

# NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Issue 2

March / April 2024

## Planning Board Update

*Submitted by: Land Use Clerk Alana Kenney*

As of the last Newsletter, the Planning Board had two continued cases to be heard on 12/13/23. The first was a 25-lot Open Space Subdivision on Smoke Street. That case was continued until the 02/14/24 Planning Board meeting. The 2-lot subdivision on White's Grove was approved on 12/13/23. There is a new case for a 16-lot Open Space Subdivision on Raymond Road that was first heard on 01/10/24. That is also continued until 02/14/24. The Board had two Conceptual Consultations for the same property on Kenison Pond Road. They also approved a Lot Line Adjustment for a commercial property on Route 4.

A quick summary of last year shows that the Planning Board reviewed a total of 4 Subdivision cases; 3 were approved and one was carried into 2024. All of these cases were heard over a number of meetings. There were a total of 13 new, approved lots in 2023. The rest of the cases were Site Plan Reviews, Lot Line Adjustments, Design Reviews, and Conceptual Consultations. A more detailed list of cases and Planning Board work will be printed in the 2023 Town Report. All are available to view on the town website as well.

The Planning Board continues to seek alternates to participate in meetings and fill member positions when needed. If you are interested, please fill out a volunteer application (located on the town website or at the town offices) and submit it to the Planning Board or Town Administrator's office.

In 2024, the Planning Board anticipates forming committees for the Master Plan review and update as well as Impact Fees review and update. Committees are often comprised of current Board members as well as members from the public and other Boards and Departments. If you may be interested in volunteering, please submit your information to [Plan.Zone@nottingham-nh.gov](mailto:Plan.Zone@nottingham-nh.gov).

For more information, please call Alana Kenney at (603) 734-4881 or email [plan.zone@nottingham-nh.gov](mailto:plan.zone@nottingham-nh.gov) Office Hours Wed & Fri 8 - 2

## Nottingham Historical Society

The Nottingham Historical Society invites you to attend their annual "**Pie Social**" on Sunday, April 21st from 1:00-3:00 pm. This traditional get-together will take place in the historic Old Town Hall at 130 Stage Road (directly across from Blaisdell Library). Enjoy your choice of home cooked pies along with coffee or tea. All ages welcome.



Want to show off your baking skills with the donation of a home-baked pie for the occasion? Contact us at [Nottinghamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:Nottinghamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

After enjoying the products of Nottingham's best bakers, walk over to the Patuccoway Grange Museum, next door! This historic building will be open that day to enjoy the artifacts and displays highlighting Nottingham's agrarian past.

Stay tuned for Devon Toland's presentation New England's Mysterious Stone Work to be presented on Sunday May 19th at 3 pm at the Old Town Hall across the street from the Blaisdell Library!

Find us on Facebook@Nottingham Historical Society

Nottingham School is accepting registration information for next year's Kindergarten



classes. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 30, 2024, and will be entering Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, please contact Jen Bachhuber at [jbachhuber@nottingham.k12.nh.us](mailto:jbachhuber@nottingham.k12.nh.us) to request a registration packet.

Please return the completed registration packet to the Main Office as soon as you can, as this will help us to know how many Kindergarten students to plan for. We will be having our Kindergarten screening day sometime in May 2024, so stay tuned for more information. We look forward to meeting all our incoming Kindergarten families!





## Nottingham Republicans

Here we are again preparing for another town election. The shock of getting large property tax increases at the end of 2023 has not gone away and now we are faced with deciding on whether to increase those taxes even more. The School and Town Deliberative Session took place after the submission of this article. Whatever transpired during those meetings will be on the ballot we are about to vote on March 12, 2024. Although the 4% tax cap on the town operating budget is constantly being criticized by Town Officials, the cap forces them to submit any additional spending requests onto Warrant Articles. This allows voters to decide if the expenditures in a particular Warrant Article should be approved or denied. The Warrant Articles can be viewed on the Town Website. Voters of Nottingham should read through these Articles prior to voting day and decide how you will vote. Each article approved will raise your taxes. Tax increases will also occur with the approval of School Warrant Articles.

We can all agree funding the school is essential for the education of our children. The current School Board has been presenting a reasonable operating budget for several years. Funding for building maintenance and important school programs must be approved while at the same time avoiding unnecessary expenditures.

Candidates seeking the open positions on various Town Boards and Committees will also appear on the ballot. We encourage everyone to take some time to find out where the candidates stand on the important issues the Town is facing including the constant increases in property taxes, land use and development and what to do about the condition of our aging Town Buildings.

Most important of all is for everyone to make time to go out and vote. Election Day will be Tuesday March 12, 2024. Polls will be open 7 AM until 7 PM. Polling place will be Nottingham Elementary School. If you are interested in joining the Nottingham Republican Committee, we invite you to join us on the second Thursday of the Month. Our meetings are held at the New Hope Church, 34 Raymond Rd. Meetings take place at 7PM. Additional information can be found at <https://nottinghamnorthwoodgop.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/NottinghamNHRepublicans> or simply email [secratary@nottinghamnorthwoodgop.org](mailto:secratary@nottinghamnorthwoodgop.org).

## Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library

*Submitted by the Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library*

In November members of the Friends of the Blaisdell Library and volunteers conducted a fall clean up of the grounds of the library. Thank you to all who spent time beautifying our library grounds. It was a great group effort!



The Festive Scottish Holiday Tea fundraiser in December was a great success and a lovely afternoon of Celtic entertainment, delicious treats and a wonderful way to welcome the holidays.

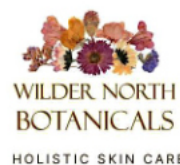


After a successful 'Seed Sale Fundraiser' last winter the Friends held the High Mowing organic seed sale again to benefit the library. A group order will be placed and you will be contacted when the seed packets arrive for pick-up.



We are looking ahead to a Spring book sale- date to be determined.

We are a non-profit group supporting the library in a variety of ways. We are



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always happy to welcome new members. Please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm at the library. The Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library wish to welcome our newest members Amy, Gina, Kelli and Stephanie.



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## Nottingham Community Newsletter

• John Bartsch • Kathy Cinfo • Mark Peters  
• Charlotte Fyfe • Mary Crockett • Mary Colvard  
• 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 2024 newsletter is April 1, 2024. Advertising ad size is 3.5 inches by 2 inches. Ads are \$30 for Nottingham residents and \$45 for nonresidents. To pay for ads: please drop your check off at the library or mail to us at PO Box 115 in Nottingham.

Please submit news articles as a **Word or text** document- **NOT PDF**. Pictures and ads should be sent **separately** in **png or jpg** format at 300dpi, 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 Community Church-Unitarian Universalist

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 10 am on Sundays in our beautiful historic building located at 106 Church Street (behind Liar's). You are welcome to attend in-person or virtually via our Facebook group.

Our "Second Sunday Concert Series" offers the following :

Shows Begin at 3 pm.

**February 11 - The Fiddling Thompsons**

**March 10 - Penhallow** (Jeff Murdock and friends)

**April 14 - Nice and Naughty**

**May 12 - For What It's Worth**

**June - June and The Honey Badgers**

**July - No Concert**

These concerts are by donation to support the musicians and the venue – suggested donation is \$15 to \$20. We thank you for your support of local music & musicians!

Hoping to see you some Sunday at 10 am. As the sign says out front, "Come as You Are".

Join us on our Facebook Group 'Nottingham Community Church' or visit us at [www.nottinghamuu.com](http://www.nottinghamuu.com)



### Nottingham Democrats & Friends

Submitted by the Nottingham Democratic Committee

As we continue working to keep Nottingham an inclusive, safe, and affordable community for all residents, please VOTE in the Town Elections, Tuesday, March 12. We will be voting to approve this year's Town Budget, 21 separate Warrant Articles, the School Budget, and elect Town Officers.

Town elections are non-partisan. In other words, we vote in the best interests of our community, not for a political party. We urge you to ignore scare tactics, outrageous claims, fear mongering, and divisiveness. Vote to support efficient and economical investment in our town infrastructure and our essential employees,

fair taxation, and to uphold the American ideals of public education and libraries, available to all.

The next Nottingham Democrats & Friends meeting is on March 14 and will take place at the Northwoods Brewing Co. [www.northwoodsbrewingcompany.com](http://www.northwoodsbrewingcompany.com) in the private event room at the back of the brewery. Doors open at 5:00 to enjoy ordering from the menu of pizza and beverages before the meeting begins at 6:00 pm with the presentation of our guest speaker, Jeanne Dietsch from Granite State Matters .

Jeanne is the author of New Hampshire: Battleground in the Fight to Dismantle Democracy: A Wake Up Call for Granite Staters & the Nation. This will be an important and fascinating dive into some of the chaotic forces that are dividing us, and what we can do to help preserve democracy.

April's meeting will be back in the Nottingham Town Offices on Thursday, April 11.

There are other opportunities to get involved with issues that matter to you: daytime coffee hours, social activities, and online advocacy. Log on to the Northwood/Nottingham Democrats website: [www.northwoodnottinghamdems.org](http://www.northwoodnottinghamdems.org) for more info, or email [nottinghamdems1@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamdems1@gmail.com). Facebook @ NottinghamDemocrats.

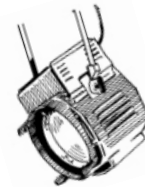
### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

In this issue, our community spotlight shines on...

#### Doug Bates

Doug Bates has become well-known in Nottingham for his blog covering town government: *Nottingham Blog*, which can be found at [nottingham.substack.com](http://nottingham.substack.com). In the nearly two years that he's been writing he has accrued over 430 subscribers and additional readers coming from Facebook. The most popular articles get over a thousand views. Nottingham Blog has been cited in the *Boston Globe* and *InDepthNH*.

Most of Doug's articles are about town government meetings such as the Board of Selectmen or the Budget Committee. He either attends in person or watches the YouTube recordings. These meetings are typically long—two or three hours is typical. He condenses this to just a few paragraphs on what he conceives to be the issues the townspeople want to know about and



provides a link to the recording of the meeting so readers can watch the whole meeting if they want to.

Occasionally Doug does investigative reporting – most recently on topics such as the Fire Department, the Food Pantry, and a former state rep's violation of the Hatch Act. All of this is time-consuming, but the result is that Nottingham Blog readers need to spend only a few minutes a month to keep informed on the major issues going on in town government.

Doug says that his deceased step-father, Thomas D. Miller, was the inspiration for his blog. The blog's "About" page is dedicated to him. Miller was an award-winning investigative journalist. One of his favorite sayings was "Sunlight is the best disinfectant," inspiring Doug to provide some journalistic sunlight for the citizens of Nottingham.

Doug's first foray into town politics was with his website, [www.NottinghamRoads.org](http://www.NottinghamRoads.org) where he explained to voters why the Board of Selectmen had decided wrongly about the camp roads, why the class action suit against the town was likely to win in court, and why the voters should overturn the Selectmen's decision so that the taxpayers could avoid wasting more money on further litigation. In 2021 the voters overturned these decisions of the Board of Selectmen by large margins.

Elsewhere Doug writes on topics other than Nottingham. He's written a book and has had articles in other publications, including an academic journal.

Doug is originally from a small town in West Virginia. He first came to NH to attend college. His career as a marketing executive took him to several large cities—Philadelphia, Columbus, Richmond, and Boston—after which he chose to return to NH. Doug and his wife, Mary, bought a home in Nottingham when they got married in 2018. Before that Doug was living in Glen, NH and Mary was in Exeter. They both had long dreamed of living on a lake so they now live on Pawtuckaway.

New subscribers are always welcome to join Doug's blog. Subscribe at: [nottingham.substack.com](http://nottingham.substack.com).



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Higher Ground is a regional church with a global vision. All our steps are guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. Our Five-Fold Ministry church model is based on the original Apostolic Church seen in the Book of Acts. Our mission statement is: *Impacting Generations One Soul at a Time with the Love of Jesus Christ*.

We hold our live service on Sundays at 10:00 am and welcome all who would like to come and worship with us. We are located at 100 Old Turnpike Road in Nottingham (On Route 4).

#### Bible Study Groups:

Our Bible Study groups meet on Thursdays:

- *Women's Morning Study* @ 10:00 am
- *Women's Evening Study* @ 6:30 pm
- *Guardian's Gathering for Men* @ 6:30 pm

#### Easter Services– Sunday March 31st:

- *Easter Sunrise Service* @ 6:30 am
- *Easter Service* @ 10:00 am

You can also check out various other activities on our website: [hgremnant.com](http://hgremnant.com) or our Facebook page: "Higher Ground: A Remnant Church".

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call (877) 580-3026 or email [info@hgremnant.com](mailto:info@hgremnant.com).

*We hope you will stop in and join us! We look forward to meeting you!*



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## The Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA)

Steve Soreff, MD, President of the PLIA  
Volunteer Spirit

This article shows how through extensive volunteer programs the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) not only fulfills its mission to protect and sustain Pawtuckaway Lake and its environment but also does the same for Nottingham. Let us first look at what the PLIA volunteers do for the lake and then for the Town of Nottingham.

Here are some of the ways the PLIA protects Pawtuckaway Lake. In partnership with NH LAKES, we have volunteer Lake Hosts who work alongside paid Lake Hosts to inspect vessels both coming into the lake and leaving it for invasive species - most recently especially milfoil. They also educate the boaters about these destructive plants and animals and show them ways to check their vessels. This is the first line of defense to protect the lake. It is both to prevent more invasive species from entering our lake and leaving it to infest another body of water.

*A volunteer Lake Host inspecting a boat and trailer for invasive species.*



The second level of defense is the Weed Watcher Program. The focus here is early detection and in many cases removal of the destructive intruders. Members survey sections of their assigned shoreline of the lake to discover "something new". When they find something, they leave a marker and report their findings of unusual species. These are immediately checked and appropriate interventions are initiated. In cases of Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife growth, swift pulling is conducted. In 2022 Weed Watchers provided 234 volunteer surveying hours and in 2023 they did over 140 hours.

However, despite these defenses, since 2015 milfoil has invaded and sadly spread in Pawtuckaway Lake. When and where milfoil is detected the Milfoil Team springs into action. They are volunteer SCUBA divers. They initially search a suspected area and mark the milfoil plants. Then, specially trained SCUBA divers gently remove the entire milfoil plant with as much of its roots as possible. These divers' safety is protected by support kayakers. In 2023, the Milfoil Team had 458 hours of volunteer work. In 2022, it was 851 hours. In 2021, 954 hours. The reason the hours were much lower in 2023 is due to the DASH team pro divers and the ProcellaCOR treatment. The DASH team provided 72 hours of paid work and the ProcellaCOR treatment killed a lot of

milfoil that would have taken our volunteer team many, many hours to search, mark and remove.

*Some of the volunteers of the Milfoil Team who searched the waters off the Town Beach.*



But that is not all. PLIA volunteers regularly monitor the water quality of the lake and some of the brooks flowing into it. They monitor the water for phosphorus levels and its clarity. And, a volunteer then drives the water sample to Concord to be analyzed.



*A volunteer doing water testing.*

Here are some of what the PLIA's volunteers do for the community. It has adopted a several-mile section of New Hampshire Route 156. As adopters, it organizes a trash pick-up day on that piece of highway three times a year. Volunteers find and collect trash, bottles, cans, debris, and other material thrown out on the road. It makes the highway cleaner and more attractive.

*PLIA volunteers with all the trash they collected on its Adopted Highway*



In addition, PLIA volunteers participate in the Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department's Community Clean-up Day often connected to Earth Day. They cleaned the Town's Beach removing the grass invasion from the sand, clearing areas of roots and branches, and raking the beach. Also, several PLIA volunteers have restored and renovated the Recreation Department shed located there.

*PLIA and other community volunteers cleaning the Town's Beach.*



## Candidates for Town and School Elections March 12, 2024



The information and photos on the next pages were compiled from email messages submitted to us by some of the candidates up for election in Nottingham. A photo is also included if the candidate submitted one to this newsletter. Some candidates submitted neither a statement nor a picture.

### Ben Bartlett, Candidate for Board of Selectmen, 3 year term

I am currently running for re-election for the Board of Selectmen. My family roots run deep in this community dating back to the Revolutionary War. I am a retired military member and served in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The accomplishments of the board include, the sale of USA Springs Property creating a newly formed Business Park, remodeling/ saving the old town hall for the new SAU office. Leasing the old fire station for dry storage, utilizing the funds generated to help with the upkeep. Purchasing new equipment for the highway department utilizing state highway funds and ARPA Funds, All at no expense to the taxpayers. Appointing Nottingham's first female Police Chief Fawn Woodman and who could forget the memorable Recycled Percussion concert that took place at the school. The list of accomplishments goes on.

I volunteer time for the Marston Field clean up, installing a walkway around the flag pole and removed the brush and over growth at the community center at no expense to the taxpayer. I have even declined to take a stipend this last year while serving and should I be re-elected; I will not take a stipend going forward. I serve, for the love of this great community.

There is still a lot of work to be done, let's come together so we can move Nottingham forward for a brighter future. It's been an honor serving Nottingham. I ask for your vote.

### John Decker, Candidate for Board of Selectmen, 3 year term

I am running for a 3 year term on the Board of Selectmen. I've been a full time resident of Nottingham since 1995 when I moved back into town with my family. I have been on the Budget Committee the last 5 years and previously spent 10 years on the budget committee before taking some time off in between. While on the Budget Committee I have represented them at different times on the CIP committee, School Building Committee and SAU separation. I was also on

the PLIA board in between my stints on the Budget Committee serving in both Vice president and President capacities.

Why am I running for Selectmen? That's a great question, maybe I'm a bit crazy or have some kind of sadistic wish. I know, it's a thankless job but I believe I have the skills needed to help steer Nottingham forward. I appreciate the small town and community we have and want us to make practical decisions in all that we do. Feel free to reach out to me at [johnd.nottingham@gmail.com](mailto:johnd.nottingham@gmail.com). I hope I can earn your vote.

### Matt Shirland, Candidate for Board of Selectmen, 3 year term

I'm running for Board of Selectmen, a position I was appointed to in May 2023. I've lived in Nottingham since 2010, with my wife and our 5 children. I want to continue my work as Selectman, working to bridge the crossroads we face here in Nottingham. We have a growing community, and those who've been here for generations. Some of those with familial names we see on our roads, memorials and buildings. How do we blend old vs. new? How do we retain the reason so many of us moved here, while meeting the needs of our growing town? How do we maintain a reasonable cost of living? I am more conservative in my personal rights and thoughts on spending, but I'm a firm believer in you get what you pay for. I want to incrementally work to correct the deferred maintenance on our town properties. Maintaining is cheaper than building new. There are big decisions coming up for our town. I believe I bring the attributes needed to identify and tackle these issues. I humbly ask for your vote on March 12th. Respectfully submitted by Matt Shirland.



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

I moved to Nottingham 14 years ago for quiet, small town life and low taxes. Unfortunately, in recent years, our property taxes have skyrocketed due to out-of-control spending. You probably noticed your most recent tax bill was 24% higher than the previous. This year's proposed budgets are both increasing by over 6%, not including the over \$1M in warrant articles. These increases are outpacing inflation and wage growth, so each year more of your family's income is no longer

Continues on next page...



available for you to spend as you see fit.

Having served the last four years on Budget Committee, I know these tax increases could have been worse if not for our work. In meetings, I do not hesitate to question our town and school officials about how they spend our money. As a result, I have developed a good understanding of how our local government functions, and how it can satisfy its basic responsibilities as efficiently as possible.

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.

I ask for your vote so that I can continue to serve as an advocate for taxpayers and ensure that Nottingham remains an affordable town to live in.

### **Donna Danis, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3 year term**

After a one-year hiatus from the Select Board, I have decided to run for a three-year term on the Budget Committee. What can I say? Community service is in my blood. My husband and I have lived in Nottingham for 33 years. We raised our daughter here and are completely invested in this town. Having served a previous stint on the Budget Committee, I have experience on both sides of the budgeting process.



No one wants to pay higher taxes, including me so we have to be realistic about balancing needs and wants within the constraints of the adopted tax cap. We must also ensure that we don't put our community at risk. There are several infrastructure issues that need to be addressed based on prioritization. We have to attract and retain great employees. We have to plan for future large expenses. For this reason, I believe we need to use the Capital Improvement Planning process more than it has in the past and as a real collaborative tool for prioritizing large expenses.

I believe it's important that the Budget Committee, Select Board, and School Board work together to prioritize the areas that require the most immediate and sufficient investments. It's also very important to me that the interactions between the boards and between boards and town employees be positive, respectful and without personal bias at all times.

I would appreciate your vote on March 12.

### **Jillian Eldredge, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3 year term**

I'm excited to declare my candidacy for the Budget Committee. My husband and I have two young children and are grateful to raise them in Nottingham where the services and opportunities for young children and families are so plentiful and of high quality. I believe that it is important to



have a voice for young families represented in our town government and I promise to advocate for the many wonderful benefits of living and raising children here. In addition to being a resident of Nottingham, I have over a decade of professional experience in nonprofit management and am deeply familiar with the realities of budgets, staff, HR and other particulars of running an organization. In my day job, I work in land conservation. While environmental topics are, of course, dear to me, my work has afforded me the opportunity to coordinate with a lot of municipalities and so I have a familiarity with how towns and their Boards, Committees and Departments operate. I see the challenges that Nottingham faces and promise to bring a collaborative, pragmatic and solutions-oriented approach to the work. I look forward to working together with other committee members, with town staff and with other residents to ensure a bright future for the town.

### **Jeffrey Morrison, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3 year term**

I have lived in Nottingham for over eight years and it is a great place to live. I am 42 years old and have worked in the mechanical trades for 25 years performing service, installation and management work. Some of my responsibilities at work include problem solving, ensuring customer satisfaction, creating schedules, meeting timelines, purchasing material, maintaining budgets as well as my favorite part, providing direction and guidance for younger or less experienced employees. I have served for 3 years on the Budget Committee and seeking reelection for another 3 year position. For the past year, I have also served on the School Facilities Board as a Rep to the Budget Committee. I am a low tax type of guy. I strive to minimize large tax increases as well as greater financial burden on all of our residents. Over my lifetime, I have met people from all walks of life who work very hard to achieve the best quality of life possible. It is my thought that robust tax increases can drastically affect people's



lifestyles, diet, living conditions as well as location and most importantly, stress levels and overall health. I would like to thank the residents who read this and I would ask for your vote this March.

### **Brent Tweed, Candidate for Budget Committee, 3 year term**



I am running for reelection to the Nottingham Budget Committee.

Runaway government spending, deficits, high inflation, a national debt of \$34 trillion, and unfunded liabilities of \$212 trillion presents unique challenges.

Residents are seeing ballooning food, energy, and housing costs, but unfortunately incomes don't always keep up with these rising costs making it difficult to keep up with tax increases.

Blame for runaway inflation caused by the unsound practice of printing or creating money out of thin air, can be pointed towards Washington DC, nevertheless residents of Nottingham must deal with the consequences. Sound money and sound fiscally responsible government budgets are the answer to this economic mess.

I fought against tax increases and put forward an unsuccessful amendment to lower the bottom line budgets to prevent taxes from increasing more than 4% compared to last year. I support the 4% tax cap which likely cannot be said for all of those running for the Budget Committee.

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 it that way. I would appreciate your vote for Budget Committee on March 12.

### **Doug Cummings, Candidate for Planning Board, 1 year term**

Greetings, my name is Douglas Cummings, I've lived here in Nottingham for 34 years along with my wife Judith and our two beautiful daughters. I'm running for the one year position on the Planning Board. I believe in a thoughtful commonsense approach to planning for growth. I'm confident I can help our small town walk that fine line between adding new developments and negative impact due to too much too fast. I'm asking for your vote on Election Day, let's see if I can help.



### **Ruth Anne Fuller, Candidate for Supervisors of the Checklist, 6 year term**

My husband, Ron, and I moved to Nottingham in 2004 while we were still working in Massachusetts. I was a teacher in Groveland (35 years), and Ron owned a family business, W.E. Fuller and Co., in Amesbury. Since then we have both retired, and are now enjoying our time together, with family and friends, and traveling. We are blessed to have been married for 54 years this coming August. We have settled in these last almost 20 years and are happy to call Nottingham, NH our home.



It has been an honor to be serving as a Supervisor of the Checklist. I have served since 2010 when I was appointed to replace a supervisor who resigned. I went on to be elected to 2 six year terms since then, and I am ready and able for another. It has been a challenging learning experience and a rewarding way to participate in the election process and serve my community.

I have kept up to date with the changing election laws and state training in order to keep Nottingham's checklist up to date and our elections transparent and fair. Working as a team with the Supervisors, the Clerk, and Moderator has been a great experience. We all strive to encourage voting, and ensure the results are accurate.

Thank you for considering me to serve another term as Supervisor of the Checklist.

### **Melissa Bielat, Candidate for School Board, 3 year term**

I am running for a 3yr position on the Nottingham School Board.

My husband and I moved to town in 2010, happy that we found a small community that had so much to offer a growing family. Fast forward 14 years, and we couldn't be happier raising our 3 children in such an amazing community.

I started my professional journey in education, I was a Spanish teacher in Nashua for 3 years. After a brief stint in the classroom, I earned my BSN and became a Registered Nurse where I found my passion in working with and advocating for moms and babies.

Having three children, I have been fortunate to volunteer as a coach for their soccer and t-ball teams, serve as a member of the Nottingham School PTA and substitute at the school for the nurse.

With my youngest now in kindergarten, and my older two children in 4th and 6th grade, I have chosen to run

**Continues on next page...**



for School Board as I feel it is time to give back to my community. I truly respect the rights of parents and the choices they make on behalf of their children and will work to strengthen the partnership between the school and parents in our community. I respectfully ask for your vote for school board on March 12th. Thank you!

**Caroline Ganier, Candidate for  
School Board, 3 year term**

Hello! My name is Caroline Ganier and I am running for a position on the school board. I moved to Nottingham in 2012 with my husband, Bill. We have two sons in second and fifth grade at Nottingham School. We are active in Nottingham sports and recreation, and take advantage of the natural surroundings of our beautiful town. I want to make sure that every child in our town continues to have the same opportunities afforded to our children for years to come. I am proud to live in a town that supports our students and I want to contribute to our community.

As an educator with 18 years of experience in public schools, I feel that my experience will bring a balanced perspective to the school board. My goal as board member is to keep the students’ needs at the forefront of decision making, while also balancing taxpayers' obligations. I am committed to promoting equity and inclusion to ensure that all students have access to opportunities and resources at our school. I believe that a strong partnership between all stakeholders is important, from administrators, teachers, students, and community members. I will listen to understand all sides and thoughtfully consider the perspective of others.

I am passionate about the opportunity to serve on the School Board, and I humbly ask for your support.

**Parks and Recreation  
Department News  
recreation@nottingham-nh.gov**

*Submitted by Emma Breslend,  
Nottingham Parks & Recreation  
Program Supervisor*



Recreation Office Hours: M-F 9:00am-4:00pm **679-3435 x107** Please make sure to check out our website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter page for all up-to-date programming. 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.

<https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/recreation-department>

Facebook: @**nottinghamparksandrecreation**  
Instagram: @**nottinghamparksandrecreation**

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 noted above. Fill out the form that is located on our homepage!

**If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to set up a meeting, we would love chat and fill you in on everything Parks and Recreation!!**

**Nottingham Parks & Rec Sponsorship Opportunities:**

- Visit our website if you or your business is interested in partnering with us in 2024.
- There are options to sponsor individual events, put your logo in our print marketing and more!

**Upcoming Events and Programs:**

**Toddler Pop-Up: Bug Hunt!**

*Preschool Aged Kids and their Guardian*

*April 10th, 2024 10:00 – 11:30 AM Town Hall Gym*

*\$10 Register Now on our website.*

Join us for our super popular toddler pop-up program! We will have activities for Toddlers and their Grownups, snacks, music, and lots of fun.

**T.A.G. Craft Night**

*5th – 12th Graders 3/14/24 5:00 – 7:00pm*

*Town Hall Kitchen*

*\$10 Register Now on our website*

We will be holding our second craft night for 5th – 12th graders at the Town Hall Kitchen! The craft is TBD, so keep your eye out for more information on our social media pages and website!

**T.A.G Dodgeball and Doughnuts**

*Grades 5 – 12 5:00 – 7:00 PM March 29th, 2024*

*\$10/Person, \$40/Team of 5 Preregistration Required*

*NEW LOCATION: Nottingham School Gym*

Due to the huge turnout at our last Dodgeball and Doughnuts Tournament, we have decided to offer the program twice a year and move to the school gym for more room. If enough teams sign up, we will be able to

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Address: 1 NH Avenue, Portsmouth NH 03801



have divisions! Join us for dodgeball, doughnuts, and lots of fun.

**Pickleball Courses: Intermediate and Advanced Intermediate**

*Ages 18+ March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, 2024*

*Intermediate 8:15 – 10:15 am*

*Advanced Intermediate 10:15am – 12:15pm*

*\$60/Resident, \$70/Non Resident*

*Preregistration Required Town Hall Gym*

**Intermediate—4 Week Pickleball Course:** Do you already know most/all of the rules & where to stand on the court? Have you been playing in rec play and now want to play at a higher level so you win more games? Then this course may be right for you! This fun filled pickle experience will include: \*3 types of serves and how to use them \*Drop shots, when and why \*Dinking with purpose \*Blocking and shutting down “bangers” \*How to handle lobs \*Tethering

**Advanced Intermediate—**This class is great for players who compete at a 3.5 and above level, want to learn more about high level kitchen tactics and are competitive and strive to play at a higher level. We will discuss strategies and techniques for high level kitchen play including dinking, attacking, counter attacking, solid ready position, defending attacks, and pressuring your opponents. This class will consist of instruction, drills, modified game play to encourage use of the new techniques and strategies you learn.

**End of Season Pickleball Tournament**

*Ages 18+ 4/18/24*

*\$10/Team*

*Times are TBD based on amount of teams*

*Preregistration Required Town Hall Gym*

This is a Recreation style tournament meaning there are no refs. It is the honor system. Teams of two. There will be snacks, refreshments and coffee in the kitchen during the tournament. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL THE DAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT FOR UPDATES, RULES AND SCHEDULE. Any questions or concerns

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please email [recreation2@nottingham-nh.gov](mailto:recreation2@nottingham-nh.gov).

**Spring Hiking/Walking Group All Ages**

*Friday’s Twice Per Month (Dates Below)*

*Meet at the Trailhead, or Carpool with the Rec from the Town Offices*

*10:00 am (at trailhead) or 9:45 to Carpool*

Did you know that Nottingham has many awesome trails right here in town? This group will meet on Fridays, twice per month at the Town Hall Parking Lot (to carpool in the rec van) or at the trailhead. If there is inclement weather, the program will be cancelled on our social media, or sign up for our email list.

Schedule:

- 4/5/24: Pawtuckaway State Park Oak Trail
- 4/19/24: Kennard Forest
- 5/3/24: Marston Farms Recreational Area
- 5/17/24: Pawtuckaway State Park Fire Tower Trail
- 6/7/24: Bedrock Gardens (\$15)
- 6/21/24: Little River Park

**YIN Yoga Fusion**

*Ages 18+ \$12 Drop in, \$84 for Session*

*Wednesdays March 6 – April 17,*

*Hybrid Classes March 6, March 27, and April 3rd*

*9:30-11am, Town Hall Kitchen and Hybrid*

YIN Yoga Fusion includes Chi Gong Flow, Meditation, and YIN asanas designed to nourish and balance your nervous system. Yoga NIDRA promotes deep states of conscious relaxation that shift awareness from our external world to our inner world; allowing your body and mind to restore, rest and heal deeply.

**Kick off to Summer 5K and 1K!**

*All Ages June 15, 2024 at 9:00AM*

*Preregistration is REQUIRED. Please go to the town website, under Community Events!*

*5K Late Registration: 3/1- Race Day \$30*

*1K Registration: \$20 (Great for those who want to participate but don't want to commit to the 5K)*

Kick Off to Summer 5K & 1K is a NEW event that we are bringing to Nottingham in 2024! This event is paired with our Community Yard Sale and Plant Swap at the Town Hall. A wonderful community day that will be filled with excitement, community spirit and a great way to kick off the summer! This will be a RUNNING and WALKING 5K & 1K with the ability to bring strollers if you wish. This event will benefit the Nottingham Parks and Recreation Department and the goal will be to use the profits made from this event for

**Continues on next page...**



Parks and Recreation Month activities in July.

### You've Been Egged

Preschool through 5th Grade March 22, 2024

**N O T T I N G H A M  
RESIDENTS ONLY**

We will bring the eggs to you!! 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!). Happy egg hunting!



### Youth Egg Hunt

Preschool through 5th Grade March 23, 2024

10am – 12pm FREE, Preregistration Required

Town Hall Gym, Playground, and trails

Join us for a fun 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! Pre-registration is required. There will be FREE refreshments and snacks provided for all participants. Families can enjoy yard games, face paint, and fun Easter crafts while they wait for their turn to hunt!

### Community Wide Cleanup Day

All Ages April 15th, 2024 Time TBD

FREE Preregistration Required

Various Locations (Community Center Trails and Playground, Marston Farm Recreation Area, and the Town Beach)

Nottingham, are you ready for Spring? Are you a community group or passionate about keeping our outdoor spaces clean and beautiful? If you are, please join us for our Community Wide Clean Up Day this April. Help us clean up at the Community Center Trails and Playground, Marston Farm Recreation Area, and the Town Beach.

This year we are requesting extra help as we are installing our NEW playground structure at the Town Hall.

### American Eagle Mixed Martial Arts- Brendan Behr

(Year -round) Mondays and Wednesdays

Ages 5 and up, Kids Beginner, 5:30PM-6:15PM

Kids Intermediate/Advanced, 6:30PM-7:15PM

Teens and Adult Martial Arts 7:00PM-7:45PM

139 Stage Rd. Nottingham

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, [Brendan.behr@gmail.com](mailto:Brendan.behr@gmail.com) or (603)-312-9362 for more information.

### T.A.G. Counselor in Training

Second Wednesday of Each Month, 2:40-4:00 PM

Takes place at After School Care (Nottingham School Cafeteria)

\$10/month, preregistration required Has your teen or tween aged out of our summer camp and/or the after-school care program? Do they miss the Rec atmosphere? Are they looking to learn how to become a summer camp or after care staff member? If yes, then our new CIT drop-in program is a perfect place to start. On the second Wednesday of each month, we will teach our CITs how to plan activities, keep kids safe, and everything about being a NP&R Staff Member! Preregistration is required on our website and there is a \$10 drop-in fee per session. CITs can come to After Care directly after school and then be picked up by guardians at 4:00. Once CITs have graduated 8th grade, they will be set up fantastically to interview for a job with us!

### Toddler Gym Preschool Aged Children

September – June 9:30-11:30 AM

Town Office Gym (139 Stage Rd, Nottingham)

This program requires a parent or guardian in attendance. This is a great place for toddlers to create, play and socialize!

### Legacy Luncheon 55+

Third Wednesday of the Month, Except July and August 12:00PM



Town Office Kitchen (139 Stage Rd, Nottingham)

Free! RSVP (603) 679 – 3435, [recreation2@nottingham-nh.gov](mailto:recreation2@nottingham-nh.gov)

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon. Lunches are for socializing and meeting new people. This year we will be doing themed activities each month along with meals.

**March 20, 2024:** 10AM-12PM- *In the Spirit of St. Patrick's Day, learn how to write your own Limerick!* This is a FREE workshop! Lunch will begin at noon.

**April 17, 2024:** 10AM-12PM- *Festive Creations Workshop*, Spring is in the air! Join us and make a wreath or centerpiece to take home. This is a FREE workshop! Lunch will begin at noon.

### Betty Ball 55+, Co-Ed

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday

7:00 – 8:00AM (Weekdays), Saturdays 7:30- 8:30AM

Town Office Kitchen (139 Stage Rd, Nottingham)

\$3/Day Drop in

Betty Ball is a non-competitive, unskilled and quirky version of pickup basketball for seniors 55+.

### April Vacation Camp K-6th

Monday 4/22 – Friday 4/26

8:00AM – 4:00PM

Town Office (139 Stage Rd, Nottingham)

Register Online

A typical day at vacation camp includes playing games in the gym, doing arts and crafts, and having fun with friends and our incredible staff! Don't forget to bring two snacks, lunch, water bottle, and all-weather clothing for when we go outside.

### 100 Mile Challenge All Ages

February 1 – June 1

FREE or pay \$25 and get a special merch item and a chance to win a pair of Beats Headphones!

Town Office (139 Stage Rd, Nottingham)

Register Online

Complete 100 Miles at your own pace by January 1st! All fitness levels, abilities AND ages are encouraged to participate. Keep track of your activity by using the tracking sheet provided. Walk, Run, Bike, Hike, Snowshoe- or whatever gets you moving! Participants are encouraged to turn in tracking sheet when complete!

### Adult Men's Pick Up Basketball

September 10th, 2023 – August 1st, 2024 Sundays

NO PLAY DATES: 11/26, 12/24, 12/31, 3/17, 5/26, 7/7,

8:00-10:00AM

Nottingham Elementary School Gym

\$3/Day Drop in, Annual Membership \$75

**\*\*NEW this year! Don't want to bring cash?? Sign up on our [online registration site](#), and buy a membership for the year! It is only \$75 for a Resident membership all access.**

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**Nottingham Community Church**  
**Unitarian Universalist**

**Rev. Craig Werth**  
**Interfaith Chaplain**

Sunday service 10:00 a.m.  
106 Church St.  
[www.nottinghamuuu.com](http://www.nottinghamuuu.com)

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

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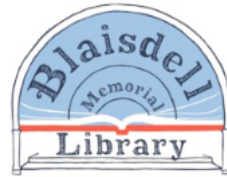
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**Blaisdell Memorial Library**

Submitted by Jordan Reed  
blaisdellml@comcast.net

**Library Hours**

**Tuesday:** 10am – 5pm    **Wednesday:** 10am – 8pm

**Thursday:** 10am – 8pm    **Friday:** 10am – 2pm

**Saturday:** 10am – 2pm    **Sunday & Monday:** Closed

**Phone:** 603-679-8484

**Email:** [bmlcirculationdesk@gmail.com](mailto:bmlcirculationdesk@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://nottinghamlibrary.org>

**Facebook or Instagram:** @blaisdellml

**Keep up to date on all our program offerings by following us on Facebook, visiting our homepage, or subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter.**

*Some programs may require registration, due to limited supplies. To register for any program, please call, e-mail, or inquire at the front desk. All library programs are free and open to the public.*

**Adult Programs:****Game 'n Gab – March 5th & April 2nd @ 1 pm**

Join us for games, conversation, and friendly competition while relaxing in the library.

**Community Coffee Hour - Every Wednesday morning @ 10am**

Enjoy bite-sized Blaisdell discussions at the BML. Join us to talk about Nottingham and the latest local events, learn about community resources, pick up advice for daily life, meet local business owners, and enjoy free coffee and snacks. All community members are welcome! If you are interested in presenting at coffee hour, please contact the library.

**Afternoon Book Group – First Thursday of the month @ 1:30pm**

March 7th: *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult

April 4th: *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradal

**Evening Book Group – Fourth Wednesday of the month @ 6:30pm**

March 27th: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

April 24th: *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant

Copies of book group titles are available at the circulation desk. Please register for the group if you haven't already to ensure the library will have enough copies. A valid Nottingham library card is required to borrow book group books.

**Cookbook Group – Second Thursday of the month @ 6pm**

March 14th: *Cooking with Sourdough*

April 11th: Special Presentation - *Growing a Healing Garden* with Willa Coroka

BML's cookbook group will be going through some changes in 2024 with a new bi-monthly format starting in February!

The new cookbook group model will be split between a special demonstration or class focused on a type of food or ingredient one month, and a more typical cookbook group meeting based on that theme the next.

All patrons are welcome to sign up for the food demonstrations and those who are interested in putting their new skills into practice are welcome to join the cookbook group and attend the next meeting. To sign up for the cookbook club, please contact the library.

**Growing a Healing Garden – April 11th @ 6:30pm**

Long before gardens became aesthetic features, plants were cultivated for their medicinal value. This presentation showcases a potpourri of easy to grow medicinal herbs and showcasing a variety of garden designs to help you grow your own first aid kit. This event is hosted by Willa Coroka of The Magpie's Apprentice.

Sign-ups will be required for this event.

**Youth/Young Adult Programs:****BYG (Blaisdell Youth Group)**

**Regular Meetings:** March 20th & April 17th @ 6pm

**BYG Role-playing Game:** March 2nd & April 6th @ 10am

The BYG is a club for kids of middle school age to get together, make friends, discuss books, and participate in

fun activities. New members are always welcome and regular meetings are drop-in with no registration required.

**Children's Programs:**

The current children's programming session runs from January 9th until February 16th. The next session will start on March 5th and run for 6 weeks until April 13th. Sign-ups for the next programming session will be announced at a later date.

STEAM and LEGO+ Club have limited slots for participation, and we may not be able to take all interested children. Children on the waitlist for either club have priority in signing up for the next session.

Story Hour with Miss Julie and Miss Robin – Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays @ 10am

Story Hours are aimed at young children, from babies to kindergarten age. Each week has a new theme, with stories, songs, crafts, and fun sensory play time to enjoy. All story hours are drop-in.

Some themes for this session include stories about spring, wind, colors, and outer space.

**STEAM Club – Tuesdays @ 3pm**

STEAM Club is geared for children in grades 3 through 6. Each week involves exciting projects that'll teach children about cooking, sewing, science, engineering, arts, and more! Program registration is required.

Some projects for this session include rabbit weaving, making planets with perler beads, and popcorn science.

There is no STEAM Club on days with no school.

**LEGO + Club – Thursdays @ 3pm**

LEGO+ Club is geared for younger children, from kindergarten age up through grade 2. Build and play with friends, with new Lego and STEAM challenges each week! Program registration is required.

Some challenges for this session include creating leprechaun traps, making spring mosaics, and building Lego spaceships.

**Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party – March 1st @ 10am**

Celebrate Dr. Seuss and all his wonderful, wild worlds

and stories with a special story time! We will be reading some of his books and enjoying Seuss-themed activities while eating special treats!

**April Vacation Specials****UNH Sea Trek – April 23rd @ 10am**

Get to know the unique anatomy of the squid with this hands-on lesson from UNH! First learn about the different parts of the squid's body, then examine them for yourself with a guided dissection. This program is for children of elementary and middle school age. Sign-ups will be required.

**For the Love of LEGOs – April 25th @ 10am**

For the Love of LEGOs is a drop-in time for children to play with the library's Lego collection. Build whatever you can imagine, on your own or with others!

**Charlotte's Web Book Party – April 26th @ 10am**

Charlotte's Web is a classic children's book that's been delighting readers for more than fifty years, and this book party is the perfect chance to celebrate it! To join in, pick up a copy of the book at the front desk in March and read it with your children. Then come in on Friday to talk about the book and its beloved characters, play games, enjoy snacks!

**National Library Week and BML's Birthday**

National Library Week begins on Sunday, April 7th and continues until Saturday, April 13th. This year's theme is "Ready, Set, Library!"

In celebration, and in recognition of **Blaisdell Memorial Library's 50th anniversary**, there will be special events, unique programs, and drop-in activities all week long.

The library will be announcing more events and programs throughout the coming months. Visit [www.nottinghamlibrary.org](http://www.nottinghamlibrary.org) or our Facebook page for the latest programming updates.

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# Nottingham Community Newsletter

## Nottingham NH 03290

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# RESIDENT

## NOTTINGHAM NH 03290

*Candidate Statements for upcoming Town Election inside:  
See pages 7 to 10 of this issue!*

### 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.)

The logo for Larkin View Homes LLC, featuring a stylized house with a chimney and a roofline.

**LARKIN VIEW HOMES LLC**

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Nottingham, NH LARKINVIEWHOMES@GMAIL.COM

The logo for Trashbusters, featuring a trash can with a diagonal line through it, indicating removal or disposal.

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