

NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 1

January/February 2008

Nottingham Recreation Department Recreation Office 679-3435

www.nottingham-nh.gov
recreation@nottingham-nh.gov
Submitted by Janet Horvath

The Valentine's Dessert Potluck and Dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 9 at the Community Center starting at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see many of you there as we square dance into the night with Two Fiddles amidst more desserts than you can imagine!

Friday, February 22 is Parks and Recreation Night at the Manchester Monarchs. We have reserved seats in the upper section just off center ice for the 7:05 p.m. game with the Norfolk Admirals. Tickets are \$13 which also includes a food voucher for one free hotdog or soft pretzel and a soda. Order forms are available at the Recreation office. Deadline for tickets is February 6 and transportation to Manchester is up to the ticket holder. Call the office for more information.

We are starting to plan for the summer and are looking for anyone in the community who is interested in performing or contributing to the program for a day or once a week throughout the summer. We have been fortunate to have scrapbooking and quilting as part of the program in years past and we are always looking for new and fun things to do with the participants. We are also looking for college students who like working with children to complete our staff. Anyone interested is encouraged to call the office to discuss the possibilities.

Becky Rule comes to Nottingham

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

On Sunday, February 10 at 2 p.m, Becky Rule will be here to share some of her latest New Hampshire stories. Named "Thalia, Muse of Comedy" by *New Hampshire Magazine*, Rebecca Rule tells funny, true(ish), close-to-home stories collected all over the state. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the New Hampshire Humanities Council. Call the library at 679-8484 for more information.

Nottingham Theater Project

Submitted by Sue Sigglelakis

Nottingham Theater Project presents the musical "Charlotte's Web" April 17, 18, 19 and 20. Auditions for both adult and child roles will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m at Nottingham School on Monday, Feb. 11 and Tuesday, Feb. 12. For questions contact Sue at sjs2@cisunix.unh.edu.

Public Notice

Submitted by Sandra Weston, Town Clerk

The following Town of Nottingham positions are open for sign-up for the March 11, 2008 town elections:

- Board of Selectmen – 1 for 3 years
- Tax Collector – 1 for 3 years
- Town Moderator – 1 for 2 years
- Town Treasurer – 1 for 3 years
- Supervisor of the Checklist – 1 for 6 years
- Trustee of the Trust Funds – 1 for 3 years
- Cemetery Trustee – 1 for 3 years
- Planning Board Member – 2 for 3 years, 1 for 1 year
- Library Trustee – 1 for 3 years
- Zoning Board Member – 2 for 3 years
- Budget Committee Member – 3 for 3 years, 1 for 1 year

RSA 669:19 and 652:2 establish the sign-up period as the open hours of the Town Clerk between January 23 and February 1, 2008. Extended sign-up hours on February 1, 2008 between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office.

Important Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. School Deliberative Session, Nottingham School

Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., Public Budget Hearing, Town Offices

Tuesday, March 11, Election Day

Saturday, March 15, Town Meeting

Nottingham Congregational Christian Church 34 Raymond Road, Nottingham

Note: Pastor Rev. Edward Whitman is at the Church every Wednesday and Thursday if you would like to speak with him directly: 679-8519. Please visit our new web site: www.nottinghamchurch.org. The site is full of information, contacts and photographs.

Come worship with us every Sunday at 11 a.m. The church has a warm, inviting atmosphere with plenty of programs for people of all ages, including:

- Children’s Church every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School every Sunday at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday evening Prayer and Praise at 7 p.m.
- Men’s Group every Thursday at 7 p.m.
- LAUNCH program for youths 4th to 7th grade, one Saturday evening per month
- OASIS program for teens, one Friday per month
- Girls’ Club for grades 1 through 6 meets every other Friday at the Community Center

Nottingham Community Church

Submitted by Jill Sunde

Thank you to Nottingham residents and friends of Nottingham from the Nottingham Community Church Unitarian-Universalist. Our December 14 Winter Concert by Harper Dominique Dodge and Friends raised \$551 for the Street Kids of Rwanda. Check out www.streetkidsofrawanda.org

Pastor Ben Fowler also challenged the congregation to calculate what they spent on Thanksgiving and donate that amount of money to the Church as a gift for the Food Pantry. We will be sending a check for \$250.

Looking forward we will be having a concert near Valentine’s Day. The Joyful Belles will be in performance. This is a Dover all women choir in part sponsored by the Bell Center. We will have our sign out and flyers up with more details. Stay tuned...

Stop in and relax, grow, journey and share your fellowship with us. Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Nottingham School District Election Notice

*Submitted by Arthur Stockus
Nottingham School District Clerk*

The following offices are open for election on Tuesday, the 11th day of March, 2008, at Nottingham Town Hall:

- School District Moderator1 Year**
- School District Clerk.....1 Year**
- School District Treasurer..... 1 Year**
- School Board Member..... 3**

Years

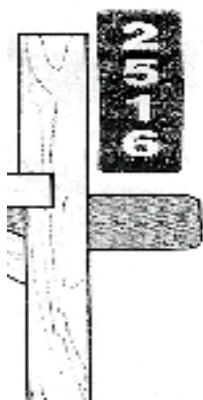
- School Board Member..... 3**

Years

Any Nottingham resident who is a registered voter may file to be a candidate for any of the above offices **beginning Wednesday, January 23, 2008, and ending Friday, February 1, 2008.**

Declarations of Candidacy will be taken by the Nottingham School district clerk Monday through Friday during the filing period at the **Nottingham Elementary School**, between the hours of **3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.** Declarations of Candidacy will also be taken by appointment. Call Arthur Stockus, Nottingham School district clerk, at 603-679-2585, for an appointment to meet in his home at 19 Francesca Way, Nottingham. There is a \$1 filing fee to register for placement on the ballot.

Nottingham Fire Rescue ~ Address Marker Sign



When seconds count... Can the Fire, Police, and Ambulance find your home when you need them for assistance? Can your driveway be located at night? Having your driveway clearly marked can make locating you easier...

To order one of the green and white signs with post, showing your street number, clip and fill out this coupon and drop off or mail to the Fire Station with your payment of \$25. Cost includes the sign with number and mounting post, installed in your driveway. Call 679-5666 for more information.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

A Letter of Thanks

Submitted by CarrieJaye Connors

The amazing thing about life is when little things happen unexpectedly and one finds themselves in awe. For example, I moved to Nottingham in June 2006. Last year during the three major snowstorms I awoke to find a plow truck had come by and my parking area was cleared. Being that I had only lived in town for six months, and hadn't made many friends, I was puzzled. I wondered who deserved thanks and reward. At the time I had worked at a local childcare center and thought it may be a grateful parent or relative of All Aboard Preschool and Childcare. Since then I have moved on to pursue other opportunities and now sit here, driveway again plowed, wondering to whom do I owe extreme gratitude for the cleared path? I want to write a very special thank you to the person responsible for plowing me out and helping me survive the past two winters. I feel responsible to cover the cost of gas, wear and tear of the truck, and mostly the ability to get in and out of my home in the event of an emergency (as I have a young child). I would enjoy the knowledge of the one responsible for mine and my child's safety to come forward so they can be reimbursed.

Deepest wishes,
CarrieJaye Connors
 385 Stage Road
 West Nottingham, NH 03291

Pawtuckaway Piecers Quilt Guild

Submitted by Mary Markham

Come join the fun! Pawtuckaway Piecers Quilt Guild meets the second Monday of each month downstairs in the Blaisdell Memorial Library at 7 to 9 p.m. We have our business meeting, Show n' Tell and some sort of a program, demo or open sew. Come by and check us out. Membership is \$15 a year. We are active in the community and always looking for new members. For info call Mary Markham at 895-6482.

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Brownie Troop #620 - Food Pantry Drive

Submitted by Alice and Emily Ewing

During a recent visit to the Nottingham Food Pantry Brownie Troop #620 learned that the pantry is in need of personal hygiene and household cleaning items. After the visit the Brownies decided to hold a town-wide drive for these items. Troop #620 has set up a collection box in the Blaisdell Library and will be collecting these items until mid February. Stop by the library to donate items such as: bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, tissues, paper towels, band-aids, dental floss and other personal hygiene and household cleaning items.

Nottingham Food Pantry

Submitted by Chelli Tennis

On behalf of the recipients of Thanksgiving and Christmas food and gift donations, we would like to thank everyone who generously donated time, gifts, baked goods and made monetary contributions. All of this made for a blessed holiday season beyond what we could imagine. At this time we are helping over 30 families and the elderly. We were able to provide the normal distribution of food each month and also complete Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, wish gifts for our elderly and children plus gift baskets for our teens.

Nottingham Women's Club Raffle

Submitted by Beverly Caldon

Look for the wooden chest at Town Election Day, March 11 and at the Town meeting, March 15. The Nottingham Women's Club will be raffling a handsome wooden chest, painted in a whimsical style by Nottingham artist Joyce Dales. Is it a blanket chest? A toy chest? A treasure chest! It's valued at \$500, and available to LUCKY YOU at \$1 a chance, or 6 for \$5. The winning ticket will be chosen March 17. The real winner will be the high school senior who receives this year's Nottingham Women's Club scholarship. Please support this annual tradition.

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So what does the PTA do anyway?

Submitted by Anne Parker

The PTA at Nottingham school would like to take an opportunity to let the community know what we're all about. Upon first moving to this town two years ago I didn't know a soul...displaced from my hometown roots, I tentatively joined the group I most feared while in Londonderry: The PTA. I say this only because I had preconceived notions about what this group actually did, and could only picture volunteering oodles of time each week and constantly making homemade fruit kabobs and cupcakes.

I'm glad I braved that first meeting, because what I found were a great group of people, with usually no more than 15 minutes a day of "extra time," but that came together once a month to help plan fun things for our children to learn about and do. There were working parents, stay-at-home moms and dads, parents with older kids, parents with preschoolers. Well, you get the idea. We were all different, but our purpose was the same: to support the faculty, staff and especially the students that attend Nottingham school.

Fundraising is part of what the PTA does, again, not a favorite pastime of most, myself included, but there is a silver lining. Money raised through traditional fundraisers (magazine sales, Pampered Chef, etc.) might help pay for a puppeteer to visit the Kindergarten or maybe an author or artist speak to eighth graders. Proceeds also may fund: a DJ for the Mother/Son and Father/Daughter dances, a new piece of playground equipment, field trips, gifts for our teachers during appreciation week, or an educational student assembly, just to name a few.

Members also volunteer their time (and I am the first one to tell you that I can't be at the school during the day). This could mean helping to decorate for an evening event, visiting a classroom or assisting at one of the

annual math or writing workshops. Your participation is valued! So even if you're a Nottingham native, take it from this displaced Londonderry resident: joining the group helped make this small town a bit cozier for me. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in the school's library.

Vacation Games Day

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

Don't be bored during February vacation. Come to the library for our annual board game day on Thursday, February 28 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Bring your favorite board game and join us for some fun and food. No pre-registration needed.



The Nottingham School Boys Basketball "A" Team recently competed in the 2007 Rochester Basketball Boosters Holiday Tournament at the Rochester Community Center. The team won the holiday tournament defeating Rochester Middle School 47-42 in the semi-round and dominating Wakefield in the championship game 46-25. Pictured (l-r) front row: Eric Desilets and Tommy Darling; Back row: Coach Stuart Mitchell, Colin Shaugnessy, Jacob Szymt, Kyle Estel, Matt Dow, Shawn Shea and Skyler Mitchell (Tournament MVP).

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It's Not Too Late to Protect Our Water

Submitted by the Nottingham Tea Party

Water doesn't care about property boundaries. Subject to the laws of physics, groundwater can move freely from one property to another. For this reason, large groundwater withdrawals should concern us all. We simply have no assurance that the water we rely on to provide for our families and maintain our home values, water that each of us has the right to access and use, will remain available.

It's disappointing to learn that under our present legal system, large groundwater withdrawals by corporations are a permitted use of land and can occur with seemingly little regard for the impact of that withdrawal on a community. Because corporations have been granted "personhood" by our court system, corporations have used their legal status to assert their rights, often insisting that their rights supersede our rights as individuals and homeowners. This view has been upheld by our court system.

It's important to understand that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is organized to facilitate the permitting and operation of businesses within our state and not to protect our environment. Because water is a precious natural resource essential to our well-being, water rights must be protected. At the Nottingham Town Meeting on March 15, 2008, the **Nottingham Water Rights & Local Self-Government Ordinance** will be on the agenda and deserves your consideration. The ordinance is an assertion of the governing authority by the citizens of Nottingham. It will state that a corporation will not be recognized as a "person" within the Town of Nottingham. The ordinance reflects our constitutionally protected freedom to take action when our rights as citizens have been violated. It protects the residents of Nottingham and the ecosystem from having their rights denied. In addition, when ecosystems are damaged, corporations will be assessed the full costs to remedy that damage. Hopefully, our state legislature will soon follow our lead and proclaim that

water is a human right and therefore can not be privatized or commodified.

The ordinance also addresses the erosion of our individual rights in favor of corporate rights by asserting our power as townspeople to decide what happens in our community. Ensuring the rights of all parties, (individuals, homeowners, and businesses) is essential to a thriving and prosperous community.

A similar ordinance has been approved by voters and has taken effect in over 100 towns throughout Pennsylvania. Barnstead and Atkinson, New Hampshire, have also adopted the ordinance and ten other towns in New Hampshire are considering adopting the ordinance. Please come to town meeting and cast your vote on this important issue. If you'd like more information, have questions or concerns, or would like to be added to our e-mail list, contact Chris or Gail Mills, 942-8969 or nottinghams.water@gmail.com.

Chris Schadler to speak at Bear-Paw Regional Greenways' Annual Meeting

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways invites members, friends, and the public to its Annual Meeting scheduled for February 9, 2008. The meeting will be held at Coe-Brown Academy on Route 4 in Northwood and registration begins at 9 a.m. After a brief business meeting and the presentation of awards, Chris Schadler, a knowledgeable authority on wolf and coyote, will give a talk on the role of wild canids in New England.

The Annual Meeting will also feature the raffle of many donated items. Bear-Paw welcomes donations from artists, writers, and craftspeople.

After the presentation and lunch, participants are invited to take a snowshoe trek or hike at the McClary Hill Farm (www.McClaryHillFarm.com) in Epsom. Pre-registration is requested at info@Bear-Paw.org or 463-9400 by February 4 to reserve your place. This event is open to the public and this year a \$10 donation is requested to offset the cost of the event.



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From the Nottingham School Board

Submitted by Dr. Jack Caldon, Chairman of Nottingham School Board; approved by the Nottingham School Board on January 9, 2008

The Nottingham School Board and Administration have been very busy preparing a new budget for the next school year. Since we are a SB 2 town, this enables the community to vote by ballot on the budget. This preparation process started in October and to date has required three additional meetings dedicated to budget work before the School Board could adopt a complete budget package: a proposed 2008-09 budget, a default budget, and warrant articles. The default budget is prepared in the event that the proposed budget fails. Also, our town has an established Budget Committee that has the responsibility to examine, make recommendations and adjustments on all phases of the school budget. Finally, the Community has various opportunities to review the budget: at the January 10 Budget Committee Public hearing, the School Deliberative Session on February 6 at 6:30 pm, and final approval on March 11, election day, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The proposed 2008-09 operating budget is **\$8,665,471.99**, which is **\$369,428.09** more than the approved 2007-08 budget, a **4.45%** increase. The default budget for 2008-09 is **\$8,687,423** which is an increase of **\$392,347** more than the approved 2007-08 budget, a **4.73%** increase. Usually, the default budget is smaller than the proposed operating budget.

The proposed operating budget is designed to support the School District goals, meet the requirements of the federal law "No Child Left Behind," and the improvement and support of instruction, as well as personnel and facility needs. Some of the major components include the Reading Language Arts Program, Technology, and the Nottingham School Library System.

The Nottingham School Board and Administration determined that, because of both our designation as a "School in Need of Improvement" and our reading and language arts test results, change was necessary. The Core Reading Program K-6 was selected to replace the current Literacy Collaborative Program. The overall cost of this program is **\$84,431**; however, there is a cost savings of **\$28,000** because of a half-time position (and associated costs) that is no longer needed.

The technology proposal aligned with the Nottingham School District Technology Plan recommends annual improvements and maintenance. Specifically, the computers in the computer lab are slated for replacement, and the current lab computers would be sent to classrooms, replacing out-of-date computers with little

or no networking capability. The cost to stay abreast of these needs is **\$25,775**.

The Nottingham School Library and the Blaisdell Memorial Library will be more effective in serving the school and community by adopting a joint system of automation. This electronic upgrade, which would enable the sharing of both library collections, costs **\$7,848**.

The warrant articles consist of **cost items** (in addition to the regular operating budget) and **non-cost items**. The proposed cost items include:

- A three-year agreement with the paraprofessionals which provides for an 8.56% increase for the first year (\$25,675.69), 3.9% increase for the second year (\$12,637.03), and 3.7% increase for the third year (\$12,637.03).
- An additional special education teacher to reduce the student caseload and improve the effectiveness of instruction, especially in reading, for a cost of \$62,779.
- An irrigation system to help maintain the athletic fields at a cost of \$20,000.
- The preparation work for a generator installation to meet the requirements of the Nottingham School Emergency Management Plan for a cost of \$6500.
- A sum of \$15,000 to be placed in the previously established Special Education Capital Reserve Fund (from the reserve fund balance).
- A sum of \$10,000 to be placed in the previously established Building Capital Reserve Fund (from the reserve fund balance).

A significant non-cost item:

- A citizens' petition is proposed to change the status of the Nottingham School District in regard to SB2. In effect, the budget would no longer be voted on by secret ballot at the March Election Day. This action, if approved, would do away with the deliberative session and re-institute the annual school district meeting like the annual town meeting.

Please be reminded that the following positions will open: two school board seats for the March 2008-2011 term, a school district moderator for one year, a school district clerk for one year, and a school district treasurer for one year. Anyone interested is invited to attend one of our regularly scheduled meetings on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday of the month or contact a school board member or the superintendent of schools for information. Also, this year the school board has decided to hold the **Deliberative Session on Wednesday, February 6th at 6:30 pm at the Nottingham Elementary School**. This decision was made in hopes of improving attendance at the meeting – please try to attend.

Fire & Rescue News

Submitted by Heidi Carlson

The Fire Rescue Department closed out 2007 with a total of 477 calls for service, down for the first time in more than a decade. For us, this means that people practiced fire safety and had less medical emergencies and other home emergencies! This is good for the community, but coupled with the extreme task of moving to our new station, kept us even busier than prior years!

The new station is wonderful, and we are still giving tours to residents who have not yet been able to come by to see it. We again thank the community for their gracious support, and look forward to serving you from our new home at 235 Stage Road.

The Department moves ahead with Jaye Vilchock as our Chief for the coming year, and we are currently working on our training schedules for fire and EMS, and looking ahead to planning events for 2008.

When the ground is FULLY COVERED with snow, you can burn outdoors without a written permit. We do ask that you call the station and leave us a message with your name and address. We will again man the station on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. once written permits are required. You can also reach the station Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for any inquiry at 679-5666.

Be careful of any unvented heating units you may have in your home, and always use care with candles and other

open flames. When there is a power loss, also use caution if you operate a generator. Follow all manufacturer recommendations and be sure that your generator is outside so that no exhaust fumes are entering your home. This will cause CO to accumulate, which is a deadly, odorless, colorless, gas. Consider having a CO detector in your home if you do not already. Be sure that all smoke detectors are working properly, and that you change the batteries every time you change the clocks. Test your smoke detectors monthly! Call 911 for any emergency related to a smoke or CO detector activation.

We were able this winter to purchase a Solaris Multigas Detector, which aids the department in detection of CO, propane, oxygen, hydrogen sulfide and combustible gasses. We have used the new meter at several CO calls already.

There is an emergency 911 telephone in a red box in the front of the fire station if you should need to report an emergency. Our station is not manned 24 hours a day, as we continue to be staffed by volunteers from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily, and on Sundays. This phone is a direct dial to NH 911 as soon as you lift the receiver.

Always call 911 for any fire or medical emergency, and call the station during business hours for any general questions or to get information, at 679-5666. Except for service and emergency calls, the station is manned Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nottingham Community Newsletter

Laurel Bistany • Carrie Bounds
Rhoda Capron • Irma Hale • Margaret Joyce
Lynda Kells • Kay Kyle • Laurie Legard
Amy Mueller-Campbell • Pat Vachon

The Nottingham Community Newsletter is a community service and is published bimonthly and mailed to every Nottingham resident.

Deadline for the March/April newsletter is February 1, 2008. E-mail news to: blaisdellml@comcast.net. Be sure to include a name and contact number. Advertising size is 3.5-inches by 2-inches. Ads are \$20 for Nottingham residents and \$35 for non residents. E-mail ads to Carrie Bounds at carriegillis@comcast.net.

The newsletter is underwritten in part by North River Printing of Nottingham.

The publication of this newsletter is a public service for informational purposes. The Board of Selectmen is not responsible for, nor do they endorse any articles or opinions stated in this publication.

~Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

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