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# The Hermon Connection

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Vol. 21 Issue 6 • November 2015

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Photo By: Patty Duran

Ecotat trustees, members, and volunteers shout out with a "Thank YOU" to Erin Greenier, owner of Burlap Blue Designs of Hermon.

Erin designed, constructed, painted and *generously* gifted Ecotat Gardens with this colorful barn quilt

hung on the Guy Brown Building for all who visit to enjoy.

Balsam Fir Wreath making Workshop  
Saturday, November 28, 2015  
9 - 11 am at Ecotat Gardens  
Cost: \$20 with all supplies provided  
Register by calling 848-5946  
or email to: [info@ecotat.org](mailto:info@ecotat.org)



Photo By: Gaynor Reynolds

Ann Redman, Assistant Manager, Books-A-Million in Bangor with a sampling of the 384 books donated earlier this fall through BAM's Book Fair for the Hermon School Department.

The books, generously purchased by BAM customers, were gratefully received and distributed to the three schools where librarians, staff and students received them with enthusiasm and excitement.

Town of Hermon  
Roger Raymond  
Town Manager  
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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](mailto:scottwl@hermon.net)

Deadline for submissions:  
December 21



Don't forget to VOTE!!

Tuesday,  
November  
3, 2015.

Polls will be open from  
8:00am to 8:00pm at the  
Hermon Elementary  
School Gym.

## Special Town Meeting

A special town meeting has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m., November 5, 2015 at the Hermon Public Safety Building. We urge all registered voters to attend the meeting. This is not the official warrant but does generally reflect the questions being presented to the citizens with a brief explanation.

**Article 1. Shall the town vote to accept a grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the Maine Department of Transportation Partnership Initiative Grant Program in order to do repairs to a portion of the Fuller Road beginning at the intersection of the Billings Road and extending 2 miles to the intersection of the Wing Road and Annis Road and the Klatte Road beginning at the Route 2 intersection and extending .38 mile to the intersection of the Newburgh Road, and to appropriate \$500,000 as the town's share to be raised as follows?**

**\$175,000 from the balance existing in the Highway Improvement Reserve Account**

**\$175,000 to be raised as part of the 2016-2017 appropriation for Highway Improvement Reserve Account**

**\$150,000 to be raised from the town's Unrestricted Fund Balance Account**

The Town of Hermon has been offered a grant in the amount of \$500,000 to do repairs to a portion of the Fuller Road and Klatte Road as described in the above article. The Town has a statutory requirement to pay 33% of the improvements to participate in the grant program. The program allows the Town to administer the grant which usually results in a lower project cost in turn making it more cost effective for the Town. The Town has to match the grant which the Town Council proposes to do by funding \$350,000 from the Highway Reserve Account and \$150,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance. By acting now, the need to borrow will be eliminated for the project and the tax rate will not be impacted since the funds are being raised as part of the Annual Road Improvement Plan. The project, if approved, will be bid in January 2016 and completed during the 2016 construction season. The project includes drainage improvements, a modified road base and new pavement.

**Article 2. Shall the town vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$49,000 from Tax Incremental Revenues to reimburse the cost for road lane improvements within the Route 2 right of way in the vicinity of the Bangor Drive-in and Freedom Park?**

If approved, the Town Council will be authorized to expend \$49,000 to cover a portion of the cost incurred to complete improvements on Route 2 in the vicinity of the access roads leading into Freedom Park and the Drive-in in order to comply with Maine Department of Transportation access regulations. The improvements include a by-pass lane, new pavement and drainage. The total cost for the improvements exceeded \$200,000 and the Town's share is proposed at \$49,000. The Town Council chooses to pay for its share with Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) revenues since the improvements are for economic development purposes and TIF revenues can be used for projects that retain or create jobs. Approval will have no impact on the tax rate.

**Article 3. Shall the town vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1,188,755 from School Unrestricted Fund Balance to School Capital Project Reserve Account?**

Since 2008, the School Department has not been restricted to the amount of funds they can designate to Unrestricted Fund Balance. Effective with the 2015-16 fiscal year, the Hermon School Department will not be allowed to maintain a balance in unrestricted funds exceeding 3% of the school budget. For this reason, it is necessary for the Hermon School Department to allocate \$1,188,755 to the School Capital Project Reserve Account in order to avoid the loss of school subsidies or violate school financing regulations. The funds will be used for needed capital improvements minimizing large increases to the tax rate. In addition, improvements are required at the Hermon Elementary School in order to address increased student enrollments. These funds cannot be expended unless approved by the citizens at a town meeting.

**Article 4. Shall the Town vote to authorize the use of School Unrestricted Fund Balance at the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year to cover school accrued salaries?**

The citizens are being asked to authorize the use of unexpended fund balance at the end of the fiscal year to fund accrued salaries. Because the term of teacher contracts extends during the school year (September to June) while the majority of teachers accept their pay over a twelve month period (September to August), a substantial balance exists at the end of the fiscal year (June 30) to cover the cost of the contracts. For this reason the Hermon School Department is requesting the citizens allow them to use a portion of unexpended fund balance at the end of the fiscal year to cover accrued salaries. In 2014-15 the amount designated for accrued salaries was \$825,000.

**Article 5. Shall the Town vote to appropriate funds received from Maine PERS in an amount not to exceed \$567,278 to the School Capital Project Reserve Account for capital improvements at the Hermon Elementary School?**

The Town received \$908,000 from Maine State Retirement System from a reserve generated prior to consolidation that occurred in 1990. Since consolidation, these funds were held by MPERS and credited to off-set the annual town and school share of Maine State Retirement. In 2014 MPERS decided they no longer wanted to be responsible for these funds and returned them to the Town. Since consolidation the annual fee assessed the employer and employees covers all costs associated with the plan. Since retirement cost is an operating cost, it is more transparent to fund this expense as part of the annual budget. For this reason, it is recommended the schools' share in the amount of \$567,278 be deposited in the School Capital Project Account to cover the cost of improvements required at the Elementary School. This step will eliminate the need for a large spike in property tax to address the capital needs at the Hermon Elementary School in the next few years.

**Article 6. Shall the Town vote to appropriate funds received from Maine PERS in an amount not to exceed \$292,234 to the Elementary School Reserve Account for capital improvements at the Hermon Elementary School for the benefit of the Hermon Recreation Program?**

It is being proposed the Town's share of the MPERS funds also be deposited in the amount of \$292,234 in the Hermon Elementary Reserve Account to complete improvements to the area used by the Recreation Department for the Before and After School Program. The space currently used is in need of repair and the program is in need of additional space. This will help offset the cost of the anticipated repairs as well as minimize the impact to the tax rate.

**Article 7. Shall the Town vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$36,000 from funds received from Maine PERS to pay for Hermon School Department's share of Maine State Retirement for employees participating in the Maine State Employees Retirement Consolidated Plan for the 2015-2016 fiscal year?**

In the past this cost was paid for by Maine State Retirement System as a credit from the reserve account which was anticipated when the budget was being prepared for 2015-2016. Since the funds have since been received from Maine PERS the citizens at a town meeting must approve any expenditure exceeding \$25,000. If these funds are not appropriated by the citizens, the school department will have a \$36,000 overdraft in this account.

**Article 8. Shall the town vote to appropriate from the Credit Reserve Account an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for the purchase of software and hardware to operate a GIS mapping program?**

Because the Town Council is limited to any transfer in any fiscal year not to exceed \$24,999 from a reserve account and because the Town Council has already reached its limit for the current fiscal year, the citizens are being asked to authorized an expenditure from the Credit Reserve Account in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 to cover the cost of new software and hardware to operate an in house GIS mapping program. This will reduce the Town's annual mapping cost and will allow the maps to be prepared in house rather than contracting the service with an outside firm where cost is difficult to manage.

## From the Town Manager



One of the goals set by the Town Council for the ensuing year is to examine the level of public safety services provided and whether the needs of the community will be met in future years. The services include fire protection, police protection and emergency medical services. Recently the Town Council expanded the mission of the Police Advisory Committee to include all public safety sectors. The committee has been renamed the Public Safety Advisory Committee which includes citizens that represent all factions of the community. During the next few months the committee will be asked to examine each service to determine whether they need to be enhanced and to establish recommendations that will assist each provider to meet the future needs of the community.

If you have an interest to serve on this committee, please contact the Town Clerk at 848-1010 or send an email indicating your interest to [raymond@hermon.net](mailto:raymond@hermon.net).

At the October 8<sup>th</sup> town council meeting the Town Council agreed to extend the contract with Hermon Volunteer Rescue for emergency medical services. The non-profit corporation provides emergency medical services to the citizens of Hermon and several other surrounding communities. Hermon Volunteer Rescue has experienced significant growth over the last few years including expanding their fleet to five ambulances, hiring additional paramedics and completing a building expansion. The service responds annually to nearly 1,000 emergency runs in Hermon. The community is fortunate to receive the level of care provided and the service will continue for years to come.

On October 2, 2015, the 2015 Tax Commitment was completed. The tax rate remained unchanged at 12 mills. The total amount to be raised from taxes is \$5,887,258 of which \$590,255 or 10% is dedicated for County Tax, \$4,515,777 or 77% is for education, \$56,935 or 1% is for the overlay account and \$724,291 or 12% is for municipal services. This equates to \$.12 cent of every new tax dollar goes to pay for municipal services. Again, the Town of Hermon continues to maintain a very competitive edge when it comes to property taxes. A comparison of surrounding communities that offer full services maintain the following rates: Old Town 21.16 mills, Orono 24.04 mills, Bangor 21.95 mills, Brewer 21.52 mills, Glenburn 19 mills, Veazie 18.40 mills, Holden 15.65 mills, Bucksport 17.10 mills **and Hermon 12 mills**. I trust with the support of the citizens, the Town of Hermon will continue to provide good services and maintain a competitive mill rate for businesses and homeowners.

Snowfall and ice are quickly approaching now the fall and winter months have arrived. Be reminded not to leave your vehicle parked within any public right of way during a snow storm. Your vehicle will likely be towed if it impedes with snow removal activities. Do not let us make that decision. Help us make your public roads safe for all motorists. Should you be driving in a storm and find the roads difficult and dangerous to travel because of snow fall or ice you may contact 911 and let them know which road is of concern and they will either contact the Town or the contractor. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the contents of this newsletter.

### Maine Scrap Metals

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### CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



### CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

Just a reminder to *PLEASE* change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you change the time on your clocks.

## Your Senator's Corner

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

Early childhood education can have a great economic benefit.

Of course, home is where it all begins: parents who speak to their infants more often and with richer language help their children learn more quickly. Help can come from the community as well. Children who attend one or two years of preschool have greater language and math skills than those who do not. They are more likely to graduate from high school, own homes and have successful marriages. It is less likely that they will repeat a grade or get in trouble with the law.

Children enrolled in quality preschools eventually earn up to \$2000 per month more than their non-preschool peers; the benefit to society ranges from \$2 to \$17 returned for every dollar spent. Preschool helps parents as well. In general, the parents of children in preschool do better economically, pay more taxes, and make our country more competitive. Education is not destiny but it can have a lifelong ripple effect. Public education for all ages is one of the pillars of American democracy and is critical, a path to a better life for most of us.

The problem: education is expensive.

Hermon is unique among Maine towns. While much of the state is stuck in economic doldrums Hermon is experiencing significant growth fed by its strategic position near a major service center, low mill rate, and success in attracting businesses. This has led to an influx of young families, often with school age kids. School enrollment has increased from 876 (2005) to 970 (2015).

To educate the next generation of citizens, those who will drive the future economy, Hermon is making an enormous investment. The payback is often 20 or 30 years in the future and there is no guarantee that a child, once educated, will stay close to home.

Few would dispute the importance of education but it can be hard to find the money to pay for good teachers, programs, and buildings. Senior citizens and those on a fixed income need to keep their taxes low, work force housing is expensive, roads and infrastructure are the foundation of economic prosperity, and people who have moved to Hermon because of its low mill rate have strong opinions about how their money should be spent – or not spent.

Hermon's challenge is how to have low taxes as well as an excellent educational system. There is no simple answer. Spending money for preschool greatly increases student success later in life, but how much money is required? Hermon will need accurate projections, thoughtful conversations, and careful planning as it cements its position as one of the leading communities in Penobscot County.

I will continue to work for greater state support of local education up to the 55% required by the 2004 referendum. Another citizens' referendum is gathering headway for 2017 that will increase taxes on those with high incomes, with the money dedicated to education. There are over 40 new and 10 carry-over bills before the Education Committee this session.

In my conversations with my colleagues in the legislature I value the opportunity to quote the opinions of the taxpayers in my district – please let me know your thoughts on these and any other matters.

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## The Clerk's Calendar

**October 9** – Snowmobile registrations are now available at the Town Office. The cost to register a new sled is \$47.00. A re-registration is \$46.00. You can process your snowmobile re-registration on-line. You will find the link at [www.hermon.net](http://www.hermon.net).

**October 15** – Please remember to register your dog. 2015 tags became available on October 15, 2015. If you are unable to come to the Town Office you may register your dog online. You will find the link at [www.hermon.net](http://www.hermon.net). Your dog must be registered each year. If your dog has been spayed or neutered registration will cost \$6.00; if not the cost will be \$11.00. If you have not registered your dog by January 31, 2016 you will be required to pay a state mandated late fee of \$25.00 in addition to the registration costs. Proof your dog has received its rabies vaccination is required for registration.

**October 22** – Town Council meeting at 7:00pm. 3 public hearings will be held. During the first public hearing the Council will accept public comments regarding a request to approve an annual liquor license application for Morgan Hill. Secondly the Council will hear public comment regarding a requested zone change on the Billings Road. And finally, the Council will answer any public questions or concern regarding the adoption of the 2015 General Assistance Ordinance.

**November 3**- The State Election will take place at the Hermon Elementary School Gym on November 3, 2015. Polls will be open from 8:00am to 8:00pm. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office now. Sample ballots are also available for viewing.

**November 5**- A Special Town Meeting will take place at the Public Safety Meeting room at 7:00pm .10 Articles will be voted on. The Town Council meeting will immediately follow.

**November 21** – The Transfer Station will be open for the final time this season on Saturday, November 21, 2015. The Transfer Station will re-open in spring.

When the Danforth family thought about opening a grocery store in Hermon, a pharmacy was always part of the plan. “It has been our mission to provide services with a locally owned and operated business model that the people of Hermon can benefit from, while helping the town grow in its own right. The support we have received from our community over the past eight years has been tremendous and we fully believe that support will extend to the *Community Pharmacy* when they open for business this fall”, said Brett Danforth of *Danforth's Down Home Supermarket*.

Today, it is increasingly important to support your local community by shopping and doing business where you live. *Community Pharmacy* is a locally owned, Maine based business that believes in supporting this ideal when it comes to their customer's health care needs. “We think Hermon is ready for a pharmacy because it is experiencing amazing growth. We are excited to be expanding here with this location and think Hermon is a community that will embrace a small-town pharmacy providing personalized customer service” said Amelia Arnold , retail pharmacy operations manager for *Community Pharmacies*.

Since 1998, *Community Pharmacies* has grown to eleven locations where the pharmacies have worked to make themselves integral parts of the communities they are located in. Owned exclusively by pharmacists who reside in the State of Maine, they are deeply committed to community involvement and believe in a hands-on approach to patient-care. Adding to the traditional services of dispensing medication, this business will offer comprehensive vaccine clinics, health screenings and consultations where a pharmacist on duty will sit with you and discuss your concerns after a thorough review of your medications.

One of the secrets to success when attempting to make a local connection with your customers is to hire a local person who invests personally in the community they live in. Mike Williams will represent *Community Pharmacies* in Hermon with a friendly and knowledgeable approach to helping his clients. “I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to provide pharmacy services in the community that I live. I am really looking forward to opening in the next couple of weeks. I would encourage anyone in the area to stop by and say hello!”, says Mike. Mike lives in Carmel with his wife Kristen, their son Colby and a daughter Olivia.

By the time this Hermon Connection is published, the Pharmacy at Danforth's Down Home Supermarket will be ready to greet you as one of their first customers!



Mike Williams, Pharmacy of Hermon

- Graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy located in Boston
- 18 years experience as a community pharmacist in Bangor, Maine
- Past Pharmacy Manager of Osco Pharmacy at Shaw' Supermarket on Main St, Bangor for the last 16 years.
- My primary focus is on preventative health and immunizations.

Community Pharmacy of Hermon  
Tel: (207) 848-5020; Fax: (207) 848-3909  
hermonrx@communityrx.com  
www.communityrx.com



Giving business the edge!

Article by: Scott Perkins

In the last report for the Hermon Connection our message focused on the Economic Development Committee's business attraction efforts as we developed our vision for branding Hermon's competitive regional advantages. Since then, the Economic Development Committee has met several times to discuss items related to business development including our work to create a quality marketing plan. After interviews with staff, the public and our committee to fine tune the message we believe best describes our community, we attended a Council meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> and read the following summation into the record:

*Hermon is a growing community made up of young families, educated professionals, business owners and long term residents that anchor our Town. Hermon adds to a quality workforce available locally and regionally because of our strong work ethic woven into the fabric of who we are.*

*We are connected to long standing traditional values and modern technological advances. Our community has caring and responsive administrative leaders, teachers and public safety resources. We are truly "business friendly." Our Town offers some of the best locations for business regionally because of our multiple transportation options including the Interstate system, Bangor International Airport and Railway service extending from Canada to Searsport. An exceedingly low tax rate is common in Hermon, with rates often times half as much as neighboring communities. These supports have created a strong local business base that takes advantage of the unique geographical qualities that a well planned community can provide.*

*The Town of Hermon is a transportation and construction leader in Central Maine. Our Town offers easy permitting processes and quick answers to inquiries. Growing a business in Hermon works because we work together.*

*Hermon provides an extremely high quality of life for families of all ages. The Town is proud of its regional leadership concerning the delivery of quality municipal and business services, good recreational opportunities and its strong local support for schools.*

*The Town of Hermon is a complete package for any business owner looking for excellence in municipal service and steady positive growth for its bottom line.*

This is the snapshot of Hermon that will be used to begin a segmented marketing campaign. Do you have other ideas that could be added? Contact our office at 848-1010 or [sperkins@hermon.net](mailto:sperkins@hermon.net).

Other related items:

*Eastern Maine Development Corporation* has been hired to compile statistical data for our economic development plan. They are also charged with creating a survey that business people can participate in.

*Kit McCall Productions* has been hired to begin a video compilation of Hermon locations using drone flyovers to create location interest and recorded first hand testimonials from business people in Hermon.

## Note from the Assessors Office:

At the September 10<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting I submitted the State of Maine Revenue Services Preliminary 2016 State Valuation Report. This valuation represents the full equalized value of all **taxable** property in Hermon.

The State Valuation is compiled by determining through office visits with assessors and meetings with other local officials the approximate ratio of full value on which local assessments are made, then adjusting the local assessed values in accordance with the Rules of Procedure Used to Develop State Valuation (08-125 Chapter 201). State valuation is a mass appraisal estimate of the 100% market value of all taxable property of a municipality and is established annually by the State Tax Assessor.

- Hermon's State Valuation is \$472,800,000
- Hermon's Certified Ratio is 100%
- Hermon's Combined Sales Ratio is 94%
- Hermon's Residential Ratio is 95%
- Hermon's Average Selling Price is \$186,761

This report shows that Hermon's Assessing Department is performing the assessing function within the "assessing standards" requiring a 70% minimum assessment ratio and a maximum quality rating of 20 by Maine Property Tax Law Title 36 M.R.S.A. §327.

Assessment ratios and quality ratings are the focal points of residential ratio studies conducted annually by the State in conjunction with the annual State Valuation and to assist municipal assessors with the statutory requirement to annually conduct sales ratio studies required by 36 M.R.S.A. §328.

The assessment ratio measures the average relationship between the market value of properties as measured by sales price and the local assessment for that property. For example, a property that was assessed for \$70,000 but sold for \$100,000, exemplifies a 70% assessment/sales ratio.

In the previous July and September 2015 editions of the Hermon Connection, information was given outlining the assessor's need for updating assessing records. The assessing department received approval from the Town Council on September 10<sup>th</sup> to begin the update. Many of the property cards do not have pictures, sketches, and most of the properties have not been inspected for years making it difficult to maintain equity between property types.

Doreen French, the Assessing Property Lister, has been working in the field taking photos and verifying sketches as of September 14<sup>th</sup>. Thus far the support has been very good. We thank you for your effort and time working with Doreen.

Within the next few weeks the Hermon Assessing Department will be mailing the 2015 Residential Data Verification Form. This form should minimize the time required to perform inspections therefore, saving tax dollars. We seek the cooperation from all property owners.



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## HERMON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

### Special Education Child Find Notice

The Hermon School Department is in compliance with federal and state regulations regarding the delivery of services to all children with special needs.

Federal statutes (I.D.E.A.) requires that the School Department identifies, locates and evaluates all children with disabilities, ages 3-20, residing within the school district. Residents who believe that their child is in need of special education services, whether attending public or private school, should contact Mrs. Brandy St. Pierre, Director of Student Services, P.O. Box 6360, Hermon, ME 04402, Tel. 848-4000, X 6007.

### Annual Notice of Student Education Records and Information Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides certain rights to parents and eligible students (18 years of age or older) with respect to the student's education records. A copy of the Hermon School Department's policy statement and administrative procedure is available in each school.

#### Inspection of Records

Parents/ eligible students may inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of making a request. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building administrator in writing and must identify the record(s) to be inspected. The superintendent or building administrator will notify the parent/eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected. Parents/eligible students may obtain copies of education records at a cost of ten cents (\$0.10) per page copied.

#### Amendment of Records

Parents/eligible students may ask the Hermon School Department to amend education records they believe are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's right to privacy. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building administrator in writing, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the superintendent or building administrator decides not to amend the record as requested, the parent/eligible student will be notified of the decision, their right to request a hearing and information about the hearing procedure.

#### Disclosure of Records

The Hermon School Department must obtain a parent/eligible student's written consent prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information in education records except in circumstances permitted by law.

#### Directory Information

The Hermon School Department designates the following student information as directory information that may be made public at its discretion: name, participation and grade level of students in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight of student athletes, dates of attendance in the Hermon School Department, and honors and awards received, and photographs and videos of student participation in school activities open to the public (except photographs and videos on the Internet). Parents/eligible students who do not want the Hermon School Department to disclose directory information must notify the Superintendent in writing by September 15<sup>th</sup> or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

#### Military Recruiters / Institutions of Higher Learning

Military recruiters and institutions of higher education are entitled to receive the names, addresses and telephone numbers of secondary students, and the Hermon School Department must comply with any such request, provided that parents have been notified of their right to request that this information not be released without prior written consent. Parents/eligible students who do not want the Hermon School Department to disclose this information must notify the Superintendent in writing by September 15<sup>th</sup> or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

#### School Officials with Legitimate Educational Interests

Education records may be disclosed to school officials with a "legitimate educational interest." A school official has a legitimate educational interest if he/she needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. School officials include persons employed by the Hermon School Department as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); members of the Hermon School Committee; persons or companies with whom the Hermon School Department has contracted to provide specific services (such as attorneys, auditors, medical consultants, evaluators or therapists);

and parents, students and volunteers serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting a school official in performing his/her professional responsibilities.

#### **Health or Safety Emergencies**

In accordance with federal regulations, the Hermon School Department may disclose education records without prior written consent in a health and safety emergency to any person whose knowledge or the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

#### **Other School Units**

As required by Maine law, the Hermon School Department sends student education records to a school unit to which a student applies for transfer, including disciplinary records, attendance records, special education records and health records (except for confidential health records for which consent for dissemination has not been obtained).

#### **Other Entities / Individuals**

Education records may be disclosed to other entities and individuals as specifically permitted by law. Parents/eligible students may obtain information about other exceptions to the written consent requirements by request to the Superintendent or building administrator.

#### **Complaints Regarding School Department Compliance with FERPA**

Parents/eligible students who believe that the Hermon School Department has not complied with the requirements of FERPA have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. The office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C.

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## **Maine Supreme Court Gets Schooled**

*Article & Photo By: Jesse Hargrove, Social Studies Teacher*



On Tuesday, October 6, the Maine Supreme Court came to Hermon High School to hear three appeals. The three cases involved one drug trafficking incident and two operating under the influence. All three were found guilty in their criminal cases however were appealed to the State's highest court on constitutional grounds questioning the government's breach of privacy, search and seizure rights and burden of proof. Citizens of Maine have the right to appeal any criminal case to the Maine Supreme Court and the court is obligated to hear any appeals.

Unlike the courtroom dramas commonly portrayed on television or in movies, an appellate court hears oral arguments from the two parties, each with a given amount of time to state their case. Justices received briefs in advance of oral arguments that include case law references that may serve as precedent. Justices are able to question lawyers, interrupting their oral arguments, to address concerns and the impact of different court decisions.

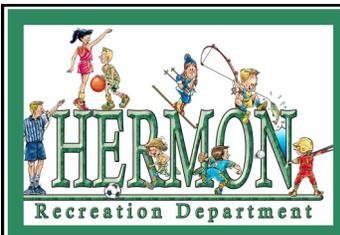
Over 360 Hermon High School students heard at least one of the three cases with most students hearing more. Twenty-three students representing a diverse group from the Honors Program, the Bridge Year Program, and Students with Special Needs were able to enjoy lunch and conversation with individual justices as part of the event. The Court visits three schools a year in an effort to educate the population about our judicial system. Local state legislators must submit an application on behalf of the school to be considered. Senator Geoff Gratwick and Representative Roger Reed, who were in attendance, worked with school personnel to make this event happen.

## Postal Customer



Hermon School Department students are once again the recipients of backpacks filled with school supplies from campers at Pumpkin Patch RV Resort in Hermon and sneakers and socks from members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Bangor. These generous and caring gestures are appreciated, heartwarming and surely put smiles on the children's faces.

*Photos By: Gaynor Reynolds*



### 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 per person

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



Wednesday - November 18  
 TURKEY STEW with all the Fixings  
 RSVP by November 13

Wednesday - December 16  
 SHEPARDS PIE  
 RSVP by December 11

