

NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 6

November/December 2008

Upcoming General Election

Submitted by the Selectmen's Office

The polls will be open on Tuesday, November 4 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Nottingham Community Center, 139 Stage Rd. Please note you may no longer vote straight ticket. The following candidates will be on the ballot:

President and Vice President:

Ralph Nader/"Matt" Gonzalez, Independent
George Phillies/Christopher Bennett, Libertarian
"Bob" Barr/ Wayne A. Root, Libertarian
John McCain/Sarah Palin, Republican
Barack Obama/ "Joe" Biden, Democrat

Governor:

Susan M. Newell, Libertarian
Joseph D. Kenney, Republican
John Lynch, Democrat

US Senator:

"Ken" Blevens, Libertarian
John E. Sununu, Republican
Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat

Representative in Congress:

Robert Kingsbury, Libertarian
Jeb Bradley – Republican
Carol Shea-Porter – Democrat

Executive Councilor:

Russell Prescott, Republican
Beverly A. Hollingsworth, Democrat

State Senator:

Fenton Groen, Republican
"Jackie" Cilley, Democrat

State Representatives(vote for five):

Republicans

John Reagan
Brian Stucker
James "Jim" Sullivan
Frank G. Case
"Joe" Duarte

Democrats

Maureen R. Mann
Susi Nord
Richard H. Snow
"Tom" St. Martin
Hannah Gile Beye

Sheriff :

"Dan" Linehan, Republican
David J. Lovejoy, Democrat

County Attorney:

"Jim" Reams, Republican
Kevin L. Coyle, Democrat

County Treasurer:

Edward "Sandy" Buck III

Register of Deeds:

Cathy Stacey, Republican
Philip Nugent, Democrat

Register of Probate:

Andrew "Spizz" Christie, Republican
Debra E. Crapo, Democrat

County Commissioner:

"Don" Stritch, Republican
"Bob" Davidson, Democrat

Thank you, Nottingham!

Submitted by Kim Turgeon

On behalf of the Grammont family, thank you to everyone who came to the soup supper fundraiser as well as contributed food, gift baskets and time. The benefit would not have been possible without you.

The event was a huge success and raised more than \$5,000 for the Grammont family. The money raised will help defray the cost of renovating their home to make it accessible for Mike.

This kind of outpouring of support really makes Nottingham a wonderful town to call home.

From the Grammonts:

We would like to thank the Town of Nottingham. All of you have been wonderful. Special thanks to Nottingham Elementary School, Kim Turgeon, Leasa Jenks and everyone who helped make the Soup Supper and Silent Auction such a success.

Mike, Edie, Luke and Gennese Grammont

The Abatement Process

Submitted by John McSorley

At the time you are reading this article Nottingham taxpayers ought to have received their final tax bills for 2008. Receipt of the tax bill starts the clock ticking on the New Hampshire statutory process known as the "Abatement Process". Tax abatement is a request to refund some of the taxes paid on a property. If you flip your tax bill over onto its reverse side, you will see printed there the procedure that must be used in order to properly file your request for property tax abatement.

The process begins with the receipt of your tax bill and is outlined in RSA 76:16. This tax year, you have until March 1, 2009, to file your appeal with the local assessing officials; in Nottingham's case it will still be the Board of Selectmen on March 1, 2009. It's important to note here that since March 1, 2009 falls on a Sunday, RSA 80:55, III clarified by RSA 76:16-e allows that "If the date for filing any report, claim, tax return, statement, remittance, or other document falls upon a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the filing shall be considered timely if performed on the next business day." If you plan to appeal, your appeal must be postmarked or filed by Monday, March 2, 2009. As a reminder to Nottingham taxpayers it is noted that after Town Meeting 2009, a new Board of Assessors (BOA) will be chosen by Nottingham voters. This newly elected Board will assume the assessing duties from the Board of Selectmen. NH law will continue to guide the new BOA. The Selectmen through Warrant Article established an Assessing Advisory Committee to meet and discuss procedures to be followed by the BOA. Those recommendations will be included in a future edition of the Nottingham Newsletter.

The appeal must be in writing. There is a form available at the Town Office or on-line at the town's web site, http://www.nottingham-nh.gov/Pages/NottinghamNH_Selectmen/abatementforweb.pdf. This form is made expressly for filing the tax abatement, and includes space for all pertinent information that helps

the assessing officials make their determination on your appeal. This form is also available for download on-line at the New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) web site. The address is: <http://www.nh.gov/btla/docs/abatementforweb.pdf>. Once this written appeal has been timely filed with the Town, the assessing officials then have until July 1, 2009 to respond with a determination to the taxpayer. If there is no response from the assessing officials by that date, the taxpayer may assume an automatic denial of their request and are free to pursue the next level in the abatement process.

NH law allows taxpayers who have appealed to the local assessing officials and have been denied or those who are not satisfied with the local determination to continue their appeal to the New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals or, for Nottingham taxpayers, to the Rockingham County Superior Court in Brentwood, NH by Tuesday, September 1, 2009. Appeal to BTLA is covered in RSA 76:16-a. Appeal to Superior Court is covered in RSA 76:17. The taxpayer has a choice of which venue to make the appeal, either the BTLA or the Superior Court but not both. There is no time limit placed upon either the BTLA or Superior Court to hold a hearing or make a determination. These decisions are made according to their respective docket systems.

Some advantages of the BTLA are tax and land appeals are the only cases they hear, it's a somewhat more relaxed atmosphere, taxpayers may appear for themselves (pro se) although expert witnesses such as appraisers, realtors, tax reps., etc are advised. BTLA also tends to be less expensive. There is a \$65 filing fee and other expenses are incurred to the degree of effort you put into your appeal. The test is the "Preponderance of Evidence", so the more effort you put into your appeal the more likely you are to prevail.

The biggest disadvantage to BTLA is they tend to get more backed up than Superior Court for a couple of reasons. One is that there is only one Board, located in Concord. Each of the 10 NH Counties has its own Superior Court so the 10 courts dilute the number of cases going to Superior Court. Since BTLA tends to get the majority of appeals and because there is only one Board, they tend to back up. Sometimes for long periods of time.

Superior Court has the same test as BTLA but strict rules of order are observed and you are advised to hire an attorney to guide your case through all the rules. Superior Court does not specialize in tax and land cases and the level of experience in such cases tend to be less than the experience with BTLA.



Rachelle Burnham, CPA

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For those contemplating an appeal to the local assessing officials, it is advised that you be as thorough and specific as possible about what you are appealing and why. Abatement requests fall into two broad categories: physical description errors and valuation opinion differences. The former requires an on-site, verification of the error. The latter centers around the opinion that your assessment is disproportionately higher than that of other properties in Town and that you are bearing an unfair tax burden as a result. In order to show that your assessment is disproportionately higher in a convincing manner, the taxpayer should do a comparison study listing your property against other similar properties in town. Similarities include things like same neighborhood code, same house style, and similar amount of square footage, similar amount of land, same quality and condition factors. These are the most important factors that play a part in property valuation in the assessing world. Taxpayers contemplating an appeal should concentrate on these items when preparing their comparison analysis. Other things a taxpayer can do is to get a real estate appraisal from a licensed NH appraiser in good standing with the NH Real Estate Appraiser Board, or get opinions from local realtors who are familiar with the market in your area.

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How do you do a comparison analysis? Start by requesting property tax cards from the Town of other properties you think are similar to yours and compare the value factors listed above. Property tax cards are public documents and the Town is required by law to provide access to all tax cards. The law also allows Towns to charge for this service so expect to pay a nominal fee per card. Towns are limited to charge based on "cost to the town" which usually means the average cost of paper, ink, and town labor time to produce these copies for the taxpayer. Nottingham charges 25 cents for a copy of your own tax card and \$1 each for tax cards other than your own. This writer would then recommend the taxpayer produce a spreadsheet, for example, an Excel spreadsheet, with the value items mentioned above listed as column headings (across the top) and the property map and lot numbers (PID) and possibly owner names and addresses listed as row headings (down the left most side). Once this basic format is created it becomes the simple task of populating the corresponding fields with the appropriate data taken from your sample of tax cards.

This technique can produce results that if done objectively and factually will indicate to the taxpayer whether or not their appeal has credibility and should they pursue their appeal efforts. Prudence of this nature can go a long way in saving both individual taxpayers, and the Town much needed funds.

New Hampshire laws can be accessed on line at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/nhtoc.htm>. Taxation laws are found under Title V, Chapters 71 - 90.

Elderly/Disabled Tax Deferral Information

Submitted by the Selectmen's Office

If you are at least 65 years of age or you are eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the Federal Social Security Act for benefits for the disabled, you may apply for a tax deferral. You must be living in the home that you are seeking the deferral for. Elderly applicants must have owned the home for at least five years prior to the year in which you are applying for the deferral, while disabled applicants must have owned the home for a least one year prior. The deferral may be granted for all or part of taxes due.

If you apply for a deferral for 2008 taxes, you would need to file the PA 30 form with the Selectmen's office after you receive your second issue tax bill but not later than March 1, 2009. The form PA-30 can be found on the Board of Selectmen page on the town website: www.nottingham-nh.gov. For more information on the tax deferral option contact Heidi in the Selectmen's Office at 679-5022 or hseaverns@nottingham-nh.gov.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring a book sale on Saturday, November 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Once again there will be a special preview sale for Nottingham residents only on Friday, Nov. 7, from 5:30- 7 p.m. We will be accepting books for the sale from Oct. 27-Nov. 7. Please do not bring old textbooks or damaged books. If you have any questions, call the library at 679-8484.

Sustainability Book Discussion Group

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

A group of residents is meeting weekly at the library to discuss sustainability issues and what we can do for our town. We read and discussed Bill McKibben's book, *Deep Economy*, and will continue reading and meeting throughout the fall. If you are interested in joining us, call Rhoda at the library at 679-8484.

Worm Composting Workshop

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

Learn how to turn your kitchen waste into rich, organic fertilizer using worms. This workshop will teach you the basics of using worms to make compost. Materials will be provided to make your own worm bin. The workshop will be at the Blaisdell Memorial Library on Wednesday, November 5, at 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration (679-8484) is required if you wish to receive the bin materials.

How many books are in the library?

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

On Nottingham Day we asked people to guess how many book were in the Blaisdell Memorial Library. Over 100 people made guesses. There were, as of September 30, 14,618 books in the library. We know the exact number now because our new automation system has every book in it. Congratulations to Josh Cote (14,371) and Margaret Joyce (13,621) for making the closest guesses. They won tickets to Spinelli Cinemas.

Community Theater Workshop

Submitted by Sue Sigglelakis

Have you always been interested in community theater but nervous about auditioning? Nottingham Recreation Department and Nottingham Theater Project are sponsoring a free workshop on Friday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. This is an opportunity to learn/brush up on your audition skills that will be useful in auditioning for local community theaters. Participate in a mock audition and receive valuable feedback from a real director. You'll also receive help in picking a song that showcases your voice and highlights your personal style. Register in advance by calling the Recreation Department at 679-3435, ext. 7. Open to both adults and children over nine years of age. For more information contact jeffpcaron@comcast.net.

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Nottingham Food Pantry

Submitted by Chelli Tennis

Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner and our Food Pantry gets extra busy. Along with the food and hygiene items we provide during November and December, we also provide complete dinner baskets for the holidays and presents through our Wish Upon A Star program for children and the elderly.

The Christmas trees will be up by the end of November and will be located in the two post offices and the teachers' room at the school. If you would like to donate, pick a gift idea off the tree, fill out the form and leave it in the envelope, purchase the gift and return it in a brown paper bag with the gift's number on the outside of the bag to anyone at the post offices.

We will also be in need of donations of turkeys for both Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. If you'd like to donate a turkey, please call Rhoda at 679-8484. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation, our mailing address in P. O. Box 209.

If you are in need of food, call Chelli Tennis at 679-5209. All calls are confidential.

Pawtuckaway Piecers Quilt Guild

Submitted by Pat Vachon

Congratulations to Ryan Bevins of Nottingham!! Ryan was the lucky recipient of the guild's raffle quilt that was drawn on Nottingham Day. Thank you to everyone for buying tickets and supporting the guild.

There will be a fiber art post card workshop on Saturday, November 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Blaisdell Library. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please call Linda Bevins at 942-8320.

The guild meets the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Blaisdell Library. New members are always welcome.



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SAU #44 Appointments

Submitted by the School Board

The SAU #44 Joint School Board (serving the communities of Northwood, Nottingham & Strafford) has appointed Dr. Michael Ludwell as the Interim Superintendent of Schools, and Allan Demko, as the Interim Business Administrator. Dr. Ludwell and Mr. Demko were unanimously approved by the Joint School Board at their September meetings.

Dr. Ludwell comes to us after serving as Manchester's Superintendent of Schools for six years. He has been in the field of education for 30 years, as a teacher, staff developer, and principal.

Mr. Demko comes to us after serving as Business Administrator for Winnisquam Regional School District for the past fourteen years. He has an MBA in Accounting, with a minor in Human Resources.

Both Dr. Ludwell and Mr. Demko are highly knowledgeable and dedicated to education. They are enthusiastic about working with the staff and board to move SAU #44 forward.



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 January/February newsletter is January 9, 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

Recreation Department News

Submitted by Janet Horvath

679-3435 x7, recreation@nottingham-nh.gov

Recreation Office hours: M-Th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The reviews are in and Nottingham Day 2008 has been deemed a great success! Great weather and entertainment combined with endless games, exhilarating amusements, delicious food and numerous displays created the perfect combination for scores of people to come, relax and have a serious amount of fun! Some have said it was the best Nottingham Day ever so next year, please plan to get involved. Volunteers are needed in a big way in order to pull this together. Help us make next year even better. Ask us how!

Thank you again to all of our sponsors: Custom Welding and Fabrication, Inc., Fernald Lumber, Inc., and Roland's Sewer Service, as well as Epping General Dentistry, Spagna Remodeling Co., Bob & Gladys Whitney, Arbonne International, Barbara & Dave Fernald/Fernald Farm, Landry Surveying, Alan's Diesel Service, Inc., Area HomeCare & Family Services, Inc., Jack & Andrea Jackson and the Nottingham Community Church-Unitarian Universalist. The dunk tank was underwritten by LandCare and Liquid Planet Water Park and we thank them for their involvement and contribution to the D.A.R.E. program and to Nottingham Day. Special thanks to Joe Welch and the entire committee, Michelle Carvalho, Charlie Grossman, Dennis Hartwell and John Ouellette from the Nottingham School, to Myles Cooke for helping us at the last minute and to all the other town departments without whose incredible cooperation we would not have been able to put such a huge and incredible event together. A great big thank you to all!

The Recreation Department's Annual Christmas Craft Fair is right around the corner! Please plan to support this annual event on Saturday, November 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elementary school. You will be amazed at the many unique and quality crafters this year who

are really worth checking out. Shop locally for some special Christmas presents and enjoy lunch by the Portable Pantry. It's worth a trip from anywhere!

Speaking of Christmas shopping, if you missed out on purchasing a puzzle of the Town of Nottingham on Nottingham Day you are in luck! We have several styles of the puzzle -108 pieces or 300 pieces are available for \$20. Talk about a unique present! The purchase of these puzzles will help the support the Nottingham Day fund.

The Annual Christmas Parade and Party will be held on Saturday, December 6, starting at 1 p.m. with the party starting right after the parade returns. Local organizations are encouraged to call the Recreation office to notify us that you plan to participate.

The PTA Children's Craft Fair is scheduled for Saturday, December 13, at the Community Center. Children are invited to make crafts for presents for a very small fee per craft. For more information, check with the PTA or the school.

Do you want to know about upcoming events and deadlines for the Recreation Department programs? If you would like to receive the Recreation newsletter 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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Nottingham Women's Club

Submitted by Beverly Caldon

The November meeting of the Nottingham Women's Club is our annual field trip excursion, the one meeting of the year that we gather at an important place in our community. This time, on Monday, Nov. 17, at 1:30 we will visit the Dame School Museum and an old cemetery. Hopefully by then the Halloweeners would have scared off the ghosts. June Chase has graciously agreed to guide the tour. The business meeting, conducted by President Terry Delp, will be held at the Congregational Church on Rte.156. Members are reminded to bring food contributions for the holiday food pantry box. Refreshments in a Hawaiian theme will be hosted by Joyce Dales, Lee Pekarski, and Patty Roix.

December's Yankee Swap meeting will be held on Mon., Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. The game has a \$5 limit, with all gifts exquisitely wrapped to convey an aura of value and desirability. We will also enjoy a scrumptious potluck dinner, a testament of the excellent cooking skills of our Nottingham women. Prospective members are welcome to join the fun.

The Nottingham Women's Club awards an annual scholarship each June to a Nottingham student attending college. The club appreciates the donations that the public gives to the Scholarship Fund cans at Liar's Paradise and Demmons' Store in West Nottingham.

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Covered Bridge Lore and Lecture

Submitted by the Nottingham Historical Society

Covered bridges go way back to Roman times. The "cover", consisting of sides and a roof, was added to protect the "truss", or the underpinnings which supported the bridge surface. Early on, bridge builders soon realized that providing a "cover" could double the life of a bridge by keeping rain and snow from getting into the surface and the truss. Of course, once winter came, the bridge would have to be "snowed" on the inside to accommodate sleighs, sledges, and sleds.

One interesting note we came across was that livestock, horses and such, when driven along a road, would be more likely to enter a bridge that resembled a barn with a roof, sides and a wooden floor rather than balk at a more open crossing.



Speaking of covered bridges, plans are afoot for a program to be presented by Glen Knoblock entitled "Covered Bridges of New Hampshire". This talk will include covered bridge designers and builders, folklore, and their ultimate transition from commonly used structures to historic icons. It is highlighted by views of New Hampshire bridges, both past and present, including some that are rarely seen.

The program is co-sponsored by the Nottingham Historical Society and the Blaisdell Library in coordination with the New Hampshire Humanities Council. It will be held at the Library at 2 p.m. on November 9. All are welcome.

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October 2008 Fire Rescue News

Submitted by Heidi Carlson

On days when conditions are unsafe for outdoor burning, the sign will be mounted on the post near the monument in the fire house driveway. The sign reads "No Burning Permits Today." Otherwise, you can come in and obtain a permit when the station is staffed. You need to get a written permit for outdoor burning until the ground is fully covered with snow. Please be sure to verify that conditions daily are suitable to burn outdoors prior to kindling a fire.

In general, our hours are Monday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m.

The Department will sponsor a Red Cross blood drive on November 24 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Nottingham Community Center. Please help by giving the gift of life, and donate blood!

Our annual Christmas Tree sale will be held on Saturday, December 6th in conjunction with the annual Christmas Parade and celebration. We will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday; and if trees remain, you can stop by the station during business hours and pick one up.

The Annual Santa ride-around Nottingham is scheduled for Saturday, December 20, at 4 p.m.

It is the time of year to check batteries in smoke and CO detectors. Be sure all are working properly by testing them regularly. Get your chimney cleaned prior to starting wood-burning appliances, and be sure to follow all manufacturer instructions on all fuel-burning appliances. If you use a generator, be sure it is mounted away from your home so that no CO can blow back into the house or garage while it is in use.

Remember that last winter saw an increase in the number of house fires in New Hampshire, and sadly, growth in the number of lives lost to such fires. PLEASE use due caution and care in operation of all heating appliances

this winter. Use caution with candles, and keep matches and other incendiary devices out of reach of children.

Thank you for your support. Feel free to call us with any questions at 679 5666. Leave a message if we are unavailable, and someone will return your call as soon as we return. In any emergency, dial 911 immediately.

ICE: In Case of Emergency

Submitted by Sue Gunderson

We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell(mobile) phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE.'

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3, etc. A great idea that will make a difference! Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our mobile phones today!



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Cub Scout Pack 167

Submitted by Corrie Cantwell and Cathy Debutts

It's that time of year again and our Scouts have started off with a pop! The popcorn sale is in full force and our Scouts are quickly reaching their goal. This is our one-time fundraiser for the year and we could use your support. It pays for awards, den and pack supplies, camp and other pack outings.

Deerfield Fair was extremely wet this year and our scouts and parents managed to still stand in the rain and sell their popcorn. Cannot thank them enough for their dedication to scouting. Great job!

September was a busy month. Recruitment was exciting to get six new cubs: *Henry Smith, Liev Manck, Riley Smith, Evan Menard, Sam Parker and Tanner Mills*. Many parents also joined our ranks: *Ed Chauvey, Allie Jean, Krista Knight, Jeremy Knight, Jennifer Budny, Melissa Perron, Christine Aham and Pastor Colegrove*. Many thanks to everyone and we wish you all the best with your journey through scouting.

October is our "Adventures in Books" theme. Our Bears are having a Book Drive and all books will be donated locally. Collection boxes will be at the Nottingham School and Blaisdell Library until October 21. Please donate any used or new books: childrens, adults, teens. For our pack meeting this month all our scouts, siblings and parents will be arriving dressed as their favorite characters from their favorite book they read.

November 1 – 8 is our "Scouting for Food" week. A Good Turn is something our scouts do every year. Last year we collected more than 2,000 items to donate to New Hampshire Food Banks. Please help our scouts surpass this amount by helping fill the bags that are left at your house on November 1. Scouts will return to pick up food on November 8.

Pack 167 is also holding a Coat Drive for the month of November; it's time to clean out your closets. Do you have any coats or jackets you would like to donate? Please contact Corrie Cantwell, 734-2219, for more info.

Scouting is open to boys in first through fifth grades. Anyone interested in joining our team please come by and see us or give us a call. We are also in need of leaders. Please call Cathy DeButts at 895-9712.

Nottingham Community Church Unitarian Universalist.

Submitted by Jill Sundee

Please join us for Sunday Services with Reverend Ben Fowler at 10 a.m. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 7 p.m. with music and song.

Thank you all for your growing support over the year. Have a wonderful holiday season from your neighbors at NCUC.

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Mulligan Forest Open for Public Recreation

Submitted by the Fernald Family

At a small dedication ceremony on October 5th, Mulligan Forest was officially opened to the public for pedestrian recreational activities, under the terms of the conservation easement held by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (the "Forest Society") and the Town of Nottingham. In partnership with the Forest Society and Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), a public parking facility has been developed on the Forest just off of Stevens Hill Road. This access point will be maintained for three-season pedestrian access to points of interest within the Forest.

Allowed recreational uses on Mulligan Forest are:

- **Hiking:** The currently available hiking trail network is displayed on a map at the parking area. As timber harvesting continues, a loop trail will complete the network. Trail use may be interrupted from time to time to ensure public safety during future harvesting.
- **Hunting and Fishing** consistent with all New Hampshire state hunting and fishing laws. There are no stocked fishing lakes, ponds or rivers within the Mulligan Forest.
- **Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing:** The hiking trail system will be available during the winter season for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, depending on scheduled timber management activity within the Forest.
- **Educational Visits** by school classes are encouraged on the Mulligan Forest. Teachers should check with the Fernalds before scheduling a visit.
- **Wheel Chair Use** is allowed.
- **Dogs** are allowed within the Forest. Leashes should be used whenever other users may be encountered.

Activities not allowed on the Mulligan Forest include:

- **Overnight camping**
- **Camp fires** of any kind
- **Use of motorized vehicles**, including ATVs, 4-wheel drive vehicles, snowmobiles, motorcycles and motor bikes
- **Mountain bikes**

- **Horses**
- **Planting, collecting, and removing plant life**
- **Removing minerals, historical and cultural artifacts, and wildlife** not covered by NH State Hunting and Fishing Laws
- **Dumping** of any sort

Mulligan Forest is private property and a working forest, and we reserve the right to amend the recreational use policies as necessary, under the terms of the conservation easement held by the Forest Society and the Town of Nottingham.

Our family is deeply grateful to the townspeople of Nottingham for helping make the conservation of Mulligan Forest possible. We hope you will enjoy using the Forest, and we thank you for your cooperation with our recreational policy.

If you have questions about public recreational access on Mulligan Forest, please call Deb Stevens, 679-8815; Jim Fernald, 312-1037; or Rick Fernald, 569-4661.

Pawtuckaway Volunteers Protect The Lake!

By Tom Duffy, PLIA Co-President

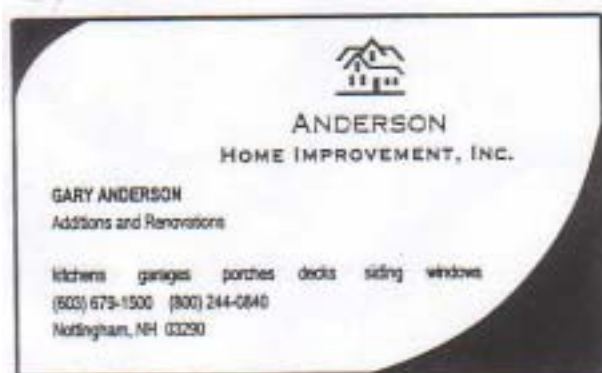
The Lake Host program sponsored by NH Lakes has successfully prevented the invasion of exotic weeds in Pawtuckaway Lake. Many lakes in New Hampshire, including Big Island Pond, Northwood Lake and Lake Massabesic have been infected with non-native species which choke waterways with uncontrolled growth.

The Lake Host volunteers have donated over 500 hours this summer, as they inspect boats entering the lake at the two public boat launch ramps. This is equivalent to a \$10,800 volunteer match under the grant guidelines. They assist boaters to find water chestnut, bladderwort, invasive mosses, and the dreaded exotic milfoil that usually sticks to boat trailers and motors. This year, the Town of Nottingham helped support the program with a \$ 4,000 grant, adding to the existing NH LAKES grant.

"We had many successes and 'saves' this summer," said Andrea Lawson, the program coordinator. "We seek to train both paid and volunteer Lake Hosts next year. If anyone is interested they should contact me."

A separate volunteer group "Pawtuckaway Weed Watchers" has successfully removed invasive species non-native grasses that have spread into the lake. Residents Steve Serif and Peggy Tucker have lead the efforts to weed out this problem species.

Pawtuckaway is a valuable resource for Nottingham. The area accounts for over 40% of the tax revenues in town and still has over 7000 acres in conservation. For more information, please visit www.pawtuckawaylake.com.



Bear-Paw announces fall/winter workshops and field trips

Bear-Paw is hosting the following fall and winter events. All programs are free and open to the public. Please pre-register at info@bear-paw.org, www.bear-paw.org, or 603-463-9400, unless noted otherwise.

Easement Monitoring Workshop/Field Trip

November 8, 1 to 4 p.m.
Fine Nest Farm, Raymond

Have you ever wondered just what Bear-Paw is doing when they "monitor" a conservation easement? Cody Cramer, Bear-Paw Board member and Raymond Conservation Commissioner, will host an "open" monitoring visit at his property in Raymond. Cody's property includes frontage on the Pawtuckaway River and lies just south of the State Park that takes its name from it.

Land Conservation Options and Estate Planning

November 17, 7 to 9 p.m.
Waldron Store, Strafford

Bear-Paw, the Strafford Conservation Commission, and the UNH Cooperative Extension are offering an informative land conservation and estate planning workshop to area landowners and their families. For all those who have been thinking about doing something to permanently protect their land, this will be an opportunity to get expert advice and answers from Phil



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Auger, a Land and Water Conservation Specialist with UNHCE. Space is limited so please pre-register with Deb at the UNHCE at 603-679-5616 or 800-248-6672.

Conservation Roundtable – Strategic Conservation Plan for the Bear-Paw Region

December 9, 7 to 9 p.m.
Location TBA, Deerfield

Bear-Paw recently completed work on a strategic conservation plan for the region. Incorporating the results of NH's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP), the Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds, and local plans, Bear-Paw has identified the most important areas of the region to protect. Participants of the roundtable will discuss the plan with an emphasis on the important conservation focus areas in our region and the tools available to protect them. Come to this roundtable if you want to learn how to use the plan and help turn it into action.

Harmony Hill Farm / Northwood Meadows Field Trip

January 24, 2009, 1 to 3:30 p.m.
Harmony Hill Farm, Northwood

Please join Bear-Paw, members of the Northwood Conservation Commission, and members of the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative (NALMC) for a walk/snowshoe at Harmony Hill Farm in Northwood. We will explore a section of a new trail designed by NALMC looking for animal tracks and other signs of life amid the snow. The area is part of a 3,800-acre unfragmented forest that includes the headwaters of the Lamprey River and Saddleback Mountain.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways now holds easements protecting 24 properties and 2,031 acres and it has assisted on other projects protecting more than 3,300 acres in the region. Bear-Paw is a non-profit land trust with a mission to permanently conserve a network of lands that protects our region's water, wildlife habitat, forests, and farmland. Established by resident volunteers, Bear-Paw works to conserve open space in Candia, Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond, and Strafford through outreach, education, and land protection project assistance.

Our goal is to safeguard our irreplaceable water resources, important wildlife habitat and travel routes, and productive forests and farms. We envision a region of scenic beauty and rural character where diversity and quality of life are sustained. For information about how to become a member, land protection options for landowners or volunteering with the land trust, please contact Daniel Kern at Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, Post Office Box 19, Deerfield, NH 03037, 603 463-9400, or info@bear-paw.org. You can also visit their website at www.bear-paw.org.



Resident Nottingham NH 03290

Nottingham Congregational Christian Church Welcomes New Pastor

34 Raymond Road, Nottingham

Pastor, Jonathan Colegrove, 679-8519

In a unanimous vote, Pastor Jonathan Colegrove was elected to fill the position of Permanent Pastor for the Nottingham Congregational Christian Church ("NCCC"). Pastor Colegrove is a graduate of Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut, and is a member of the Ministry Committee of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. Some of his past experience includes Pastoral Mentoring, Youth Director and Consultant to both Churches and individuals in crisis.

After serving God and the community in Connecticut for over two decades, Pastor Colegrove has accepted the role of Permanent Pastor at NCCC. Pastor Colegrove will be commuting from Connecticut, until he can purchase a home in Nottingham. He and his wife, Jama, share the joy of two grown children, Timothy and Beth.

Come join us for our new hours of worship with Pastor Colegrove every Sunday at 10 a.m., with children's church beginning at 10:30 a.m. and nursery is provided

for children three and under. The church has a warm, inviting atmosphere with plenty of programs for people of all ages.

Please plan to attend the church's annual craft fair which will be held Saturday, November 8, from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be plenty of homemade crafts and a huge yard sale. We can't forget to mention all of the tasty treats: pies, cookies, fudge and much more. We will also be serving lunch from noon to 2 p.m., including chowder, sandwiches and hot dogs. Don't miss out on this fun-filled event.

Come celebrate the true meaning of the season with a beautiful Christmas Eve Worship service to be held Wednesday, December 24. Special services will be provided throughout the month of December.

You may also visit our website for more details on the events listed above and many other programs sponsored by the church at <http://www.nottinghamchurch.org>.