

The Hermon CONNECTION



Vol. 31 Issue 6 - November 2024

Updates • News • Events • Information



Let's light up our town with dazzling decorations!



It's that time of year again! We're back with our second annual community holiday lighting contest from December 7th through December 25th, 2024.

We're calling on all Hermon residents and businesses to go all out with festive lights and decorations. During the Holiday Lights Contest, we invite everyone to get in the Christmas spirit and take a magical drive and explore the stunning light displays in our community!

Participating is easy; just register online and create an eye-catching light display to show off to fellow community members as they drive around. Between December 7-25, the community can vote for their favorite display. The participant with the most votes will win a cash prize! Stay tuned, as the winner will be announced on Tuesday, December 26th.

Last year's winner: 2019 Skyway Valley (2 years in a row!)

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: December 20, 2024
Next Edition will be published mid-January

Message from the Town Manager

Election Day is now behind us. The Town Clerk and Staff appreciated your patience while this event took place. Thank you to all that participated in the democratic process for our local, county, state, and federal candidates.

As we enter the Holiday Season, take time to reflect on the past year of accomplishments and success you encountered. Family dynamics change over the years and loss occurs. I fully understand this personally and professionally. Take the time to appreciate and thank those near to you. The Town continues to move forward with the opportunities in changes from staffing to process improvement. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this community.

Happy Holidays and Stay Safe!

Stephen Fields, Town Manager



Hermon Town Office Holiday Closure Schedule

- November 28 & 29, 2024 - Closed on Thanksgiving and day after Thanksgiving
- December 24, 2024 - Closing at noon
- December 25, 2024 - Closed for Christmas
- December 31, 2024 - 2025 Dog registration due date
- January 1, 2025 - Closed for New Year's Day
- February 1, 2025 - \$25.00 per dog late fee starts



Message from the Code Enforcement Officer

Residents of Hermon,

I would like to inform you of some important updates regarding our building permit fees. After thoughtful consideration, the Town Council has voted to approve a fee increase, effective immediately. While we understand that rising costs affect all areas of life, Hermon has maintained the same building permit rates for over 30 years. These adjustments will help us better meet the demands of today's projects and ensure continued quality service.

Key Changes:

- Minimum Building Permit Fee: Increased from \$10 to \$20.
- Price Per Square Foot (Building Permits): Now \$0.20 per square foot for both residential and commercial projects.
- Price Per Square Foot (Accessory Buildings): Now \$0.10 per square foot for both residential and commercial projects.
- Planning Board/Board of Appeals Fees: Fees for site plans, variances, and subdivision reviews have also increased.

Please note that plumbing and subsurface wastewater disposal permits will remain unchanged. We are currently updating our permit applications to reflect these new fees and expect to have the changes finalized by the end of the October. A full list of the updated fees can be found on the Town of Hermon's website. I encourage you to review these updates when planning your upcoming projects to ensure accurate budgeting.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your continued cooperation and dedication to the Town of Hermon.

Best regards,

Jessefa C. Murphy

Code Enforcement Officer, Town of Hermon



**Congratulations to
our 8-0 Hermon
7/8 Tackle Football
Team for capturing
the first ever
EMMSFL
Championship this
year!**

The Duran School and Families Support Kids at Christmas

Article by: Melissa Davis (Ed.D)

The Patricia A. Duran School staff and the PTA are teaming together again to support elementary school families in need this holiday season. As we have done in the past, we will collect gifts for children in our school community who are in need. In the past we've used a board with paper mittens at the entrance of the school. To make the process easier, we've converted to an online platform. The link will be posted on the school's web page and Facebook page mid-November. Community members are welcome to sign-up to sponsor a child.

We ask that gifts are brought or delivered to the elementary school unwrapped. We provide families with wrapping paper and materials so they are able to wrap their child's gifts. All gifts are due back to the elementary school by Friday, December 13th. This will ensure that we are able to organize and prepare the gifts for distribution during the week of December 16th. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please send all donations to Mrs. Davis at the elementary school office in an envelope marked "Helping Hands." We will make sure your donation goes directly toward the purchase of student gifts. Thank you all for your generosity and making this holiday season special for all of our students!



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/3UWzln4> 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!



Hermon Rec Upcoming Events



December

2024

DEC

1

Letters to Santa

Write a letter to Santa, drop it off at the Town Office and he will write back!
Please get your letters in by 4pm December 20!

DEC

4

Toddler Story Time & Craft

9:30am, Hermon High School Library, D-5 Entrance

DEC

7

Jingle & Mingle

5pm-7pm, Patricia A Duran School, Free festive fun for the whole family!

DEC

7-25

Hermon Holiday Lights Contest

Tuesdays at 6pm-7pm, Patricia A Duran Gym, Ages 0-6

DEC

14

Parents Night Out

5pm-9pm, Patricia A Duran School, Grades K-6th welcome

DEC

19

55+ Holiday Party

12:00pm, Hermon Town Office, bring cookies to swap! Please RSVP

DEC

23-31

December Vacation Camp

6:30am-6:00pm, Patricia A Duran School, Grades K-6, Lots of fun plans!

→ FOR MORE INFO, VISIT HERMONREC.COM OR CALL 207-848-8014

Legislative Update
2024 Legislative Session Update with Rep. Jim Thorne
House District 35 - Carmel and Hermon

Incoming legislature will face serious problems that require bipartisan cooperation

By now the 2024 state election results are in. As I write this update, the election is less than two weeks away. I hope that you voted and that you are satisfied with the results. Regardless of the outcome, Maine faces serious problems.

I am certain that I will continue representing you because I ran unopposed. I made it a point to continue to campaign because I wanted to hear directly from voters what they want from their elected officials. This coming term, I encourage you to contact me if I can be of assistance or if there are pieces of legislation that are important to you. My job is to represent everyone to the best on my ability.

What I heard from people is that they want their elected leaders to work together to solve everyday problems and avoid partisan issues that distract us passing solutions. They want the legislature to focus on true needs, not agendas, or wants.

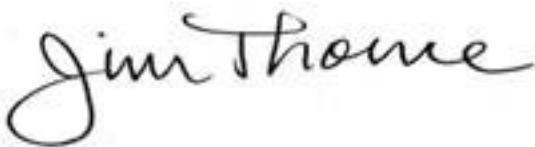
In my mind the projected \$1 billion revenue shortfall is likely to require most of our attention since the 132nd Legislature must pass a 2027/2027 budget. Deficit spending is not an option since our State Constitution requires a balanced budget.

I pledge to work hard and cooperatively with others elected on November 5. Our state needs to pull together and move forward.

I appreciate the advice and support I have received from the people of Carmel and Hermon. If there is anything I can do to assist you, or if you have questions, please contact me at Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov. I can also be reached by calling 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


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Thorne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hermon Rec 55+ Seniors Group Activities Calendars

Submitted by: Lindsey Ouellette, Recreation Director

Our goal is to provide free and affordable programs for senior citizens in our community through the Hermon Rec 55+ group. If you are a senior or know someone who is 55+ and would benefit from being part of our group, we'd love to hear from you! For more information on upcoming activities offered by Hermon Recreation and to register, please contact the rec office at 207-848-8014.

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Hermon Rec Seniors</h2> <h1 style="text-align: center;">November 2024</h1>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Breakfast Date, 9:30am @ Chase's RSVP by 11/1 for reservations!	5 	6	7 Gentle Yoga, 11:5am Cards & November Birthdays, 12:30pm Boulier Place	8	9
10	11 <i>Happy Veterans Day</i>	12 November Craft with Julie, please RSVP! 12:30pm Boulier Place	13	14 Gentle Yoga, 11:5am Card games, 12:30pm Boulier Place Coffee, tea, snacks	15	16
17	18	19 Bowling, 12:30pm Family Fun Lanes \$3 per game, shoes free	20	21 Gentle Yoga, 11:5am Free Taco Bar Lunch Please RSVP, 12:30pm Hermon Town Office	22	23
24	25	26 Bowling, 12:30pm Family Fun Lanes \$3 per game, shoes free	27	28 HAPPY THANKS GIVING	29	30

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Hermon Rec Seniors</h2> <h1 style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER 2024</h1>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Breakfast Date, 9:30am @ Chase's RSVP by 11/29 for reservations!	3 Bowling, 12:30pm Family Fun Lanes \$3 per game, shoes free	4	5 Gentle Yoga, 11:5am Cards & December Birthdays, 12:30pm Boulier Place	6	7 Holiday Lights Contest Begins! Maps at Town Office!
8	9	10 December Craft with Julie, please RSVP! 12:30pm Boulier Place	11	12 Gentle Yoga, 11:5am Card games, 12:30pm Boulier Place Coffee, tea, snacks	13	14
15	16	17 Bowling, 12:30pm Family Fun Lanes \$3 per game, shoes free	18	19 CHRISTMAS PARTY 12pm Hermon Town Office. Cookie Swap, appetizers & games!	20	21
22	23	24 Bowling, 12:30pm Family Fun Lanes \$3 per game, shoes free	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 Gentle Yoga, 11:5am Card games, 12:30pm Boulier Place Coffee, tea, snacks	27	28
29	30	31 Bowling, 12:30pm Family Fun Lanes \$3 per game, shoes free				

Contact Lindsey at 207-848-8014 to sign up for activities or for additional information.

Hermon JROTC Cadets Volunteer For The Cole's Museum

Article by Cadet PFC Mackenzie Oiler



The Heros and Heritage weekend at the Cole Land Transportation Museum was marked by a passion for service from the Hermon High School JROTC cadets. The events celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Heros and Heritage Weekend which is dedicated to honoring our veterans, celebrating their contributions to our country, and raising funds for the museum's veteran fund. The museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and displaying parts of Maine's transportation history with the hope that future generations will learn from the past. They also wish to commemorate the US Military and its veterans to forever remind us and future generations of the high price they have paid to protect our freedom.

Cadets from the Hermon Hawk Battalion were there to aid people in parking their cars before they got into the event, helping them cross the road, and controlling traffic. Cadets displayed selfless service as the Battalion Executive Officer, Cadet Matthew Miles put it, "Volunteering is important to me because it shows that you are willing to sacrifice your time to help others with no benefit to yourself showing that you are doing a good deed." The Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Cadet Michael Rene, further said "Cole's Museum is a site that helps commemorate our country's history, so it's important as a community to volunteer where we can to help Cole's staff maintain the museum and hold events."

The Cole Land Transportation Museum is open from May 1st to November 11, 9 am to 5 am, 7 days a week. They will be hosting a special Halloween event on October 29th. We thank everyone who helped out at this event and the Hawk Battalion cadets look forward to helping the Cole's Museum for years to come.

Penobscot Snowmobile Club Update

Article & Photos submitted by: Andrew Jackson

Fall is quickly ending and winter will be here before we know it. We have a lot going on and much to do before being ready for the sledding season! Trail work has been in full swing with bridge repairs and trail improvements, we were also lucky enough to have a generous Hermon resident donate their time and excavator with a mulcher attachment to help clean up certain trouble areas of our trail system that had really grown in quite badly. We appreciate their help as it saved us a lot of time and labor. We also have a lot of cool events coming down the pipeline with the first event will be the landowner appreciation dinner on November 9th from 4pm to 6pm. We are also entering into The Bangor Rotary Festival of Lights parade again this year so be on the look for a big float with our groomers all covered in lights at the parade!

We also have a very important fundraiser going on right now. Our yearly raffle is in full swing, this year you can win your choice of a snowmobile or an ATV which is new this year. We thought it would be great if we could give a prize that would benefit any season. Tickets are \$50 a piece and only 400 are being sold. Please consider picking a ticket up as it is directly benefiting and our goal of purchasing some upgraded equipment to maintain our trail system in the off season. If you cannot get the tickets in person I am including the QR code below that can be scanned by your phone camera. Once you purchase the ticket copy will be emailed to you within a few business days.

Raffle Fundraiser To Benefit The Penobscot Snowmobile Club



Enter for a chance to win your choice of a 2025 MXZ 600 EFI Sport OR a 2025 Can-Am Outlander 500 ATV.

Only 400 tickets are being sold and drawing will be held at Bangor Motorsports on December 14th 2024.

Scan QR code below with your phone to go to our secure payment site. A copy of your ticket will be emailed to you.

\$50 per ticket



**Only open to 18 years or older per state law.
Winner is responsible for taxes and fees associated with prize.**

Let's all think snow and have a good season this year and remember you can catch our updates by following Sled Hermon on Facebook!

Students for Strays at Work

A group of Middle School students participate in fundraiser to benefit the Bangor Humane Society

Article & Photos by: Jodi Hersey



A group of Hermon Middle School students, who are not even old enough to work yet, came together to raise \$1,249 for the Bangor Humane Society's 31st annual Paws on Parade event at Husson University in October.

The team, called Students for Strays, was formed by 6th grader Don Veneziano, a volunteer at the animal shelter. For the team's first ever event, he said, "I was surprised at how many of my friends and their families showed up to participate."



The group of 18 members was the largest of the 10 teams registered for the event which celebrates the benefits of pet adoption. Participants who attend get to see a dog runway show featuring current animals up for adoption at the shelter. Those in attendance also had the opportunity to peruse different vendors and enjoy fun pet-themed contests like the dog/owner look alike contest, pet with the longest ears, or best dog trick. The parade then took to the circle around the University campus.

New to this year's event was the VIP drawing, where any team with three or more members was entered into a special drawing to win a VIP area at the event. The team selected was treated to a tented area supplied with lawn chairs, a basket full of snacks and a cooler stocked with cold drinks. And this year's winner was none other than the Students for Strays team.

"The staff at Bangor Humane Society has been proud to watch Don's growth as a volunteer, philanthropist, and all-around good human. His commitment to the animals is commendable, and we are proud to see him include his peers and the greater community in his many dedicated efforts to improve the lives of pets seeking their forever homes," said Kathryn Ravenscraft, director of development and communication at BHS.

The 31st annual Paws on Parade event set a goal to raise \$115,000 and it successfully met its goal thanks to sponsors, donors and community support through teams like Students for Strays.

"There are always animals in need," Don said. "I am happy to help the Bangor Humane Society and all the animals there that deserve a loving home."

2025 Dysart's Snowmobile Ride-in and Pine Tree Camp Egg Ride Weekend

Article & Photos Submitted by: Michaela Collins

Hang on to your helmets! The 52nd Dysart's Snowmobile Ride-in and Pine Tree Camp Egg Ride is coming right up. Mark your calendar for a weekend of fun in Hermon.

Thursday, January 30: Live WABI-TV5 Telethon and Dysart's Spaghetti Supper

Friday, January 31: Live and Silent Auction at Morgan Hill Event Center

Saturday, February 1: Pine Tree Camp Celebrity Egg Ride and Poker Run

Sunday, February 2: Radar Run at Penobscot Snowmobile Club



This year's Egg Riders include celebrities from Maine Cabin Masters, Survivor, Portland Sea Dogs, the snowmobile community and social media.

Get involved!

You can support Pine Tree Camp by:

- Donating a silent or live auction item
- Volunteering
- Becoming a sponsor

Contact:

Michaela Collins
207-386-6033
mcollins@pinetreesociety.org



About Pine Tree Camp: Pine Tree Camp is an American Camp Association-accredited camp for people with disabilities. Every year, hundreds of Maine children and adults with disabilities experience freedom and independence by actively participating in outdoor activities thanks to Pine Tree Camp's 285-acre, fully-accessible campus on North Pond.

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5-7 PM

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As a non-profit organization, your support is appreciated.

Thank you.

Happy Holidays!

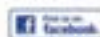
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