

NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 2

March/April 2009

Candidates for Public Office

Submitted by Sandra W. Weston, Town Clerk

The following persons have declared their candidacy for these positions for the March 10, 2009, town elections:

Selectman (1 for 3 years) Christopher Albert
Gary Anderson
John Knorr
Brandon Lavin
Bonnie Winona
Whittemore

Town Clerk (1 for 3 years) Sandra W. Weston

Trustee of the Trust Funds (1 for 3 years) Open

Cemetery Trustee (1 for 3 years) Peter Corriveau

Planning Board Member (2 for 3 years)
William L. Dean
Arthur Stockus
(1 for 1 year) Open

Library Trustee (1 for 3 years) Joy C. Bicknell
(1 for 2 years) Sara E. Wotton

Budget Committee Member (3 for 3 years)
Chester Batchelder
Donna Danis
(1 for 1 year) Charlene Andersen

Zoning Board Member (2 for 3 years)
Romeo D. Danais

Board of Assessors Member (1 for 1 year)
Eugene T. Reed
(1 for 2 years) Open
(1 for 3 years) John McSorley

Nottingham School District Election Notice

Submitted by Arthur Stockus, School District Clerk

The following have declared their candidacy for election on Tuesday, the 10th Day of March 2009, at the Nottingham Town Hall:

School District Moderator (1 year) Bob Davidson

School District Clerk (1 year) Open

School District Treasurer (1 year) Cheryl A. Travis

School Board Member (3 years) Dawn M. Fernald

School Board Member (3 years) Frank M. O'Hanlon

These candidates have been certified by the Nottingham School District Clerk.

Candidates Night

The Nottingham PTA is sponsoring a Candidates Night on March 3 from 7-9 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All candidates are invited to attend. Come find out about the people running for office.

Senator Cilley Visits With Area Residents

Submitted by Cathy Cilley

State Senator Jackie Cilley will be holding a "morning coffee and chat" with Nottingham residents on Saturday April 25, from 9-11 a.m. at the Town Library. The public is invited to drop by to say hello, talk politics and share coffee and pastries.

Senator Cilley would love to answer your questions and/or concerns about past, pending or future legislation interests. Additionally, Senator Cilley welcomes your suggestions for future legislation of importance to you and your community. She is looking forward to having an open dialogue with folks as well as enjoying some of the great pastries and coffee.

For more information or to let us know you will attend, e-mail Cathy at: news_from_sen_cilley@comcast.net.

Town Meeting

**Saturday, March 14 at 9 a.m.
Nottingham School**

Gary A. Anderson, Candidate for Selectman

I reside at 46 Gile Road with my wife Lori, and our three children ages 21, 16, and 12. We have owned and operated a small home improvement contracting business since 1986. I have been an active member of the community as I have served the Nottingham Congregational Christian Church for almost 8 years, currently as Elder and teen youth leader.

I believe that we should support our older citizens and disabled citizens whether it be tax relief, or assistance in maintaining their homes and mobility issues. As a business/property owner in town, I will stand up for home based businesses as well as property owners, keeping the best interests of both the residents and the Town of Nottingham in mind.

On items such as property tax and town spending, I will strive to both back the town's service departments so that they may best serve the town but try to keep spending to a minimum. Over the past 8 years, I have grown to love this town and its people and want to return the blessings my family and I have received as members of the community.

Chris Albert, Candidate for Selectman

Hello, my name is Christopher Albert and I am running for Selectman. I have been a resident in Nottingham for 22 years. I have raised three children through the Nottingham School system and live on a small farm in town. During my time in Town I have served as the Town's building inspector, was a member of the volunteer fire department, and served on elected positions to the Planning Board and School Board. I have volunteered my time over the years on various community projects from the soccer fields behind the new school to the reconstruction of the ball fields at the Town Center. Nottingham has grown over the years but the rural character of the Town still exists. As a homeowner living on a small farm and an environmental consultant I understand the regulatory and political pressures before the Town of Nottingham. As Selectman I will make sure our Historic past is preserved as technology moves us through the 21st century. I am a strong believer in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to keep our taxes and increases at a constant level.

John Knorr, Candidate for Selectman

I moved to Nottingham with my wife Dawn in April 2004. We are the owners of a small wine distribution business and I currently work for The Roedel Companies of Manchester, a hospitality management company. One of the charms of moving to New Hampshire and settling in Nottingham was the traditional values of the state and its citizens; limited government, low taxes and beautiful

surroundings. Over the past few years our state has begun to shift from these values to a more liberal government and philosophy. I am a small-c conservative and believe that government should shrink, not grow. While we listen to our elected officials in Washington DC discuss the stimulus and bank bailouts the one thing that is rarely discussed is controlling costs. My wife and I are responsible to manage our household budget and I am held to the budget I create at work. Our elected officials fail to recognize this and my promise to the residents of Nottingham is that I will make sound financial decisions with your hard earned money and will never waste what you have trusted me with. I appreciate your consideration and vote this spring.

Bonnie Winona Whittemore, Candidate for Selectman

N.H. born and raised in the North Country, there I explored the natural world and learned the value of community. A lifelong bootstrap entrepreneur, I have developed many skills through necessity and experience which can be applied to the careful management of the town.

Big issue: How will the State manage its obligations in these extreme economic times; will it lean even more heavily on homes for revenue? While other revenue streams are dependent on a healthy economy, lacking in these times, the property tax is not related to the family income, also threatened in this economy.

Will the legislature continue to shift costs to the counties as they did with nursing homes? Like education, our counties are funded by the property tax. For many, payment of the property tax represents a tax rate that is egregiously unfair. Many on fixed and low incomes pay 10%, 20%, 30% of their incomes to property taxes. We are not supposed to talk about tax policy options in NH, but I think we must.

I believe that education is a community responsibility of utmost importance. We must support excellence in our schools while carefully managing limited resources. I support clean and green businesses to help make our local economy vibrant. Good business practices and a healthy environment are naturally compatible.

Like many communities, Nottingham faces the problem of adequate water to sustain present and future households. Easily exploited for huge profit, we must protect and hold water in trust for the entire ecosystem and future generations. I support the Nottingham Water Rights and Self Government Ordinance. I believe that both food and jobs are healthiest when produced at the local level. I will work to make ours a town where organic agriculture, green businesses, and families can thrive in sustainable community.

Budget Committee Update: Review and Recommendations for Proposed School Operating Budget

Submitted by the Budget Committee

As of February 4, 2009

As the March meeting quickly approaches, the budget cycle is winding down. The budget committee has held numerous meetings with both the school board and town administration with input from department heads to develop annual proposed budgets.

Proposed School Budget

The school board submitted their budget for final review at the January 8 budget committee meeting. The public hearing was held on January 15. After reviewing the final budget, and taking questions from the one member of the public who attended the hearing, the budget committee voted on their recommendations for the budget and warrant articles.

Operating Budget

During the January meetings, the school board proposed a 2009-2010 operating budget of \$9,534,370.38 with a proposed default budget of \$9,462,376.68. The default budget defined by RSA 40:13 reflects "the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget." The purpose is to provide sufficient funds for the district to meet ongoing commitments with no additional expenses.

The proposed budget reflects the expenses that the school district would like to see for the upcoming year. During the January 15 public hearing, the budget committee voted to amend the proposed operating budget to a total of \$9,531,170.38 – a total reduction of \$3,200. At the February 4 deliberative session, the proposed budget was further reduced by members of the public to \$9,255,837.52. This is the amount the Town will be asked to vote on on March 10.

Warrant Articles: Possible Change to the School Ballot

In addition to the operating budget, the school board is proposing several warrant articles consisting of cost and non-cost items. The cost warrant articles include:

- An irrigation system to help maintain the athletic fields at a cost of \$11,671.47.
- Two additional paraprofessionals to support kindergarten instructional programming due to increasing student enrollments at a cost of \$30,563.99.

- The installation of a propane generator to provide electrical power for emergency situations at the cost of \$40,000.
- Architect and Engineering fees and pre-design services associated with studying options for renovation and additions to the school building for a cost of \$32,000.
- 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).

In years past, the budget committee recommendations have been printed alongside each proposed warrant article. Under a new provision of RSA 32:5, V-(a), the DRA has advised the school board that they are only required to present budget committee recommendations for "special warrant articles." With the exception of the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund and the Building Capital Reserve fund, none of the school's proposed warrant articles are special warrant articles and the school board may choose not to print the Budget Committee recommendations on the ballot.

At the January 15 public hearing, the budget committee voted not to recommend the following two warrant articles, believing instead that these expenses could be delayed until a time of better economic circumstances:

- Warrant article #7 — the addition of two paraprofessionals to support kindergarten instructional programming due to increasing student enrollments at a cost of \$30,563.99.
- Warrant article #9 — an irrigation system to help maintain the athletic fields at a cost of \$11,671.47. At the February 4th deliberative session, this amount was reduced to \$8,000.

The Town Operating Budget

On the town side, the budget is still going through a final review process. The final budget was presented to the budget committee on January 22 in preparation for the February 5 public hearing.

The budget committee believes each of the governing bodies is doing their part to keep the budgets as low as possible in these difficult times and we hope that voters will do their part by attending upcoming public hearings and the town meeting on March 14.

DeButts-Rohr Family Rebuilds

It's starting to become a reality! The past four months have seemed like a lifetime but it is progressing well. CGD Construction has been hard at work and the end of March is the estimated completion date—we can't wait!

Petition Warrant Article: To Restrict Growth of Government

Submitted by Mary Bonser, a Selectman

The following article was submitted by Mary Bonser as a private citizen. This is in no way an opinion of the Town of Nottingham or its administration.

In 2008 a group of citizens submitted a ballot question to remove all assessing authority from the Board of Selectmen and to give the authority to a separate "board of assessors". The ballot question passed largely because it was alleged that the Board of Selectmen had made mistakes in the assessing process.

Since last year, the actions of the Board of Selectmen have been thoroughly evaluated by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and the actions of the Board of Selectmen have been fully upheld. The report of DRA can be viewed at the Selectmen's office during regular business hours.

Having the Board of Selectmen act as the assessing authority for the town has always worked well. To dramatically change this process in this manner, as was done last March, and for the reasons that it was done, will not benefit the townspeople.

Had there been a separate "board of assessors" they too would have been required to perform the same actions that the Board of Selectmen performed.

This new three-member "board of assessors" will be elected from the general public. There is no requirement that those running must be professional assessors. The Board of Selectmen hire a professional company to assess property. The new "board of assessors" may or may not hire professionals. It will be entirely up to the new "board of assessors". Very few towns our size use a separate "board of assessors".

Also, if you request an exemption, this new three-member "board of assessors" will have access to your financial information. Additionally, they may request access to your homes and businesses. The Board of Selectmen has learned over many years how to approach all of these matters with respect and absolute confidentiality. Also, this new "board of assessors" may request a stipend to do what the Board of Selectmen already do as part of their duties. More than likely, this new "board of assessors" will require an office.

The only results of having a separate, 3 member "board of assessors" will be: **to grow government and increase costs** at a time when Nottingham taxpayers can least afford it. It will not improve the process. The process was not broken. The change was proposed and promoted by a few, understandably, disgruntled taxpayers, to the

detriment of the entire town. Please vote "YES" on Article 12 on March 10 to eliminate the new separate "board of assessors" and return the process to the traditional way it has been done.

John McSorley, Candidate for Board of Assessors

I'm John McSorley. I am running for the Nottingham Board of Assessors. I bring well over 20 years assessing experience to the table. This experience includes education in the assessment field totaling over 380 credit hours. I have experience assessing in over 50 NH municipalities as a mass appraiser and revaluation job supervisor. I have also been an administrator and regulator in my former capacity as Assistant Director of the Property Appraisal Division of the NHDRA before my retirement in 2008.

Since 1999, I have been involved with many changes to New Hampshire's assessing laws and regulations. I was also chief architect of the Assessment Certification Program conducted by the DRA in all NH municipalities over a five-year cycle begun in 2003. The new Certification cycle began in 2008.

I have achieved the highest level of certification by the DRA, that of Certified Assessor Supervisor. I also earned the Certified New Hampshire Assessor (CNHA) designation through the NH Association of Assessing Officers. This designation requires successful completion of a competitive exam plus a minimum of 50 hours of continuing education every 5 years to maintain the coveted CNHA designation. No other candidate can boast this.

I was chosen by Nottingham's Selectmen to serve on an advisory committee to make recommendations regarding the duties of the Nottingham Board of Assessors.

My experience in assessing and unparalleled knowledge of assessing laws in New Hampshire make me uniquely qualified to serve the taxpayers of Nottingham.

I ask for your vote on March 10.

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Fiddle Concert Rescheduled

By Gary Hume

Cynthia MacLeod is a super energetic fiddler from the Canadian Maritimes, winner of the East Coast Music Award and twice voted Entertainer of the Year. Her concert canceled by the December ice storm has been rescheduled for Friday, March 13, just in time for Saint Patrick's Day. She will be performing at the Nottingham Community Church with Jon Matthews, singer/songwriter/guitarist, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance. Part of the proceeds benefit the church's Historic Preservation Fund. For tickets or information, call Gary Hume at 679-5795.

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Nottingham Congregational Christian Church

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Come join us for Worship held every Sunday at 10 a.m. Children will be dismissed approximately half-way through the service for Children's Church. This is a new, exciting schedule and we invite everyone to come join the experience. The Church has a warm, inviting atmosphere for all. The Church also hosts many other programs, including LAUNCH program for youth 4th to 7th grade – one Saturday evening per month and OASIS program for teens – one Friday evening per month. Many other programs are listed on our newly designed website. Visit our site at www.nottinghamchurch.org.

Reminder to Dog Owners

All dogs must be licensed by April 30 each year. The license fees are: \$7.50 for spayed/neutered dogs and puppies under 6 months of age; \$10 for all other dogs. Owners over 65 years of age are charged \$3 for the first dog. The 2009 license tags are available at the Town Clerk's office. Please license your dogs in a timely manner and avoid a \$25 civil forfeiture fee.



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.

Deadline for the May/June newsletter is April 3, 2009. 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

Boy Scout Troop 167 Celebrates Another Eagle

Submitted by Boy Scout Troop 167

Congratulations to Joseph Coddington who recently achieved his Eagle badge, the highest rank in boy scouting. His service project involved planning, building and installing improvements at the school soccer field. He did some cleaning up around the field, built a spectator stand and also built shelving, a window and door for the concession stand. The troop, along with his family, will be honoring Joe on March 15.

The Boy Scout troop enjoyed a camping trip to Wilmot, New Hampshire in January. They had fun sledding, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing. They also practiced building shelters and fires.

Look for our yard sale in May. If you would like to donate items for the yard sale, a fundraiser for the troop, please contact Sue Harcourt at 679-1144.

Nottingham Public Kickoff Forum

Submitted by Deb Stevens

The Selectmen, Planning Board and Conservation Commission invite all residents of Nottingham to an important forum on the town's future at the Nottingham Community Center on March 9 at 7 p.m. The Town of Nottingham is in the beginning stages of a planning project for natural and historic resources as well as housing and economic development. The goal of this forum is to listen to Nottingham citizens about what kind of community you would like Nottingham to be in 10-15 years.

If you have ideas, issues, or concerns regarding Nottingham's current growth, quality of new development, existing land use, natural resource protection, open space, housing needs, and economic development, we would like to know. All of your feedback will be taken into consideration.

See you at the forum!!

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Women's Club "Clowning around with Joy"

Submitted by Beverly Caldon

The Nottingham Women's Club has planned a fun meeting for Monday, March 16 at 1:30 p.m. We'll be "Clowning around with Joy." That's Joy Gannet Adams, who will appear in costume to regale us with her clown act, which she takes to hospitals and nursing homes. She was a long-time member of the NWC before moving to Concord. Any members wearing rainbow wigs risk becoming part of the show. Hostesses are Doris Davis and Bev Caldon.

On April 20 at 6:30 p.m., we've invited Janet Horvath to talk about the programs that the town Recreation Department offers to both children and adults. Afterwards, we'll enjoy our rescheduled Christmas party and Yankee Swap. Micki Unwin and Peg Case will coordinate the refreshments. Both meetings will be held at the Congregational Church on Rte. 156. Anyone curious about joining is welcome to attend.

For information about applications for the Women's Club Scholarship for high school and college students, please read the poster that is on display in several locations around town: at the library, Town Hall, two Post Offices, Liar's Store, and Demmon's Store. The Guidance Offices at Dover High and Coe-Brown also have the information. Application deadline is May 16.

Check out What's Free at the Library

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

Looking for something to do this weekend? Borrow one of our library museum passes for free or reduced admission to many New Hampshire museums including the planetarium as well as the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. The library also has many of the latest bestsellers and current magazines you can borrow. If you need an encyclopedia you can access the World Book on-line from your own home computer. If you are having computer or printer problems, come by the library and use one of ours. We also have Wi-Fi. Stop in to see what's available at your library or visit www.nottinghamlibrary.org.



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Fire Rescue Department

Submitted by Heidi Carlson

Be sure to change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors in March when you reset the clocks for daylight savings. Test your smoke alarms monthly to be sure they are working. Have at least one working detector on each level of your home.

Call 911 if your CO or smoke detector goes off, and evacuate your home immediately to fresh air. Plan, discuss, and practice a fire escape route with your family. Be sure children know what to do when they hear a smoke or CO alarm sounding.

Be sure that at least two means of egress from your home are cleared throughout the winter months. On many occasions we cannot get people out quickly due to inaccessible means of egress from their homes. This may also mean it takes us longer to get in.

The State of New Hampshire continues to see an increasing trend in home fires. Please use diligence with all of your heating appliances, including having them cleaned and serviced regularly. Use candles with extreme caution; and teach children about fire safety.

We answered 456 calls for service in 2008. While this number is down slightly from 2007, we saw an increase in the nature, complexity, and severity of the calls we responded to.

The benefit volleyball game between members of the public safety services and the teachers was a huge success, raising \$586 in cash donations, as well as many food donations, to benefit the Nottingham Food Pantry. The game was great fun for all, and a rematch for a local charity is being considered! Thank you to all who came out to support the Food Pantry!



The department has scheduled the following Blood Drives for the 2009 season: Monday, May 4; Tuesday, August 18; Monday, November 23. Despite the winter storm on January 28, Red Cross collected 27 pints. Thank you to all who are able to help by giving blood.

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

Recreation Department News

Submitted by Janet Horvath, 679-3435, ext. 7

recreation@nottingham-nh.gov

Recreation office hours: M-Th. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The next 2009 Nottingham Day Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. at the town offices. Please come and be a part of making 2009 even better than last year. One meeting a month could make all the difference.

We are currently planning a day of play at the Rec. on March 20. This is a planned teacher workshop day and the children have no school. Please contact the Rec. for more information, as we are still working out the details.

The last after school cooking class will be March 17. We have enjoyed this program immensely and look forward to collaborating with the school's Wider Horizons program again in the future.

Sick of being stuck inside with your toddler.....why not try our toddler gym Thursday mornings at 10? Children up to age 3½ can come play and go through the obstacle course and get some energy out. The hour ends with circle and parachute time. There is also gym time for older children ages 3½ to 6 on Thursdays afternoons at 1.

Martial Arts classes are offered for ages 3 to adult. What a fun way to get some exercise and get in shape!

Adult Basketball for men and women is going on now. Try it, no skills necessary– just a willingness to have fun and get some exercise. Come and play! If you are interested please call the Rec.

If you would like to receive the Recreation e-mail newsletter 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.

Is there a program you wish we offered? Please let us know! We can't meet your needs unless we know what they are!



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