



THE

Gill Newsletter

June 2008 Issue

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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 HvB Imaging
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- Bev Demars
- Barbara Elliott
- Joe Elliott
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- Ronnie LaChance
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- Dot Underwood
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Town Hall News

Truck Override

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 5, members voted unanimously to purchase a new dump truck with plow and sander for the highway department, contingent upon the passing of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion vote override. That vote has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

The current plow truck is 19 years old and the body is rusting out (average lifespan of a highway truck is 10 years). The current sander is 28 years old. The Highway Department is spending money and time repairing these trucks on a regular basis and it is becoming unsafe to drive them. Both trucks failed inspection in late April and the department spent two days repairing them to get them to pass. If the town waits another year to purchase a truck, it has been told the price will increase approximately \$40,000 due to the increasing price of steel.

The department is requesting the ability to purchase a new truck on a five-year loan. If a debt exclusion vote passes, it would add an estimated 21 cents to the tax rate, which would mean approximately \$44.23 per year (for five years) on the average household (valued at \$212,500). Both the Select board and Finance Committee recommended the passing of this article at town meeting.

Fluorescent Bulb Recycling at Town Hall

Did you know that compact fluorescent bulbs contain mercury vapor? If you accidentally break a fluorescent bulb, there are certain things you must do to protect yourself and others:

1. Ventilate the area. Open a window or outside door.
2. Evacuate the area for 15 minutes.
3. On returning to the room, use a broom to clean up the broken bulb. **DO NOT USE A VACUUM**, which may redistribute fine particles around the room.
4. The broken pieces should be placed in a bag in the trash. They are not hazardous waste.
5. If you notice a white powder, this is phosphorous. It can be placed in the trash with the broken pieces.

If you have any questions, please call the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District: 413-772-2438, info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.



Check in with the
 Gill Website
www.gillmass.org
 for up to date news,
 announcements and
 contact information!



Because intact bulbs contain mercury vapor, they cannot be placed in the trash. For a small fee, fluorescent bulbs may now be dropped off at town hall. The cost is 50¢ for each compact, U tube, or circle lamp; 50¢ for each 4 ft. straight lamp; and \$1 for each 8 ft. straight lamp.

Please Complete the Regional Broadband Survey!

Broadband matters! We all agree that access to broadband (high speed internet) is an absolute necessity. If Western Massachusetts wants to spur economic development, increase quality educational opportunities, and enhance access to government services, broadband is essential. Berkshire Connect and Pioneer Valley Connect (the Connects) are working with legislators, local broadband groups, state agencies and the Governor's Administration to bring broadband services to our underserved region.

What efforts are underway?

The region currently awaits legislative approval of Governor Patrick's \$25 million bill targeted to bring broadband infrastructure to the unserved areas of the Commonwealth. At the same time, the Connects are working on both short and long-term projects to facilitate deployment of broadband in Western Massachusetts.

How can you help? Completing a short survey about broadband (less than 5 minutes) will provide the

Connects with a more accurate definition of the unserved areas of our region and determine broadband market potential.

The Survey may be completed by downloading a PDF version or completing an online electronic version of the Regional Broadband Survey. These are available at: www.pioneervalleyconnect.org or www.bconnect.org. Please complete the survey by June 30, 2008. All survey responses are completely confidential. Please submit only one survey per household and/or one survey per business address.

New Sewer Use Regulations

On March 31, 2008, the Board of Sewer Commissioners finalized a revision of the town's sewer regulations. Though most of the revisions were minor and brought the regulations in line with those in the town of Montague, which processes Gill's sewage, there are a few worth noting.

1. Article IX, Section 4 states:

Homes Not on Town Water Supply. Homes that are connected to the public sewer system, but not to the public water system, shall have a sewer meter installed to determine sewer usage. The homeowner shall purchase said meter from the water commissioners, have it installed by a licensed plumber, and have the installation inspected by the water commissioners.

The above section applies to both new homes joining the system *and* to existing homes already on the system. Users have until August 1, 2008 to come into compliance with this regulation.

2. Article IX, Section 6 states:

Abatements not allowed.

Sewer abatements will not be granted for the following uses:

- a) Watering of gardens
- b) General wash-down of automobiles, building, driveways, etc.
- c) Watering of lawns
- d) No water meter reading or use
- e) Any other reason determined by the Commission after review.

3. Article IX, Section 7 states:

Abatements considered for approval.

a) Filling swimming pools or spas. Sewer abatements for the purpose of filling swimming pools or spas may be granted by the Commission if the abatement value is greater than the cost associated for the Town to process the abatement. Abatements shall not be granted if the calculated abatement is less than \$10. In order to claim said abatement, the owner must take a water meter reading prior to filling the pool or spa and immediately after completion. This reading must be reported to the water commissioners via telephone or in writing within 48 hours so that the abatement may take place before the water com-



missioners present bills to the tax collector. When reporting the initial fill up of a swimming pool or spa, the owner must also notify the water commissioners of the capacity of the unit as provided by the manufacturer.

b) Excessive usage from broken water pipes. In the event a meter reading is excessive due to broken water pipes, the homeowner may request a sewer abatement if he can prove that the excess water did not enter the sewer system.

c) Inaccurate readings. Sewer abatements for inaccurate readings shall be subject to the water commissioners confirming the error. The sewer fee charged will be proportional to the corrected water meter reading or estimate.

Please note that in the case of filling swimming pools and spas (Article IX, Section 7(a)), you must contact the water commissioners **within 48 hours** of filling the pool/spa. To file an abatement for reasons listed under Article IX, Section 7(b) or (c), you must first pay your sewer bill, then file an abatement using an abatement form (see enclosed).

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Sewer Commissioners, at (413) 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

FRIENDS OF GILL

PICNIC ON THE COMMON • Sunday, June 22nd

Come join your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of family fun on the Gill Common on Sunday, June 22nd, starting at noon. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Gill and features food provided by the Firemen's Association. Included among the usual picnic food will be their famous "from scratch French fries." The Firemen will also bring a fire engine for children to inspect. The Friends of Gill will be selling its homemade strawberry shortcake, ice cream, and drinks.

The Fall Town String Band will be performing from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. Horse-drawn Hay Rides will be available from 12 to 2 PM. The Children's Sawdust Coin Hunt is scheduled for 2:00 PM.

The appearance of the Fall Town String Band is made possible through a grant from from the Gill Cultural Council an agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

FARM AND GARDEN TOUR • Saturday, June 28th

The self-guided Farm and Garden Tour of Gill is Saturday, June 28th, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Farmers and Gardeners have generously opened their grounds for this event, where you can see from among a diversity of offerings: apiary, emus, perennial gardens, arboretum, livestock, and dairy, fruit, and vegetable production.

Tickets, along with a map of the tour sites, may be purchased for \$7.00 at the following locations:

- Songline Emu Farm, 66 French King Highway
- Equii's, Turners Falls
- Jan's Package Store, 6 Main Road
- Mim's Market, Northfield
- Bernardston Farmers Supply
- Savage's Market, Deerfield
- World Eye Bookstore, Greenfield

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL • October 18th and 19th

This popular event is hosted each year by the Friends of Gill, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the benefit of the Gill community.

The Festival which features fine artisans from all over New England is the largest of our fund raising events. It also provides a venue for other town non-profit organizations, such as the Firemen's Association, the Slate Library, and the PTO, to raise funds through their participation.

The number of volunteers who have given their time and service has grown with the fair. Again, we ask your support.

We welcome ideas and suggestions as we work to make a country fair that is fun for the whole family. Please don't hesitate to call to sign up for whatever time you can give or for further information call 863-2212 (Kathy Augustine), 863-4792 (Bev Demars), or 863-9708 (Barbara Elliott). We can be reached by e-mail at: friendsofgill@yahoo.net.



Town Receives \$100,000 Grant for Mariamante Parcel

On April 9, Selectwoman Ann Banash, Administrative Assistant Tracy Rogers, and Franklin Regional Council of Governments Economic Development Planner Jessica Atwood drove to Boston to present a grant application to the Interagency Permitting Board. The application requested assistance for taking further steps to market, sell, and develop the Mariamante property on Main Road. After a five-minute presentation and a round of questions, the Board approved the application and granted Gill \$100,000 in assistance!

The grant will pay for further archaeological digging conducted by the Archaeological Services department at UMass; for town counsel to review current permitting procedures; for a market study on what would be feasible on the parcel; and for an engineering firm to draw up conceptual designs based on results of the market study and archaeological study.

Notary Public

The Town Tax Collector and Treasurer, Ronnie LaChance, is a licensed Notary Public and is available to all residents of Gill by appointment only. To make an appointment call 863-2105.

Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard

Gill Fire Department

Gill Firemen's Association Annual Scholarship

The Gill Firemen's Association will award academic scholarships to two outstanding graduating seniors from Gill; Amanda Golembeski and Molly Perry. The scholarships are dedicated to the memory of Firefighter Stanley Ambo, Sr., who gave his last full measure of devotion in the line of duty. Each scholarship is funded by Gill's firefighters and is available to a town resident who graduates from an accredited area secondary school and plans to attend college. The criteria for selection emphasize personal character and community service as well as aca-



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ademic achievement. Miss Perry is ranked first in her class at the Turners Falls High School and will attend the University of New Haven in the fall as she seeks a degree in criminal justice. Miss Golembeski, also graduating from the Turners Falls High School, plans to attend the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to pursue a degree in pre-veterinary medicine. Both young women have a long history of remarkable dedication and service to their school and community. The firefighters of Gill wish them well in their future endeavors.

Seeking New Members

The Gill Fire Department has six new members but we could always use a few more, especially during the work day. The Department provides the necessary equipment and training for new firefighters, who must be at least sixteen years of age. Preliminary training includes personal protective equipment, fire behavior, basic fire fighting skills, first aid, and CPR and defibrillation. More advanced training opportunities in pump operation, hazardous materials response, rope and water rescue, emergency medical technology, and other areas are available throughout the year. Remember, a community's volunteer fire department is as good as the people who make it work. If you live in Gill and you are physically up to the challenge of serving as a firefighter, we may be looking for you. The Town of Gill

is an equal-opportunity employer and its emergency services personnel are subject to criminal background (CORI) checks. The Gill Fire Department meets each Thursday evening at the fire station from 7:00 to 10:00. For more information, call the fire station at 863-8955.

New Defibrillators

The Gill Firemen's Association has been raising funds for new automated external defibrillators, devices that can restart a patient's heart during emergency cardiac care. One new defibrillator is in service on the rescue truck and another unit has been upgraded to the new American Heart Association's standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is requiring all first responder agencies to comply with the new standards for emergency cardiac care and defibrillation by 2008. As a result, the Fire Department must continue to replace its current automatic external defibrillators with new equipment. So far, the community has been very supportive of this important task and the Gill Firemen's Association has made it a fund raising priority. The Firemen's Association will team up with the Friends of Gill for the Picnic on the Common on June 22 and the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival at the Riverside School on October 18-19. Come eat a good meal and support the fund raising effort.

Student Awareness Of Fire Education Grant

The Gill Fire Department received more than it requested to educate Gill's children and teenagers in fire safety and prevention. The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services exceeded the Town of Gill's request of \$2,500.00 this year. Grant funds will allow firefighters to present important fire safety lessons to children at Gills public and private schools. Fire safety instruction ranges from teaching children in preschool and kindergarten how to call for help to dormitory safety for the Town's resident high school population.

Outdoor Cooking Fires And Fireplaces

Residents eighteen years of age or older may, without a permit, set a reasonable fire for the purpose of cooking as long as the fire is enclosed within rocks, metal, or other non-flammable material and safely away from residences and vegetation. The fire chief or his representative may issue orders to immediately remedy any dangerous condition, including extinguishing the fire, if the conditions of an outdoor fire are likely to cause a risk of greater fire. The Gill Fire Department appreciates the right of citizens to conduct reasonable and safe outdoor cooking fires and asks that residents take into consideration the potential effects of smoke or other fire-related nuisances upon their neighbors.



Visible House Numbers Reduce Emergency Response Time

The Fire Department urges residents to make sure their house numbers are visible from the street. Winter weather and snow plows may have damaged some numbers. House numbers that are missing or difficult to read can increase response time in an emergency.

Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Riverside School on Route 2. The Commission maintains the Gill Museum in an effort to preserve the history of Gill; the Museum is open at advertised times as well as by appointment. The Commission continues to appreciate the memorabilia, stories, and photographs that many people share or donate in the interest of documenting and preserving the history of Gill. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Dick French, Bob Perry, Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, or Pam Shoemaker.

On Wednesday, April 30, the GHC welcomed K-2 students from the Gill Elementary School for their annual visit. Commission member Bob Perry returned to present his show on logging in the Connecticut River. With log, red suspenders, and floppy hat, Bob brought stove lids (pancakes), logger berries (prunes), black strap (molasses), and jerk water (coffee) to show a logger's typical breakfast. Clearly returning students had thought about new questions, and first-timers were ready with their own. GHC hopes Logger Bob will have a show again at the Gill Craft Fair in the fall. Students enjoyed looking at the museum collection. The dinosaur footprints, children's toys, and elementary school pictures were favorites. They also liked finding their houses in the notebooks of Gill pictures and seeing the display of volunteer firemen's pictures. Part of the day's field trip included a tour of the Emu farm. The GHC was pleased to host the students again this year and looks forward to another visit next year. Thank you to Allan Adie for joining Bev Demars, Dick French, Bob Perry, and Pam Shoemaker as hosts in the museum.



Earlier in April, three students from Northfield Mount Hermon came to the museum with Pam Shoemaker for NMH Service Day. Brodrick Childs, Stephanie Zhao, and Jerry Alcius cleaned the glass on the showcases, inventoried articles, and helped re-organize files. In addition, they set up the new scanner/copier, installed software, and began scanning the elementary school pictures. Scanning pictures allows us to preserve the originals but have copies for display. In the future we hope to invite people to bring family and school pictures to scan into the historical collection for more preservation of town history. Thank you to the NMH students for their service to the Gill Museum.

Members of the Commission are pleased to have received more diaries for the collection. We continue to transcribe their records of life in Gill during the 19th century and will share excerpts both in the newsletter and in museum displays.

On May 17, the Museum will be open from 11:30 am to 2 pm to host those on the dinosaur tour sponsored by the Great Falls Discovery Center and the Pioneer Valley Institute. The Commission is glad to support learning about the geological history of Gill.

Gill Recreation Committee

Summer is coming, school is almost out. Red Sox trip was great. Probably the most exciting game yet in all of our Red Sox trips. Thank you to Nate Duda and the rest of the Recreation team members who helped make this a great turn out for the residents of Gill and friends.

Baseball and softball teams are going great. Like to thank youth coach Greg Leeds with help from Mitch Damon and Duncan Elliott. We want to thank peewee coach Nate Duda with help from Mark Almeida, David Shutta, Andy Abel, and also Joey Rinaldi for helping to coach boy's baseball. Farm coach is Jim Burstein with help from Gary Parzych and lots of parents. For the girls' softball coach we have Brian Bodell with help from Rollie Weld. We thank Chad Gallipault and Luke Paulson for refereeing and Nala Vaughn and Zachery Duda for filling in on the score keeping during basketball when Angela Marguet wasn't available. Thanks again guys for doing a great job.

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On April 26th we had a field clean up day. Thanks to all who helped out. If anyone is interested in visiting our website for game schedules or just interested in anything they feel they are missing, please feel free to go to gillmass.org.

The Recreation Committee is excited to once again be able to offer a fun-filled and rewarding summer experience for children. Local teachers Heather Lawton and Patricia Shilo will provide a fun, safe and creative environment for children to explore their imaginations, create child-based arts and crafts projects, participate in backyard sports and games, and enjoy summer with their friends. We will provide opportunities to swim, hear and extend stories with dramatic play and puppetry, and go on field trips. The program will take place at the Gill Elementary School from June 30th to August 8th, weekdays from 8AM to 4PM—cost is \$7.00 for a half day and \$14 for a full day. We are continually improving our summer format and your suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Feel free to call Patricia Shilo at 863-2017 afternoons after 4pm. COME JOIN THE FUN.



Gill Students

HONOR ROLL

Northfield Mount Hermon School

Grade 12

Academic Honors: Julian Findlay, Spencer Hattendorf, and Rachel Koh

Grade 11

Academic High Honors: Harriet Booth, and Alejo Irurueta

Grade 10

Academic High Honors: Kevin Pratt and Bradford Ward
Academic Honors: Faith Weis

Grade 9

Academic Honors: Nora Hefner

HONOR ROLL—Second Quarter Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

First Honors: Abbey Daniel-Green, Molly Perry, and Alexander Tufano

Third Honors: Amanda Golembeski, Zachary Little, Chelseigh St. Peter, and Jeremy Tetreault

Grade 11

Third Honors: Eric Dumas

Grade 10

First Honors: Danielle Dolhenty, Kathleen Rinaldi, and Sarah Underwood

Second Honors: Mackee Freeland

Third Honors: Matthew Garber

Grade 9

First Honors: Makayla Dolhenty, Brooke Hastings, Kysten Hawkins, Julie Howard-Thompson, Jack Hubert, and Andrew Turban

Second Honors: Rachel Ariaand and Natasha Vaughn

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Jane Booth, Christopher Gordon, Lily Kane, and Malik Odeh

Second Honors: Colton Hallett

Third Honors: Todd Richardson



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Grade 7

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Shawn Englehardt, and Timothy Meyer
Second Honors: Ceara Dolhenty, Bethany Laramie, and Nala Vaughn
Third Honors: Abigayle Cichanowicz, and Jonathan Marguet

Grade 6

Second Honors: Tyler Richardson

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 11

Honors: Nils Albert Johnson

Grade 10

Honors: Nicholas Duska and Jared Towne

Grade 8

Highest Honors: Mary Duska
Honors: Jacob Levin and Chad Galipault

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Emily Messer and Raleigh Yates
High Honors: John Arena, Jaclyn Lafleur, and Kaylyn Tognarelli

**HONOR ROLL—Third Quarter
Turners Falls High School**

Grade 12

First Honors: Abbey Daniel-Green, Molly Perry, and Alexander Tufano
Second Honors: Amanda Golembeski and Zachary Little

Grade 11

Second Honors: Allison Giknis and Amber Henry
Third Honors: Eric Dumas

Grade 10

First Honors: Kathleen Rinaldi
Second Honors: Danielle Dolhenty, Matthew Garber, and Corey Hescocock

Grade 9

First Honors: Brooke Hastings, Julie Howard-Thompson, Jack Hubert, Andrew Turban, and Natasha Vaughn
Second Honors: Rachel Arial and Makayla Dolhenty

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Jane Booth, Christopher Gordon, Lily Kane, and Malik Odeh
Third honors: Colton Hallett, Todd Richardson, and Samantha Shaw

Grade 7

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Shawn Englehardt, Timothy Meyer, Nala Vaughn, and Brittany York
Second Honors: Abigayle Cichanowicz, Ceara Dolhenty, Jonathan Marquet, and Jeremy Peffer
Third Honors: Leslie Kozma and Bethany Laramie

Grade 6

First Honors: Tyler Richardson

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

Honor: Christa Neff

Grade 11

High Honor: Nils Albert Johnson

Grade 10

Honor: Nicholas Duska and Jared Towne

Grade 8

Honor: Jacob Levin

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Emily Messer and Raleigh Yates
High Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur
Honor: John Arena and Kaylyn Tognarelli

COLLEGE NEWS

Noah Pack, attending the University of Massachusetts, was named a William F. Field Alumni Scholar “in recognition of outstanding academic achievement”.

Grace Harris, Jocelyn Keech, and Sarah Marchefka qualified for the dean’s list for the 2007 semester at the University of Massachusetts.

Freshman Jennifer Cowan made the dean’s list for the fall semester at the University of Vermont.

**Turners Falls High School
Winter Awards Assembly**

During a winter awards ceremony Molly Perry and Alexander Tufano were recognized for Academic Excellence in Advanced Placement Calculus.

SPORTS

We’ve had some very active Gill students attending Northfield Mount Hermon School in the sporting news lately. Erica Loomer has been throwing the javelin quite well in their track and field meets, Zoe Hastings has been scoring for her water polo team, Brady Ward and Spencer Hattendorf are on the Connecticut River with the boys’ varsity crew team and Harriet Booth is on the girls’ varsity crew team. Mackey Hemphill is on the girls’ prep lacrosse team. Former NMH student Brady Ward now pitches for the Georgetown University Club baseball team and was recently honored for a no-hitter against Radford College.



TFHS seniors Molly Perry and Abbey Daniel-Green and seventh grader Ceara Dolhenty are enjoying their season on the tennis team.

Infielders Chelseigh St. Peter, Angela Marguet, and Jodie Hallett have been hitting well for the TFHS varsity softball team. Katie Rinaldi is also available to play in the infield. Brittany York and Abigayle Cichanowicz are on the Great Falls Middle School softball team.

Senior Zach Little, when not pitching, is in the outfield for the varsity TFHS baseball team. The JV baseball team has Matt Garber, Jack Hubert, Andy Turban, and Jeff Gibson. The Great Falls Middle School with Chris Gordon, Matt Gibson, Anthony Suprenant, Tim Meyer, and Colton Hallett were 12-3 on May 16th with only a few games left to play.

Sophomore Scott Brown, Danielle Dolhenty and Sara Underwood returned to the TFHS track and field team.

Jared Towne and Nicholas Duska play varsity baseball for Pioneer Valley Reg. School and Jackie Lafleur, Raleigh Yates, and Emily Messer are playing softball for the middle school at PVRS.

Former TFHS student Ashleigh St. Peter has continued her softball greatness at Stoneleigh Burnham School.

Cemetery Commission News

The Gill Cemetery Commission would like to thank the Northfield Mount Hermon students who raked and cleaned up North and Center cemeteries on April 24th. We really appreciate their work effort and time they give our Town.

Slate Library News

Slate library is getting ready for its annual summer reading program. This event provides a fun filled summer of activities for Gill children and their families. **Slate library will be holding a book drive for a library book sale on the lawn during our summer reading kick-off party. Please bring all donations to the library during the month of June. We appreciate any and all donations.**

Wild Reads at Your Library

Slate Library's Summer Reading Program!

June 21 at 10:30 AM
Summer Reading Kick-Off Party and Library Book Sale

Come register for our summer reading program! Pick up a wild animal game board and get ready to play the summer reading game! Set your own goal based on a week of reading and visit your local library for new books and an exciting prize each week!

Check out a small library book sale held in conjunction with our party, you just might find a treasure to take home!

Lui Collins Concert (11:00 AM)
Lui Collins presents a musical program rich in tradition, myth, imagery and imagination for children and their caregivers. Lui Collins, a valley local has established herself as a powerful presence in the folk community. The Boston Globe has described her as "one of New England's first and brightest stars," and the Boston Herald declared her "a folksinger for our times!"

Come listen to songs about our natural world, cultural diversity, nature, ecology and dinosaurs too!

June 28 at 10:30 AM
Wild Animal Applique T-Shirts

Come to a fun filled morning of cutting and stitching to create a bright and colorful appliquéd t-shirt of your own design.

Participants will draw their own wild animals (think tigers, sharks, or tree frogs!) transfer their designs to fabric and create a wearable work of art. The library will provide fabric and thread but please bring a t-shirt (any color will do!) if you would like to participate.

July 5 at 10:30 AM
Drawing Magical and Mythical Beasts

Come listen to folktales about dragons and spend the morning drawing dragons or another creature of your choice. We will use ink and watercolor to create a large scale detailed drawing of your fantasy creature.



July 12 at 11:00 AM

Rosalita's Puppets

Experience the unique charm of marionettes made by professional actor puppeteer Charlotte Dore as seen in Great Britain and the U.S.A. In a show entitled "In Search of the Unicorn" we learn about a princess who loves to read books. What happens when a magic feather duster spirits her into a wild and enchanted forest with a dog, a dragon, and a skunk?! Come visit Slate library and find out!

July 19 at 11:00 AM

Wingmasters "The World of Owls"

Wingmasters of Springfield, Massachusetts offers one of the most professional birds of prey programs available. "The World of Owls" tells how owls use their specialized powers of sight, hearing, and flight to survive and thrive. A wealth of fact, fantasy and folklore about these nocturnal hunters explains the natural and unnatural history of these glorious birds.

July 26 at 10:30 AM

Natural Dyes from Wild Plants

Kids can learn all about the beauty of local dye plants that surround us in our natural habitat. Whether in the garden or along the stream, nature offers a wealth of color which can be brewed into dye baths for wool or paper. Come experience the magic of this ancient art with local fiber artist, Deborah Bazer. A hands-on workshop for children 6 and up.

August 2

End of Summer Reading Party!

The party might be over but there is no reason to stop reading!

Come check out a few new books, pick up a certificate to celebrate your completion of our program and hang out for our final bash...

Mad Science Wind and Bubble Show (at 10:30 AM)

Thrills and sparks the imagination! Wind and Bubbles focuses on the substance that surrounds us all the time, AIR! Using various toys, simple scientific equipment and the human body, the audience will learn why science is so amazing!

Local Author

A wonderful book has come to our attention, *Small Wonder*, by Susan LaScala who lives in Riverside with her husband, Dr. Jeffrey Blomstedt. It is the story of the first year of survival of their premature baby, Sarah.

On her admission to Franklin Medical Center, the expectant mother was immediately transferred to the Baystate Medical Center in Springfield where Sarah, weighing one pound and nine ounces, was born and immediately placed in the neonatal intensive care unit. The expected survival rate of a baby this small is about forty per cent. The battle to keep Sarah alive in the NICU is described blow by blow and day by day as only a loving mother can.

The author, a nurse by profession, writes detailed and informative descriptions of the treatment of Sarah's numerous medical crises which run the gamut from the initial struggle to breathe on her own to a viral infection that prevents the

flow of urine from her kidneys. The book is a beautifully written treatise on the miracles of modern neonatal care causing the reader to anxiously await the eventual outcome.

As the author travels local roads through Gill to I-91 on her daily trips to Springfield, her descriptions of the New England weather and seasonal changes tend to border on true poetry. A note of interest is the fact that Lynda, the woman who took care of Willie, Sarah's two year old brother, while his mother was in Springfield is none other than Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, our Gill town clerk.

The book itself is a small wonder and we heartily recommend it. Susan LaScala has agreed to come to the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival in October to sign copies of her book.

FRIENDS OF GILL
ask for your support at the
ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL
October 18th and 19th

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Distributing posters
- Setup
- Children's activities
- Information booth
- Booth sitting
- Hospitality
- General assistance
- Takedown

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Business Advertisements

The Gill Newsletter will include business card size advertisements of local businesses for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$50.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$50.00 payable to 'Town of Gill' to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses in a very tight budget, we would also welcome such contributions mailed to the above address.

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we and our advertisers cannot be responsible for errors or the accuracy of materials submitted to us.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The Newsletter will not be published in August.
The Deadline for the October Issue will be September 15th.

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