

NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Issue 2

March/April 2010

Budget Committee Update

Submitted by the Budget Committee

As of February 5, 2010

Town Meeting is quickly approaching and the budget cycle is coming to a finale. The budget committee has held numerous meetings with both the School Board and Town Administration with input from department heads to develop the annual proposed budgets.

School Budget

The school board submitted their budget for final review at the January 7 budget committee meeting and the public hearing was held on January 14. Several members of the public asked questions and gave input on the operating budget and warrant articles. The budget committee voted on their recommendations for the operating budget reducing it \$109,316 and voted on recommendations for the warrant articles.

On February 3 the deliberative session took place and members of the public made amendments to the school operating budget with a final total operating budget of \$9,705,200. This is the amount the Town will be asked to vote on March 9.

School Budget Warrant Articles

Several Warrant Articles are proposed with associated costs and the budget committee voted to recommend the following:

- Repair to sidewalks and pavement in the amount of \$20,700.
- Para-professional salaries and Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) to support kindergarten instructional programming in the amount of \$31,201.
- Architect and Engineering fees and pre-design services for new site design and/or options to the school building for \$18,000.

The budget committee voted to not recommend the proposed warrants below for the following reasons:

- Teacher's salaries and benefits for year 2010-2011 estimated increase \$22,555. The budget committee voted not to recommend this warrant article because

we were not presented with any prior supporting detail and we were not comfortable recommending a number we could not explain.

- A sum of \$15,000 to be placed in the previously established Special Education Capital Reserve Fund (from the reserve fund balance). The budget committee voted to not recommend this warrant article due to current economic circumstances preferring instead that any excess funds be returned to the taxpayers. As a reminder, the school board always has the option of requesting additional funds in the event of an unanticipated extraordinary expense.
- A sum of \$10,000 to be placed in the previously established Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund (from the reserve fund balance). The budget committee voted to not recommend this warrant article due to current economic circumstances preferring instead that any excess funds be returned to the taxpayers. As a reminder, the school board always has the option of requesting additional funds in the event of an unanticipated extraordinary expense.

Town Operating Budget

The Town submitted its budget recommended by the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$3,309,095 for final review at the January 21 budget committee meeting and a public hearing was held on February 4. After closing the public hearing and considering the public's input the budget committee voted on its recommendations for the operating budget, reducing it to \$3,307,595. The Town will be asked to vote on this amount on March 13.

Town Budget Warrant Articles

Several Warrant Articles are proposed with associated costs and the budget committee voted to recommend the following:

- Highway construction and reconstruction of Kennard Road in the amount of \$192,690 (this is a non-lapsing appropriation).

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Budget Committee Update, continued from page 1

- A sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for purchasing trucks for the Highway Department.
- A sum of \$10,000 for purchasing necessary fuel, supplies, equipment and maintenance to run the ambulance for 2010 and to authorize the withdrawal of said amount from the Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose.
- A sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for purchasing Fire/Rescue vehicles.
- A sum of \$23,565 for specified Social Service Agencies.
- A sum of \$4,000 for conducting courtesy inspections of boats using the boat ramps on Pawtuckaway Lake to remove fragments of exotic invasive aquatic species and to educate the public regarding the same.
- To appropriate 50% of the revenues with an annual cap of \$100,000 collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (Land Use Change Tax) to be deposited in the Town's Conservation Fund.

The budget committee voted not to recommend a petitioned Warrant Article regarding Property tax exemptions due to the associated loss of revenue.

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Residential Painting

My name is Brendyn Miller. I am a student attending UNH. This summer I will be working for a professional residential painting company known as Collegiate Entrepreneurs to pay my tuition. This summer I will be running my own painting branch in Nottingham. For more information, contact me at 603-325-3188 or shoot me an e-mail at bje38@unh.edu.

Two other warrant articles without clear cost impacts were discussed and voted as follows:

- To authorize the Selectmen to enter into an intermunicipal agreement for the Town's recyclable solid waste. The budget committee voted to recommend this warrant article.
- The budget committee voted to not vote on a petitioned warrant article regarding a resolution to be forwarded to legislators regarding citizens voting on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution defining "marriage".

The budget committee would like to thank the governing bodies for doing their part to keep the budgets as low as possible. We would also like to thank the voters who came to meetings and gave us input. We recommend that you pick up a 2009 Town Report at Town Hall to review all aspects of the Town Meeting prior to voting on March 9 and at Town meeting on March 13.

Finally, we encourage registered voters to consider a write-in campaign for the open positions on the Budget Committee and invite you to contact any of us regarding any questions you may have about being a member of the committee.



Nottingham Community Newsletter

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.

The deadline for the May/June newsletter is April 9, 2010. 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

School Board Thanks

Submitted by Dawn Fernald

On behalf of myself and the entire Nottingham School Board, thank you to each and every one of you who came and took part in the process at this year's Deliberative Session. Whether you stood up and spoke on something you felt strongly about or you just came to listen and vote—you made a difference!

We also would like to encourage all of you to take part in the process all along the way. School board meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the school media center. Many of you brought up issues last night that concern the board very much, and while the deliberative session may not have been the opportunity for us to address and/or resolve those issues, we are certainly not dismissing their importance. So we urge you to please bring us your concerns and allow us the opportunity to work together to find solutions that will work for all of "our" students!

Thank you and please remember we are only halfway there; now we all have to show up and vote on Election Day, Tuesday, March 9!

Town Reports of Yore (When there was less to Report)

Submitted by the Nottingham Historical Society

Town reports of yesteryear were very different from what we have now. In the 1868 town report, the oldest one we have, there is a total of 27 pages listing all monies taken in and paid out, plus a report on each of the 11 schools in town that year.

For several years, in the 1880s and 1890s, the List of Deaths included a "cause of death" column. Some were rather unusual, such as "La Grippe", "erysipelas" and "phthisis". One we made special note of was "exhaustion" in the death of a farmer; understandable, given the rugged life they lived and still do.

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Recreation Department News

Submitted by Janet Horvath, 679-3435 x7

recreation@nottingham-nh.gov

Recreation office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m. to 1p.m.

The **Nottingham Theatre Project** would like to **thank** everyone for showing their generosity at the soup supper on February 6! We raised over \$700! Thank you to Susty's, The Portable Pantry, Ceres Street Bakery, and Panera Bread, who donated amazing soups and breads, and to McIntyre Ski Area for their donations of tickets for the raffle. We would also like to thank a number of residents and friends of the theatre project who added their culinary talents to the evenings. Who could believe the amazing variety of soups? We would also like to thank those of you who donated so much of your time helping make this event such a success. Don't forget to come and see the production of **Fiddler on the Roof** to be performed at the school on **April 23, 24 and 25**. It's going to be a great time!

Senior luncheons are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the community center. The next luncheons will be held on Wednesday, March 17 and April 15.

Signups for our summer programs and also for fall recreation sports will start in late April. Please call the recreation office if you do not receive the information through the school.

If you have a particular talent that would benefit the children in the summer program, please let us know. In the past, we have had interested residents present various classes or one time presentations throughout the seven-week program. We want to include you as we plan now for the summer.

Are you on our email newsletter list yet? If you want to know about upcoming events and deadlines for the Recreation Department programs, please contact us at recreation2@nottingham-nh.gov. The e-mail list will be used for our purposes only, and will not be sold or distributed to anyone.



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Mary Bonser, Candidate for Selectman (vote 1 for three-year term)

Dear Nottingham Residents,

I am running for re-election to the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS).

It has been my sincere privilege to serve our Town and people for the last nine years. I am presently the senior selectman, having served the longest.

As a member of the BOS, Nottingham has maintained the lowest property tax rate of all of our surrounding communities, while providing for the health and safety of our residents.

During my time on the BOS, Nottingham has:

- Preserved over 2,200 acres of conservation land, including Mulligan Forest.
- Provided a modern Police facility.
- Constructed a new Fire-Rescue facility.
- Developed a salt/sand facility for Highway.
- Maintained our historical buildings.
- Equipped our Highway, Police and Fire-Rescue with dependable vehicles and equipment.
- Reconstructed all bridges in town – so that none are “red” listed.
- Implemented property tax relief exemptions for our elderly, disabled, blind and veterans.
- Supported the implementation of a stipend for our volunteer firefighters, EMT’s and Fire Chief.
- Encouraged the broadcasting of meetings and opened our “public” broadcasting capabilities for use by the people of Nottingham.
- Improved our emergency management capabilities.

As your selectman, I recognize the rough economic times we are facing. However, because the BOS has been proactive in financial planning over the last nine years, all of our departments are in good shape and can operate effectively with minimal capital expenditures. And, though Nottingham’s tax rate is low, the BOS is working to reduce it even further.

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Recently, the BOS and members of the Town met with Assistant Attorney General Bud Fitch from the NH Justice Department regarding the large groundwater withdrawal permit issued by DES. Since that meeting the BOS has formally requested that the NH Justice Department begin an inquiry into the issuance of the permit. I met with Governor Lynch on December 17th and he has indicated a sincere interest in the matter. More meetings with the Governor are planned. These are good signs.

Preserving our traditional, small town way of life is one of the most important aspects of being a selectman, to me. Nottingham is a town to be proud of and by working together we can continue to keep it that way.

Experience and dependability are the most important assets that the Town will need in its BOS.

I hope that you will vote and support my re-election.

Thank you,

Mary Bonser, 679-2036

<http://www.NottinghamNH-votes.com>

Gail Mills, Candidate for Selectman (vote 1 for three-year term)

My name is Gail Mills and I’m running for the Board of Selectmen. It’s time for a change.

The governance of Nottingham should be a partnership between Selectmen and residents. We must recognize the abilities and resources of us all and welcome the diversity in town that provides us with the alternatives necessary to create our future. The role of the Selectboard is to ensure that agreed upon guidelines and procedures are created and followed.

Only with the people’s voice, their involvement, and their vote can we make Nottingham the town we want it to be.

My action plan for Nottingham’s future:

- Make the town government process more accountable and transparent to its citizens;
- Improve current and develop new town policies and procedures;
- Require more fiscal responsibility and long term planning;
- Continuing the progress made toward keeping our groundwater safe for the use of Nottingham residents and ecosystems.

continued on the next page

As co-founder of the Nottingham Water Alliance (formerly the Nottingham Tea Party), I worked with residents to pass the Water Rights and Local Self-Government Ordinance in 2008. I also served on the Planning Board and currently am a Trustee of the Trust Funds.

In addition to my public service, my professional experience makes me a candidate strongly qualified for this position. For the last 15 years I taught business management courses at Granite State College, a part of the University System of New Hampshire, and at other New Hampshire colleges. I have a master's degree in management from Antioch New England Graduate School and over 25 years of experience in management and consulting with businesses and government agencies.

As a resident for over 26 years, I am a dedicated and forward-thinking individual who has volunteered my time and expertise to contribute positive solutions to challenges facing our community. My overriding goal has always been to make Nottingham a better place to live. As a Selectman, I would continue this work.

As our community grows, you and I must work together to develop an environment where people will feel comfortable coming forward with their ideas, concerns, and needs and know that they will be heard. This is why I am asking Nottingham voters to support my candidacy. I will provide positive leadership to move Nottingham in a positive direction. I welcome your comments and input and may be contacted at millscg@gmail.com.

Doug Simmons, Candidate for Budget Committee (vote 1 for one-year term)

My name is Doug Simmons and I have been a resident of Nottingham for 20 years. I am running for the 1-year term on the town budget committee. I have been a faculty member at UNH for nine years in the department of occupational therapy. I teach a management and leadership course as part of my teaching responsibilities as well as coordinate the department's outcomes committee.

Before UNH I held several management positions for medical rehabilitation units in local hospitals and rehabilitation facilities where I managed 60-plus employees along with budgeting the financials. I am running for this position to become more involved in the community and to learn where my tax dollars are going and to make sure our taxes benefit our community as best they can.

Mike Russo, Candidate for Nottingham ZBA (vote 1 for three-year term)

Currently I am the Chair of the Nottingham ZBA, a post that the Board elects internally from its elected members, annually. This will be my second 3-year term. I am looking for support from my fellow citizens on continuing to serve on the ZBA.

In the last year the ZBA has changed in its membership and in its participation in cooperative ventures with other boards and commissions in the Town of Nottingham. I intend to continue to encourage training for our members as our most experienced member has 6 years' participation on the Board. For those not aware of the ZBA's function, the Board acts in a judiciary capacity for the town's administrative decisions on land use and most often is accessed by the citizens for waivers from the zoning regulations of the town. There are many changes in state land use regulations that affect the town and cause my continued interest in serving my fellow citizens and would appreciate your vote on Election Day.

My formal training includes a bachelors degree in mechanical engineering and a masters degree in education. My work experience includes 10 years in field service engineering and 15 years in high school education and administration.

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Dr. John “Jack” Caldon, Candidate for School Board (vote 1 for three-year term)

I am seeking re-election to the Nottingham School Board. As an educator my experiences have included teaching, curriculum, budgeting, and balancing financial resources. During my career, I worked in the following positions: teacher, assistant principal, principal, Assistant Supt. of Schools, and Supt. of Schools. I have baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees in education.

I’m an active member of the community.

Currently Serving on: Nottingham School Board as chairman for three years, SAU#44 Board as chairman for one year, a member the School Building Committee, as a CASA Guardian Ad Litem for two years, and Rotarian for 20 years.

Served on: Nottingham Budget, Economic Development, Pawtuckaway Lake Advisory, School Communications, and SAU#44 Staff Development Committees.

We have a family tradition of teaching and serving.

I’m a family man with a wife and two daughters, all who are teachers. I’ve also served our country in the U.S. Navy.

What can I do for you?

I bring 35 years of educational experience to the school board. I see tremendous challenges ahead: the increased costs of education, declining resources, and never ending curriculum demands.

None of these problems are new!

We’ve always had to balance the needs of our kids with scarce resources. Can you ever spend too much on your child’s education? No! I’ve never had enough money. But, we learn to make do by setting priorities.

More money doesn’t always mean better education.

When I was in charge of one of the poorest SAUs, we ranked fifth in achievement in New Hampshire. It’s what you get for your money that matters. We need to invest time and resources in initiatives that improve education and save the community money in the future. A good example of that would be the School Building Committee that is thoughtfully analyzing the facility and educational needs for the future.

We need a win/win plan for the School and Community.

We have to balance the needs of all factions of the community. I have many successful years of solving problems for the benefit of our children and community, while still being fiscally responsible. That may mean at times we have to spend now to avoid greater costs in the future. I plan, save, invest, and reinvest like the money was my own. That also means I want a plan that gets the most out of every dollar we spend.

Thank you,

Jack Caldon–9 Lakeview Dr., Nottingham, tel. 895-6084

Bob Davidson, Candidate for School Board (vote 1 for one-year term)

Greetings Nottingham Voters. My name is Bob Davidson of 24 Francesca Way. I would like to inform you that I have placed my name for the one-year School Board position.

I have been your School District Moderator since 2008 and reelected in 2009, which I personally feel that I ran an open and fair Annual School Meeting, that all voters had their say in this meeting.

Since the unexpected resignation of School Board Member Dave O’Brien, I felt that I needed to step up to the plate and sign my name as a candidate.

I have been very active over the years as a campaigner and as a candidate for office.

I have been on the Newmarket Budget Committee, a Member of the Charter Commission for the town of Newmarket, and a State Representative, representing Newfields and Newmarket.

I have served two out of three years of the Nottingham Planning Board, which I resigned, due to work scheduling.

Since I have the time and commitment to run, I feel that I can make a difference on the Nottingham School Board.

There are three issues that I want to focus on running for this position:

The first issue is to maintain our commitment to our school children in obtaining their greatness in a successful education experience in our school system.

The second issue is to maintain our fiscal responsibility when times are good and when times are not so good, where we are now. That does NOT mean we have to cut the budget so much that our kids suffer.

What we need to do is plan “smartly,” that we can plan and budget within our needs, while we still improve our children’s education.

Thirdly, we need to continue our plan with a school needs building, with a possible middle and/or high school building either with our town alone or with a regional town or towns to complete when that time comes that we need to do something.

I think that with my candidacy as a school board member, will help the other board members move toward a more positive and more productive way of helping Nottingham’s children improve their education and make the Nottingham taxpayer, be more confident that their tax dollars are spent wisely, and efficiently.

Thank you,

Bob Davidson

Margaret Joyce, Write-in Candidate for School Board (vote 1 for one-year term)

My husband, David DeLuca, and I have lived in Nottingham for the past 20 years. Our two children are currently in the school system and we have a vested interest in the education of the town's young people. For the past four years I have been the director of development and alumni affairs at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy. I also have 12 years of state government experience in the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, where I served as public information officer in the Division of Economic Development and assistant director of the Division of Travel and Tourism Development. In addition to an undergraduate degree in journalism, I am a candidate for a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Hampshire.

I consider myself to be an open- and fair-minded individual who is interested in hearing all points of view before reaching a conclusion. The daughter of two educators, my childhood was infused with the philosophy that education is vitally important to a successful future. I try to instill that same belief in my children and want to ensure that the Town of Nottingham provides the best and broadest possible educational opportunities to all the youth of our community.

I am particularly interested in issues surrounding classroom curriculum, class size and physical plant. We have a dedicated team of individuals who work hard in our elementary school and it's important to provide these professionals with the tools they require to do their jobs as well as an appropriate environment in which to ply their trade.

At the same time, we must balance these needs with the reality of a challenging fiscal environment. Is it possible to please everyone? Of course not. But our elected officials must listen to the views and opinions of the residents of Nottingham and strive to make well-informed decisions on behalf of the community. If elected, I pledge to listen to your concerns and work hard as one of your representatives on the Nottingham School Board.

Please write my name on the ballot when you vote for the one-year school board member on March 9. Working together we can build a stronger community.

Thank you,

Margaret Joyce, 27 Garland Road, 603-491-8688
mmjoyce27@hotmail.com

Liz Kotowski Runs for Supervisor of Checklist (vote 1 for six-year term)

Dear Nottingham Voters:

With the retirement of long-time Supervisor Laura Clement, I would like to serve the community by filling the position of Supervisor of the Checklist for the next six years.

Although this role would be brand new for me, my parents have served as Supervisors of the Checklist in Portsmouth for many years.

My qualifications for the position include skills in data management, project oversight, volunteer coordination, proofreading, and adult education. In addition, I have a strong commitment to ensuring accuracy of the list and a fair voter registration process. I'd appreciate your vote in March and pledge to work hard for the people of Nottingham.

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Blaisdell Memorial Library will be part of statewide Big Read

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

The Blaisdell Memorial Library is pleased to announce that during March 2010 we will be part of **The Big Read: New Hampshire Reads *To Kill a Mockingbird***. This is a statewide project of the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library which will include hundreds of "Big Read" events throughout the state.

The Blaisdell Memorial Library is co-hosting two events with the Chesley Library, Northwood. On Saturday, March 6 at 2 p.m. is a Little Reads program on birds for children ages 5-8. It will include stories, hands-on activities and a craft. For adults there will be a Southern Food potluck dinner and book discussion on March 27 at 6 p.m. at the Masonic Hall in Northwood. Copies of the book and the movie are available at the library. Please call the library at 679-8484 to RSVP for the dinner.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that gives communities the opportunity to come together and read, discuss and celebrate one of 30 selections from U.S. and world literature. In New Hampshire, the program is organized by the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library, which received a grant to coordinate the statewide effort. The Center for the Book chose to focus on *To Kill a Mockingbird* because of its relevant themes of standing up for what is right, relationships between the races, courage, justice and more.

For more information about events around the State for **The Big Read: New Hampshire Reads *To Kill a Mockingbird***, visit www.BigReadNH.org.

The NEA, which designed The Big Read as a way to restore reading to the center of American culture, presents the program in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support for the Big Read is provided by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Transportation for The Big Read is provided by Ford.

Kitten Shower

Submitted by Cynthia Beauchesne

Brownie Troop 20620 is holding a "kitten shower" to benefit the NHSPCA and the Cocheco Animal Shelter. Donated kitten/cat items can be dropped off at the library, community center or school through March 28.

Nottingham Pack 167 News

Submitted by Anne Parker

Congratulations to Boy Scout Heath Rohr who recently earned the prestigious Den Chief cord. A Den Chief is a Boy Scout who serves as a positive role model and assistant leader within a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout Den. Some enthusiastic members of the Scouting family were on hand to congratulate him at the January 16 "Troop 167 Court of Honor" ceremonies. Heath was also honored for achieving the Scouts' Star Rank. This rank is earned by honoring the scouting spirit, completing service projects and merit badges and exhibiting leadership within the Pack.

This year's Pinewood Derby registrations are set for Friday, March 19, 2010 at the Community Center from 6-8 p.m. This will be the first year the Nottingham Girl Scout Troop will participate as well! **All cars entering the race on Saturday must be registered on this night to qualify.** Cars will be "inspected and impounded" until race day which is at noon on Saturday, March 20 at the same location. All Scouts will receive a participation certificate, Derby patch and T-Shirt.

Cathy DeButts is looking for parents who are non-leaders, to help gather donations, help in the pit crew, assist at the siblings table and many other jobs. If you are interested, call Cathy at 770-9316 or e-mail her at cathydebutts@comcast.net.



Heath Rohr (front row, center) earned a Den Chief cord for serving as a positive role model and assistant leader to Cub Scout Pack 167.

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Pawtuckaway Piecers Quilt Guild

Submitted by Pat Vachon

2010 looks to be very productive for the guild. We have finished two "Zen" quilts (one bed size and one lap size) that will be raffled off on Nottingham Day in September. For next year's raffle quilt, we have decided to make a sampler quilt. Each member is responsible for making one or more traditional blocks. Proceeds from the quilt raffles support the scholarship fund and other projects undertaken by the guild.

Every year, the guild awards up to three scholarships for youth groups that are involved in sewing or artistic projects involving fabric. If you are interested in one of the scholarships, please contact the guild.

One of the classes that we are taking is being given by Kay Kyle. We are taking an ordinary sweatshirt and, using a crazy quilt pattern, turning it into a beautiful jacket. We are also sewing a traditional quilt block every month. Each member makes the same block using scraps from their "stash". The lucky winner of all of the blocks gets to choose the next pattern. Open sew times are held on an occasional basis. It's a great time to get together, sew and learn different techniques from other quilters.

Guild meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Blaisdell Library. New members are always welcome. You need not be an experienced quilter. If you would like more information, please call the library at 679-8484 and ask for Pat.

Nottingham Community Church Unitarian Universalist is excited for spring!

Our Sunday services continue to grow slowly in numbers and drop ins. We have Sunday school twice a month where children learn about the Seven Principles. Music is always an important element of our service.

On March 7, we will be featuring music from Peter, Paul and Mary. On April 11 we are featuring Gospel music during the service. Services are 10 a.m. on Sundays.

Events coming up: April 16 at 7:30 p.m. Cynthia MacLeod on fiddle and Jon Matthews on guitar with vocals are returning for a concert. Contact Gary Hume at 679-5795 for reservations. Reservations will be \$5 less than the price at the door. In the works is a rededication organ concert. Our recently restored organ will be the featured instrument with guest musicians playing. The restoration was a gift from a member. May 14, 15, and 16: Russell Paul Yogi Master returns for a weekend of music, spirit, and chanting. On Friday night, there will be a community concert open to all. The weekend conference is filling up

fast. If you are interested, contact Pastor Ben Fowler at 207-351-1985.

Nottingham School District

Assessment of Educational Facility Needs K-8

Submitted by Michelle Carvalho, Nottingham School Principal

In the last edition of the Nottingham Community Newsletter, there was a Nottingham School District Building Committee Survey due February 19, 2010. The survey response has been tremendous to date. It's not too late to complete. The committee seeks your input as to ideas and thoughts on where you see the Nottingham School in five, ten, or even fifteen years. Your feedback is important to us and helpful in pursuing options, gathering and presenting information to the public in the future. Please complete the survey and return to Nottingham School as soon as possible. The input you provide will help the School Building Committee move forward in making a long range plan to submit to the School Board for review.

To read the complete Assessment of Educational Facility Needs for Nottingham School, updated report, and additional building committee information, click on the following link: www.nottingham.k12.nh.us.

Nottingham PTA Update

Submitted by Nottingham PTA

Please "save the date" for the following PTA activities:

Mother/Son Dance: Saturday, May 8, 6-8 p.m.

Father/Daughter Dance: Saturday, May 15, 6-8 p.m.

Both dances will be held in the Nottingham School Cafeteria and ALL children in town are welcomed & invited!! Please be on the lookout for ticket order forms sent home with children at Nottingham School or order online, pta.nottingham@yahoo.com.

PTA Bulb Fundraiser

Beginning on March 5 the PTA will be sponsoring a flower bulb fundraiser with Dutch Mill Companies. Bulbs packs will be sold for \$6 and all profits will benefit the Nottingham PTA, which of course benefits the Nottingham School! Sales will end on March 22 and bulbs will be delivered to the school the week of April 26-30. Please contact the Nottingham PTA if you would like an order form, pta.nottingham@yahoo.com.

As always, the PTA meets the second Wednesday of every month in the Nottingham School cafeteria at 7 p.m. and children are welcome. You do not need to be a member of the PTA to join us for a meeting or support any of our activities—but of course we would love you to consider joining (membership is only \$5)!

Conservation Commission News

Submitted by Susan P. Mooney

At last, a choice... an alternative and optional open space development ordinance that will emphasize open space for developers and builders of new homes on original parcels of 20 or more acres will be before the voters this March.

The Planning Board (PB) invited members from the Conservation Commission (NCC), Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) and the Community along with a PB member to work with Mr. Jack Mettee, Planning Consultant, to address the new state Workforce Housing Law (WFH) (RSA 674:58 through 61). This Committee wrote two proposed zoning/warrant articles that would address the provisions of the new state law while offering additional benefits for Nottingham. The first Article would allow rental properties by the conversion of farmhouses and barns to WFH rental units. The second Article would provide the opportunity for a limited number of WFH homeowner dwellings as an option within a new Open Space Development zoning ordinance. The NCC supported these two proposed Articles at the January 11 meeting.

The Conservation Commission encourages you to take the time to review these two proposed Ordinances and to not hesitate to seek additional information about them. Please support the protection of open space and the preservation of Nottingham's rural character by your votes.

Recently the CC met with the Board of Selectmen (BOS), along with representatives of the PB, ZBA, Budget Committee (BC), Neighborhood Guardians, and other Community members to discuss the conversion of the Town's present tax maps into a digitized format. It was decided among the group to begin looking at options for Nottingham in order to have a proposal before the voters for 2011. Several educational presentations are scheduled for this February and March.

The NCC submitted, on behalf of the Town, a grant proposal to the Office of Energy and Planning for a Phase 1 Housing and Conservation Planning Program (HCPP) Grant in 2008. Out of several dozen applications, Nottingham was one of only a handful of communities to be awarded monies to conduct several baseline studies to better plan for the town's future growth. Mettee Planning Consultants was hired by the BOS to work with the Town's HCPP committee, to gather and compile data, to hold public hearings, and to write summary reports. The Committee was co-chaired by CC and PB members and included additional representation from the BOS,

Historical Society, BC, ZBA and the community. The bulk of the work was done and completed in 2009. The summaries will assist the town in future planning including an update of the Town's Master Plan. Copies are available in the Selectmen's Office for the Public to review.

The CC held two conservation easement-monitoring walks this past fall and will conduct two others in the spring. Primary easement deed holders, such as the Town of Nottingham for three of these properties, are required to conduct inspections to ensure that the restrictions re: building, mining and other prohibited activities that would substantially alter the easement parcel are upheld. The fourth monitoring will inspect the conservation easement deed restrictions at the Highlands development. Although this latter task is more demanding of the CC, it is important for the education of the residents and for the continued stewardship of nearby critical wetlands and the Little River watershed.

In a recent issue of the **Weekly Market Bulletin** (12.30.09) Dr. Leonard Perry of UVM Extension had an article titled **Gardener's New Year's Resolutions**. There were 12 "green" tips and are worth summarizing (and paraphrasing and editorializing) on behalf of the natural resources we value: recycle as much as possible (and generate income for Nottingham while reducing taxes), compost compostables, use biological pest management, minimize fertilizer use and use organic (Cow-a-dunga!), mow less often and leave clippings to restore nutrients, make water conservation a priority, use drip irrigation and drought resistant native plants for landscaping, plant for wildlife food and shelter and erosion control as well as for esthetics, provide food and water for the birds if they have come to depend on you, pick up after others and lead by example.

The NCC meets every second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Planning/Zoning office in the Town Office Building. Meetings are open to the public and community participation is always welcome.

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Nottingham Fire and Rescue Department

Submitted by Heidi Carlson

We continue to work on setup and training with the Town's newest fire engine (Engine 2). The truck has foam and lighting capacity we don't currently have, and is an impressive piece of apparatus.

Game on! Get ready for some volleyball action as the Nottingham Fire Rescue and Police Department members take on the Nottingham School Teachers and Staff in a benefit game at 6:30 p.m. on Friday March 5, 2010 at Nottingham School. This game is a benefit to assist in funding a piece of medical equipment for firefighter/EMT-I Dan Elliott who suffered a stroke last August and is still out of work. Our Association is assisting Dan with fundraising for the NESS L300 Foot Drop System which will help him walk more safely and easily.

We will also sponsor a breakfast on Saturday May 15, 2010 at the fire station. Both events will have raffles as well. We are looking for local artisans or businesses who want to help by donating items for the raffle. Watch for more details, and contact Association President Jude Thibault at 679-8459 or judetebo@comcast.net or Vice President Heidi Carlson at NottinghamC2@comcast.net for more information or if you would like to help.

We are actively recruiting new members who may be interested in fire and EMS service. Are you interested in helping your neighbors? Are you ready for a new challenge involving the fire service or rendering EMS care to the sick and injured? Contact the chief or deputy chief at 679-5666 for more information.

When the ground is fully covered with snow, a written permit is not required for outdoor burning, but you need to call in and leave your name, address and phone number for the daily log. When conditions prohibit outdoor fires, the sign will be placed out at the station. This might include high wind, or lack of snow cover. (This sign reads *No Burning Permits Today*). Call us if you have any questions. In general, business hours are Monday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Saturday

from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday and holidays from 4 to 5 p.m.

Call 911 in any emergency. Call the Fire Station during business hours for other assistance at 679-5666.

Nottingham Auxiliary

Submitted by Pat Desrosiers

We have a great Fire and Rescue department here in Nottingham. They not only put out fires and rescue people involved in accidents, floods, and other natural disasters but they are there for our community whenever there is a need. They will "pass the hat" to help an individual or raise funds to support the Nottingham Food Pantry, and also provide help to families in town whenever asked.

How do I know this? I am not only married to a firefighter but I am also a member of the Nottingham Fire Rescue Auxiliary. Such an outstanding organization can sometimes use support themselves, especially when there is a fire or a disaster and they are out for hours in extreme temperatures and working hard without a break. At those times, the department members need food, water and other support at the incident scene. As the department's support, the auxiliary organizes and prepares food and beverages for the department members.

We try to have a couple of fundraisers during the year to help with monetary needs for the department. This year we sold Apple Crisp at Nottingham days and donated \$300 to the department. In the Fall, auxiliary members sold coffee and baked goods at Saturday morning soccer games and raised more money for the department.

We help out at blood drives by providing baked goods and work to help Red Cross workers during the drives. We meet once every three months to go over procedures and discuss fundraisers. We enjoy working with the department and are part of their "family". If you would like to join our organization call 679-1076 or e-mail msdfarmington@yahoo.com. We can always use help.

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Nottingham School

Congratulations!



Nottingham School Girls Basketball Team
2010 Southeast League Champion

Nottingham School Boys Basketball Team
2010 Southeast League Runner-Up

Your community is proud of your hard work, your dedication and, most importantly, your sportsmanship!

Nottingham Farmers' Market

Submitted by Brieghan Gardner

The Nottingham Farmers' Market will begin this year on Sunday, May 23 and continue into October. The market will take place at the Blaisdell Memorial Library from 1 to 4 p.m. every Sunday and will offer a variety of local produce, eggs, chicken, honey, maple syrup, salsas and sauces, plants, cut flowers, and more. If you are interested in joining the market as a vendor, contact Brieghan Gardner at 679-5392 or via e-mail at briehangardner@aol.com.



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