

The Hermon CONNECTION

Vol. 31 Issue 5 - September 2024

Updates • News • Events • Information



Summer Sizzler Success!

Article by: Lindsey Ouellette, Photos by: Todd Douglass

On behalf of the Hermon Rec Department, we extend our gratitude to all who attended the Annual Summer Sizzler event this year! The day was brimming with joy, excitement, and a strong sense of community. Here are some highlights from the event:

- Over 90 participants showcased their cars at the Car Show.
- Volunteers and over 60 runners made the Slime Run a success.
- Various vendors and food trucks offered delicious food and unique products for everyone.

The music and stage performances created a lively atmosphere throughout the day, with special recognition to the talented performers from Morita's School of Dance. The evening concluded with a dazzling fireworks display by Central Maine Pyrotechnics, lighting up the sky and leaving a lasting impression.

Witnessing the community come together, sharing smiles and laughter, was a beautiful reminder of why this event is important. We owe the success of this event to our sponsors and the active involvement of our staff and community members. The support, enthusiasm, and dedication to celebrating together are what make events like the Summer Sizzler truly unforgettable. Thank you for being part of our community and for making this event a great success!

Town of Hermon
Stephen Fields, Town Manager
333 Billings Road, Hermon, ME 04401
Tel: 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316
sfields@hermonmaine.gov
www.hermonmaine.gov

If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of The Hermon Connection, please send it to: ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov
Deadline for submissions: October 25, 2024
Next Edition will be published mid-November

Message from the Town Manager

I would like to say "Thank You" for the opportunity to provide leadership to the municipal staff and community. Hermon is a beautiful town with a rich culture and traditions of commercial and residential properties. Over the centuries, the Town of Hermon has been through plentiful times to those with topics of great discussion, but the same theme has prospered...community coming together! As I start my tenure, my philosophy is to have a **Professional Partnership**. This partnership includes the entire community (citizens, businesses and schools) to work and communicate that will resolve concerns. Every individual has the option to disagree with the outcome but agree to disagree. My focus along with the guidance from the Council is to continue progressing in community growth development and services supporting the town. My core values that guide myself and provided to staff - **Integrity, Accountability, Mentorship and Empowerment**. These values allow for success of your town employees and our relationships to the Town.

My background includes municipal leadership within the state at the Town of Corinth, City of Westbrook and City of Biddeford. A veteran of the United States Air Force/Maine Air National Guard for 28 years with operations, logistics and emergency management. I have been employed with State and Federal agencies.

I appreciate this opportunity to serve as your Town Manager in "A Great Little Town in the Heart of Maine to Live, Work, and Play", the Town of Hermon.

Thank you.

Stephen Fields, Town Manager



DOG LICENSES: 2024 DOG TAGS ARE AVAILABLE

Residents who need vet care or rabies for their animals should make their appointments NOW for 2025 licensing. Information has been communicated by the State Vet Association that they are experiencing a vet shortage / lack of remote clinics and resources.

Please license your dog before January 31. The State of Maine demands a \$25.00 late fee for any dog renewal license after 1/31/2025.

Go to <http://bit.ly/3UWzn4> to license a previously registered dog or a new dog online from October 15, 2024 to January 31, 2025.

If you no longer have a dog to license, please let us know here at the Town Office at 848-1010 #3.

\$25 LATE FEE, PER DOG, WILL BE IN FULL EFFECT IN 2024 FOR DOG TAGS AFTER 1/31/2025!



Welcome Back to School

Article by: Melissa Davis, Ed.D.

Educators at the Patricia A. Duran School were excited to welcome students back for the 2024-2025 school year. In sticking with tradition, we kicked off the school year with a "Sneak-a-Peek" on August 28th. Students and their families were invited to drop by and view their classrooms and meet their teachers. This was also a great opportunity for families to learn about before and after school care through the Hermon Rec. Department. The Darling's Ice Cream Truck also made an appearance and provided sweet treats with proceeds going toward the Duran School's Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The theme of the 2024-2025 school year at the Duran School is "I can do hard things." We are excited to work with our students in developing their work ethic, growing their confidence, and providing them with enriching educational experiences. We are looking forward to the new adventures this school year will bring.

Hawk Battalion Commander Soars to New Heights

Article and photo submitted by: Cadet 1LT Aubrey Searway



The Hermon High School JROTC Hawk Battalion Commander, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Alec Smith, got selected for the prestigious Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. On average, 12,000 applicants a year apply for a spot to attend the academy; however, only 1,500 are selected, and the acceptance rate is less than 12%.

As well as serving as the Battalion Commander of JROTC, Alec Smith is the class president for his 2024 graduating class, team captain of the varsity football team, and member of the varsity tennis team. Alec is ranked extremely high in his graduating class when it comes to academics. Alec is a very well-rounded young man and our country will be much better served with him serving as a potential future pilot in the Air Force. His ultimate goal is to become an astronaut. We all wish him the best of luck, and aim high Alec!

Want to contribute to the *Hermon Connection*?

Have something you want to share with the community? If you have an item of interest pertaining to the Town of Hermon we want to hear about it! Submitting an article in the Hermon Connection is a good way for residents and organizations to share stories of interest with the community. If you would like to submit an article, please email it to Lindsey Ouellette at ouellette1@hermonmaine.gov. In order for Hermon residents and/or organizations to submit articles to be published in the Connection, the following criteria must be met:

1. The person submitting the article must be a resident of the Town of Hermon.
2. The organization submitting the article must be location within Hermon's geographic boundaries.
3. The organization has a lawful purpose which does not pose a threat to public order, to the safety of the public, or to the safety of any individual.
4. The organization does not have as its primary purpose marketing products of services or making a profit.

Please be aware that any articles and notices submitted by community members and community organizations may not contain offensive language, slander, advocate violence or unlawful activity, or pose a threat to public order or to persons or their reputation. When determining whether or not to submit an article, please be aware the deadlines for submission are approximately the 20th of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Once you have submitted your article, Town staff will be in contact with you to let you know if the article you submitted will be published. We look forward to hearing from you!



A Banner Year for Hermon Little League

Article and photos submitted by: Lauren Cormier

It was a record-breaking season for Hermon Little League in more ways than one! With 411 kids, ages 4 through 14, participating in T-ball through Junior League in 2024, the league saw the highest participation numbers the program has ever had, and it was the third year in a row that the number of players topped 400. The commitment from coaches and board members, who volunteered countless hours of their time, was readily apparent as kids learned to play baseball and softball, improved their skills and knowledge of the game, and had a ton of fun in the process.

As the season culminated in several All-Star tournaments, players had a chance to put their hard work on display. This year was truly one for the books as three of the five Hermon All-Star teams won their District tournaments and brought banners home to Hermon.

Congratulations to these teams and to all 411 kids who participated in Hermon Little League this season! A huge 'thank you' goes out to all of the volunteers who made the season possible. We're already looking forward to next year!

The Hermon Minors All-Star Softball team (ages 8-10) won the District Three Championship with a record of 3-0, then went 1-2 in the state tournament to finish 4th in the state. The Hermon Minors All-Star Softball team includes:

Riley Bourdon
Aria DiFrederico
Amia Chamberlain
Abby Estes
Myra Gallant
Harper Waterman
Madyson Wilkins

Evelyn Hibbard
Bria McCannell
Lucy Mitchell
Kenzie Pinkerton
Natalie Romesburg
Manager: Justin DiFrederico
Coaches: Ashlea Bourdon, Shane Chamberlain

The Hermon Majors All-Star Softball team (ages 11-12) won their District Three Championship with a record of 3-0 and went 1-2 in the state tournament to finish their season in 4th place in the state.



The Hermon Majors All-Star Softball team includes:

Annelise Cormier
Sophie Curtis
Ava DiFrederico
Zoe Estes
Gracie Hopkins
Maddie Johnston
Hailey Kelsey
Jasmine Morissette
Sophia Pelkey
Kadence Randall
Elise Smith
Hadley Thayer
Brooklyn Whitney

Manager: Jon Smith
Coaches: Eric Curtis, Josh Kelsey
Bat Girl: Andi DiFrederico



The Hermon Junior League All-Star Baseball team (ages 13-14) won their District Three Championship with a record of 4-0, then went 1-2 in the state tournament to finish as state runners-up.

Hermon Junior League All-Stars include:

Kole Alexander
Ben Bethune
Samuel Cormier
Griffin Dunton
Ethan Garner
Jackson Harris
Elijah Idano
Tommy Largay
Collin Mehrhoff
Mason Thayer
Landon Wilcox
Landon Wood

Manager: Jason Largay
Coaches: Eric Cormier, Brad Harris
Bat Boy: Beckett Harris

CONGRATULATIONS, HERMON LITTLE LEAGUE!

Electricity rates are going up again despite efforts by Republicans to lower them

Earlier this summer, the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) announced electric bills have increased again. Maine's Public Advocate and legislative Republicans have been warning that this would happen because of the excessive profits paid to solar companies. This past session, I joined with my fellow Republicans, and a handful of Democrats, to try and stop this transfer of dollars out of Mainers pockets so that we can lower electric rates. Several bills addressing this problem failed when lobbyists got involved. We will all continue to pay extra even if we are not connected to wind farms.

Residential ratepayers and Maine's small businesses are paying even higher amounts for the "stranded cost" portion of your electric bill. This is the part of the bill that subsidizes the solar projects that now cover our landscape. It is called Net Energy Billing.

Simply put, wind and solar companies are paid .20 cents per kilowatt to deliver a product that can cost as little as .05 cents to generate. This is allegedly done to move us away from cheaper fossil fuels. What most people do not know is that solar farms in Maine cannot function without oil and natural gas.

Rather than blame failed government energy policies, consumers often place the blame for high bills on Versant or CMP. The Net Energy Billing portion of the bill is the fault of the legislature. Companies are required by law to pass that increase and other hidden subsidy costs along to consumers on their bills.

Consider:

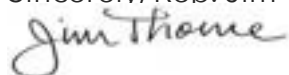
- Standard offer rates increased 132.06% between 2014 and 2023 because of more expensive solar required under the Renewable Portfolio Standard.
- For CMP, stranded costs will go up 93% to \$183 million.
- Some businesses are now subject to a "job-killing solar tax." One small business in Milo just announced that it is likely to go out of business because their \$5,000 an month bill will increase another \$6,000 an month even though it is not tied to increased energy use.
- Maine's nonpartisan Public Advocate Bill Harwood says solar subsidies will cost \$4 billion over 20 years. In a [May 12 interview with WGME](#), he said: "It requires CMP and Versant power to pay approximately 20 cents per kilowatt hour for solar energy that costs less than 10 cents a kilowatt hour to generate," Harwood said. "They then make up this difference by adding it to the rates charged to rate payers."

I am not against rooftop solar for those who can afford it. I am against having low income Mainers subsidize something they themselves cannot afford to buy. State energy policy should be focused on lowering energy prices because the cost of food and all other essential items is directly tied to energy costs.

Even though the Legislature has adjourned, I am still busy doing constituent work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance with state matters. I can be reached at Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov or call 207 287-1440.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the Maine House. I love hearing your thoughts and concerns, and appreciate your input!

Sincerely, Rep. Jim Thorne



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 Cindy Badger, Director of Student Services, 31 Billings Road, Hermon, ME 04401, Tel. (207) 848-4000, X 6004.

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 15th 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 15th 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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