



THE

Gill Newsletter

April 2010 Issue

CONTENTS

Town Hall News 1

Energy Commission . . . 3

MassSAVE 3

Riverside Municipal . . . 3

Fire Dept. 4

Gill Recreation Comm. 5

Friends of Gill 5

Slate Library News 6

Gill Students 6

Gill Historical Comm. . . 8

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Town Hall News

Annual Town Meeting

This year's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, June 21st at 7 PM. If there is more business than can be discussed and decided in one night, the meeting will be continued to Wednesday, June 23rd at 7 PM. Please save both dates on your calendars. We hope to see you there - your thoughts and ideas, opinions and votes are all important!

Warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting need to be submitted to Ray Purington by Thursday, May 6th at 5 PM. A request form for warrant articles can be downloaded from the Town's website (www.gillmass.org) and is also available at Town Hall.

And here's one more reminder: Annual Town Elections will be held on Monday, May 17th from 12 Noon to 8 PM at the Fire Station.

\$150,000 Grant to Replace Boiler at Elementary School

Great news came on February 17th when the Town was notified that it was awarded an Energy Efficiency and Block Grant (EECBG) sub-grant in the amount of \$150,000. The grant is to be used to install a new high efficiency boiler at Gill Elementary School. Funds for this award were made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 through the US Department of Energy. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) developed and is responsible for administering this sub-grant program.

Seeking Energy Commission Member

There is one opening on Gill's Energy Commission. If you have the time, interest, and energy, please contact Claire Chang (863-8952) for more information. The Energy Commission had and will continue to have an important role in both the Energy Savings Performance Contract project and the EECBG grant. If these kinds of things are of interest, then this is the Commission for you!

Other Committee Openings

There are currently two openings on the five-member Planning Board. Can you be our fourth or our fifth? The Planning Board is responsible for reviewing Approval Not Required applications (when someone wants to divide a larger parcel of land into smaller one that each have the minimum frontage and acreage), and is also responsible for holding public hearings on changes to Gill's Zoning Bylaws. If you are interested, please contact Ray Purington at Town Hall (863-9347).

The Zoning Board of Appeals also has two openings, for Alternate members. To sum it up in one sentence, the ZBA holds



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Gill Website
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for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!



public hearings and makes decisions on requests to use land or buildings in ways that are not allowed as a matter of right by the Zoning Bylaws. Alternate members can participate in meetings and hearings, but do not vote unless a regular member is absent or has a conflict of interest. If you are interested, please contact Ray Purington at Town Hall (863-9347).

Franklin County Bikeway

In December 2009, when most of us had put away our bicycles and were looking forward to winter activities, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments was installing logo and directional signs along the portions of the Franklin County Bikeway that travels through Gill. Look for these signs along Main Road between Route 2 and West Gill Road, on West Gill Road until Hoe Shop Road, and from Hoe Shop Road onto Bascom Road and over the bridge into Greenfield. More information can be found on the Transportation Planning page of the FRCOG's website (www.frcog.org).

Kill A Watt Electricity Usage Monitor

Thanks to a very kind donation from the Solar Store of Greenfield, the Town now has a Kill A Watt monitor. The device is used to measure the amount of electricity that is consumed by different types of appliances. It's simple to use – just plug the monitor into a wall outlet, and then plug an appliance into the monitor. After a few hours or a few days, read the monitor to find out how many kilowatts are being used. It can help you to understand your electricity consumption, and help point you toward

inefficient appliances that should be replaced or appliances that have “phantom load” – they draw electricity even when you're not actively using them.

We will be using the monitor on appliances in Town Hall and other town buildings. Once that information is gathered, we hope to make the monitor available for Gill residents to borrow. Stay tuned for more information! And, thanks again to the Solar Store of Greenfield.

Spring Bulky Waste Collection

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding a “Clean Sweep” bulky waste collection on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 9 AM to 12 noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South, the Northfield Highway Garage, and the Whately Transfer Station.

District residents may bring a wide range of bulky items such as tires, computers, televisions, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. District residents are from the towns of Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell and Whately.

Residents do not need to pre-register for the collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Businesses may participate. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected from residents during check-in at each site. Beginning in

mid-April, a complete list of prices for the most common items will be available at local town halls, town transfer stations, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and on-line at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Fall collection dates will be as follows: Household Hazardous Waste Day, Sept. 25, 2010, locations TBA. Pre-registration will begin in late August. Fall “Clean Sweep” bulky waste collection, October 16, 2010, locations and hours as above.

For more information call the District office at 413-772-2438, or email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Annual Disclosure of Right to Farm Bylaw

This disclosure notification is made by the Agricultural Commission to the town residents each fiscal year via a town mailing or newsletter.

It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products and for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy is within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include but are not limited to activities that cause dust, noise and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that property located within the town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations.

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*



Board of Assessors

Now that the weather has improved, the Assessors will be out throughout the town taking pictures to update the data on the parcel record cards.

If you have any question, please call the Assessors' office at 863-0138.

Monday - Thursday 9:30-12:30

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Assessors' Clerk

Annual Election

Date of Election May 17, 2010

Polling Place: Fire Station at
196 Main Road

Hours: 12:00 PM. to 8:00 PM.

The last day to register to vote is 20 days before or April 28, 2010, if you are not already registered to vote.

Offices on the ballot are:

- Selectboard** 3 years
- Assessor** 3 years
- Cemetery Commission** 3 years
- Board of Health** 3 years
- Library Trustee** 3 years
- Library Trustee** 1 year
- Treasurer** 3 years

Just a reminder: I have been so pleased with the response to the census, but for those who may have forgotten, please send them in.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk

Energy Commission

We are proud to accept the award of \$150,000 from the MA State Dept of Energy Resources as a result of applying for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The Gill Elementary School Boiler will be replaced with a high efficiency one with proceeds from this grant.

Siemens is conducting the Investment Grade Audit (IGA) of the school and a report is due by the end of April. We want to thank Tracy Rodgers, Tupper Brown and Ray Purington for their work in securing this grant. The boiler at the Gill elementary school is just part of the Energy Services Contract for the Town buildings. Siemens has completed the IGA of all other Town buildings. We are currently reviewing the project scope of work and possible funding sources. At Town Meeting, we expect to present the best possible avenue for the town to pursue with energy efficiency and how to pay for it.

Additionally, the Commission will be submitting an article for town meeting approval to establish bylaws for the commission.

And lastly but not least, we regret the resignation of Ben Storrow and Kevin Cameron from the Commission due to personal time constraints.

However, we welcome Ivan Ussach as our newest member. After moving to Gill less than 2 yrs ago, this is his first town committee position and he looks forward to further energy efficiency and conservation for Gill.

by Claire Chang

MassSAVE

MassSAVE, the utility-funded no-cost home energy audit program, has just added FREE air sealing to their services.

Air sealing (sealing unnecessary air leaks in attics and basements) is often the most effective measure in terms of improving a home's energy efficiency. In an older home, all the small leaks can be equivalent to having a window wide open all winter long. It is also a

measure that can be suitable for homeowners who have knob & tube—a major “roadblock” to adding insulation.

The free air sealing is offered in addition to:

- \$2,000 savings already available for attic, wall and basement insulation
- 0% interest loan up to \$15,000 for insulation, high-efficiency heating systems, windows and solar hot water systems

Call MassSAVE at 1-866-527-7283 to schedule a no-cost home energy audit.

Tightening up their homes FOR FREE is a concrete step that people can take this spring to increase their home's energy efficiency, and to celebrate Earth Day.

Thanks,
Tomasin Whitaker, CET

Riverside Municipal Committee

The Gill Cultural Council awarded funding for the Friday Night Films Program at Riverside Municipal Building for 2010. We are hoping to start an evening film showing outside as weather permits in the field behind the RMB on Rt 2. Film titles will include documentaries, children's and general themes. Starting at dusk on April 23, we invite everyone to setup a blanket or lawn chair, bring snacks, and settle in for some community entertainment. The schedule has not been set but we expect to run a film every other week as long as it isn't raining! We would love to have suggestions on film titles people are



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interested in seeing. There is a mailbox at town hall where you can leave a note. Look for more details and dates in the Montague reporter calendar. See you at the RMB!!

Gill Fire Department

Online Application for Open Burn Permits

Gill has joined most Franklin County towns in offering online permits for burning brush between January 15 and May 1, depending on weather conditions. The permits are free of charge, but availability depends on weather conditions. You may apply for an online burning permit at www.fcburnpermits.com. Follow the link: "Click here to apply for a burn permit." You must print a copy of the permit and have it in your possession. Burn permits may also be granted through Shelburne Control, the regional emergency dispatch center, by calling 413-625-8200.

Open Burn Regulations

You may only burn BRUSH! All other materials are illegal. No leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris, or any other materials are allowed to be burned. All open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from buildings or structures. Burning will be allowed to start at 10 AM and must be extinguished no later than 4 PM.

- Any open fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder.
- No person shall set, maintain or increase a fire in open air at any time except by permission.
- You must be 18 years or older to apply for permit and/or set, maintain or increase fire once permission has been granted by the Fire Department.
- You must have an appropriate means to extinguish an open air fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the Fire Department.
- The local Fire Department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time. (Example: violation of permit regulations or change in weather conditions.)

Open burning season is Jan 15–May 1.


Call GFD at 413-863-8955 for more information.

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Gill Recreation Committee

Another successful basketball season wrapped up at the end of February with 20 children participating on three teams. We had both a boys and a coed 3rd & 4th grade team and a 5th-6th grade coed team. The 5th-6th grade team joined 11 teams from surrounding towns at the Vernon Tournament on February 27th. Thank you to Jim Poulsen, David Shutta, Pat Garland and Nate Duda for volunteering your time to coach. Home game referees and scorekeepers were Jack Hubert, Uriah and Summer Forest-Bulley. Thanks for spending your Saturday mornings supporting our basketball program and mentoring the players. We would also like to thank NMH and TFHS for the use of their facilities for team practices and games.

On February 28th the Annual Wacky Sledding party was held at Oak Ridge Golf Course. The previous week's snowstorm gave us the perfect sledding conditions to for this fun winter event. Congratulations to the Castro-Santos Family, Chloe, Maia, Ted and Jocelyn for their winning sled entry. Their Jellyfish sled was complete with colorful lights and tentacles. Runners up were Bryn Kruzlic and Joey Lawton. Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and snacks and voted for the winning sled to receive this year's trophy. Thank you to Jeff Jobst and the students at TFHS for designing and making the trophy. Each year the winners name will be added to the trophy. So start thinking about your design for next year and maybe the next name etched on the trophy will be yours. Thanks also to Oak Ridge Golf Course and the Gill fire department for allowing us to have a safe, fun filled day.

The Baseball and Softball season is currently underway. Baseball teams consist of Farm K-2nd grade, Pec-Wee 2nd-4th grade and Youth 5-6th and is open to both boys and girls. Girls Softball is for ages 8-12 years old. 8 year olds must have turned 8 before June 30th and 12 year olds must not turn 13 before June 30th.

Completed signup forms and payment must be turned in prior to any child's participation. Signup sheets are available on the Recreation page of the Gill town website, and at the town hall. Please call Cathy Demars @ 863-2303 or email demarscat@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Speaking of baseball... The Red Sox trip is doubtful this year but we are trying our best to organize this popular event. We'll keep you posted.

Lastly, the Recreation Committee includes Nathan Duda, Cathy Demars, Rose Levasseur and Deb Loomer and meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30pm at the Town Hall. There is one position open on the committee and we encourage anyone

FRIENDS OF GILL

The annual Pancake Breakfast held this year on Saturday, March 27, was a great success. Our thanks to the volunteers who joined in to help with special thanks to the folks in the kitchen who produced the best pancakes in the valley and to Upingil, Mount Hermon Farm, and Turkey Ridge Farm for their fine maple syrup.

Watch for news of the popular Picnic on the Common to be held in late June in the June issue of the Newsletter.

We are presently making plans for the 18th Annual Gill Arts and Crafts Festival to be held Oct 16-17 at the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2 by the Friends of Gill and the Agricultural Commission. We look forward to welcoming artisans from around the area to display handiwork and art in a number of media. For the second year, there will be a Farmer's Market with local produce and food products available - plus the Friends of Gill will be selling their delicious home made apple pies. Please write the Gill Art and Craft Festival, c/o Friends of Gill, PO Box 287, Turners Falls, MA 01376 for information.

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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who may be interested to contact the town administrator at 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Duda, Cathy Demars, Rose Levasseur, & Deb Loomer

Slate Library News

Although it may be muddy and wet outside, things are bright and cozy inside Slate library. Stop by and visit and check out a good book. We have many new titles in both fiction and non-fiction. Some new additions to the collection include “The Little Stranger” by Sarah Waters as well as “Shark Girls” by Jaime Wriston Colbert. New titles for children include the Ivy and Bean series by Annie Barrows as well the baseball series by Dan Gutman; including “Mickey and Me”, “Satch and Me”, and “Shoeless Joe and Me”. We also are receiving new DVD’s for your viewing pleasure. Many spring-time award winners are arriving at the library, including “Up In the Air”, “Sherlock Holmes”, “Ponyo” and “Men Who Stare at Goats.”

In other news Slate library is pleased to announce that we have received grant money from the Gill cultural council, which will fund several of our summer reading events. This year’s theme, chosen by the Massachusetts library association is “Go Green at Your Library!” We will offer many nature and art based workshops this summer. Northampton book artist Jeannie Hunt will return to library to teach a workshop on creating and illustrating nature journals as for children of all ages, local musician Davis Bates will entertain us on the lawn. Look for more information in the coming months!

Gill Students

Dean’s List

Nathan Underwood has earned high honors and was named to the dean’s list for the fall semester at the University of New Hampshire.

Rachel Koh was named to the dean’s list for the fall semester at the Univ. of Vermont, Burlington.

Daniel Edson and Travis St. Peter were named to the dean’s list for the fall 2009 semester at the University of Massachusetts.

Molly Perry was named to the dean’s list for the fall semester at the University of New Haven.



HONOR ROLL

Frontier Regional High School

2nd Semester

Grade 10

High honors: Benjamin Lawton-Curtis

Pioneer Valley Regional

2nd Quarter

Grade 12

Honor: Nicholas Duska and Jared Towne

Grade 10

High Honor: Jacob Levin
Honor: Mary Kate Duska

Grade 9

High honor: Jaclyn Lafleur
Honor: Kaylyn Tognarelli and Jennifer Tufano

Grade 8

Highest Honor: George Atkins
Honor: Whitney Urgiel

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Gabriel Duska
High honor: Ellen Arena and James Elliott

Turners Falls High School

2nd Quarter

Grade 12

Second Honors: Mathew Garber and Sarah Underwood

Grade 11

First Honors: Nina Dodge, Makayla Dolhenty, Colleen Dumas, Jack Hubert, and Andrew Turban
Second Honors: Rachel Arial, Brooke Hastings, Krysten Hawkins, Julie Howard-Thompson, and Emily Robertson

Grade 10

Second Honors: Brittany Rawson, Todd Richardson, and Jeremy Tetreault
Third Honors: Katelyn Phillips

Grade 9

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge and Tim Meyer
Second Honors: Ceara Dolhenty, Shawn Englehardt, Bethany Laramie, Nala Vaughn, and Brittany York

Third Quarter

Grade 12

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

Grade 11

First Honors: Andrew Turban
Second Honors: Nina Dodge, Makayla Dolhenty, Brooke Hastings, Jack Hubert, Julie-Howard Thompson, and Emily Robertson

Grade 10

Second Honors: Christopher Gordon, Colton Hallett, Katelyn Phillips, and Brittany Rawson

Grade 9

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Shawn Englehardt, Timothy Meyer, and Nala Vaughn
Second Honors: Jonathan Marguet, and Brittany York
Third honors: Ceara Dolhenty, and Kimberly Rau

Great Falls Middle School

2nd Quarter

Grade 8

First Honors: Elliot Bertini Franseen and Tyler Richardson
Third Honors: Shelbi Williams

Grade 7

First Honors: Malcolm Crosby, Lexi Griffin, Alexander Morin, Stephanie Robertson, Nicholas York and
Second Honors: Ryan Bezio and Cole
Third Honors: Zachary Demars

Grade 6

First Honors: Mackenzie Phillips

Turners Falls High School

Awards Assembly - February 1, 2010

Business Education

Academic Excellence in Business Law: Kathleen Rinaldi
GCC Articulation Certificates Microsoft Office: Ceara Dolhenty

English

Academic Achievement in English 9: Ceara Dolhenty
Academic Excellence in Journalism: Julie Howard-Thompson
Academic Excellence in American Literature: Colleen Dumas and Jack Hubert



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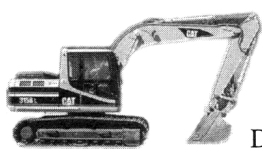
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Freshmen Academy

Academic Excellence in Freshman Academy Chemistry:
Shawn Englehardt

Health and Physical Education

Excellence in Physical Education: Katelyn Dodge
Excellence in 10th Grade Physical Education:
Christopher Gordon
Presidential Fitness Challenge National Award:
Scott Brown and Matthew Gibson

Mathematics

Academic Excellence in Honors Algebra 1:
Timothy Meyer
Academic Excellence in Pre-calculus: Andrew Turban

Social Studies

Excellence in Foundations of Art 1: Shawn Englehardt
Most Creative: Katrina Tingle
Most Prepared in Band:
Brooke Hastings and Seth Lemieux
Most Improved in Music theory: Matthew Garber

Life Skills

Academic Achievement in Life Skills Math:
Brittany Rawson
Citizenship Awards in Life Skills: Emily Robertson
Turners Falls Lifetime Achievement Award:
Jeremy Tetreault

Franklin County Technical School

Second Trimester

Grade 12

Honors: Sarah Bolduc

Grade 11

High Honors: Joseph Lafleur

Grade 10

Honors: Haley Laramie and Samantha Shaw

Grade 9

Honors: Leslie Kozma and Jeffrey Peffer

Tech Students Win Silver and Bronze

In March, forty-nine Franklin County Technical School students traveled to McCann Technical School in North Adams to compete in the Western District SkillsUSA Conference. Of the thirteen students winning medals junior Joseph Lafleur won a Silver medal in electrical, for industrial motor controls and senior Sarah Bolduc won a Bronze medal in the information technology program for her skills in Web design. Joe, as a silver medal winner, will advance to SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference on April 29 to May 1. Winners advance to the National Competition in Kansas City.



Gill Historical Commission

WANTED: Someone who sews and would like to help make some children's colonial clothing for a costume box at the Gill Historical Museum. Please contact Bev Demars for details at 413-863-4792.

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside Building on Route 2. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Bob Perry, Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, or Pam Shoemaker.

In this issue the GHC wants to address a question we are frequently asked, "What is the difference between a National Register District and a Local Historical District?"

A National Register District is part of the National Register of Historic Places that lists individual buildings, sites, structures, and districts that have importance in American history, culture, architecture, or archaeology. This is a federal distinction and is administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Listing in the National Register 1) recognizes that importance to the history of the community, state, or nation. 2) allows the owners of income-producing properties certain federal incentives for rehabilitation. 3) provides limited protection from adverse effects by federal or state involved projects.

If no state or federal project is involved, such as federal licenses, permits, or funding, and no pertinent local or regional regulations, such as in a local historic district, then being on the National Register does not in any way limit an owner's handling of the property. Also, a National Register District cannot be listed if a majority of the property owners file objections.


In summary, a National Register District honors its properties, promotes appreciation for them, gives them some protection from federal or state projects like moving roads, and does not limit an owner's rights to make decisions about the property. This is a distinction of pride. Massachusetts has over 900 National Register Districts; two new listings are The Pond Street School in Weymouth and the First Parish Burial Ground in Gloucester.

A Local Historic District is more designed to prevent inappropriate changes. In a local historic district, a locally appointed Historic District Commission reviews proposed changes to exterior architectural features visible from a public way.

A property owner must submit an application to the Historic District Commission to do something like change the siding color and change an architectural feature. The Historic District would hold a public hearing and the determine whether the new addition is appropriate. Interior features are generally not affected, and some exterior features like storm doors and paint colors may be exempted depending on how the local bylaw or ordinance is written and passed by city council or town meeting vote.

Massachusetts has over 200 local historic districts, and the designation has been very effective at saving historic structures, neighborhoods, and villages from inappropriate alteration and demolition.

Properties within Local Districts and National Register Districts are automatically included in the State Register of Historic Places. This listing provides limited protection from adverse effects by state-involved projects. It also provides owners of municipal or private non-profit properties with the opportunity to apply for 50% matching state grants through the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund.



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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 \$60.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$60.00 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

June 15th for the July Issue.

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