



THE

Gill Newsletter

December 2009 Issue

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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Town Hall News

Special Town Meeting Results

56 voters turned out September 14 for a special town meeting. Complete minutes of the proceedings are on the Town's website, but I'll cover a couple of highlights.

In the August issue of the newsletter, I mentioned that town meeting would vote on whether to dissolve the Recreation Committee because of lack of fiscal management. Since that article, the Committee has taken on two new members and has raised over \$1,200 to eliminate the debt it had incurred in Fiscal Year 2009. During town meeting the Selectboard made a motion to pass over the article to dissolve the Recreation Committee and it was passed unanimously, leaving the Committee intact for another year. In a subsequent article, town meeting voted to give the Committee \$3,000 to continue its programming in Fiscal Year 2010, stipulated on three conditions: 1) the Committee must present an FY10 budget, itemized per activity and per revenue source, to the Selectboard by October 31, 2009; 2) the Committee must present an FY11 budget, itemized per activity and per revenue source, to the Selectboard by February 1, 2010; and 3) the Committee must present a report of revenues and expenses per activity within 30 days following conclusion of each activity. We are optimistic that, with the new conditions and new membership, the Committee will quickly get back on its feet again.

Town meeting also approved two new local excise taxes allowed by the State. Effective January 1, 2010, Gill will collect an additional 0.75% meals tax and 6.0% room occupancy tax. Though there

are currently no rooms (hotels or bed and breakfasts) on which to collect the tax, the meals tax is estimated to bring in approximately \$6,200 per year. The Selectboard and Finance Committee intend to propose transferring all of the meals excise proceeds into Stabilization at the spring town meeting as a way to build up the Stabilization account.

Lastly, town meeting voted to approve an increase to the Gill Montague Regional School District assessment that brings the total assessment up to the "1/12" figure set by the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. On September 30, the School Committee called a District meeting to vote on a budget. Voters that night did not approve the budget the School Committee proposed, sending the School Committee back to discuss the matter. In mid-November the School Committee voted not to call another District meeting, meaning the Commissioner's 1/12 figure will most likely stand. This would allow Gill to finally set a tax rate based on the votes taken on September 14.



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



Thank you to the Agricultural Commission

Lynda, Ronnie, the Selectboard, and I would like to sincerely thank the Gill Agricultural Commission for providing locally grown and produced snacks for our meetings this season. What a nice surprise to find apples and cheese on the table when we walk in! Thank you Steve Damon, Shirley Flagg, Dick French, Kathy Litchfield, and Bruce Yukl.

Winter Parking Ban in Effect

Please be advised that there is no on-street parking allowed between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. November 1 through April 15.

Gill's First Energy Commission

Also approved at the September 14 special town meeting was the creation of Gill's first Energy Commission. Among other tasks, the Commission is responsible for: (1) developing and administering programs relating to energy conservation, nonrenewable energy supply and resource development, recycling, energy information, emergency heating assistance, and energy emergencies; (2) developing local energy data and information management capabilities to aid energy planning and decision-making; and (3) promoting the development of sound local energy education programs. The Commission currently has four members and is seeking a fifth. Please contact the Commission Chair, Claire Chang, at 863-8952 or clairech@crocker.com if interested.

Seeking Finance Committee Member

The Finance Committee is currently seeking one additional member. For more information, please contact Ray Steele, Town Moderator, at 413-863-2443 or redsteele@hotmail.com.

*Tracy Rogers,
Town Administrator*

Public Notice

August 18, 2009

From: The Dept. of the Attorney General

The Attorney General's office has notified the Town Clerk, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo that the changes to the Zoning Bylaws as adopted under Article 9 and Article 10 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 4, 2009 have been approved.

Article 9: Move the Town vote to amend Section 16.D.17 of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws by adding the following language to the existing paragraph: However, a Building Permit, but not a Special Permit or amendment, is required for any modifications to electronic components affixed to a previously approved and erected Wireless Communications Tower, provided the modifications do not substantially change the height, footprint or silhouette of the Tower as originally permitted. For the purposes of this Bylaw, electronic components shall include reception and transmission equipment and fixtures such as antennas, communication dishes, and similar devices.
Passed by 2/3.

Article 10: Move the Town vote to change the definition of "Restaurant" in Section 17 of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws to read "Restaurant: An establishment at which the principal activity is the preparation and retail sale of food or beverage." And further to remove the words "or coffee shops" from Items 7d and 7e in Section 2C, Table Use of Regulations, or take any action relative thereto.
Passed Unanimously

Martha Coakley,
Attorney General

Gill Fire Department

KEEP WARM, KEEP SAFE

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon Monoxide is known as the Odorless Killer because it is a poisonous gas that has no visible color, taste, or odor. Each year, many people die or are injured from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. CO alarms are intended to provide the early warning signs that smoke alarms provide in fires. Recent laws require that carbon monoxide alarms be installed on every level of the home, including habitable portions of basements and attics. On levels with sleeping areas, carbon monoxide alarms should be installed within ten feet of bedroom doors. Levels of the home that do not have inhabitable living spaces are not required to have CO alarms. Landlords must install and maintain CO alarms in every dwelling unit that has a source of carbon monoxide, like a furnace or attached garage. When purchasing a CO alarm, be sure to



look for an approval label of an independent testing company, such as Underwriter's Laboratory. Most CO alarms that are sold in Massachusetts meet these standards, but it is a good idea to check before purchasing a CO alarm.

Safe Use of Wood, Coal and Pellet Stoves

Before you purchase a heating stove, make sure that it has approval from Underwriter's Laboratories Inc. or another recognized independent testing lab. A building permit must be obtained prior to the installation of fireplaces, fireplace inserts, wood, coal, or pellet burning stoves and the installation must be inspected by the local building inspector prior to its initial use as required by the Massachusetts State Building Code. Allow at least 36 inches of clearance around the appliance to prevent combustibles from coming into contact with heat sources. Solid fuel heating appliances cannot share a common flue with chimney flues utilized by other solid, fossil, or gas fired appliances. A qualified mason should inspect the chimney and flue before the stove is used. Cracks in the flue or mortar joints can allow flames and heated gases to extend into the structure.

Chimney Fires

Most chimney fires occur because of a build-up of creosote, a tarry by-product of burning wood. Have your chimney flue cleaned before each heating season. Burn only dry, well-seasoned hardwood to reduce creosote accumulation. Don't use flammable liquids to start a fire. Never leave children unattended near the stove.

Check that the damper is open before lighting the fire. A closed damper will result in an accumulation of smoke and carbon monoxide in the home. Do not close the damper until the fire is out and the embers are cold. Use a fireplace screen to prevent flying sparks and embers from falling out on to the floor. Install and maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms to provide protection for your family.

Space Heaters

Space heaters can provide a little extra warmth in a cold, drafty corner or shop, but they are not designed to replace household heating systems. According to the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, one of every ten space heater fires results in a fire death. If you use a space heater, make sure it is stable and will not tip over. It should be at least three feet from things that could catch fire, like curtains, small rugs, papers, and furniture. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy-duty cord. Heavy-duty extension cords are thicker and have three-prongs. Turn off space heaters when you are out of the room or sleeping. Always have working smoke and CO detectors. Never use kerosene heaters in your home- they are illegal in Massachusetts.

If you have any questions about safe heating, smoke detectors, or carbon monoxide alarms, please call the Gill Fire Department at 413-863-8955.

Holiday safety tips

Winter holidays bring families together for cheer and celebration. Make sure your holidays are memorable

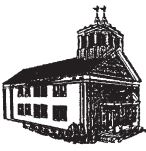
for the right reasons. Chose a fresh Christmas tree that is not dry or shedding its needles and keep it in a sturdy stand away from exits, stoves, fireplaces, and other heat sources. Water the tree daily. Use decorative lights that are certified by an independent testing lab. Discard lights with cracked or frayed cords, or loose or damaged sockets. Be sure extension cords are not pinched behind or beneath furniture and unplug all decorative lighting before leaving home or going to bed.

Use flame-retardant and non-combustible decorations. 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.

Energy Commission

The newly formed Gill Energy Commission (so far consisting of Claire Chang, Kevin Cameron, Benjamin Storrow, and Tupper Brown), working with the Selectboard and Finance Committee, is embarking upon an interesting and potentially useful energy conservation project. If successful, the project would result in a variety of upgrades, retrofits and equipment replacements to Town buildings that are funded by utility cost savings and, possibly, a grant, so there would be no net capital cost to the Town and thus no impact on our real estate taxes.

Through the auspices of Franklin Regional Council of Governments,



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"My Office is Always Open to You!"

Siemens Building Technologies, Inc.—a six billion euro division of the huge Siemens AG enterprise—has offered its Energy Performance Solutions Program to towns in western Massachusetts as a means of permitting them to upgrade their buildings from an energy perspective at reduced or no out of pocket cost. In the case of Gill, a preliminary “audit” has suggested new lighting and lighting controls, an electronic energy management system and building envelope improvements in each of the Town’s principal buildings, which are Town Hall, the public safety complex (police, fire, highway departments), the Riverside Building and Slate Memorial Library. In addition, window replacements are proposed for all those buildings except Town Hall, new boilers for the public safety complex and Riverside, a heating conversion for the garage part of the public safety complex, and a few other improvements in that complex and in Town Hall. We are also trying to determine whether the Gill Elementary School, and especially its boiler, can be included in this project or in a similar project undertaken by the School District.

The next steps in this plan are an in-depth energy audit by Siemens to provide necessary detail for shaping the final project and application for a federal stimulus grant to help fund parts of the project that otherwise could not be part of the project, probably including the boilers. Once we have the results of the detailed audit and know whether grant money will be available, final choices will have to be made (and negotiated with Siemens) as to which elements will actually be included in the project, up front funding (probably a borrowing) will be located, and a Town Meeting will be held to see if the Town will approve the project and the borrowing.

The overall idea is that Siemens would manage the installation of the new equipment, upgrades and other energy savings improvements and provide a formal, written guarantee of annual utility cost savings sufficient to cover the borrowing cost for that work. Needless to say, the devil will be in the details of such a project, and the Energy Commission, together with the Selectboard and Finance Committee, will be trying to understand all the details before making a final recommendation to the Town. Which raises a final issue: we could use the assistance of at least one more person on the Energy Commission, especially a person with technical skills and/or experience relevant to this project. Please call Claire Chang, 413-626-3620, if you would like to serve the Town and your fellow residents in this manner.

by Tupper Brown.



Gill Agricultural Commission

We have had a busy growing season. Here is a quick list of our activities:

Brochure - The Newsletter Staff inserted our Gill Farm's brochure into the last Gill Newsletter. A huge thank you goes to the Newsletter Staff. Another huge thank you goes out to our past Chairperson, Bridget Logan, who designed the brochure. This brochure can also be found on the town website: www.gillmass.org.

Virtual Farm Tour - While you are looking for the brochure on the website, check out the many pictures of Gill farms and the restaurants that use these products. Tracy Rogers has made them into a slideshow. You will probably see us clicking the camera on nearby farms again in the future.

Meals - We have been emphasizing the taste and health value of our town's produce by providing "All-Gill" meals and snacks to our town committees. We have had donations in this project from Upinngil Farm, Ruth Wallner's Garden, Turkey Ridge Farm, Ray Steele's Garden, Laughing Dog Farm, Bascom Hollow Farm, Damons' Dirt, and Flag Farm.

Farmers' Market - We hope you enjoyed the first ever French King's Farmers' Market for we did. It was held on August 2nd at the Riverside Municipal Building. There were eleven vendors selling vegetables, berries, maple syrup, salsa, jellies, baked goods, and other farm products. Laughing Dog and Turkey Ridge Farms represented Gill.

Agri-ships - The proceeds from the farmers' markets will help fund our "Agri-ship" program, in which we financially help Gill farmers attend farming workshops. As our first agri-ship, we paid the registration of Gabe Vassar (Boyle Road Sugar House) to the annual summer meeting of the Massachusetts Maple Producers held in Heath this year. Any farmer interested in obtaining agri-help is encouraged to call us.

As for the future, keep your ears open for other open-to-the-public projects: Gill Cheese Tasting Night, Locavore Potluck, and Sweetheart Night.

The members of the Gill Agricultural Commission are: Steve Damon, Chairperson, Shirley Flag, Dick French, Kathy Litchfield, and Bruce Yukl.

FRIENDS OF GILL

With Many Thanks

The Gill Fall Arts and Crafts Festival is the largest of the fund raisers that the Friends of Gill hold to raise funds to support the Gill community throughout the year and it takes many people and their support to make it successful.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our sponsors: A-I Enterprises; A-J Cycle Shop; Applied Dynamics; F. M. Kuzmeskus, Inc; Fosters Supermarket; Greenfield Co-operative Bank; Mohawk Real Estate; Renaissance Builders; Skip's Roadside Diner; The Gill Greenery; The Gill Tavern; Pam Veith Real Estate; Absolutely Fabulous Hair, Chappell's Auto, Greenfield Farmers' Coop, Letourneau Electric, Tognarelli Heating and Cooling, York Heating and Cooling; and Alan Wallace and Barbara Watson.

We thank Bart's Café; Curves of Greenfield; Great Falls Coffee Company; Jake's Tavern; Jan's Package Store; Rendezvous; Ristorante DiPaolo; Second Street Bakery Company; Songline Emu Farm; and World Eye Bookstore for their contributions to our raffle baskets.

Special thanks to the Gill Fire, Police, and Highway Departments; Cove Farm Creative Marketing; HVB Imaging; Boy Scout Troop 6; and to the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

As the fair grows each year so do the number of volunteers who give so generously of their time and energy to make the fair a success. We could not do so well without you and we deeply appreciate your help.

We hope that the Gill community will continue to support the many businesses and organizations who so generously supported the Fall Festival and Fund Raiser.



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Gill Elementary School

Over the course of the past few weeks, we have had to contend with a lot of illness within the student body and staff, but thankfully that seems to be behind us. In each classroom the students and teachers continue to delve deeper and deeper into the curriculum areas at all grade levels. We also try to make the learning come alive, by going on field trips. Thanks to the generosity of the Gill Montague Educational Fund, our first and second grade classes were able to go on a field trip to the Hitchcock Center to deepen their exploration of animal habitats and our sixth grade class went on a field trip to the Harvard Forest to study the effects of an invasive insect on our hemlock tree population. These experiences with hands-on science in the real world often leave a lasting impression on students.

We also work together as a school community to explore different aspects of the curriculum. Each year the Gill School community picks a theme to explore on a school-wide basis. This year we have picked the theme of Stories from around the World. We kicked off this theme with an all-school field trip to the Shea Theater to see *The Dragon King*, a rendition of a Chinese folktale brought to life by puppets. If you know of any resources in terms of local people or stories who tie into this theme, please send them in my direction.

Our Gill School Council has also met several times. The Council is a group of individuals from all aspects of the community; we have two teachers, three parents, a member of the Gill community-at-large, and myself. The role of the Council is to provide an avenue for site-based decision making. They assist the principal in:

- Adopting educational goals for the school
- Identifying the educational needs of the students attending the school
- Reviewing the annual school building budget
- Formulating a school improvement plan
- The School Council is a good example of site-based management with the goal of involving the community in developing the vision for our school.
- We wrapped up parent-teacher conferences in November. These are wonderful opportunities for parents and teachers to work as partners. We are lucky at Gill to have such a committed parent community and this was reflected in the almost 100% rate of attendance at conferences.

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We enjoyed our annual winter craft night on December 4. Hopefully we will soon get a good snowfall so we can enjoy sledding during recess. Also, many thanks to the Pumpkin Man who, once again, showed up to wave to the children. This is a wonderful tradition that the children look forward to every year.

Sincerely, Rita Detweiler

Gill Students HONOR ROLL

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: Mathew Garber, Kathleen Rinaldi, and Sarah Underwood

Third Honors: Mackae Freeland

Grade 11

First Honors: Makayla Dolhenty, Colleen Dumas, Jack Hubert, Emily Robertson, and Andrew Turban

Second Honors: Nina Dodge, Brooke Hastings, and Julie Howard-Thompson

Third Honors: Rachel Arial and Natasha Vaughn

Grade 10:

Second Honors: Christopher Gordon, Brittany Rawson, and Jeremy Tetreault

Third Honors: Katelyn Phillips

Grade 9:

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Shawn Englehardt, and Timothy Meyer

Second Honors: Ceara Dolhenty, Bethany Laramie, Jonathan Marguet, Nala Vaughn, and Brittany York

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Shelbi Williams

Second Honors: Nicole Whiting

Third Honors: Sierra Bodell

Grade 7

First Honors: Alexander Morin and Nicholas York

Second Honors: Zachary Demars and Stephanie Robertson

Third Honors: Ryan Bezio, Spencer Hubert, and Cole Tognarelli

Grade 6

First Honors: Mackenzie Phillips

Third Honors: Nadia Hasan

Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside Building on Route 2. The Commission is charged with planning for the preservation of historical sites and records within Gill. In addition to its other projects, the Commission maintains records and artifacts of Gill history in the Riverside municipal building; the collection will be open during the Gill Craft Fair in October. 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. In this issue, we highlight the history of the Slate Library. If you have pictures of the buildings on this site, please let us copy them for our files.

The Slate Library was completed in 1921. Helen Boyle was librarian from 1919-1929. The following history was written by William Boyle and delivered by his daughter Miss Olive Boyle at the Old Home Day and Library dedication on 22 August 1922.

N.B. This text has been edited for the newsletter to save space. PLS

The first record of an effort to establish a public library in Gill is in the year 1870 when the annual town meeting voted to apply the money refunded from the county treasury, accruing from the tax on dogs to the establishment of a town library for “use by the people.” The next year a vote passed to let the money remain in the treasury until wanted for the purchase of books, and that the town pay interest thereon. A committee was chosen in 1872 to expend library money for books and procure a suitable place to keep the same.

At the annual town meeting in 1873, the following resolve was passed: Resolved—“That the thanks of the town are due Mr. Elisha Clapp for his public spirit and generous consideration in the donation of \$100—for the benefit of our public library.” Those who remember Mr. Elisha Clapp as they saw him about his farm building those stone walls along the highway, at the village, in the church and choir, think of him as a thoughtful, sturdy, dignified man, a splendid example of New England’s best citizenship.

Another resolve was offered the following year. “Resolved that the town of Gill do hereby present their vote of thanks to Mrs. Martha Clapp of Boston for her kindness of heart and generosity displayed in her recent donation to our town library.”

A library committee of Otis F. Hale, Elisha Clapp, and Samuel P. Stratton was chosen in the year 1876. The books were placed in a small building in front of the Canning house and used for a study by Rev. Josiah W. Canning and later for a post office and were in the care of the Canning family.



In 1883 the books were moved to the Marble house and Miss Maria Marble as librarian received a salary of \$10 a year.

In 1886 the town voted that an alphabetical list of the books in the town library be made and one half of the 963 volumes be transported to the Riverside district, an interchange of books be made once in six months, the interchange to take effect on the first of January and the first of July.

In 1889 the library was moved to the Congregational parsonage and Mrs. E.M. Boynton, wife of the village doctor, was the librarian.

In 1891 the books were moved to the house of Henry Purple, and Mrs. Purple received \$15 a year for her services as librarian. In 1898 they were again moved to the Marble house; Mrs. Jay Marble was librarian. Next, Mrs. J.R. Franklin became the custodian of the books. In 1904 the books were moved to the store of O. F. Hale, and for six years Mr. Hale was the librarian with an annual salary of \$25.

Then a room was prepared and furnished in the town hall by The Ladies Benevolent Society. For eleven years Mrs. Carrie Canning Wrisley held the office of librarian with a salary of \$36, increased to \$60 per year during the eleven years of her efficient service.

After the death of Mrs. Wrisley in 1918, the service of Mrs. William Boyle was secured as librarian, and on Dec. 1, 1921, the books were moved to their permanent home in the Prentice Slate Memorial Library. For some years the library appropriation had been \$125, but in 1922 it was raised to \$350. A bequest of \$70.92

was left by the will of Mrs. Mary Morgan to the library in 1902.

Early in the 1890's a town society known as The Ladies Benevolent Society was organized. Its purpose was mutual improvement and its object benevolence, which soon materialized into an ambition to build a home for the public library. After years of effort they secured the sum of about \$600. However, their diminished numbers warned them that their object would not be attained. So, the secretary and treasurer of the society, Mrs. George B. Hale, took it upon herself to write to Mr. Hollis M. Slate of Athol, suggesting that he build a library in Gill Center, in memory of his father, Prentice Slate, a native and long time resident of Gill. Mr. Slate immediately replied thanking her for the suggestion, saying he would give the matter prompt attention. Almost at once he bargained for the land on which the new library now stands. A few months later Mr. Slate died, and when his will was published, there was a bequest of \$8000 for a library in Gill in memory of his father Prentice Slate.

Prentice Smead Slate was born June 14, 1810, on the farm later occupied by Arthur A. Chapin. He was the son of Captain Bethuel and Sarah Ballard Slate and was one of seven children, only four of whom lived to marry. His sister Sophronia married Lewis Platt of Plattsburg, N.Y., and they lived in Riverside. Their only child, Mary, married Henry Loveland of Riverside. Of two brothers, Horace died suddenly in his young manhood, leaving a wife and three small children of whom only one survives. She married a nephew of the founder of Vassar College, and lived on a

beautiful estate at Ballston Springs, N.Y. Dwight, the other brother, left a son, Herbert B. Slate, and a daughter, Mrs. Belle Hinkley, who has one son Robert and a daughter all of Hartford, Conn. Prentice Slate married Sarah Stratton of Gill, and they lived for a time in Bristol, Ohio, where Hollis Slate, the donator of our library, was born. There were also two daughters, Eva, who married Charles Whitaker, and Helen, wife of William Merriman of Northfield.

Returning to Gill, Prentice Slate acquired a farm on the South river road, which he operated as a dairy and tobacco farm until he retired and moved to Millers Falls where he died in 1894. Sarah Stratton Slate, his wife, died in 1857. Then he married his second wife, Mrs. Delia Stratton of Northfield Farms.

Prentice Slate was below the average in height; he was well proportioned, of dark complexion, and wore a full beard. He was active, energetic, and dignified. In public life, he was a member of the school committee, of a committee of arrangements for the dedication of the new town hall in 1867. In 1873 he, with Mr. Canning, represented the town at a hearing in Greenfield, before the County Commissioners, to apportion the cost of the new suspension bridge at Riverside. He is buried beside the library in the Gill Center cemetery.

Hollis M. Slate, the donator of the library, as a young man, was for a time in the grocery business at the Brick store in Bernardston, in partnership with A.M. Stratton. He also conducted hotels in Hinsdale, N.H., and Millers Falls for a time and later in Athol where the greater part of his life was spent in the hotel and real



estate business. He also was connected with the building of electric roads and had a large place in the development of the community. He married Miss Carrie Stratton, the daughter of his father's second wife, who survived him.

The library stands on the spot once occupied by the house of Isaac Chenery; this house was moved across the brook, on to what has been known for several generations as the Brown farm, and was burned while occupied by Henry Purple.

East of the library was the store of Isaac Chenery; between these two pieces of land there was a small building used by a member of the Hollister family as a lawyer's office. Mr. Hollister, later, moved to Greenfield where he took up the jewelry business. West of the library was the large square business house of Samuel Stratton, better known as "Tanner" Stratton. The tannery buildings were on the low land back of the house. West of the Stratton house was a brick school house, later used as a tenement. A stone step from the school house is on the library ground.

The library building of Old English style was planned, and the erection supervised by Mr. J. Randolph Coolidge of the firm of Carson and Coolidge architects of Boston. Most of the furnishings were purchased with money acquired by the Ladies Benevolent Society or donated by Gill residents.



A Note from the Madderns

August 21, 2009

To Our Friends and Neighbors in Gill,

This is a long overdue thank you for all the years you shared with us, for all the Gill Store memories, the many Town Hall meetings, the Gill School programs, and the bus rides to Fenway Park. We covered 46 years of adventures together. We are now retired and living in Greenfield Acres.

Please keep eating greens as the Gill Greenery is alive and well with Shane and Becky Minor and family working the farm. Life on Center Road is still good.

Thank you from a very fortunate duo.

Phil and Susie Maddern

WE NEED HELP!

The Newsletter staff is a very small group faced every two months with the task of folding and collating 2,250 sheets of 11"x17" paper. The copy then has to be folded twice and sealed with a bit of Scotch Tape. A few more hands would obviously make these tasks easier.

If interested in volunteering, call Joe Elliott at 863-9708.



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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

January 15th for the February Issue.

Gill Fire Dept.
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Gill, MA 01354

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