



THE

Gill Newsletter

December 2006 Issue

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

- Lynn Nichols
Starstruck Design
- Dorri Beaubien
- Bev Demars
- Barbara Elliott
- Joe Elliott
- Peter Jenkins
- Don Krüger
- Ronnie LaChance
- Dan Sachs
- Pam Shoemaker
- Dot Underwood
- Barbara Watson

Town Hall News

Hear ye, hear ye...Zoning Bylaw Revisions

are to be presented at a Special Town Meeting planned for December 11th beginning at 6:30 PM in the Gill Town Hall. Gill's Planning Board with the assistance of planners from the Regional Council of Governments has accomplished an extensive review of Gill's zoning bylaws. Monthly meetings that began almost a year ago enjoyed collaboration among a broad mix of Gill residents and officials, culminating with public presentations in late October at the Town Hall and in Riverside and a formal public hearing on November 9th. The final draft, which is available at the Town Hall, Slate Library and online at www.gillmass.org, achieved a balance between the rights of individuals and the common good. The bylaws must achieve 2/3 of Town Meeting attendees and the Attorney General's approval as to form to be deemed approved.

Main Road

contractors, F & J Construction are making plans to pave the section of Main Road in reconstruction that began late this fall to allow safe passage and plowing to occur during the winter months. The Selectboard and Mickey LaClaire, our Highway Superintendent, worked alongside MA Highway and F & J to ensure the project proceeded as smoothly as possible. Thank you to Gill residents and our Police Officers for their patience and service respectively during the necessary detour to Boyle and North Cross back to Main Road. Watch for notices when the project resumes in the spring.

Mariamante sale is in the final stage before formal requests for proposals for the Mariamante parcel will be sought. It has been a very complex process and committee members Ann Banash (Selectboard), Paul Nowill (Finance Committee), Suzanne Smiley (Zoning Board), Kit Carpenter (Historical Committee), Peter Jenkins (Ad Hoc Committee), and Peg Sloan and Bill Gran from Franklin Regional Council of Governments planning staff member are to be applauded for their hard work and dedication. The committee will continue through the oversight of the publication and review of responses, recommending finalists for negotiation of a purchase and sale agreement.

A Tax Rate is almost set, with bills expected to be due by year's end if all goes as planned. The process requires the assessors classify all real property within the town using guidelines established by the Department of Revenue each year. The Selectboard and Assessors then hold the classification hearing, scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th. It is expected a single tax rate will be adopted. Under



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



a single tax rate system, if residential property totaled 81 percent of a community's taxable property and 4 percent of the community's taxable property were open space, then 81 percent of the community's tax levy would need to be raised by residential property taxes, 4 percent would be raised by open space taxes and the remaining 15 percent would be raised by taxes levied on commercial, industrial and personal properties.

Once the classification is set, the Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, Accountant, Town Clerk and Board of Assessors collaboratively prepare a recapitulation of finances that determines the tax rate. The Tax Rate Recapitulation Sheet (recap) reflects the total revenues a community must raise through taxation to fund local appropriations (approval of expenditures made at town meeting in addition to state and county charges). Due to the passage of time from budget to tax rate setting, a community's estimates may have changed substantially. For example, final new growth figures (new building not previously valued or taxed) and actual receipts from the prior fiscal year are known rather than the preliminary estimates used during the budget process.

It's a balancing act; you take what Town meeting approved for expenditures, subtract available funds (state receipts, local revenues from fees and excise taxes and town meeting approved transfers) and what remains must be raised by taxation. The recap is submitted to DOR and upon approval of the tax rate the Tax Collector issues property tax bills.

Volunteer Opportunities – URGENT

The Zoning Board of Appeals still needs a member to complete a five-member board as town meeting decreed. Many of the decisions required of the ZBA need a quorum of four people under State law. If one of the four members must excuse themselves from discussion due to a possible conflict (a family member owns abutting property etc.) the remaining three members are unable to act and the variance or permit will be granted by default. Ann Banash, a member of the Selectboard has agreed to fill the gap temporarily until a resident comes forward to serve. The December special town meeting will also request voters to approve the addition of two alternate members to allow a full-five member board in the review of applications as part of the zoning revisions.

Town meeting recently approved a bylaw establishing an agricultural commission to support agriculture and other farming activities in the Town of Gill. The Commissions' function is to promote agricultural-based opportunities in Town; act as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues as needed; work for the preservation of prime agricultural lands; advise appropriate Town Boards on issues involving agriculture; and to pursue all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community. If you are interested in serving on Gill's first Agricultural Commission, please call Ray Steele, the Town Moderator at (413) 863-2443.

Regional Transit Authorities has been legislated to include a disabled commuter representative to serve as a non-voting member of the Advisory Board. Every city or town in the region, on a rotating basis shall appoint a representative. If you are interested in serving in this capacity on the Franklin Regional Transit Authority representing Gill or would like further information, please contact the Selectboard Office at 413-863-9347 or the FRTA office at 413-774-2262 ext. 105 and ask for Michael.

Thank you

Have you ever wondered who plants and in some instances cares for the flowers at the corner of Main Road and Route 2 or at Municipal buildings about town? While we're sure folks don't do it for the public acclaim, but rather in the spirit of community, we thought it time they receive some recognition.

For many years, Sam and Lillian Couture of Gill have planted, cared and maintained the whiskey barrel planter on the corner of Main Road and Route 2, even going as far as replacing the barrel when it sustained damage as a result of an accident or two. Their kindness by means of that beautiful blooming barrel is a constant source of pride and pleasure at the entrance to Gill via Main Road.

Bruce Yukl of Yukl's Greenhouse of Gill has planted and maintained the flower boxes at the Riverside Municipal Building for as many years I suspect. The community pride illustrated in the act of planting trailing ivy and bright blossoms at the building's



entrance is more than impressive. When Bruce heard Town Hall needed help planting barrels at the front entrance, he came up on a weekend and planted the most beautiful barrels imagined that have flourished under the care of Town Hall staff.

It is gifts such as these, the time and talent of committee members, residents and businesses that make Gill such a wonderful community in which to live and work. Please accept our thanks.

Fuel Assistance Available

Fuel assistance is available for the upcoming winter months through Franklin Community Action Group. The program assists low-income households by paying a portion of their home heating costs and is available to both renters and homeowners, covering all sources of heat (oil, natural gas, electric, propane, wood and coal). Residents who feel they need help are encouraged to apply now, before they are in an emergency situation. Applicants may call for an interview appointed 413-774-2310. For further information see www.communityaction.us. Your Council on Aging may be available to assist clients in filling out the application.

The Highway Department

wishes to thank residents for their patience during the Main Road construction project. The project is proceeding well and we expect drainage and some paving to be completed by the time of this reading. The project's estimated completion date is slated for the summer of 2008. Should anyone have a question or a com-

FRIENDS OF GILL

Both mornings of the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival dawned with a bright sun shining across a beautiful blue sky. Nearly fifty fine artisans showed a wide array of fine arts, crafts, and demonstrations. Wool spinning by Patricia Crosby was popular among visitors, who could also try their hand at making beeswax candles and printing their own cards on old manual printing presses. The Gill Firemen hustled to meet the demand for their great food and the homemade pies made by the Friends of Gill sold out early Sunday morning. The produce wagon was particularly successful this year as were the PTO bake sale and the 4-H booth with hands-on crafts for children. Exhibitors bravely took in stride the disruption of what must have been a micro burst late Saturday afternoon and set up as usual on Sunday morning for a second lovely and successful day.

The Friends of Gill are indebted to the following for donating their time, service, and support to this major fund raising endeavor: Dot Underwood, Barbara Watson, Meg Donnelly, Dick French, Emil Demars, Don and Marlee Kaplan, Patricia Crosby, Lynn Nichols and Don Krüger, Polly French, Beth Shepard, Mickey LaClaire, George Emory, Ed Ambo, Lisa Davol and the Turners Falls River Culture, Liz Baron, Kathy Mitchell, Beth and Chet Chin, the Demars family, Robert Clafin, Danny Flagg, Cliff Hatch and Uppingill, Northfield Mount Hermon, Pat Haigis, Atkins Country Market, Barry Petrin, Bruce Yukl. A hearty thanks to all.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

On December 3rd at 4:30 PM all of our townspeople are invited to attend the lighting of the Christmas tree, donated by John Barry, in front of the Gill Congregational Church. Be sure to bring a flashlight. Musicians Steve Damon and his wife, Joyanna, will lead the caroling with their trumpets. The Friends of Gill will host a reception in the basement of the church after the ceremony for which they will provide hot drinks and invite those who are attending to bring baked goods for others to share.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On Friday, January 19th, 2007, at 7:00 PM, the Friends of Gill will be hosting an evening of socializing and games in the basement of the Gill Congregational Church. Come enjoy a leisurely evening of scrabble, cribbage, monopoly, or whatever you would like to bring for a challenge! Maybe you would prefer to just sit and visit with friends and neighbors while enjoying a cup of coffee and some homemade goodies. Winter can be long. Let's get together. The snow date will be Friday, January 26th.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

In late March the Friends of Gill will hold their annual pancake breakfast with freshly produced local maple syrup. Details of this event will be published in the February issue of the Newsletter.



plaint regarding the project, they should contact the Highway Superintendent Mickey LaClaire @ 863-2324. We must keep an eye on the end result. Again, we thank the residents for their patience during the initial phase.

Sewer Department Users

A recent examination of the flows discharged to Montague revealed that during periods of high water the flows almost doubled. The highway department has inspected all the storm water discharges from catch basins and determined they do not empty into the system. The assumption is that during heavy rains, individuals needing to use sump pumps to expel water in their basements are discharging the water into the system without realizing that it is included into the calculation of flow that Montague charges the system and in turn, the users. If you would like to correct the prohibited discharging of storm water into the system without penalty, we urge you to call the highway dept @ 863-2324 and we will work with you to find an alternative solution to save you money.

B.P. Jacobsen	
413-863-5054	24hr Emergency Service
Roofing	Siding 
Windows	Decks
Chimney Repair	Painting
Gill, Ma	
Licensed and Insured	
Free Estimates	

Gill Fire Department

Fire Prevention Week

The Gill Fire Department presented Student Awareness of Fire Education programs to over one hundred fifty children during Fire Prevention Week in October. The program is funded through grants from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services.

Children from area pre-schools and the Gill kindergarten class visited the fire station, where they became familiar with the appearance of firefighters in full turnout gear, learned how to dial '911' for help in an emergency, and participated in active "Stop, Drop, and Roll" training. Firefighters visited the Gill Elementary School where children in the first and second grades received practical instruction in emergency exit drills, after which the children were encouraged to practice their fire escape routes at home with their families. Firefighters taught third and fourth graders how to identify fire hazards in their homes. All children received age-appropriate literature and materials to encourage them to bring this message back to their parents.



Fifth grade students visited the fire station, where they received instruction on basic fire behavior and viewed a video presentation of the short time it takes a small room fire to develop into a conflagration. When the sixth graders also toured the fire station, firefighters taught the students how to identify the classes of fire and how to extinguish small fires. Students were able to use portable fire extinguishers to put out small controlled fires outside. All children who participated in S.A.F.E. programs this year received a S.A.F.E. tee-shirt designed by the Gill Fire Department. Follow-up activities will include return visits to the classes with seasonal handouts for the students to take home, such as holiday safety during the winter and bicycle and skateboard safety in the spring.

Annual Halloween Party

The Gill Firemen's Association held its annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 29, at the Gill Fire Station. Sixty-eight school-age children showed off their costumes and participated in games and fun activities hosted by firefighters and their families. The Gill Police Department handed out free bicycle helmets at this event.

Safe Holidays

Winter holidays bring families together for cheer and celebration. Make sure your holidays are memorable for the right reasons. Chose a fresh Christmas tree that is not dry or shedding its needles. Keep your tree in a sturdy stand away from exits, stoves, fireplaces, and other heat sources. Water the tree daily. Use lights that are certified by an independent testing lab. Do not use lights with cracked or frayed cords, or loose or damaged sockets. Never overload electrical outlets or run extension cords under carpets. Be sure extension cords are not pinched behind or beneath furniture and unplug all decorative lighting before leaving home or going to bed.

Place candles in non-tip holders and keep them away from trees, decorations, curtains, and other combustible materials. Never burn candles in windows or near exits. Do not leave candles burning unattended or within the reach of small children. Extinguish all open flames before you leave the room or go to bed.

Use flame-retardant and non-combustible decorations for parties. Supervise children and keep them away from matches, lighters, and candles. Never block exits. Keep an eye out for situations that could become dangerous and save the most

important seat in the car for the 'designated driver' if you consume alcohol.

Smoke Detector Batteries

Early warning systems save lives. Now is a good time to check the batteries in your smoke alarms. Check carbon monoxide detectors as well. Make sure these early warning systems work properly before the heating season. Please call the fire station at 863-8955 if you have questions about smoke alarms or carbon monoxide detectors.

Spaghetti Supper

Be on the lookout for another fabulous spaghetti supper offered by the Gill Firemen's Association. The plan is for Association chefs to pull out the pasta, tasty tomato sauce, meatballs, garlic bread, and salad by the third weekend in February. This fundraiser supports the Gill Fire Department. We'll keep you posted.

Gill Elementary School

The school opening was highlighted with some new faces and some program changes. With the retirement of Kathy O'Shea, Susan Pelis joined the staff as the new first grade teacher. Susan brings to the school valuable educational experiences that compliment the strong Gill Staff. We have two new paraprofessional staff, Dawn Messer and Roxanne Bonnette, who assists the regular and special education staff to enhance and assist with student instruction. Joanne Wallace, a Gill resident, replaces Toni Costa as the Office Professional. The staff at the Gill school would like to thank Toni for her years of service and her ability to work with parents, staff, and students to create a positive, friendly, and welcoming environment which is a trademark of the Gill School. Our most recent personnel change was the resignation of James Dresser, our school custodian, who has gone back to school in a full time nursing program. James will be replaced by Larry Eckert, who was a district



maintenance staff member. Lastly, Dr. “C” would like to thank all the municipal and community members for their assistance in my new position as interim principal of the Gill Elementary School.

The results of last spring’s MCAS testing program indicate the steady progress of the school to improve its curriculum and the high quality of educational services to students. The schools average CPI, Composite Proficiency Index, was very high in English Language Arts 92.5 and for math 82.5. All of us would like to thank the community for approval of the funds to purchase new English Language Arts and math textbooks. We are presently in the final stages to select new instructional materials. Teacher training will be scheduled so we may implement the new texts after the first of the year. The staff is eager to implement the new materials and believe that it will provide students with the most recent curriculum programs matching the state standards. The school successfully met the annual criteria set forth by the state that measures program progress in math and language arts. Each year the state sets benchmarks for all schools in the Commonwealth. The goal of the MCAS testing program is to demonstrate that they show continued student achievement growth called “Annual Yearly Progress” or AYP. The four areas of measurement are student attendance, enrollment, student performance and student improvement. The Gill Elementary School has successfully met the AYP benchmarks set by the state. Each year, though, the state raises the bar by increasing the score we must achieve with the ultimate goal that all students by the year 2014 will perform in the “Advance” MCAS range for Math and Language Arts. Staying current with instructional materials and professional development activities will need to continue at a high level for staff in order to meet these challenges. The Gill communities support was greatly appreciated to help the staff maintain these high standards for learning.

Lastly, the school play, *Cindy Ella*, will be held on December 13th. This western version of *Cinderella* is fun and everyone who attends will enjoy this musi-

cal. The students are working hard and everyone in the school participates in the play. I would like to thank the Gill Arts Council for their financial award of \$980 toward the cost of the play. Their efforts will bring forth a professional theater performance and student appreciation of the arts for the Gill Elementary students.

We look forward to seeing you on December 13th.

— Dr. David Crisafulli

Slate Library News



Slate Library is up and running this fall with a new director, Jocelyn Castro-Santos, who worked alongside former director Lissa Greenough for the last five years. The new assistant librarian is Kim Sprinkle. Jocelyn and

Kim are happy to report that there are lots of new happenings at Slate.

Kim hosts a knitting group every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at Slate. Every range is welcome! We have brand new knitters and experienced knitters and everyone in between. Come get motivated to start or finish a project. Check out our selection of knitting and crocheting books for inspiration!

Every Tuesday morning at 10 AM Slate Library hosts a story hour for pre-school age children with a healthy snack and art activity. The story schedule is as follows:

November 14 – Sleepytime Stories

November 21 – Turkeys and Thanksgiving

November 28 – Noodles

December 5 – Owls

December 12 – Winter

December 19 – Hanukah and Christmas

Please join us if you have little ones.

Slate is also offering occasional after school workshops for elementary age children. On October 26th we held a very successful and fun program celebrating the Mexican Holiday of Day of the Dead. We read Mexican folktales and decorated sugar skulls. 21 children from Gill participated.



Slate will offer another after school workshop on December 7th at 3:30. We will read stories about snow and make three dimensional paper snowflakes. Please consider joining us.

Another special event in December not to be missed is storyteller Rona Leventhal from Hadley, MA, who has appeared all over the valley telling multi-cultural tales. She is also the editor of the excellent book, "Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope." Rona will come to Slate Library on December 21st at 7 PM. She will be telling seasonal tales to celebrate the Solstice. This program is geared for children five years old and up. Come snuggle into Slate with cocoa and cookies and listen to some old fashioned storytelling.

We also have many new books, audiotapes, and DVD's on our shelves. Please stop by for a complete list of our new acquisitions. We look forward to seeing you!

Hometown Students

Honor Roll

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

First Honors: Benjamin Garber, Elizabeth Giknis and Haley Trenholm

Grade 11

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

Grade 10

First Honors: Jodi Hallett and Amber Henry
Third Honors: Eric Dumas, Thomas Field, Charlotte Parody and Joseph Rinaldi III

Grade 9

First Honors: Danielle Dolhenty, Matthew Garber, Kathleen Rinaldi and Sarah Underwood
Third Honors: Mackae Freeland

Honor Roll

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

High Honor: Johanna Johnson
Honor: Maxwell Fish

Grade 9

Honor: Nicholas Duska and Jared Towne

Grade 8

Highest Honor: Patrick Arena
High Honor: Savannah Yates

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Mary Duska
Honor: Chad Galipault

Great Falls Middle School Honor Roll is not available at this time.

Gill-Montague Regional School Academic Excellence Award


Congratulations to Ben Garber who received a Certificate of Academic Excellence from the MA Association of School Superintendents. Quoting Gill-Montague Regional School District Superintendent Sue Gee, "Ben is a leader by example and an outstanding citizen in our school. His community service record is extensive in his participation in class and school activities." Ben is currently ranked top in his



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senior class, is a recipient of the Harvard Book award, has been class treasurer for four years, and participates in student council, the marching, jazz and concert bands, and chorus. He has been on the swim team for four years, is captain of the soccer team, and also participates in the Relay for Life. Ben has received academic awards for a majority of academic classes in his four years at Turners Falls High School. This is the second year a Gill student was given this award. Anna Perry was the recipient last year.

John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

Class of 2007 students Benjamin Garber, Elizabeth

Giknis, Chelsea Isles and Haley Trenholm were awarded the John & Abigail Scholarship based on a student's performance on the grade 10 English language arts and Mathematics assessment of the Mass. Comprehensive Assessment System. These students now qualify for a tuition waiver for 8 traditional semesters of undergraduate education at UMASS, seven state colleges or 15 community colleges.

Sports

The Tech School varsity soccer team qualified for the Western MA Division III postseason for the first time in school history and Nathan Towne was on that varsity team.

Jared Towne and Nils (Tom) Johnson were on the Pioneer Regional High School varsity soccer team, Patrick Arena on the Co-Ed Golf team, and Jacob Galipault chose football again this year.

Ashley Storrow and Grace Booth played on the Northfield Mt. Hermon varsity field hockey team and Harriet Booth played on the junior varsity team. Erica Loomer was a major contributor to the volleyball team and Aja Kane continues to dance with the NMH dance companies. The dancers recently presented a concert "Interviews: Dancing Out Loud" in Grandin Auditorium.

Spencer Hattendorf was on NMH Men's Youth Four boys' crew team that finished 6th out of 51 crews at the Head of the Charles Event in October.

Ryan Dintaman and Bill Ward played on NMH Varsity Soccer team and the team won the New England Class A Championship, Sunday November 19th. NMH had beaten the #1 seed, Worcester Academy, on Saturday and continued on to the Championship by outscoring Loomis Chaffee Academy of Windsor Locks, CT 3-2 the next day. The last time NMH won the Championship was 1997.

Zach French was a star player on the Four Rivers Charter School soccer team again this year.

The Turners Falls High School Soccer team had Gill students Ben Garber, Brendan Rawson, Andrew Turban and Malik Odeh.

Molly Perry and Haley Trenholm, who continued in her role as goalie, played on the TFHS girl's soccer team.

Abbey Daniel-Green, Amber Henry and Amanda Golembeski



were on the TFHS field hockey team.

The TFHS girl's volleyball team with Angela Marguet, Ashleigh St. Peter, and Jodi Hallett took the volleyball team to the Western MA Div. III finals. They were beaten by Frontier for the title.

Zachary Little, Tom Field, Jake Field, Mackae Freeland, Tony Denofrio & Matt Garber played on the TFHS football team who finished their season with a 14-8 victory over Greenfield High School on Thanksgiving Day. Tom Field caught a 48-yard pass to score the first touchdown for Turners. This was the first win for the Turners Falls Indians against Greenfield since 1996. Congratulations — it was a great feeling as we sat down to our turkey dinners. We've waited a long time for this victory.

Scott Brown & Danielle Dolhenty ran on the TFHS cross country team.

Joey Rinaldi continues to play goalie in the Franklin County Hockey Association.

Recreation Committee

Gill Recreation's web page is now available for all Recreation functions. You can find us at: www.gillmass.org/recreation.html. We hope this will help to keep everyone more up to date (sign up dates, schedules, special events, etc.).

Kim Malcolm will be handling this for the Recreation Department and Deb Roussel at the Town Hall. Thank you both for supplying this information aid.



As always, Steve Striebel leads the way for the Soccer program. This year we had Brian Bodell, Duncan Elliot and Steve Striebel coaching our 5th and 6th grade team, Charlie Malcolm and Jim Poulsen coaching the (Gill 1) 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade team, and myself (Nate Duda) and Ted Kenyon coaching the (Gill 2)

2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade team. Taking the torch from Greg Leeds this year, Jim Burstein and players from the very talented NMH varsity soccer team coached the next generation of Gillamonsters, in our in-house league of pre-K, K and 1st graders. A big thanks to Spencer Russell, Tanner and Weston Halkyard, Corey Jarecki, David Nunes, Ryan Dintaman, Eddie

Senibaldi for their coaching and refereeing.

Our wonderful neighboring town, Bernardston, hosted the annual soccer jamboree on Saturday Nov. 4th. All our travel teams played 6 games against neighboring towns. Thank you Bernardston Recreation and Steve Striebel for making this event happen each year.

On Saturday Nov. 11th we had our end of the soccer season gathering in the NMH Forslund Gym (in fear of bad weather). All soccer participants received certificates and medallions for their participation. After the awards were distributed we split up into 3 groups and played indoor soccer, the parents and coaches versus the kids.

Despite winded parents a great time was had by all. A big thanks to Damion Construction for their generous financial donation towards the certificates and medallions. I would also like to thank Tom Pratt, his staff, and NMH maintenance for the use of the soccer fields and gym. NMH School and employees play a major roll in making Gill such a great community. Thank-you.

Steve Striebel has basketball in the works. Check out the Gill Recreation web sight for updates and times. Starting in early December family swim and ice skating will be back on Sunday afternoons. We will need NMH employees for facility sitters during these events. If interested please e-mail Kim Malcolm. You can check our web sight for starting dates and times.



Rose Levasseur would like to initiate Ta-kwon-do lessons in our community. She has an interested instructor at great family rates. Our web page will have all the information as we learn more. Please email Rose to express interest at tlevass@crocker.com. At this point we need to get an idea of how many people might be interested before committing to this activity.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan Duda, Gill Recreation Committee Chairman



Correspondent Wanted

A reliable Gill correspondent is wanted for the Montague Reporter to cover town meetings, town/school activities, and other newsworthy Gill events. There will be a modest fee per article for the right candidate. Hone your writing skills, build your resumé, or fill your retirement hours. Earn a few dollars in your spare time and serve your town and community at the same time. Call 863-8666 for information.

Historical Commission Report

The Historical Commission recently received some memorabilia on the Gill Community Club and thought the residents of Gill might like to know more about the Community Club. This section is quoted from *The History of Gill, Volume 2*, and was originally edited by James Greenleaf and Irene Greenleaf.

The Gill Community Club was established in 1929 to promote social meetings and civic welfare in the town of Gill. For 61 years they sponsored many social functions and aided citizens of Gill in times of need.

We have chosen to present the rich history of the Community Club by taking excerpts from meeting minutes, newspaper articles and notes of Club members. We hope that they will provide insights into the life of this tiny western Massachusetts farming community.

October 2, 1929: Eleven people met at the Slate Memorial Library to discuss plans for forming a dance school for the young folks of Gill. The eleven were Mr. and Mrs. Peleg Eddy, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Eastman, Mr. and Mrs. Sumner, Mrs. Remillard, Miss Hunt, Miss Erhardt, Mr. Richard Clapp, and Mrs. Alice Blake. The group decided to form the "Gill Community Club." . . . Mrs. Eastman suggested the

Club sponsor a dancing class and secure Miss Cummings of Greenfield, if possible, as teacher. It met with general approval. Each member was to contact people and ask them to come to another meeting the following Wednesday, which was attended by 15 people. . . Twelve dancing lessons cost \$5.00. Two classes at this price were held in Town Hall with a membership of 34.

November 1929: The first private dance for Club members, their families and members of the dancing class was held Friday, November 22, 1929, after the regular dancing class.

It was voted to reimburse Mrs. Eddy for the spoons (10 dozen for \$3.36) she bought for the use of the Club.

December 1929: It was voted that the Club hold a New Year dance for members and the dancing class, price of tickets shall be fifty cents a couple. At a special meeting before the dance, the president called a special meeting to discuss the advisability of inviting guests. It was voted that Club members should have the privilege of inviting guests to the New Year's dance, but each person invited bring a written invitation bearing his own name and that of the Club member inviting him. No record can be found of what music they used for these dances, but it is believed that Frank Baker played his violin and called at dances and later Jillson's Orchestra of Bernardston furnished music for twelve dollars.

According to the secretary's report, there were 14 Christmas baskets given to shut-ins in December 1929 at a cost of fifty cents each and in the same report the committee for the New Year's dance reported all expenses paid and seventy cents turned in to the treasury.

June 1931: The Club paid Harold Ayer and Harold Baker \$2.50 a week for mowing lawns around the Town Hall. Mrs. Sumner recalled the hours it took to get the stones, glass and branches of trees imbedded in the grass cleaned up so it could be mowed at all.

January 1932: It was voted that the Club buy eight card tables at a cost of \$8.00. Also in 1932 a skit titled "The Sweet Family" was performed. Miss Gee was in charge with Miss Eddy playing a leading part and right at a most critical moment, the lights went out. The trouble couldn't be located, so the play went on using kerosene lamps and flashlights. Many a good short play or skit we put on each month



for the entertainment of the Club.” . . . The ladies of the Club were divided into three groups, Main Road, Boyle Road, and West Gill Road. Each group chose a pattern for quilt to be sold to help raise money for the Club. The lining and filling to be bought by the Club. The quilt made by the West Gill group was sold at a dance. A blue print with white was put together by the Boyle Road members in a very pretty pattern. It was taken to the Wilmington Vermont Fair and received first prize of \$5.00. It was also used to help trim Richard Clapp’s truck in the N.R.A. parade in Greenfield in 1933. The ladies riding in the truck were all in old fashioned costume. The quilt was later given to Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Chapin after they lost their home by fire. The Main Road ladies chose the beautiful “Lone Star” pattern which came in small diamond shaped pieces, already cut, in the colors of the rainbow, which formed a large star when put together. Although it was beautiful, it gave the group that chose it many a hard time, for if you sewed two bias edges together it would of course stretch and if it was continued that point would be longer than the others, so it would have to be taken apart again. This perhaps sounds like a puzzle, and surely was, for it would be worked on by a group for a while, then they would lay it aside. It took a long time until the quilt was finally finished.

July 27, 1935: First record of a Club picnic at Lake Rohunta. In the years before this, the Club had corn roasts at the Bear’s Den on the Eddy farm. If it rained, they were in the house.

January 1936: Small baskets were secured at a fruit store for two cents apiece and the president covered them with pretty Christmas paper. They were filled with two oranges, bananas, packaged pitted dates, grapes, candy and half a pound fruit cake which was donated. A special one containing ginger cookies, grape juice and peppermint candy was made up for Mr. Franklin. They were covered with cellophane and a greeting card put in. Ten baskets were made for \$4.71.

The Gill History Museum at the Riverside Municipal Building will be open for public viewing and research on Thursday evenings from 4-8PM during the month of January.

Recycling Plastic in Western Massachusetts

DO RECYCLE
these kinds of empty plastic bottles and containers

DON'T RECYCLE
these kinds of plastics

Kitchen

Milk, water, and soda bottles
Juice bottles
Cooking oil bottles
Syrup, ketchup, other condiments
Peanut butter jars
Margarine and butter tubs
Yogurt containers

Household Cleaners

Liquid dish soap
Liquid household cleaner bottles

Bathroom

Liquid hand soap
Shampoo and conditioner
Mouthwash
Lotions
Pump hair sprays (non-aerosol)
Vitamin bottles

Laundry

Liquid laundry detergent
Bleach (rinse well)
Liquid fabric softener

At home and on the go

Soft drinks
Iced tea
Sports drinks
Water

Packaging

Polystyrene (Styrofoam)
Plastic or Styrofoam egg cartons
Meat, cheese, deli, or cookie trays
Berry cartons
Microwave trays or containers
Packing peanuts or blocks
Plastic bags, wrap, packaging, or film (“cling wrap”)

Yard and Garden

Plastic swimming pools
Lawn furniture
Flower or plant pots
Black plastic

Household

Toys
Plastic coat hangers
Decorative light holders
Plastics from electronics or appliances
Pails, buckets, clothes hampers, or recycling bins
CDs, video tapes, cassettes, cases
Medical supplies

Other

Caps, lids, or pumps
Jugs/pails over 2 gallons in size
Small prescription pill bottles
Bottles that contained motor oil, other automotive products, poison, pesticides, solvent, adhesive, paint, or other chemicals

Do not put recyclables in plastic bags!

For More Information: Call the Franklin County Solid Waste District at 413-772-2438. Hearing-impaired individuals can use the MA Relay at 711 or TTY/TDD access at 1-800-439-2370.

This ad was funded through a grant from the USDA Rural Utilities Service. The District is an equal opportunity provider.



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