

# NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 26, Issue 2

March / April 2023

## Stepping Out and Stepping Up

*Submitted by: Sam Demeritt, Chair, Nottingham Conservation Commission and Tom Eid, Nottingham Trails Committee*

### *Springtime Conservation and Hiking Activities from the Nottingham Conservation Commission*

Enjoy the change of seasons from winter to spring with outdoor activities from the Nottingham Conservation Commission and the Nottingham Trails Committee:

- Vernal Equinox hike on Sunday, March 19
- Big Night(s) for amphibian migrations from mid-March through early May
- Town wide clean-up day on Saturday, April 15
- Earth Day trail clearing on Saturday, April 22
- Turtles of New Hampshire presentation on Saturday, April 29.

The **Vernal Equinox** occurs each year as the sun crosses the celestial equator going north. For 2023, the vernal equinox is on Monday, March 20, 5:24 PM, Eastern Time, in the Northern Hemisphere. You are invited to an equinox walk-and-talk on Sunday, March 19 at 1:30 PM at the Marston Farm Recreation Area (Mill Pond Road). We'll discuss how nature changes from winter to spring and identify the local flora and fauna. Steady rain/snow or icy trail conditions will cancel the event.

**Big Night** is the name for the annual amphibian migrations in the Northeast. On rainy evenings when the temperatures increase above freezing, ideally 40 degrees F or above, salamanders and frogs return to vernal pools and wetlands to breed. The migration evenings are called the "Big Night" in reference to the large number of frogs and salamanders that gather along shared migration paths. These events occur throughout the Spring, typically from mid-March through early May.



Look out for Amphibian Crossing signs on Nottingham's roads which alert there's a high potential for a migration event that evening, and limit driving during those evenings to be a hero for amphibians. Also see article on pgs. 2-3 of this newsletter.

The **annual town wide clean-up day** is on Saturday, April 15. Come to the Marston Farm Recreation Area (Mill Pond Road) at 9:00 AM and/or 11:00 AM at the Terninko Conservation Area (Case Road) to help with trail maintenance.

**Earth Day**, first established in 1970 on April 22, is an opportunity for community-supported conservation. Join us on Saturday, April 22 for easy hiking and trail clearing at 10:00 AM at the Marsh Woods Conservation Area (Freeman Hall Road) and 12 noon at Kennard Forest (Kennard Road). Bring a lopper and/or pruning saw for branch clearing and trail maintenance.

Join us at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 29 at the Blaisdell Memorial Library for a presentation and discussion:

**Turtles of New Hampshire.** Come learn about New Hampshire's native turtle species, their natural history, behavior, and ways we can help them as they enter their nesting season. We hope to see you there.



The Nottingham Conservation Commission and Nottingham Trails Committee are very proud of the town's open spaces, conservation lands, and hiking trails. Check our websites for more information and resources such as volunteer opportunities, access points, trail maps, interpretative/guided trails, and related information. Reach us at:

Nottingham Conservation Commission: <http://www.nottingham-nh.gov/conservation-commission> and Nottingham Trails Committee: <http://www.nottingham-nh.gov/conservation-commission/pages/trails-committee>



## Nottingham Youth Association Updates:

Submitted by Tim Dabrieo, NYA Chair  
[nottinghamyouthassoc@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamyouthassoc@gmail.com)

We are very excited to have added 4 new board members over the past year- Kayla Smith, Secretary; Diana Robinson, Basketball Co-Coordinator; Shaun Cote, Treasurer and Stephanie Boston, Softball Director. Welcome to the board and thank you for stepping up!



BJ Mumford and Diana Robinson have kicked off another great basketball season! Our 7/8th grade boys remain undefeated in league play, losing their only game to a talented York AAU team by 3 points! Our girls program has grown with more players this year, and the aggressive 5/6th grade girls team gave us a highlight by defeating the boys at our Midnight Madness event to kick off the season! 3/4th and 5/6th boys and girls teams are enjoying a new Seacoast Collaborative League consisting of five area towns. The programs these towns offer are more in alignment with our consistent focus on developing players and keeping the environment fun and conducive to learning! Finally, our K-2nd grade program has boomed again this year with 32 players and a crew of volunteer coaches getting involved.

**Thank you** to all our volunteer coaches and parents that help every week with our gym set up and clean up! Thank you also to the Nottingham Elementary School for continuing to host our practices, games, and scrimmages! We have plans in the works for a series of off-season basketball clinics, and a summer league this year. We are excited to keep the momentum going and see Nottingham players continue to progress their skill and love of basketball!

Spring is around the corner and NYA is gearing up for the 2023 Baseball & Softball Season! We had over 190 tee-ball, softball, and baseball players in 2022 and we are looking forward to increasing those numbers this year! Registration ends on March 10<sup>th</sup>; to register and learn more about our baseball and softball program please visit us at [www.nyanottingham.com](http://www.nyanottingham.com). We look forward to participating in the annual Community Field cleanup day on April 15<sup>th</sup> and welcome our community to join us at Foss Fields on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 am for opening day! We are really excited to be opening play on the new Marston Fields this spring as well- thank you to the town of Nottingham for your support for this great project and we look forward to supporting and seeing the future improvements to the area in the coming years.

We would also like to thank our sponsors for all of their support over the years, please visit our website to see all of the great businesses in our community that have supported the Nottingham Youth Association over the past year!

## The Amphibians' Big Night!

Submitted by Dallas Huggins, Nottingham Conservation Commission

A very magical time of year is almost upon us! Soon, our native frogs and salamanders will emerge in large numbers and make their annual migrations to find a mate. After a long winter hunkered down in their insulated shelters (called hibernaculums), there is a sudden burst of activity during the first warm, rainy evenings in the spring. These special nights are known as the "Big Night" and represent an important part of these amphibians' reproductive cycle.

Where they've spent the winter is dependent on the species. The larval stages of frogs and salamanders overwinter in water bodies, but the adults may overwinter underground or underwater. Some species are freeze-avoidant and hibernate (or "brumate", an ectotherm's version of hibernation) along the insulated bottoms of local water bodies, far underneath the ice. Green frogs, pickerel frogs, and leopard frogs are amongst the species which most commonly brumate in aquatic environments. The more land-dwelling toads however will burrow underground, also avoiding freezing temperatures at all costs.

Other species are freeze-tolerant and have specific adaptations that allow them to spend winters on land. Spring peepers, gray tree frogs, and wood frogs are in this category, and during brumation the body breaks



down a form of stored energy called glycogen from their liver to make glucose, a simple sugar which protects them by drawing water outside of their cells and drastically lowering the temperature at which freezing would occur. Major organs and cells are protected while the majority of the body freezes, the heart stops beating,

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and the brain ceases to function – they are void of any activity until the temperatures increase again. Their incredible adaptations don't stop there, either. In order to prevent fatal tissue damage, they are able to thaw from the inside outwards: the vital organs begin to function first, and then the other tissues gradually unfreeze. This amazing process to survive freezing temperatures has only been documented in nine species of frogs in the entire world, and three of them are right here in New Hampshire!

All of New Hampshire's salamanders are freeze-avoidant as well. The mole salamander group, which includes spotted, Jefferson, blue-spotted, and marbled salamanders, spend the winter deep underground beneath the frost line, often utilizing abandoned animal burrows. Woodland salamanders like the redback salamander spend winter underneath logs and leaf litter



as well as in animal burrows, and when the temperature drops below freezing they are quick to join the mole salamanders underground below the frost line. Eastern newts, which are terrestrial in their juvenile stages as red efts and transition back to aquatic environments as adults, will overwinter in ponds when fully-grown, but will sometimes take refuge underground, as they do when they are juveniles.

After a long winter, the snow melts and fills up the vernal pools where amphibians will soon return. A characteristic of vernal pools is that they dry up during certain points in the season, so it's an urgent rush for amphibians to lay their eggs in these pools to allow their young enough time to mature. In spring the vernal pools are at their fullest, and on special evenings through the season, when temperatures rise above freezing and the ground is wet with rain, amphibians get the call to move to these pools to produce the next generation. Vernal pools play a critical role in the life cycle of amphibians, reptiles, and many other animals.

While amphibian species have developed some incredible adaptations which enable them to survive in northern climates, they are no match for the roads full of motorized vehicles that we have today. Studies have shown that even light traffic can decimate populations of frogs and salamanders on their migration nights. Road salt also has a huge negative impact on frogs and salamanders of all life stages due to their sensitive skin – sometimes on these evenings you may catch a glimpse

of a frog that looks very bloated, which is very likely the result of exposure to road salt.

The Nottingham Conservation Commission sets up Amphibian Crossing signs on days where there is likely to be a Big Night occurring. If you see one of these signs, try to avoid driving that evening, and it will make a huge difference to our local amphibian populations. If you must drive, drive slowly, but know it can be nearly impossible to see them on the roads; small salamanders like the Jefferson salamander blend in exceptionally well with the pavement, and are already vulnerable to extinction. Losing any of these precious amphibians can be devastating to our local ecosystem, and while they have managed to adapt to live in New Hampshire's harsh winter climate, they simply can't keep up with human development, and so it is our responsibility to help them survive this man-made gauntlet.

If you ever have questions or know of an area that could use an Amphibian Crossing sign, please reach out to [dallas.ncc@gmail.com](mailto:dallas.ncc@gmail.com). We'd also love to hear about your sign sightings on social media!



## Nottingham Community Newsletter

• John Bartsch • Kathy Cinfo • Mark Peters  
 • Charlotte Fyfe • Mary Crockett  
 • Marie Slozak • Amy Mueller-Campbell

The Nottingham Community Newsletter is a community service and is published bi-monthly and mailed to every Nottingham resident. The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the May/June 2023 newsletter is April 1, 2023. Advertising ad size is 3.5 inches by 2 inches. Ads are \$20 for Nottingham residents and \$35 for nonresidents.

Please submit news articles as a **Word or text** document – **NOT PDF** & ads in png or jpg format at 300dpi, via e-mail to [adnottinghamnews@gmail.com](mailto:adnottinghamnews@gmail.com).

The newsletter is underwritten in part by North River Printing of Nottingham.

The publication of this newsletter is a public service for informational purposes only. 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



## Nottingham Democrats & Friends

*Submitted by the Nottingham Democratic Committee*

By the time you receive this newsletter, Nottingham Town elections will be upon us! Voting takes place at the Nottingham School, 245 Stage Road, Tuesday, March 14 from 7 am- 7 pm.

How do you make informed decisions in the voting booth on Town Election Day?

- Read the Proposed Budget and the Town Warrant on [www.nottingham-nh.gov](http://www.nottingham-nh.gov) before the election.
- Read candidate statements in this issue of the Nottingham Newsletter.
- Come to the Thursday, March 9th meeting of the Nottingham Democrats and Friends at 7:00 pm in Room 1 of the Town Offices. No question is too trivial to ask, and it's a great place to share information and discuss issues which directly affect us all.

March 9th is also the Committee's caucus, where we vote on new officers for a two-year term: President; Vice-President; Secretary (and Alternate); Treasurer; and 2 "At-large delegates", who represent Nottingham as voting members at the yearly NH Democratic Party State Convention. Democracy is participatory-- come join us!

For more information, email us at: [NottinghamDems1@gmail.com](mailto:NottinghamDems1@gmail.com)



And finally, we're proud to announce the new **Northwood-Nottingham Democrats Website** at: [www.northwoodnottinghamdems.org](http://www.northwoodnottinghamdems.org), an easy, intuitive, professional website with sections on Election Results, Important Dates, Warrant Articles Explained, Resources – and so much more at your fingertips. Log on today.

## New Hope Church

We welcome all who would like to worship with us to come to New Hope Church on Sundays at 10 AM. We are located at 34 Raymond Road in Nottingham.

We would like to invite anyone who would like to study the bible with us to come to our discovery groups here in the church and in other homes and meeting places. We have a women's group that meets on Tuesday at 6:00 PM at the church. It is a discovery group. We meet for 2 hours, and we have refreshments. For information on this group, you can email Karen at [kirkrowl@aol.com](mailto:kirkrowl@aol.com).

There is a group that will meet on Tuesdays in Northwood. For more information on this group please contact Pastor Ted White at [tedwhite@newhopechurch.com](mailto:tedwhite@newhopechurch.com) or at our website: [www.newhopechurch.com](http://www.newhopechurch.com)

There is another group of women who meet on Tuesdays in a home in Strafford. For information on this bible study you may email Ted White. One more site that we meet is in Derry. If you would like information on this group you can email [mistretta@comcast.net](mailto:mistretta@comcast.net). Please consider looking into coming and visiting us. All are welcome.

April 9 we will have our annual Easter post sunrise service at 8:00 AM. The service will be followed by a breakfast at New Hope Church. After our breakfast we will celebrate our Lord's resurrection at 10 AM All are invited. Hope to see you then.



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## Nottingham Community Church

*Submitted by Andrea Jackson, NCC Board Clerk*

Nottingham Community Church - Unitarian Universalist is a multi-faith community that began here in 1875. All faith backgrounds are kindly welcome. We hold services at 10am on Sundays in our beautiful historic building located at 106 Church Street (behind Liar's). You are welcome to attend in-person or virtually.

We are here as a resource to Nottingham area folk, regardless of background, and care deeply about our community, justice, peace, and the environment. Our services include music, storytelling, poetry, spiritual readings from various faith traditions, and last but not least, humor.

As in past years, we are supporting the non-profit End 68 Hours of Hunger efforts by collecting non-perishables. For more information about their outreach to area schoolchildren, please see

<https://www.end68hoursofhunger.org/find-your-community/new-hampshire/northwood-sau-44/>

To learn more about us, including access to our services virtually, please visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nccuu> and our website [www.nottinghamuu.com](http://www.nottinghamuu.com) or join us any Sunday at 10 am. The national website can be viewed at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

As the sign says out front, "Come As You Are".

### Did you Know??


This newsletter is also available as a pdf file on the Town of Nottingham Website.

It is in COLOR and has active links!

To download it go to:

<https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/about-nottingham/pages/newsletter>

(Scroll down and click on the date of the newsletter that you want to download.)



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## Nottingham Republicans

The Town of Nottingham's annual election will be Tuesday March 14th, 2023. This is the day voters will select candidates to manage our town government and ultimately determine how the town operates. Nottingham will be hiring a new town administrator and that person will need guidance from the board of selectmen as that person adjusts to the uniqueness of this community.

There will be two open positions on the select board this election cycle. The importance of electing liberty minded conservative candidates cannot be overemphasized. The greatest impact an elected official has is at the local community level. If you are concerned with high property taxes then the focus should be electing candidates who will have a common-sense approach that will balance the needs of a growing town and keeping expenditures sensible.

The election will be held on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, at Nottingham Elementary School. Voting will be from 7am to 7pm. If you would like to vote by absentee ballot or have questions on voting, please contact the town clerk at 603-679-9598 during posted office hours. Your vote is important. To contact the Nottingham Republican Committee, email Pat Desrosiers at [memedesrosiers@gmail.com](mailto:memedesrosiers@gmail.com). Our meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, 7pm at the New Hope Church, 34 Raymond Rd.



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### Nottingham Community Church

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*"Love is the doctrine of this church,  
the quest for truth is its sacrament,  
and service is its prayer"...*



**Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library**

Submitted by the Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Library's Wish List/Giving Tree through December 2022. Between your contributions and

some funds from past fundraisers, the wish list was completely fulfilled! Be on the lookout for new fun décor coming soon to the Young Adult section, as well as items to be used for children's programming.

Thank you to those who placed seed orders through us during our Seed Sale Fundraiser with High Mowing Organic Seeds! Seed packets should arrive in early March and there will be an announcement when these orders are sorted and ready for pick up at the Library. The Friends were able to purchase additional seed packets using money raised and/or donated from this sale for a special project the STEAM club will do in April.

Look for more information in April for details on the upcoming Book Sale to be held in May. Dates and times for donations and sale hours will be posted once the schedule is finalized. Start saving your gently used books and puzzles!

The Friends are embarking on a new community book sharing project. We are looking for interested volunteers to build "little libraries" that will be placed in several popular areas around Nottingham. We are also looking for local artists who want to help paint them once completed. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Library with your email/phone number and a member of the Friends will be in touch with more details.

The Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library is a non-profit group that supports the library in various ways. We are always happy to welcome new Friends, please join us at our monthly meetings the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the library.

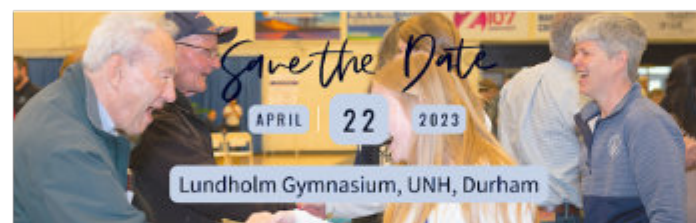
**2023 UNH Age of Champions Health & Wellness Fair**

April 22, 2023, 10 am - 1 pm  
Lundholm Gymnasium | UNH Durham

Need to shake off the winter blues and feel a spring in your step? Then head over to UNH on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and take in the 2023 Annual Age of Champions Health & Wellness Fair! This free community event celebrates healthy aging across the lifespan. Our motto is "It's never too soon to age well!"

Come and enjoy a day of fun and facts about how to get and stay well as we grow older. There will be free demonstrations and multiple vendor tables where you can engage with UNH students and community resource representatives. Bring the whole family out for a day of healthy living.

For more information, contact Bridget Drake at [Bridget.Drake@unh.edu](mailto:Bridget.Drake@unh.edu) or visit <http://bit.ly/UNH-AgeOfChampions>.

**Nottingham Historical Society Pie Social**

After a two-year hiatus, the NHS Pie Social returns! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 23, 2023**. We will be serving slices of pie baked by some of the foremost pie chefs in the town. A donation allows you to sample more than one kind of pie. Imagine savoring a slice of luscious blueberry pie followed by pumpkin or lemon meringue?

The event will be held between 1:00 and 3:00 pm in the Old Town Hall across from the Blaisdell Library. Hope to see you there!!



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**The information on the next 5 pages was compiled from email messages submitted to us by some of the candidates up for election in Nottingham on March 14, 2023. A photo is also included if the candidate submitted one to this newsletter.**

**Tim Dabrieo, Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

My name is Tim Dabrieo, and I am running for the 3-year Board of Selectmen position. I have lived in Nottingham for 20 years with my wife and we are raising our three sons here. We enjoy this great community and giving back to it whenever we can. I served on the Budget Committee for three years and have been a volunteer on the board of the Nottingham Youth Association for the past five years.

When I joined the town Budget Committee, I took the time and effort to learn more about both the town and school budget process. I attended a full day NHMA (New Hampshire Municipal Association) Budget and Finance workshop twice, with other Budget Committee and School Board members from Nottingham to learn more about the budget process and my role and responsibilities as a committee member. Training, time on the board, and experience in the position allowed me to then serve in the role as board chair in my final year. I plan to put the same amount of effort into this new role as well. I feel it is important to work together, respectfully, as a community to manage and prioritize costs that impact income taxes while keeping our town vibrant and providing our younger generation with the resources they need to be successful in the future.

**Roger Richard, Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

My name is Roger Richard, and I am a candidate for Selectperson. I am a lifelong New Hampshire resident who cares deeply about maintaining the close-knit small-town nature of Nottingham. I am concerned that the town is changing in a way that will make it unattractive and unaffordable for many existing residents and young people who might want to join the community. If elected, I will prioritize spending on basic needs over luxuries and will work diligently to avoid future tax increases. Our current 4% town spending increase limit (tax cap) has saved taxpayers from a double-digit tax increase this year; therefore, I vehemently oppose its repeal (2023 Article 19).

I am proud to have served in the US Army and spent 33 years as a mailman. I bring creative solutions to problems which has resulted in a demonstrated record

of protecting the dignity of the people of NH. During my time on the Town of Goffstown Budget Committee, we kept the tax rate low, while providing needed services. In 2005, my heart led me to reach beyond the state in my role as Hurricane Katrina On-Ground Liaison for the State of NH.

It inspires me and makes me proud when I step into the Town Clerk's office and glance to the left to see the flag that says: United States of America, in God We Trust; State of New Hampshire, Live Free or Die; Nottingham, Defender of Liberty.

I would appreciate your vote on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Matt Shirland, Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

Hello, my name is Matt Shirland and I'm running for Board of Selectmen for a 3-year term. About myself, I'm from Old Town Maine, attended Maine Maritime Academy and graduated in 2003 with a BS in Power Engineering Technology. I started that summer at Seabrook Station Nuclear Power plant where I now hold the position of Reactor Operator. I moved to Nottingham in September 2010 on Friar Tuck Ln with my wife Amanda and our daughter Bristol. In 2019 we moved and took over Nottingham Orchard on McCrillis Rd where we are working to build a homestead and restore the orchard with our 5 children.

I've been involved locally coaching several youth teams in NYA, volunteering with Northern Strikers Soccer Club, and our local Cub Scout Pack 167.

I'm interested in working for Nottingham as a whole. My goal is to honor Nottingham's history, while looking to strengthen us as we move into the future. I love dirt roads, farms, and fields. I want to help keep Nottingham affordable for all, while building on those projects that are needed for a growing youthful community. I hope to bring balance to the board. I'm very level headed and open to learning, and I'm very excited to be part of this community. Thank you for your support and I look forward to working together with you.

**Alan Bershtein, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3-year term**

My name is Alan Bershtein. My wife, Deirdre and I have lived in Nottingham since 2015. I am a candidate for a three-year term on the Budget Committee. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting and attaining the designation of Certified Public Accountant, I spent





several years in public accounting before joining The Discovery Channel. My career in accounting and finance continued with other entities before fully retiring in 2017.

In 2018 I was honored to be elected to the NH House of Representatives and served on several committees, most notably, four years on the House Ways and Means Committee. It was a privilege to represent Nottingham. Due to my wife's health issues, I did not seek reelection as a State Representative in 2022.

During my four-year tenure in the statehouse, I never missed a committee meeting or a session day. I encourage you to review my voting record in Concord, which clearly demonstrates an unwavering commitment to Nottingham taxpayers, to be a responsible steward of precious tax dollars and other public resources.

I humbly ask for your vote to allow me the opportunity to utilize my accounting background, knowledge, and experience to continue to serve Nottingham residents as a representative on the Budget committee. I can't wait to get to work! Thank you for your consideration.

#### **Thomas Butkiewicz, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3-year term**

I moved to Nottingham 13 years ago for quiet, small-town life and low taxes. Eventually, our taxes started to skyrocket. In four years, school spending increased 24%. Whenever I complained about tax increases, people said, "You should start going to meetings!" So, I got involved.

On Board of Assessors, I learned about our local tax system. When elected to Budget Committee in 2020, I was the only Republican out of 11 members. Suffering from groupthink, it had become a rubber-stamp committee, failing its duty to be a fiscal watchdog and prevent runaway spending.

During the economic chaos of the pandemic, when many residents lost their jobs, the school wanted an 8.7% budget increase. Despite overwhelming opposition from most of the committee, my persistent efforts to stand up for taxpayers led to a modest reduction.

Thanks to you electing more fiscally conservative members the last two years, we have begun to responsibly regulate spending, and return the budget committee to its intended role as a check-and-balance on town and school spending.

I have helped prevent hundreds of thousands of dollars of wasteful spending and will always work hard to represent and stand up for you, the taxpayer, who will be forced to pay for everything in these budgets.

Even if you disagree with my limited-government philosophy, I hope you recognize the benefit of having fiscal-conservatives providing oversight on budget committee. I ask for your vote so that I can continue to serve as an advocate for taxpayers and prevent wasteful spending.

#### **Charlotte Fyfe, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3-year term**

I'm running for election to a three-year term on the Nottingham Budget Committee.

My husband and I moved back to New Hampshire seven years ago and are active in Nottingham town affairs and community life. I'm an Election Official, serve on the Town Facilities Assessment Committee, and volunteer for the Nottingham Newsletter, the Food Pantry, and as a Friend of Blaisdell Library.

My career has been the administration and delivery of Maternal/Child and Family Services which encompassed budget oversight, grant writing, and reporting to municipal and state entities. I was a small business owner for fifteen years who managed: accounting; payroll; taxes; general operations and capital improvements. During this time, I was on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce & Board of Trade and served as Treasurer. Now semi-retired, I continue as the administrator and grant writer for a million-dollar municipal trust fund serving low-income children.

If elected, I'm committed to the hard work of balancing the cost of Town and School operations with an open mind, and in the interest and well-being of my fellow taxpayers.

My priority is to help provide essential checks, balances, and oversight-- and to do it in a competent, responsible, and respectful way. We *can* move forward, maintaining our infrastructure and quality of life while finding cost-effective solutions to long-term issues.

I hope my enthusiasm and my commitment to our wonderful town will earn me your support on March 14th.

#### **Owen Friend-Gray, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3-year term**

Hello everyone. My name is Owen Friend-Gray, and I am running for a three-year term on the budget committee. I have lived in Nottingham my entire life and have built my forever home here with my wife and



two kids. We all love this town and I want to give back to it as much as I can.

I have been fortunate in my professional career to have been a practicing engineer for close to two decades now which has provided me skills in managing funds, generating budgets, creating projections, and future planning of small to large private and public projects. For the past 8 years I have been doing this as a municipal engineer and manager in the public sector. Currently, as the Deputy Director of Public Works for the largest municipality in the state, I manage an annual operating budget of nearly \$50 million and capital improvement projects totaling over \$200 million. Working with and within budgets to make prudent decisions and maximize the efficacy of tax dollars is currently my most important professional function.

I have served one year on the budget committee and feel that I can continue to best serve this community by persisting in this role. I hope that you, the voter, give me this chance. If so, I will perform this duty to the best of my ability and endeavor to always be transparent, efficient, and sensible with the trust you would be placing in me.

#### **Robert Kelly, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3-year term**

My name is Robert Kelly, and I am running for re-election to a three-year term on the Nottingham Budget Committee. I have been a Nottingham resident since 2004. During my previous terms on the Budget Committee, I voted to pay down the remaining debt on the Fire Department and Mulligan Forest, which in turn, eliminated the interest owed by the Nottingham Tax Payer. If re-elected I will continue to work hard to minimize financial burden on the taxpayers and remain committed to finding other resolutions in the best interest of my fellow residents. I am seeking your vote so I may continue my efforts in finding cost effective but feasible solutions and remain transparent for the operation budgets. Thank You

#### **Brent Tweed , Candidate for Budget Committee, 1-year term**

My name is Brent Tweed, and I am a candidate for the Nottingham Budget Committee. I have lived in the Seacoast region for over 20 years and in Nottingham since 2016.



The Town of Nottingham delivers many essential services that residents expect and demand. The Budget Committee performs an integral role in the delivery of these services by ensuring that taxpayer money is spent in a fiscally responsible manner.

The current economic environment, with runaway government spending, budget deficits, high inflation, and a large national debt of over \$31 trillion presents unique challenges. Many residents are seeing ballooning food, energy, and housing costs, but unfortunately incomes don't always keep up with these rising costs of living. This puts the burden of higher budgets and higher taxes on many who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Most of the blame for this economic situation, including runaway inflation, can be pointed towards the politicians in Washington DC, nevertheless it is the residents of Nottingham who feel the effects and must deal with the consequences. Sound money and sound fiscally responsible government budgets are the answer to the economic mess we are in.

Nottingham is a great place to live, raise a family, and run a business. Maintaining a low tax burden is the best way to keep Nottingham as an attractive location for both families and businesses. I would appreciate your vote for Budget Committee on March 14.

#### **Debbie Ricker, Candidate for Library Trustee, 3-year term**

My name is Debbie L. Ricker, and I am a candidate for one of the three-year Library Trustee positions. My husband and I have lived in Nottingham since 2008, and we have two boys, ages 7 and 12, in Nottingham School. I have a B.S. in Civil Engineering and worked in the aviation engineering design field for over 10 years, before leaving to raise a family.

I currently serve as an Alternate on the Library Board of Trustees and have since November 2020. This appointed position has provided me the opportunity to gain experience and knowledge of the board's duties and operations.

Our library continues to be important and relevant part of our community. It not only provides valuable resources, such as books/audiobooks/museum passes, but engaging programming and events for all ages allowing residents a place to connect with each other.

I am proud to be raising children who share my love for reading and for our amazing library. They have



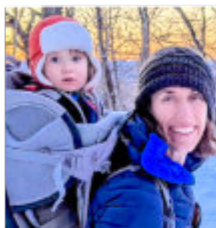


participated in many library programs and events over the years. Therefore, I continuously look for ways to support the library. I have been an active member of the Friends of the Library since 2019, helping with fundraising and ways to support the library beyond its operating budget.

I would like to continue to serve the community as a member of the Library Board of Trustees and would appreciate your vote on March 14th.

### **Kate Ver Ploeg, Candidate for Library Trustee, 3-year term**

Hello, my name is Kate Ver Ploeg, and I am running for Library Trustee. I feel fortunate to have grown up in this town, and in 2020 I moved back here with my husband to raise our 3 young children.



I've spent my professional life working in education and the literary arts. I have taught literature and writing to middle schoolers and at colleges around the U.S., most recently at the University of Maine at Augusta, and I have facilitated community reading groups for local libraries, veterans, and medical professionals. Currently I care full-time for our children and write for Down East Magazine.

I care deeply about our library. Growing up, I benefited enormously from Rhoda Capron's literary mentorship, and I am thrilled to see how much my own children enjoy story hour with Ms. Robin and Ms. Julie. I love how our library forges community while fostering learning for all ages, through Cookbook Group and LEGO Club, book groups and game groups. It's an essential and vibrant center of neighborhood fellowship, and I'm excited to support our hardworking library staff as they continue to bring us together and enrich our community. I would very much appreciate your vote on Tuesday, March 14. Thank you!

### **Ewen "Ian" MacKinnon, Candidate for Planning Board**

For the past four years, one as an alternate and the last three as an elected member of the Planning Board, I have enjoyed serving the town in such an important capacity. I feel that my professional background allows me to review applications before the Board both from a technical perspective and from the position of a resident of this great town. I am proud of the work the Board has completed over the past few years in refining the Town's land use ordinances. The effects of the housing market and population growth in the seacoast region is increasingly affecting Nottingham and I believe it is

important to grow in a responsible way that benefits current residents and those who are hoping to become residents. This year the Planning Board will be spearheading an update to the Town's Master Plan, and we look forward to input from residents on the future of the town and its priorities. I look forward to serving another term on the Planning Board with your vote on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tracey Black, Candidate for Nottingham Tax Collector**

I have been a resident of Nottingham for 27 years. I have enjoyed being Nottingham's Tax Collector for the last 3 years. During my tenure I implemented online bill payment and paperless billing.

I am 1/3 of the way through the New Hampshire Tax Collectors Certification process. Education and continual training are important to stay current with changes in the law.

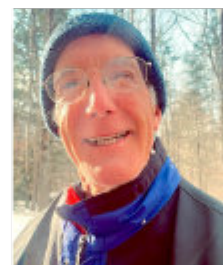
If re-elected, I plan to continue my education and make improvements to the tax collection process as needed.

Thank you, Tracey Black.

### **Michael Koester, Candidate for Trustee of the Trust Funds**

I, Michael Koester, am asking to be elected to the 3-year term as Trustee of the Trust Funds.

Last April I was asked to join the Trustees of the Trust Funds to fill a vacated position. The Chair of the committee enlisted me, the Select Board approved the appointment, and now I ask that you consider voting for me to allow me to continue for the next three years in some very important work.



I was recently assigned the role of Investment Lead for my initial efforts at seeking more lucrative ways for managing the potential for our Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds. With recent changes in the financial climate, we will be able to achieve significantly better interest rates for these funds, while preserving the safety of the principal. I am spearheading that effort.

Having previously served 21 years on the Budget Committee, I have gained solid understanding of the requirements of these funds. I enjoy working with the other two Trustees and look forward to continuing to serve Nottingham in this capacity. Your vote for me on the Town Ballot in March will be appreciated. Many thanks!

### **Lisa Heath, Candidate for Nottingham School Board, 3-year term**

Hello! My name is Lisa Heath, and I am interested in becoming a member of the Nottingham School Board.

My husband Brad and I, and our two children moved to town in 2019 from a neighboring town. After exploring Nottingham and seeing all the great things it has to offer as well as its great potential, we were excited to become part of this community.

Our family has had wonderful experiences with the teachers and staff of the school, as well as the sports programs. Our kids also enjoy the town's recreational sports, and they look forward to attending the Nottingham Summer Camp program every year. I assisted my husband with coaching for both the NYA baseball and softball teams.

As a parent in this community, I believe I can offer "bigger picture perspective." I would like to help ensure that the current and future students have the best accessibility to a safe learning environment and quality education.

The first issue that I would like to make a priority is the discussion around an hourly versus a daily calendar for the 2023/2024 school year. I believe the hourly calendar would bring value to our students allowing them more focused one on one time with staff for questions about schoolwork, especially during months that are more comfortable weather-wise, as well as providing a specific last day of school for summer camp and vacation planning for staff and families.

Thank you for your consideration, Lisa Heath.

### **Susan Levenson, Candidate for Nottingham School Board, 3-year term**

My name is Susan Levenson, and I am a candidate for School Board. I have served on the Board since 2011 and am currently the Board Chairperson. I initially sought election to the Board in 2011 because the school is essential to our community. I have a sincere desire to serve the community and ensure our students receive the best possible education. I have worked to learn as much as possible about the issues and be fair in my decisions. I always strive to support the teachers, families, and students. I respect the community members who are paying the bills and work to keep costs under control.

Much work went into planning for our new Nottingham SAU, and in July, SAU 107 opened. I would like to participate as the Board continues developing the SAU.



Our School District also includes our high school students who we tuition to area high schools. The Board meets regularly with both high schools of record to ensure that our students are prepared and excel in high school. I am committed to supporting our high school students.

I am very thankful to the Nottingham community for allowing me to serve on the Board. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve for the next three years.

Respectfully, Susan Levenson.

### **Danielle Roy, Candidate for Nottingham School Board, 3-year term**

I have my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (K-5) with a concentration in reading and taught 5th grade at a Title I school. I am currently employed as a Curriculum Specialist in another NH school system. My husband Andy and I have two wonderful children: a daughter in preschool and son in 1st grade. We are active members within the community taking part and volunteering in programs provided by the town, recreation department, library, and school.

I have personal experience with our school district's details from volunteering as a community member representative on the Transition Committee. In this role I worked alongside school board and budget committee members, teachers, and others to solve complex issues such as budgeting, software selection, and securing office facilities in the transition to SAU 107.

I applaud our community's commitment to meeting student's needs through open communication and partnership with the staff and school board. I am grateful to be a part of a community of parents, and staff with high expectations for student achievement through quality instruction. It is my hope that we can continue to grow and expand upon the board's communication efforts within the community.

As a board member I will work collaboratively to create clear goals that drive continuous improvement. I will always take a data driven approach to the issues and listen, respect, and seek to better understand all points of view before making an informed decision.

I would appreciate your vote for Nottingham School Board.





## Parks and Recreation Department News [recreation@nottingham-nh.gov](mailto:recreation@nottingham-nh.gov)

Submitted by Emma Breslend,  
Nottingham Parks & Recreation  
Program Supervisor  
Recreation Office Hours:

679-3435 x107 M-F 9:00am-  
4:00pm

Please make sure to check out our website: <https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/recreation-department>

Are you on our email list? Do you want updates and new program information right to your inbox?? Just send us an email OR visit our website shown above. Fill out the form that is located on our homepage. We consistently have new programs that are added to our page at various times of the year, and we can't always get them into this newsletter.

Or see our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages for all up-to-date programming.

Facebook: @nottinghamparksandrecreation  
Instagram: @nottinghamparksandrecreation  
Twitter: @ParksNottingham

### Nottingham Parks & Rec Sponsorship Opportunities:

We are hopeful that we can offer quality programming and events that meets the needs of our community. Visit our website if you or your business is interested in partnering with us in 2023.

### 2023 Community Needs Assessment:

The Nottingham Parks and Recreation Department has launched an internal Comprehensive Recreational Needs Study project to gather relevant information from the residents of Nottingham. The Parks and Recreation department seeks to understand how residents utilize the town's recreational facilities and programs. We also want to assess whether existing recreation facilities and programs are meeting the needs of the community. It is our goal to project trends and define a comprehensive plan for the future of Nottingham.



## Upcoming Events and Programs:

**Egg Hunt! DATE: APRIL 9, 2022**

*Preregistration Required, FREE ADMISSION*

*Pre-K- 5th Grade*

Join us on April 9th for a fun Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Center for all kids preschool through 5th grade! Kids can hunt for eggs and pick up their "Bag of Yolks" filled with goodies once they are finished! There will be 3 time slots from 11-11:30, 11:45-12:15, and 12:30-1. Pre-registration is required. There will be refreshments provided for all participants. Families can enjoy yard games, face paint, and fun Easter crafts while they wait for their turn to hunt! A canned good donation for the food pantry would be very appreciated!

Step One: Mark your calendars!

Step Two: Register your family online

Step Three: Select a time slot!

**You've Been Egged! DATE: APRIL 8, 2022**

*Preregistration Required, FREE ADMISSION*

We will bring the eggs to you!! This year on April 8, Nottingham Parks and Recreation will egg your yard! We will hide 10 eggs per child in your yard (so make sure you sign up both kids individually!). Eggs will be delivered using proper COVID procedures. Happy egg hunting!

### Monthly Luncheons:

Join us on the third Wednesday of each month at **12:00 PM (EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST)**. We are still offering lunch deliveries and those meals will be dropped off either the day before or the day after the luncheons. Please RSVP to [recreation2@nottingham-nh.gov](mailto:recreation2@nottingham-nh.gov), or call 603-679-3435x107 for more information or to reserve your place.

**American Eagle Mixed Martial Arts- Brendan Behr**

*Ages 5 and up, Kids Beginner, (Year-round) Monday and Wednesday, 5:30PM-6:15PM*

*Kids Intermediate/Advanced, (Year-round) Monday and Wednesday, 6:30PM-7:15PM*

*Teens and Adult Martial Arts, (Year-round) Monday and Wednesday, 7:00PM-7:45PM*

*139 Stage Rd. Nottingham, NH 03290*

*Preregistration required, \$70 per month*

Come Join the fun learning Tae Kwon Do, boxing, kickboxing, jujitsu and more! Improvement and focus on self-esteem, accomplishment, confidence, fitness, focus and discipline. Uniforms are available for purchase for \$25. Please contact Brendan Behr, [behr@gmail.com](mailto:behr@gmail.com) or (603)-312-9362 for more information.

## Toddler Gym

*Preschool Aged Kids, (During the School Year)*

*Mondays 9:30am - 11:30am, 139 Stage Rd. Nottingham*

*\$2 Drop in Registration Onsite*

*No Toddler Gym on Federal Holidays*

This program requires a parent or guardian in attendance. The calendar is located on our homepage. This is a great place for toddlers to create, play and socialize!

### Open Gym Pickleball

*Tuesdays and Thursdays*

*9:00AM - 11:00AM (Beginner Skills)*

*1:00PM - 3:00PM (Advanced Skills)*

*139 Stage Road Nottingham, NH 03290*

*Drop in \$2 per visit, must register onsite.*

This is a self-run drop in program. Participants set up the net, organize play, and clean up when done. This is a REC program so ALL SKILLS are welcome to attend. It was developed to encourage having fun, socializing, and learning the rules of the game. We suggest that you bring your own paddle, but we have nets and balls here!

### April Vacation Camp

*Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>*

*8:00 AM - 5:00 PM*

*Community Center Gym. 139 Stage Road, Nottingham NH 03290*

*Preregistration Required*

Come join our staff for the week of April vacation to do fun activities including team sports, nature, arts and crafts, and lifetime activities.

Please bring a water bottle, change of clothes, outdoor winter clothing, and two snacks and a lunch.

### Spring Hiking/Walking Group

*Fridays in March - May: (3/10, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, 5/12, 5/26)*

*9:30 am - 11:00 am*

*139 Stage Road, Nottingham*

Did you know that Nottingham has many awesome trails right here in town? Join us this fall for our first ever Legacy Leader Spring Hiking/Walking Group (55+). This group will meet on Fridays, twice a month at the Town Hall Parking Lot. Hikers can carpool with us in

the town van @ 9:30 am or meet us at the trailhead @ 10:00 am. If there is inclement weather, hiking/walking will be canceled by the Thursday prior. Make sure to check our website for an exact schedule for dates, locations, and difficulty ratings! Email [recreation3@nottingham-nh.gov](mailto:recreation3@nottingham-nh.gov) with questions or to RSVP

## Community Cleanup Day

*Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>*

*Various Locations Around Nottingham*

Nottingham, are you ready for spring? Are you a community group, or are you passionate about keeping our outdoor spaces clean and beautiful? If you are, please join us for our Community Wide Clean Up Day!

## Pi-casso Paint Party (w/ Blaisdell Memorial Library)

*Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM*

*Blaisdell Memorial Library, 129 Stage Rd. Nottingham*

Join us for a guided painting class! We will be painting a piece of pie in honor of Pi Day (3.14.23). No need to bring supplies, we will have it all ready for you. We have room for 15 attendees, please call 603-679-8484 or visit the library to sign up. Registration required.





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**Nottingham, NH**  
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## Liar's Loot

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## Liar's Loot



**Memorial Library**

Submitted by Liz Bolton  
blaisdellml@comcast.net

**Library Hours (Through April 30<sup>th</sup>):**

**Monday:** closed,  
**Tuesday:** 10 am – 5 pm  
**Wednesday:** 10am – 8 pm  
**Thursday:** 10 am – 8 pm  
**Friday:** 10 am – 5 pm,  
**Saturday:** 10 am – 2 pm  
**Sunday:** 12 – 4pm (closed 4/09/23)

Keep up to date with our program offerings by checking out our homepage at: <https://nottinghamlibrary.org> or Facebook: @blaisdellml. Phone: 603-679-8484. If you aren't already a subscriber, visit our homepage to sign up for our monthly newsletter.

**Programs:**

Some programs may require registration, due to limited supplies. This is noted in the program description. All library programs are free and open to the public.

**Adult Programs:**

**Do Your Family a Favor – Have a Plan! Thursday, March 2 @6 pm** Join us for a presentation by attorneys Kathryn S. Williams and James W. Hardy from K.S.W. Law in Epping. They will be discussing Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney and Health Care proxies as related to estate planning. No registration necessary.

**Legacy Leader (55+) Paint Program – Tuesday, March 14 @ 1pm** Join us for a Picasso paint program to celebrate Pi Day led by the Rec's own Emma Breslend. We'll supply the paints and canvas; you supply the creativity. We have room for 15 attendees, please call 603-679-8484 or visit the library to sign up. Registration required.

**Turtles of New Hampshire – Saturday, April 29 @ 10 am** Join local wildlife rehabilitators Dallas and Drew of New Hampshire Turtle Rescue to learn all about our



native turtle species. A very special turtle guest will be visiting, and Drew and Dallas will be happy to answer turtle questions after the talk. No registration necessary.

**Game 'n Gab, March 7 & April 4, 1 pm.** Join us for games, chat, & friendly competition on the first Tuesday of the month.

**Afternoon Book Group – March 2 @ 1:30 pm:** *Intimations: Six Essays* by Zadie Smith

**Afternoon Book Group – April 6 @ 1:30 pm:** *Us* by David Nicholls

**Evening Book Group – March 22 @ 6:30pm:** *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

**Evening Book Group – April 26 @6:30 pm:** *The Girls from Ames* by Jeffrey Zaslow

Books are shelved at the front desk, please check with the staff if you need one. Want to join the group? Please register with the library staff. We regret we are unable to lend book club choices to those not registered for the group due to limited quantities and set due dates.

**Cookbook Group**

The Cookbook Group meets on the second Thursday of the month @ 6pm. If you haven't signed up as a member yet, please call 603-679-8484 or visit the library to join. Every month we choose a cookbook and borrow 10 copies from other libraries. Each group member may take a copy home, choose, and make one recipe, and bring the dish to the meeting. We'll share food and talk about our recipes – what went well, what didn't, etc.

Sometimes we have 'theme' months such as bread or pie or cake and there is no cookbook, just choose a recipe of your own or borrow a book from the library and choose one from there. Either way, get ready to eat and discuss the recipe you used.

**March 9:** No Cookbook – March 14 is Pi Day so make a pie and bring it in to share. If you need assistance

with recipes, the library will make several pie books available for check-out.

**April 13:** *See You on Sunday*, a cookbook by Sam Sifton

**Crafting Together: March 11 and April 8 @12 pm** Bring your latest knitting, crocheting, or needle-art project with you to the library to craft with others. Chat while you work, compare notes, and get tips or inspiration. The library will supply the space, books of projects for browsing, and the company. Program will run on the second Saturday of the month from 12 to 1:30.

**Youth/Young Adult Programs:**

**Hogwarts Role Playing Game:** March 1 and April 5 @ 6 pm (currently full)

**BYG Meeting:** March 15 & April 19 @ 6 pm

**BYG Book Group:** February 25 @10 am

**Children's Programs:**

Our third session of Children's programming starts March 7 and runs through April 22. Drop-ins are welcome at all story times.

**Tuesdays 10am: Preschool Storytime and Activity with Miss Julie**

**Wednesdays 10 am: Lapsit Storytime (ages 0 – 3) with Miss Robin**

**Thursdays 10 am: Preschool Storytime and Activity with Miss Julie**

Topics for this session include turtles, pi(e), and more!

**Special Storytime: Dr. Seuss Storytime, Thursday, March 2 @10am.**

Come and celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with us. Miss Julie will read Dr. Seuss stories, and we'll have playtime!

For session 4 of children's programs, Afterschool STEAM program and LEGO Club will change age groups. Tuesday STEAM will be offered to students in grades K - 2 only, and LEGOPlus will be available for students in grades 3 - 6. Registration is required for both programs with eight spots available for STEAM and twelve for LEGOPlus.

For those who want to come directly from school, bus service will be available, with parents needing to update

the pick-up portal for the day of the program. Parents must pick up their children at the library by 4 pm. Snacks will not be provided. If there is no school, or an early release, there is no afterschool program. Please contact Miss Julie via email: [bmlchildrensdesk@gmail.com](mailto:bmlchildrensdesk@gmail.com), or visit the children's room for more information.

**Tuesdays 3 – 4 pm: Afterschool STEAM program, grades K – 2 \*(registration required) NO STEAM on March 12 and April 11 (Teacher Workshop/Early Release days)**

We're focusing on cooking and sewing for this session. Get ready for Taco Tuesday!

**Thursdays 3 – 4 pm: Afterschool LEGOPlus program, grades 3 – 6 \*(registration required)**

**Family Saturday Storytime @10 am:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month: March 11 and April 15.

April Vacation is April 24 – 28 and we'll be having special events that week so look for our April calendar at the library! Check [www.nottinghamlibrary.org](http://www.nottinghamlibrary.org) and Facebook page for updates.

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**Nottingham NH 03290**

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**RESIDENT**

**NOTTINGHAM NH 03290**

*Don't miss the candidate statements for the upcoming  
March 14<sup>th</sup> election.*

*They are on pages 7 through 11 in this issue of the newsletter!*

*And... Don't Forget to Vote!!*