

NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 1

January/February 2009

Public Notice

Submitted by Sandra Weston, Town Clerk

The following town positions are open for sign-up for the March 10, 2009 town election:

Selectman	1 for 3 years
Town Clerk	1 for 3 years
Cemetery Trustee	1 for 3 years
Trustee of the Trust Fund	1 for 3 years
Library Trustee	1 for 3 years
	1 for 2 years
Planning Board Member	2 for 3 years
Zoning Board Member	2 for 3 years
Budget Committee Member	3 for 3 years
	1 for 1 year
Board of Assessors Member	1 for 1 year
	1 for 2 years
	1 for 3 years

RSA 669:19 and 652:2 establish the sign-up period as the open hours of the town clerk between January 21 and January 30, 2009. Extended sign-up hours on January 30, 2009, between 3 and 5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office.

Principal of the Year

From the Nottingham School Board

Michelle Carvalho of the Nottingham School was named Middle Level Principal of the Year by the New Hampshire Association of Principals.

New Hampshire Governor John Lynch, Commissioner of Education Lyonel Tracy, and State Board of Education Chair John Lyons presented the honor in Concord on January 13. Ms. Carvalho has been characterized by her students as "always ready to help, and someone who helps us understand the difference between right and wrong."

Congratulations to a wonderful person and fine educator!

Nottingham School District Election Notice

Arthur Stockus, Nottingham School District

The following offices are open for election on Tuesday, the 10th day of March 2009, at the Nottingham Town Hall:

School District Moderator.....	1 year
School District Clerk.....	1 year
School District Treasurer.....	1 year
School Board Member	3 years
School Board Member	3 years

Any Nottingham resident who is a registered voter may file to be a candidate for any of the above offices beginning Wednesday, January 21, 2009, and ending Friday, January 30, 2009.

Declarations of candidacy will be taken by the Nottingham School District Clerk Monday through Friday during the filing period at the Nottingham Elementary School between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Declarations of candidacy will also be taken by appointment. Call Arthur Stockus, Nottingham School District Clerk, at (603) 679-2585, for an appointment to meet in his home at 19 Francesca Way, Nottingham.

There is a \$1.00 filing fee to register for placement on the ballot.

Murder at Crooke's Crossing Library

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

Mark your calendars now for the mystery theater night at the library on Friday, February 27. This is an interactive theater evening where your team will try to solve a murderous crime. Come see your favorite librarians as they have never been seen before. Because of mature themes, this program is for adults only. It costs only \$3 per person or \$5 a couple. Please reserve your place ahead of time by calling 679-8484. Light refreshments will be served. This event is brought to you by the Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library.

The Nottingham School Board 2009-2010 Proposed Budget

*Respectfully submitted by the Nottingham School Board
Jack Caldon, chair, Amy Plante, vice-chair, Judy Doughty,
David O'Brien, Joan Breault*

The Nottingham School Board and Administration have developed next year's budget that not only gives serious consideration to the educational needs of the school district, but also the very serious economic times that are affecting everyone. Although the process for developing a budget did not start until late October due to changes in SAU# 44 administration and personnel, we do have a complete budget package: **a proposed budget for 2009-10, a default budget, and warrant articles.**

The Nottingham Budget Committee also reviews the school budget preparation making any recommendations and needed adjustments. The community has various opportunities to review and give input on the budget: at the January 15th Budget Committee Public Hearing and the School Deliberative Session on February 4 at 7 p.m. Since we are an SB2 town, the community will cast their votes on the budget on March 10, Election Day, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Nottingham School Board and Administration develop the annual budget guided by the current adopted goals, specifically in terms of:

1. Educational Standards by identifying policies/ programs required by law;
2. Pre and Post Nottingham School by gathering and analyzing student performance data as well as reviewing co-curricular opportunities for students pre-K through high school;
3. Student Achievement/Curriculum by implementing improved instructional programs, reviewing current programs, and promoting community involvement;
4. Financial/Facilities Planning by exploring school program and facility needs, identifying action items for the budget process, and negotiating new contracts; and
5. Communication with the community through the newsletter/newspaper, meetings and web site to provide information about the school.

In addition to the educational goals, the school board reviews many other factors that are required by state and federal law that affect both regular and special education as well as services valued by the community. For example, the school facilities and athletic fields are used by the whole town; they are shared with the Town Recreational Department, and the school is now home for the Nottingham Town Day Celebration. The school board must also consider factors such as: (1) the size of

the current facility with an increasing student enrollment, (2) students with disabilities (pre-k through high school), (3) the new student mandatory attendance law to 18 years of age, (4) the increase in high school tuition - 29 additional students for 2009-10, and (5) technology preparedness for students for the 21st century.

The proposed 2009-10 operating budget is \$ 9,534,370.38, which is \$773,943.69 more than the approved 2008-09 budget, an 8.83% increase. The default budget for 2009-10 is \$9,462,376.68 which is an increase of \$701,949.99 more than the 2008-09 operating budget, an 8.01% increase. The difference between the proposed and default budgets is \$ 71,993.70. Areas in the proposed budget that contribute significantly to the overall cost increase over the 2008-09 operating budget are: health insurance increased \$69,000, high school tuition increased \$280,000, and special education increased \$282,000.

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

Please be reminded that the following positions will be open: two school board seats for the March 2009-12 term of office, a school district moderator for one year, a school district clerk for one year, and a school district treasurer for one year. Anyone interested is invited to attend one of our regularly scheduled meetings on the first or third Wednesday of the month or contact a school board member or the superintendent of schools for information. Also, this year the school board has decided to hold the **Deliberative Session on Wednesday, February 4, at 7 p.m. at the Nottingham Elementary School**. Hopefully this date will help improve attendance.

Approved by The School Board on January 12, 2009.

Property Tax Exemptions and Credits

Submitted by John W. McSorley, CNHA

Chairman, Nottingham Assessing Advisory Committee

Are your property taxes in New Hampshire too high? The vast majority of us would probably answer yes. Fortunately, the vast majority of us are able to pay our property taxes aided by the fact that we don't have a sales or an income tax to pay in addition to the property tax.

However, the New Hampshire legislature does recognize that many of our elderly and senior citizens who are living on fixed incomes may lack the resources to pay their property taxes and without some kind of aid would be forced out of their homes.

An answer to this dilemma is RSA 72:39 a & b. These laws allow for certain elderly individuals who meet conditions specified in the statute to receive a sort of discount off their property's assessed value that results in a lower tax bill.

If you have attained the age of 65 and think you may qualify for an elderly exemption, contact the Selectmen's office in your town. Applications must be made on Form PA 29 on or before April 15 preceding the setting of the tax rate. This means that to receive a tax exemption off your 2010 tax bill you must apply to the Selectmen or Assessors (Assessors in Nottingham only) by April 15, 2009.

As part of the qualification process you may expect to fill out an affidavit attesting to your income and asset amounts conforming to local standards. This affidavit is confidential by law (RSA 72:34, II) and must be returned to the applicant upon decision by the selectmen or assessors.

For more information, contact your town selectmen's office to find out what these amounts are and what you are required to do to qualify for the elderly exemption. General information regarding local requirements for the elderly exemption may be found on the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration web site: http://www.nh.gov/revenue/munc_prop/documents/elderly_exemption_detail_report_2007.xls.

It should be noted here that DRA's reports lag somewhat behind the most recent changes that may be made in some municipalities. It is therefore always best to check with your municipality for the most recent information.

DeButts Family Thanks You

To our friends in Nottingham, surrounding towns and states. I can't begin to express what your gifts, clothing, gift cards and money means to me and my family. Everything has been most definitely helpful and will go to extremely good use, there's no doubt about that. But more than anything, I so greatly appreciate the thought behind everything. The loss of our house to a fire has been extremely devastating especially the loss of our two cats but your actions have really lightened our lives. For that especially, I thank you.

This time has been difficult for us, but knowing we have the support of people like you certainly helps. The ride home that day from camping was the longest day of my life not knowing how bad the situation was and feeling scared, alone and lost. A Nottingham teacher wrote to me stating that in the darkest moments of our lives it is amazing how many people really care and show us that there can and will be light on the other side. I don't think I have ever felt so loved at one time. Please know I won't forget your kind gestures. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Dan, Cathy, Heath, Daniel and Garin DeButts

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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.

What a year 2008 was! Thank you to everyone for all your help and support. We would not be as successful at meeting the demands of our community without all the fabulous volunteers who help us at every event.

2009 is here and The Nottingham Day Committee will begin meeting monthly. Please join the committee. Your valuable input could help make this year's Nottingham Day even better than last year! Call the Recreation Department for more details.

Martial Arts will be kicking off Session 3 in the beginning of January. Classes are offered for anyone ages three to adult and meet twice weekly on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Come get some exercise, practice some skills, and have fun with your friends and neighbors.

Adult Basketball for men and women is going on now. No skills necessary—just a willingness to have fun and get some exercise. If you are interested please call the Recreation Department. This is a great way to work on some of those New Year's resolutions.

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Save the Date...The Valentines Dessert Potluck and Dance is scheduled for Friday, February 13 at the Community Center. It's a fun family night filled with square dancing, friends and food. This event is for all ages, children and adults, no prior square dancing experience needed!

Do you want to know about upcoming events and deadlines for the Recreation Department programs? If you would like to receive the Recreation e-mail 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.

Any interest in an adult culinary cooking class? Is there a program you wish we offered? Please call and let us know. We can't meet your needs unless we know what they are.

Nottingham School Kindergarten (and new First Grade Students) Registration

If your child will be five years old by September 30, 2009, they are eligible to attend Nottingham School Kindergarten. Call the school office at 679-5632.

Nottingham children turning six years old by September 30 are required by law to enter school in September 2009 for first grade enrollment.

If your child will be attending Nottingham Kindergarten or first grade (new students only) next school year, please call the school office at 679-5632. We will send a registration packet for entry to kindergarten and first grade for the 2009- 2010 school year.

A registration informational night will be held in the spring. More information to follow. Please do not delay, send for your registration information today.

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Pawtuckaway Piecers Quilt Guild

Submitted by Pat Vachon

The Piecers continue to meet the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Blaisdell Memorial Library. Over the course of this coming year, we will be putting together another raffle quilt, working on our own projects and will occasionally have a special program. Please come and join us. We have fun and are learning new skills all the time. We also offer scholarships to groups that are doing projects with children such as the Linus project or any sewing related activity.

If you would like to contact the guild, please call the library at 679-8484 and ask for Pat.

Visit the Library on the Web

Submitted Rhoda Capron

The Blaisdell Memorial Library is pleased to announce that we have completed our automation project. Patrons can now access our collection from home, view lists of new titles, renew your books and place holds on titles they wish to borrow. To access the catalog, go to www.nottinghamlibrary.org and click on the library catalog link. If you haven't received your new library card, please come in and get one.

February Vacation Week Program

Submitted by Rhoda Capron

The Blaisdell Memorial Library is pleased to announce that Lori Hardacker will be coming to the library on Tuesday, February 24, with a program to get children up and moving. "Moving the Story Off the Page" is designed for children in preschool through the fifth grade. It combines books with moving, songs, improvisation and fun. There will be a morning session for 2 ½ - 4 year olds and an afternoon session for 5 - 8 year olds. The program is free but space is limited, so please call the library at 679-8484 to reserve your spot.



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Submitted by Rhoda Capron

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There are 28 bestselling current and classic titles on Playaway, including many selections for children. To see what titles are available go to the Library Catalog at www.nottinghamlibrary.org and search for the keyword "Playaway" in the Blaisdell Library catalog.

For more information about Playaway at the library, call 679-8484 or stop by.



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 March/April newsletter is February 6, 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

Seasonal Safety Tips from the Fire Rescue Department

The number of people killed in fires and carbon monoxide poisoning events has doubled compared to last year.

- Don't let your fuel-fired appliances starve for air. All fuel-fired appliances, such as water heaters, furnaces, fireplace inserts, and heating stoves need plenty of air to operate safely; otherwise they might produce excessive, deadly carbon monoxide.
- Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and toxic, which means you can't see, taste or smell it. It can cause headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. Carbon monoxide can kill, so be sure to maintain your heating appliances.
- Have an annual service clean-up and tune-up on heating appliances, by a qualified technician, and have vents and chimneys inspected and cleaned to avoid blockages.
- Be sure to keep combustibles and flammables far away from your appliances. Use only approved heating appliances to heat your home. Use space heaters with extreme caution and be sure that all appliances are installed properly.
- Never run fuel-fired appliances (generators, portable heaters) without proper venting. Do not place outside portable units in areas adjacent to building openings or under buildings.
- Purchase and install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Check and replace batteries on a regular basis. Call 911 if your detector goes off, and evacuate your home immediately to fresh air.
- Maintain your smoke detectors. Check and replace batteries on a regular basis. Call 911 if your detector goes off, and evacuate your home immediately.
- Have an escape plan from your home and teach children what to do when they hear a smoke or CO alarm sounding.
- Teach children how to dial 911 in an emergency.
- Be sure that at least two means of egress from your home are cleared throughout the winter months.
- Call 911 in any emergency. Call the fire station during business hours for other assistance or questions at 679-5666.

The department will hold an extra blood drive because blood reserves are low, and the Nottingham drive gathers

such great turnout! If you gave at the last one, you will be eligible, unless you did double reds.

Please join us in giving the Gift of Life on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Nottingham Community Center.

Once Upon a Cobbler's Bench

Submitted by the Nottingham Historical Society

If we look up the word "cobbler", we find a raft of meanings, all the way from putting things together in a rough, patchwork manner to a deep-dish fruit pie and don't forget the "cobblestone" which really takes us back historically.

But we are more concerned with the putting together of shoes and shoe parts, which once formed an extensive and important New England industry. Historian E.C. Cogswell tells us that in the mid to late 1800's, Nottingham produced 96,000 pairs of boots and shoes worth some \$100,000 dollars. We also learned from the diaries of Seth Dame that many of the steps in early shoe-making were carried out in private homes and on farms. Boxes of shoe parts were delivered and later picked up once the parts had been assembled and/or sewn. Seth was also employed at a shoe shop in Northwood from time to time and makes note of picking up a "kip" of leather, presumably to be made into shoes. Some shoe shops were called "10-footers", because that was all the space needed for a cobbler's bench.

So from a "cottage industry" to large manufacturing plants, shoe-making made many a giant step in the industrial history of New England.

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Bear-Paw Announces Annual Meeting For February 14

Submitted by Dan Kern

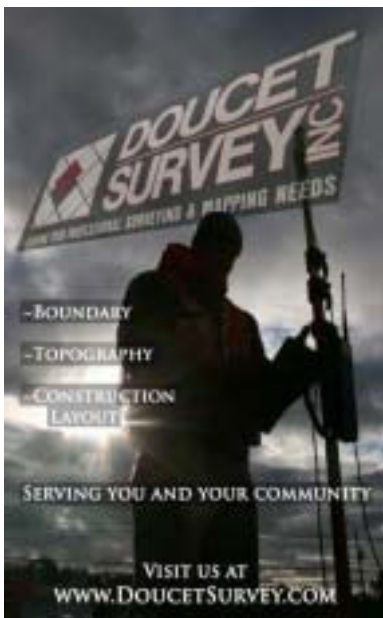
Bear-Paw Regional Greenways invites their members, friends, and the public to its Annual Meeting scheduled for February 14, 2009. Bear-Paw will be celebrating the completion of eight conservation easements conserving over 1,147 acres in 2008. It now holds easements protecting 27 properties and 2,310 acres. In 2009, Bear-Paw expects to conserve over 500 additional acres!

The meeting will be held at Coe-Brown Academy on Route 4 in Northwood and registration begins at 8:30 a.m. After a brief business meeting and the presentation of awards, Dr. John Litvaitis, UNH Professor of Wildlife Ecology, will discuss his research on the effects of roads on wildlife and habitat connectivity.

Dr. Litvaitis' current research interests examine the effects of contemporary land uses on wildlife populations, especially species that are hampered by habitat fragmentation, the influences of historic land uses on present-day wildlife populations and their habitats, understanding and limiting the effects of invasive shrubs on forest wildlife, and identifying factors that contribute to wildlife-vehicle collisions.

After the presentation and a lunch that will be provided, participants are invited to take a snowshoe trek or hike on nearby conservation lands. This will be a moderately strenuous walk. Snowshoes may be needed and proper dress is required.

The annual meeting will also feature the raffle of many donated items. Bear-Paw welcomes donations from artists, writers, and craftspeople for this fundraising effort.



Pre-registration for the meeting is requested so that Bear-Paw can plan appropriately, so please register at info@Bear-Paw.org, www.bear-paw.org, or 463-9400 by February 7 to reserve your place.

This event is open to the public and a modest donation is requested to offset the cost of the event (\$10 for members and \$15 for non-members).

Nottingham Food Pantry

Submitted by Chelli Tennis

We have just finished our 16th year helping serve those residents in Nottingham who have come into a time of need. These last few months have been very busy and it looks like it is only going to get busier as we see a continued down turn in our local economy. We are doing all we can to keep up with the increase we have had.

Thank you to all who have helped us this past year through time, food drives and generous donations. I would like to give a special thank you to my family, Matt Curry and Wynn Varney.

During the ice storm, we went a few days without electricity or a generator for the four food pantry freezers. Concerned that we would not only lose all the meat we had, but also the turkeys that were going to be given out that week to the families for their Christmas dinners, both Matt and Wynn were able to let us use their generators to keep the freezers running until we were able to get our power back.

We came out of it just losing a few packages of meat and being able to have our food distribution as scheduled. Even though we were all going through the same difficult time, the people who took wishes to be granted and teen baskets to be made got them all back just in time for Christmas! Thank you.

The Food Pantry is located at the Town Municipal Building and our address is PO Box 209, Nottingham, NH 03290. If you have a need please call 679-5209. All calls are confidential.

Family Chess Afternoon

Submitted by Rhoda Caparon

An afternoon of family chess will be held at the Blaisdell Memorial Library on Sunday, February 22, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Players of all abilities are invited.



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Resident Nottingham NH 03290

Nottingham Congregational Christian Church

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Pastor Jonathan Colegrove – 603-679-8519

Submitted by Kristine Scholtz

Come join us for Worship held every Sunday at 10 a.m. Children will be dismissed approximately halfway 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 fourth to seventh 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. Check it out at www.nottinghamchurch.org.

Nottingham Community Church

Submitted by Jill Sunde

Nottingham Community Church UU is looking forward in 2009. Though we remain small in members we have seen more people attending on a regular basis. We added two chanting and meditation nights a month. Our Winter Musical Event collected food and personal items and raised money for the Nottingham Food Bank. Thank you to all who planned, played and participated!