

NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 5

September/October 2008

Book Club Discussion: *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*

Submitted by Rhoda Capron and Beth Tener

As we face rising fuel costs, climate change, and an uncertain economy, this could be an opportunity to shift from oil-dependence to local, self-reliant, strong communities. Bill McKibben's new book lays the groundwork for how we can "pursue prosperity in a more local direction, with regions producing more of their own food, generating more of their own energy, and even creating more of their own culture and entertainment."

This fall a six-session book club discussion will be held at the Blaisdell Library on Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8 p.m. starting September 10. We will discuss the book and explore what we can do in Nottingham to save energy, buy local food, save resources, reduce waste, and build

community. We will meet weekly or bi-monthly depending on people's schedules, which we can determine at the first meeting. Please come to the first meeting having read the introduction (if possible). Copies of the books are available at the library or you can buy your own copy.

Fire Truck Parade

Submitted by Bob Desrosiers

The Nottingham Fire/Rescue will be having an old-fashioned fire truck parade on September 20 in conjunction with Nottingham Day. The parade will start at 11 a.m. from the Community Center and travel along Stage Road to the elementary school. Smokey the Bear will be leading the procession. Bring your earplugs!

Fall Harvest Festival

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

Come to the Fall Harvest Festival at the Nottingham Farmers' Market on Sunday, September 14 from 1- 4 pm. There will be music, food and animals. If you grew something this summer that you are proud of, bring it on down for our display.

Summer Institute 2008

Submitted by Ms. Henderson and Ms. Breslin-Dawson

The 26th session of Summer Institute was held at Nottingham School from June 30 until July 18. Students worked on the problem of finding ways to increase and recognize students' achievements in academics and the arts through motivational techniques. They also explored ways to honor the earth. The Student Motivation Team was comprised of 13 fifth through eighth graders. At the conclusion of their research, they performed before two jury panels.

Some of the skills they demonstrated included developing a PowerPoint presentation, singing and playing musical instruments, acting in a skit and writing reports. One talented student even took on the challenge of using technology to create two movies about motivating students and protecting the earth. The Student Motivation Team made recommendations to the administration regarding their ideas of ways to increase achievement in academics and the arts. The students are pictured wearing the t-shirts they designed during Summer Institute.



First row: Ms. Henderson, Brittany Linscott, Rachel Dallaire, Breanna Cole, Michael Claxton, Ms. Breslin-Dawson. Middle row: Casey Davies, Abby Cooke, Collin Smith. Top row: Colton Rush, Emily Kelly, Evan Bates, Mikayla Smith

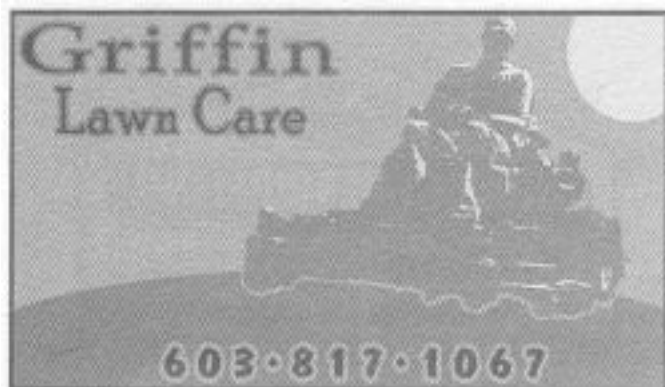
Nottingham School

Submitted by Michelle Carvalho

As a part of No Child Left Behind, public schools are required to annually assess the students in grades 3-8 given the statewide assessment. The results of this assessment determine if schools achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In the fall of 2007 (results from the fall 2006 assessment) and most recently (fall 2007 assessment), the whole school scores at Nottingham met the AYP requirements in both reading and math. AYP results however, are further disaggregated into various subgroups of which the educational disabilities subgroup did not meet the AYP reading requirements two years in a row and most recently in math 2007. This subgroup is a small percentage as compared to the total school population, however, it is an area the staff is pursuing avidly. More information regarding student performance can be found at the Nottingham School website.

The Nottingham staff developed and is in the process of implementing a school/district in need of improvement plan in the area of reading. Part of that plan includes the selection and implementation of a core reading program, which has been a priority goal of the staff this past school year. The implementation of the core reading program will begin in the fall 2008 in grades kindergarten through grade 6. The program, Harcourt Storytown, incorporates the five "Big Ideas" (key reading instructional components): phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension into this systematic and explicit program.

The school district and community supported the addition of a fifth special education teacher who will support the needs of educationally disabled students, but will also allow our teachers (special education and classroom) to address the needs of other children in the classroom. Another component of the plan includes increasing instructional programs and services for all students, in particular those identified with an educational disability or those considered to be at risk in the area of literacy development or reading ability.



The 2008 Summer Reading Academy was an example of such a program that provided targeted reading services to students in grades 1-8. The plan is quite comprehensive and strives to improve the reading ability of all students and seeks to engage the community in this effort. A DINI (District in Need of Improvement) Monitoring Team oversees the implementation of the plan including the ongoing analysis of student data to ensure the academic growth of every student. Regular progress reports will be provided during the school year.

Superintendent's Update, August 2008

To make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), a school or district must meet performance targets established for students in reading and mathematics, as well as meet state targets for student participation and attendance. Student performance in the school as a whole is measured, as well as the performance of specific subgroups of students, which are broken down by ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational disability and non or limited English proficiency. To comply with the requirements of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act that all students demonstrate proficiency by 2013-2014, the performance targets for Grades 3-8 in reading and mathematics increased from those set in 2005. The reading target moved from 82 to 86 and mathematics went from 76 to 82. The performance targets for Grade 11 are considered "baseline" targets as the fall 2007 test was the first administration of the Grade 11 assessment. Of the 474 AYP reports released, 175 schools made AYP in all areas measured and 282 did not make AYP in one or more areas. By subject area, 243 made AYP in reading and 217 made AYP in mathematics.

For Nottingham, this means we are still designated a "school in need of improvement." Based on the new results, 50 schools are identified as new schools in need of improvement increasing the total number of schools identified for improvement to 183. Of the 162 AYP District Reports issued, 86 districts made AYP and 75 did not make AYP, with one district too small to receive AYP determination. More information is available through the Department of Education New Hampshire School District Profile site at www.ed.state.nh.us.

The SAU #44 School Board and Coe-Brown Northwood Academy Board of Directors met in mid May to discuss and assess the possible development of an SAU wide Drug and Alcohol Prevention/Support Program involving a myriad of stakeholders including law enforcement agencies, educators, parents, community members and other municipal agencies encompassing all three communities. The initial stages of this project will be supported by a facilitator experienced in this area.

Put Your Home on an Energy Diet

Submitted by Denise Blaha

With gasoline and home heating oil prices close to four dollars a gallon, now is a great time to look for ways to reduce your energy consumption. Our homes use a lot of energy (for heat, electricity usage, and passenger vehicles) and this energy consumption creates a lot of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that is warming our planet and changing our climate. In fact, a typical home in New Hampshire produces approximately 50,000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year. There are many simple actions we can take in our homes to reduce our energy consumption and these actions also save money. If you'd like to reduce your fuel and electric bills, the New Hampshire Carbon Challenge can help.

The Carbon Challenge offers lots of ideas to reduce your home's energy consumption and their Carbon Estimator (TM) will walk you through the process of identifying which actions are best suited to your household. It only takes about 15 minutes and you'll get a customized report on the savings your family can achieve. Households who have taken the Carbon Challenge have reduced their home's energy use by an average of 17% and are saving approximately \$853 a year in reduced fuel and electricity costs. Since most actions can be taken in less than one hour, Taking the Challenge is an easy way to cut your energy bills. Check it out: www.nhcarbonchallenge.org.

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Pawtuckaway Piecers' Quilt Display

Submitted by Karen Delisle

Pawtuckaway Piecers' Quilt Guild will again this year be displaying quilt items at the Blaisdell Library from September 8-28. The guild meets monthly at the library on the second Monday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m.


Nottingham Food Pantry

We have just finished unpacking the last of the food from the Postal Food Drive. It was a great success and we would like to give a huge thank you to the people working at the Post Office for all they do to help make this possible. We would also like to thank all of you who put food out by your mailboxes to help those in need.

The food pantry has been busy this summer but has been able to keep the shelves stocked through generous donations we receive from town residents. Again this summer, the Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library were able to donate reading books as a way to encourage the children and parents to read over the summer.

The Nottingham Food Pantry is located in the town office. The mailing address is: PO Box 209, Nottingham, NH 03290. Hours of distribution are the third Thursday from 6-7 p.m. and new clients by appointment.

We are always looking for volunteers to help sort food during the day at the Manchester Food Bank or to do shopping for us there. Please contact Chelli Tennis 679-5209 for more information.


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G'Day for Reading

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

A record number of children participated in this summer's reading program. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, they all received canvas book bags to decorate and use for carrying their library books and boy did they borrow a lot of books. We also learned a lot of interesting things about Australia. Can you name five marsupials? We can.

The library staff would like to thank John Walter Tomaszewski and the Recreation Department Pioneers for volunteering to help us. We would also like to thank Demmon's Store, Liars' Paradise, Cooper Hill Pizzeria, New Beginnings Farm, and Movie Scene for their generous donations.

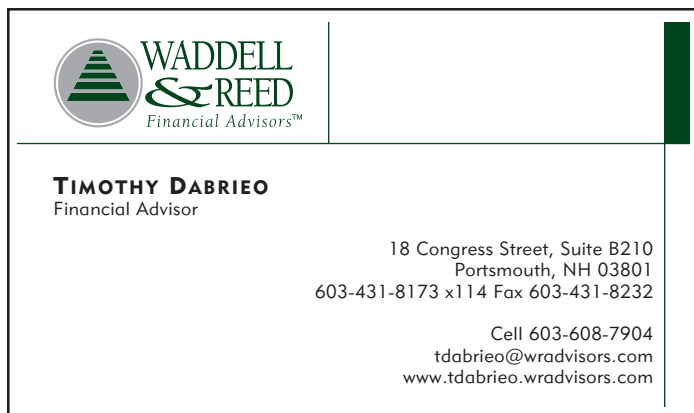


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Library Story Hours

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

The library offers story times for children during the school year. Pre-registration is required, call the library at 679-8484 to sign up for one of the groups listed below.

Ages birth – 24 months: Our Friday “baby” group offers an opportunity for babies and their caregivers to gather for rhymes, songs and puppets. A simple book intended for this age is generally highlighted. Each session concludes with time for parents to socialize and children to engage in free play and toy exploration.

Ages 24 months to 3 years: The Tuesday “toddler” story time offers a variety for finger plays, songs and books. These story times are intended for toddlers and caregivers to share. They are not meant to be family story hours and the finger plays, songs and books are selected for a toddler’s developmental level. If there are siblings, please make child care arrangements so you and your toddler can fully enjoy this special time together.

Age 3 - 6 years: Our Wednesday and Thursday story times are geared for the longer attention span of the preschool child. These 45-minute programs include stories, finger plays, songs and puppets. Each session concludes with a craft project. Depending on the size of the group, parents may be enlisted to help out with part of the program.

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Recreation Department News

Submitted by Janet Horvath, 679-3435
recreation@nottingham-nh.gov

Recreation office summer hours: M-F 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Balance of year: M-Th 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The summer program and the swim program went extremely well amidst thunderstorms and tornadoes. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a great summer for the kids including the Town Office staff, Rhoda and the staff at the library, the Fire Department who gave tours and sprayed the kids on a hot day, Gunnar, Miguel and the police department who also gave tours and kept us informed during some of the more serious storms, as well as the Highway Department who helped with the beach. We couldn't have done it without all the help we received from all of them. The Challenger British Soccer Camp was a big hit again and they also had to work to avoid serious weather issues.

The summer concert series went extremely well and the Recreation Department once again received a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts to bring performing artists to the town. Both performances receiving grant monies were very well received.

We will be starting a Martial Arts program on Monday and Wednesday evenings for 3 year olds through adults. The first class starts September 15 so please contact the office for more information.

The toddler soccer program for three- and four-year-olds will be starting in early September as well. Please check with the office for more details.

September 20 is Nottingham Day and it will be held at the Elementary School this year. Look for some exciting additions including Passport Day from the Post Office, the new Cupcake Contest, amusements and the Chicken Barbeque by the Congregational Church. Join us for a great day filled with lots of crafts, games, food and fun!

The annual Halloween party is coming soon, scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2008 at the Community Center.

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Nottingham Unitarian Universalist Church

Submitted by Jill Sunde

Nottingham Community Church Unitarian Universalist will return to Sunday Services on September 7 at 10 a.m. with our "In Gathering" Service. We have many exciting musical events planned for the larger community. Joyful Bells will be making their Nottingham debut. This group of women has been singing together for years. Roy Johnstone and Steve Sharratt will be returning with their fiddle and guitar music. Their music blends a variety styles and features Acadian and Scottish mixes. We hope to see you in the fall.

Nottingham Congregational Christian Church

34 Raymond Road, Nottingham, 603-679-8519

Submitted by Kristine Scholtz

In a unanimous vote, Pastor Jonathan Colegrove has been elected to fill the position of permanent pastor for the Nottingham Congregational Christian Church. Join us for our new hours of Worship held every Sunday beginning September 14 at 10 a.m. Many other programs are listed on our website at www.nottinghamchurch.org.

The church will be hosting the Chicken BBQ at Nottingham Day, September 20, at 4 p.m. Tickets will be sold through members of the church as well as at the Recreation Department. Prices are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children, or \$8 for adults and \$6 for children if purchased in advance.

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 November/December newsletter is October 3, 2008. E-mail news to: blaisdellml@comcast.net. Be sure to include a name and contact number. Advertising size is 3.5-inches by 2-inches. Ads are \$20 for Nottingham residents and \$35 for non residents. E-mail ads to 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

How about running for Hog-Reeve?

Submitted by the Nottingham Historical Society

In olden times, towns had some interesting titles for office-holders. From a copy of our 1847 *Guide for Officers of Towns*, we find "...every town may choose by major vote one or more constables, one or more collectors of taxes, surveyors of highways, fence viewers, a clerk of the market, sealers of weights and measures, hog-reeves, a pound keeper, measurers of wood, surveyors of lumber, cullers of staves, a keeper of the powder magazine, etc."

The hog-reeve was responsible for rounding up wayward livestock (including hogs), it being a common practice for early settlers to allow their animals to wander in search of fodder. Once tethered, it was off to the Town Pound, where there was a pound keeper. Pounds were often built of stone to withstand the charge of an errant bull and many still exist today as odd little pens near a town center.

A "reeve", an ancient term, was one who held a position of responsibility in a town or borough government and sometimes represented the crown or a lordship in feudal times. At any rate, the hog-reeve was a duly elected town official, called out to deal with and corral wandering livestock.

We will look into other interesting titles next time. "Fence viewers and cullers of staves" comes to mind.

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Conservation Commission News

Submitted by Susan P. Mooney

Alleged violations of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA), which establishes standards for all significant bodies of water, have recently been reported to the Commission (NCC) and to the Department of Environmental Services. Information about the CSPA, Chapter 483-B is available online at www.des.state.nh.us/cspa.

Residents that live by a stream, river, lake or wetland are encouraged to read the details of the CSPA. Because Nottingham has no municipal water supply, residents are resolute about protecting this valuable resource.

NCC members recently attended a workshop on invasive plant species, notably Japanese knotweed, the tall bamboo type of plant that commonly grows along roadsides and highways. Other invasives include Phragmites, the common reed grass that grows in wetlands, along with purple loose strife, and open water plants such as variable milfoil and fanwort.

If you have any concerns or would like to learn additional information about this topic, please contact the NCC or Douglas Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods, dcygan@agr.state.nh.us, or Amy Smagula, Clean Lakes and Exotic Species Coordinator, Department of Environmental Services, asmagula@des.state.nh.us.



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Nottingham Fire and Rescue

Submitted by Heidi Carlson

Children are out waiting for the bus and walking or riding their bikes to and from school, so please be extra cautious during those travel times. You should ride your bicycle with traffic, and walk against traffic.

The department would like to congratulate four new firefighters for their successful completion of the New Hampshire Firefighter I curriculum: Mike Jorgensen, Josh Stevens, Tara Mayo and Kris Parece. They now join the ranks of our many other certified firefighters and EMTs as full members of the department.

We have formed an Engine Study Committee, currently investigating a replacement for our 20-year-old Engine 2. If you would like to be part of our growth, call the station for more information.



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In light of the tornado which hit very close to home for all of us, please remember to always be prepared. No matter what the season you should always have items on hand at your home in case of an extended emergency. This includes drinking water, food, flashlights and batteries, candles and matches. Dial 911 in any emergency. New Hampshire Emergency Management and FEMA have many preparedness materials and checklists available. Please remember to test your smoke and carbon dioxide detectors when you turn the clocks back this fall.

The Department will again participate in the Annual Nottingham Day Festivities on September 20. A fire apparatus parade will be held on the morning of Nottingham Day, sausage sandwiches will be sold, and Department members will provide fire and EMS protection all during the day.

The Nottingham Fire Rescue Department will hold an Open House from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 11, for Fire Prevention Week. Come see the new firehouse, our new ambulance, fire trucks and equipment, firefighters and their gear, and have your blood pressure checked. We will have refreshments and the station will be open for tours. We hope you can join us.

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