**

The first hour from 10am to 11am will be dedicated to job seekers who are military veterans.

Sponsors: CareerCenter, The Bangor Daily News, Maine Army National Guard, Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Bangor Mall, General Rental Center, Eastern Maine Development Corp (EMDC) and the Maine Department of Labor.

Bring your resume and have it professionally critiqued. \*\*\* Door Prizes!\*\*\*

#### **New Computer Bootcamp (Recurring Workshop) 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Mondays**

To sign up, please visit the **Bangor CareerCenter** or call 561-4050 or Toll Free at 1-888-828-0568.

There will be a series of four workshops every month, each an hour and a half long. At the beginning of each month we will begin with Workshop 1; the next week Workshop 2 and so forth. We can have as many as 8 customers in each workshop. Our goal is that anyone who goes through Workshop 1 to 4 will be "comfortable" using a computer and can access what they need to assist them in finding employment by using the computers in the CareerCenter Information Center.

By the end of the four workshops each customer will understand the parts of a computer & keyboard and be able to use the internet, be registered with Maine's Job Bank and have an active e-mail account & be able to open and send e-mails. Class Limit: 8 individuals.

*Have a great start to Spring!*

*RepRoger.Reed@legislature.maine.gov*

Summer is coming...

# What are your plans?



Hermon Recreation is now accepting applications for our 'Summer Program'

For children in grades Kindergarten thru the 6th Grade



Field trips along with daily enrichment & fitness activities with a Professional Staff!

- Swimming
- Playground Games
- Computer Time
- Trip to Peaks Kenney
- Arts & Crafts
- Harry Potter Day
- Popcorn Movies
- Scavenger Hunts
- Olympic Day
- Zumba Kids
- "Kids Choice"
- Picnics
- Special Snacks
- Carnival Day at Sawyer Park



Register early... spots will fill up fast!

(FORMS AVAILABLE ON [www.hermon.net](http://www.hermon.net))

Program begins Monday, June 22



Come join us for some Fun in the Sun!

## "My New Shoes Ministry"

Article & Photo By: Gaynor Reynolds



Each month of this school year a member of the St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Bangor has contacted the Superintendent's Office to ask if there is a student need for sneakers, and within days, the requested sizes have been delivered.

This school year approximately thirty Hermon students have quietly received a new pair of socks and brand-name sneakers. This act of generosity and kindness put a smile on their faces.

The Parish members are thanked for caring about the children of Hermon and Hampden, the communities whose students were the recipients of this annual ministry.

## A Passing Thought

We send our people off to war  
always fighting on a distant shore  
As our ancestors have done in the past  
they face their trials that they have won  
I don't think they had much fun.  
But they believe in a gift so rare  
that the rest of it is human despair.  
So when you see our flag flying high  
against all odds in the blue sky.  
Remember our past, remember it well  
freedom does come with a price  
which that you do not see  
all who die for our liberty.

Douglas J. Plenge  
Vietnam Vet



## So You Think You Know Hermon (then and now)



During a Town Meeting there were 2 major items that were discussed and approved, which still exist today, though many changes and updates have happened to both. They were and still are intended to help shape the growth and children of the community. The major items were the adoption of the first zoning ordinance and the formation of the first recreation committee.

What was the year 1956, 1957, 1958 ??

Answer to March question:

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 skis on the front and with a caterpillar track on the back of the car. The rest of the year he drove an ordinary car.

## Coach's Corner — Building Brick By Brick

Article By: Coach Brad Deuring



At Hermon High School, work has begun on another season of Hermon Football. Every good athletic program starts with a good foundation. A foundation built on trust, teamwork, strong family values and hard work. After an 0-8 season, we did that. We found trust in one another and we built that foundation the next year. We committed ourselves as a unit in the summer

lifting weights and preparing for the season. We worked hard day in and day out. It's not easy giving up the comforts of summer to run sprints the months of June and July, but we did it. It's not easy practicing twice a day in August...but we did that too.

"Brick by Brick" we continue to build this program. The hard work and determination paid off. We saw our 0-8 record improve to a 1-7 record. As crazy as it sounds, we saw a difference in our program, our players, and our attitude...It takes a unique individual to play this game. An individual who is looking to be part of something bigger than themselves. An individual who is willing to sacrifice and do what is best for the team. These individuals need to trust each other. They need to trust their brother in front of them, beside them, behind them, that they will do their job. Football is the ultimate team sport. It also is one of the toughest grinds. These players give 110% in the hottest months for a chance to play for a Gold Ball. If this was an easy game...everyone would play.

We saw that foundation constructed in front of our eyes...we collectively decided, we need to continue to build. We implemented a weightlifting program that is offered at 6am at Hermon High School. It isn't the easiest thing to get up and train at 6am. As we continue to build "Brick by Brick" we see that it is extremely important for our continued growth and to build that brotherhood and camaraderie. Success is not only measured in wins and losses. Football is the ultimate team sport. You need to trust the person next to you.

The beauty about a brick is they are all the same size. Each brick is as important as the other. Before we hit the field I always remind the team... "It doesn't matter if you are guy number 1 or guy number 41...We need everyone." The starting running back's brick is the same size as the first year player's brick. The big offensive lineman's brick is the same size as the wide receiver's brick. No one brick is bigger than the other. We need to come together and build "Brick by Brick" to be successful. This process needs to start at a young age. The Hermon Rec. Program offers flag football at the 3rd and 4th grade level. They also offer tackle football for players at the 6th-8th grade. This gives the players a chance to not only work on the fundamentals but an opportunity to be part of a team. It is also a chance to teach those individuals the terminology for those who will be making their way to the High School program. Those recreation players' bricks are just as important as those varsity players' bricks.

We are building up to the kickoff of our season. We will be stacking bricks on June 23rd as we start our Summer Conditioning Program. We will continue stacking bricks on August 17th, with the start of official practices, to prepare us for our first game against John Bapst.

If you want to play football in Hermon, never let cost be a barrier. Contact the coach, recreation director or athletic director at the level you want to play. They can help you find the resources to cover the activity/player fee. All information will be kept confidential.

### A Special Thank You

My family and I would like to send out a special thank you to everyone who has shown such great support to us since our house fire. Thanks so much to all of the first responders who were efficient and caring. This includes the various fire departments and the Red Cross. To our neighbors who stood with us and offered us clothing and comfort, thank you. And a special thank you to the Hermon High School softball coaches and players for putting on an awesome benefit supper. We appreciate all who donated and attended. Also, a thank you to all who have us in your thoughts and prayers.

What a caring and generous community we live in!

Thanks So Much!

**Sincerely, The Theberge Family**

### Thank You From Hermon High School Project Graduation 2015



We would like to extend a very special  
"THANK YOU"

to the surrounding community businesses and the friends, families and citizens that have helped sponsor this years Project Graduation!

Our trip is planned for Six Flags amusement park in Massachusetts. We will be leaving the night of graduation and hitting the park as soon as they open the next morning. Our trip is paid in full!

Thank you again for all of your support and for helping our class have a safe and fun trip.

**The Class of 2015**



## Friends of Hermon Football is Gearing up for Fall

Article By: Sally Hartford, FOHF Chairperson

For the Friends of Hermon Football group, every season is football season. The group is busy gathering helpers to plan for fundraising events that will be rolled out later in the summer. The popular September Raffle calendar will be back, Hawk discount cards will be available for purchase, as will advertising opportunities for season sponsors, game sponsors, and the community members have been busy helping beautify their community at the Hermon

Community Clean up. We also had a great showing of student athletes participate in the annual Hike for the Homeless. These students are constantly growing and working to be the best students, athlete and community members that they can be.

By the time this goes to print, there will be goal posts installed at the Hermon Elementary School field. A heartfelt 'Thank you' goes out to Carmel residents Mr. and Mrs. Hartt for helping to make the goal posts and score board a reality. We couldn't have done it without the help of Hartt's Transportation and Hermon Recreation. Thank you for supporting our community!

In an effort to help serve our community better, we have created a survey about football. About who is participating, and what our residents would like to see in the future. To take this FOHF online survey, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SNYRDLP> and answer the questions. It's short, quick and will really help us determine the things that the community wants us to spend our time and resources on with regards to football. You can also get a copy emailed to you by contacting Sally Hartford.

Want to get involved with football? Friends of Hermon Football meets every second Tuesday at 6:30pm. We typically meet in conference room 119 at Hermon High School, but during summer vacation, the location will be verified on Friends of Hermon Football's facebook page. Please 'like' us if you haven't already. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact FOHF chairperson Sally Hartford at 848-4933, or email [hartfords@hermon.net](mailto:hartfords@hermon.net). For more information on Hermon Recreation sports, contact Recreation Director Michelle Thayer at phone # 944-4962 or email [thayerm@hermon.net](mailto:thayerm@hermon.net).

## Hermon Boy Scout Troop 25 Tours Maine State House

Article & Photo By: Sally Hartford



Hermon Boy Scouts Troop 25 took some time out of their April school vacation to tour the Maine State House.

This tour is a requirement for their Citizenship in the Nation merit badge. This badge is required for obtaining the rank of Eagle. The scouts attended group classes every Wednesday evening for a month prior to this tour, to work on the badge as a group. It involves learning about how the government works, and also the duties and obligations of being a citizen in The United States of America.

As one scout mentioned "This stuff seems kinda boring when we have to it on our own. But doing it with a group always ends up being really interesting and we learn something." The scouts also took advantage of being in Augusta to spend some time at the Maine State Museum. If you'd like more information on how to become a Hermon Boy Scout, please contact Scoutmaster Kevin Hartford at 848-4933.

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### Upcoming Events At Ecotat Gardens



Hermon School  
Department Student  
and Adult Steel Pan  
Performance

Tuesday, June 2 - 6 pm  
(Rain date: Thursday, June 4)

Sebasticook Valley Community Band  
Sunday, June 21 - 5:30 pm

Please bring your lawn chairs and park  
in the Annis Road parking area.

### Municipal Election

#### School Budget Approval Meeting:

May 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm  
In the Hermon Middle School Gymnasium

#### Election Day:

June 9, 2015

Polls are open from 8 am to 8 pm  
In the Hermon Elementary  
School Gymnasium



#### Annual Town Meeting:

June 11, 2015 at 6:30 pm  
In the Hermon High School Auditorium



### Miniature Horse Club

### Tiny Hooves Miniature Horse Club Events

- May 17 @ 10 am - Meet the Minis  
Maine Horse & Rider , 231 Main Rd, Holden
- May 31 @ 10 am - Clinic, Tack & Bake Sale at  
Someday Farm, 227 New Boston Rd, Hermon
- June 14 @ 9 am - Show at Someday Farm  
227 New Boston Rd, Hermon
- July 19 @ 9 am - Show at Someday Farm  
227 New Boston Rd, Hermon
- August 16 @ 9 am - Show at Someday Farm  
227 New Boston Rd, Hermon
- August 30 @ 9 am - Show at Someday Farm  
227 New Boston Rd, Hermon
- All events offer lunch/snack bar items, and tee-  
shirts available for purchase. Membership forms  
will also be available.

For more information please contact:  
Shelley J. Tozier at 299-4246

[facebook.com/tinyhoovesminiaturehorseclub](https://www.facebook.com/tinyhoovesminiaturehorseclub)