



THE

Gill Newsletter

January 2014 Issue

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Town Hall News

Save The Date for Bulky & Hazardous Waste Collections

The two “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste collections are set for May 17 and October 18. For more information, see www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html

This year’s Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for September 20, with collection points at the GCC Main Campus and Orange Transfer Station. For more info, visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html

Vacancy—Gill Finance Committee

A vacancy on the Finance Committee is open. If you might be interested in serving on this committee, please contact Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk, at 863-8103 or townclerk@gill-mass.org. Lynda will put you in touch with John Zywna, Town Moderator, who will be making the appointment.

The Finance Committee acts in an advisory role on all financial matters considered at Town Meeting. Most of the group’s meetings occur in the late winter and spring months; The Finance Committee provides review and input on the Town’s budget for the next fiscal year.

Winter Parking Ban in Still Effect

We missed announcing the winter parking ban in October’s newsletter; back then snowy streets were a distant memory, not a coming attraction! So, with a couple more months left, please be advised that there is NO on-street parking allowed between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM from November 1 through April 15. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated

Police Department

Gill’s Police Department is now on Facebook. “Like” us—www.facebook.com/GillPolice—to receive updates and news from your police department.

Burning Brush

Burning season started on January 15 and runs through May 1. Burning brush requires a permit and can only be done during burning season. If a Gill resident would like to burn brush



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



on a given day, please go to the website for Franklin County Burn Permits (www.fcburnpermits.com) and complete the online permit. If you do not have computer access, please call 625-8200, and Shelburne Control will assist you. Please note that permits are only issued between 8:30 AM and 1 PM.

Vermont Yankee Calendars & Tone-Alert Radios

If you did not receive a 2014 Vermont Yankee calendar and would like one, extras are available at Town Hall. Also, if you need a Tone-Alert Radio (or fresh batteries for your existing Tone-Alert Radio), those are also available at Town Hall.

From FRCOG Regional Preparedness Planning

Already broken your New Year's Resolution? Here is one you should keep: commitment to being prepared for disasters in 2014. In Franklin County we know there will be ice storms, hurricanes, and wind storms. Be prepared for these events, and you will be prepared for most disasters. Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Regional Emergency Planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments recommends you take these four important steps.

1. Be informed about the different types of emergencies that may happen in your area.

- Most disasters in our area involve power outages, blocked roads, or flooding.

2. Make a family communications plan.

- Complete a contact card for each adult family member and have them keep these cards handy in a wallet, purse, or briefcase. Additionally, complete contact cards for each child in your family. Put the cards in their backpacks or book bags.
- Identify a contact such as a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for household members to notify that you are safe. In a large disaster, it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members

3. Build an emergency kit.

- Gather the following items in a bag, backpack or container:
 - >Flashlights with extra batteries
 - >Granola or food bars, other snacks
 - >Photos or videos of all personal possessions for insurance purposes
 - >Duct tape

>Whistle to call for help

>Copy of Family communications plan

- In your home have:

>Two flashlights with extra batteries strategically located

>Cash in the house as ATMs may not be working

>One gallon of water per day for each person and animal for at least three days

>Food for each person and animal for three days

>A manual can opener

4. Get involved in community preparedness.

- Identify your town's emergency manager
- Know where your town's emergency shelter will be
- If your town has a "reverse 911" or other emergency contact list, sign up for it
- If you will need assistance in a disaster, contact your town hall and sign up for their disaster registry. This registry will assist the First Responders in understanding the needs of their communities.
- Join groups involved in preparing and responding to disasters including the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Disaster Animal Response Team (DART). To



learn more about these groups go to www.wmmrc.org .

To learn more about preparedness go to www.ready.gov or www.westernmassready.org.

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*

Town Clerk News

Census forms

Please check the mail for Census forms from the Town Clerk. These forms are used for updating Gill's Street List and ensuring accurate voter information. Please make corrections and sign before returning. If you did not receive a Census form, please call the Town Clerk at 863-8103.

Dog licenses

The census mailing also includes an opportunity for dog licensing. Please return the information to the Town Clerk with the proper payment. The fee is \$5 if the dog is spayed or neutered and \$10 for all others. All dogs must be licensed by March 31 to avoid a late fee.

Rabies Clinic

A rabies clinic will be held at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Shelter at 10 Sandy Lane, Turners Falls, MA 01376 on April 12 from Noon to 2 PM. Town Clerks including Gill's will be there to license dogs. Any Gill

resident who attends the clinic will not be charged the late fee.

Town Election

The Town of Gill's Annual Town Election is May 19 this year. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's office and may be obtained until March 27, 2014. The last day to submit the nomination papers to the Clerk is March 31.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 863-8103. The Town Clerk's office hours are Monday through Thursday 1 PM to 4 PM and 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM on Monday evenings.

Tax Collector News

Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills will be mailed out at the end of January for the second half (Actual) of the 2014 fiscal year. Payments are due on or before May 1, 2014. For a stamped receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you do not receive your bill , contact Tax Collector, Veronica LaChance at 413-863-2105. To request an abatement, contact Assessors' Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo at 413-863-0138. Deadline for filing an abatement is May 1, 2014.

Energy Commission

Use of Green Community Grant Money

The Energy Commission made recommendations to the Gill Selectboard following the ASHRAE level II report completion. In order to reduce Gill's energy use by 20% in 5 yrs, we recommend insulation, air sealing, and high efficiency heating system upgrades for the Town Hall, Slate Library, and the Riverside buildings. These projects, depending on final project costs, will nearly exhaust the Green Communities Grant awarded in July 2012 and help us meet our goals.

Weatherizing

With the winter chill pointing out just where the air leaks are coming from, you may want to think about a free home energy audit from MassSave and low or no cost help weatherizing your home. Check out the many resources for saving money at www.Masssave.com or call them at (866) 527-7283 to schedule a no cost Home Energy Assessment. More information is on the Gill Energy Commission Facebook page. Be sure to "like" us to get updates.

Next Free Workshop: Solar Hot Water Systems

on March 15, 9-12 noon with Peter Talmage



Friends of Gill

Supporting College Scholarships
for Gill Students

Chicken, biscuits, and gravy Supper

w/ salad, assorted vegetables & desserts

February 15th, 2014

6:00 P.M.

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Gill Congregational Church

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or Kathy at 863-2212

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Cozy Home Performance LLC.,
Easthampton 413-529-0200
www.mycozyhome.com

A. A. Arden, LLC., Attleboro
508-639-9811 Dennis@aaarden.com

Winsert Workshop A Success

The Gill Energy Commission held a FREE Winsert (winter insulated window insert) Workshop on Saturday, December 13 at the Gill Town Hall. Winserts are reusable transparent panels that fit snugly inside window jambs to add two extra layers of glazing. The workshop was presented by Peter Talmage, who has been teaching in the Renewable Energy program at GCC and elsewhere for many years. Peter is passionate about helping people reduce their energy consumption. Ten people from the towns of Gill, Montague, and Greenfield attended and made winserts to take home, and Ray Steele made one for the Gill Town Hall. The materials were arranged ahead with Peter to fit a specific window at the cost of about \$1 per square foot; participants paid only for their materials. Peter says with a properly-constructed winsert heat loss from a typical single-



or double-glazed window will be reduced by up to 50%, thus more than paying for the cost in less than one year. The inserts are reusable and may be used for many heating seasons with a little maintenance from time to time.

Janet Masucci, Energy Commission member and Gill Videographer, filmed the workshop. The film will be posted to the Gill Energy website and Facebook. Dahna Virgilio, a Gill resident, participated in the workshop. She made her insert as a Christmas present for a friend with a drafty window. "I thoroughly enjoyed this workshop and hope you will consider offering it again! I was going to wrap up the one I made for my friend; however, with its being so cold (and also not wanting to puncture it!) instead of waiting for Christmas, I decided to take it right over to her house. It fit perfectly, and I left a big red bow and note for her. I could tell the difference immediately." Look for this workshop again in the fall of 2014.

Slate Library News

Come in from the cold and check out a new book. Slate Library has lots of new titles! *Sycamore Row* by John Grisham, *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert, and *The Daylight Gate* by Jeanette Winterson to name a few. If you prefer non-fiction, try *David & Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell or *Paradise Lot: Two plant Geeks and One-tenth of an Acre* by Eric Toensmeier. The many new titles for children include the beautiful picture book *Journey* by Aaron Becker and audio books by Roald Dahl and Chris Colfer.

Story Hour has a new day! Tuesday! Please join us on the rug for stories and art projects and delicious popcorn. We will be reading stories about birds, bears, the moon, and nighttime in the coming weeks. We would love to have new families join our community of happy readers. Story hour meets every Tuesday morning at 10 AM.

During the month of January and February, we have a series of Poetry Workshops for Kids happening at the library on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:45 PM.



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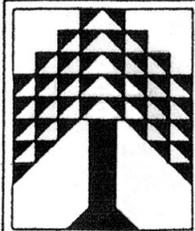
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They are taught by local author Amy Gordon. Ms. Gordon is the author of many children's books including *The Gorillas of Gill Park* and *When JFK was My Father*. Last year she taught a six-week series of creative writing workshops at the library, and we are thrilled to have her come back for poetry. The classes are open for students in grades 5 and 6. Please call or email the library, gill.slate.library@gmail.com for more information.

Last, if you have time, please stop by the library on Saturday, February 8 for our annual Valentine Craft Day. We will have beautiful paper, colored ribbon, and doilies so that you may make a work of art for your special valentine. The workshop starts at 12 PM, and we will have our tables ready for your creativity. Please join us and also check out all the good things at your local library.

Reading Recommendations

In support of good reading, each Newsletter will include suggestions from a Gill resident. This month, Barb Watson and Alan Wallace offer these favorites.

Fiction:

TransAtlantic and *Let the Great World Spin*, both by Colum McCann

Olive Kitteridge, by Elizabeth Strout

Non-Fiction:

Hero: The Life & Legend of Lawrence of Arabia and *Ike: An American Hero*, both by Michael Korda

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern, by Stephen Greenblatt

The Blind Side, by Michael Lewis

Public Health

MassHealth and Health Connector Assistance

The Health Connector offers competitive plans for all individuals, and MassHealth can give you assistance due to new rules. This year there have been many changes



in insurance programs coming from the Health Connector and MassHealth. If you have Commonwealth Care, you should have received a notice about whether you have to reapply. If you are not sure where to start when applying for insurance on your own, or if you received confusing letters from MassHealth, do not guess or delay. Ask for assistance from a Certified Application Counselor (CAC). Please contact Peter Kuusisto or Carolina Kenny at 413-325-8500 x149 to find your nearest CAC. They are available for appointments at the Community Health Center of Franklin County.

Free Service Available to Help Self-management of Health

Regional Public Health Nurse Lisa White helps people who have been discharged from the hospital and insured visiting nurse services but still have needs, or are just finding it difficult to meet the challenges of an on-going health issue. Help is available in these areas:

- Managing medications
- Monitoring symptoms
- Connecting with needed services

This service is available at no cost to Gill residents through the Board of Health's membership in the Franklin Regional Council of Government's Cooperative Public

Health District, and through grant support from Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Franklin County Home Care. Visits can happen both in the home and in public spaces. Call Lisa at 413-665-1400 x 114 for more info.

HONORS For Gill Students First Quarter

Franklin County Tech

- Grade 12**
Shelbi Williams
- Grade 10**
Fallyn Adams
- Grade 9**
Robert Rinaldi

Northfield Mount Hermon (fall 2013 semester)

- High Honors: Gabriel Duska '15,
Cooper Hemphill '14, and Haley Short '14
Honors: Sophie Margola '17

Frontier Regional School

- Grade 11**
High Honors: Kori Wileman
- Grade 9**
High Honors: Ashley Levasseur
- Grade 8**
High Honors: Joseph Lawton-Curtis

Pioneer Valley Regional High School

- Grade 11**
High Honors: Malcolm Crosby and James Elliott
- Grade 10**
Highest Honors: Julia Wallace
Honors: Bradley Hastings, Eric Shutta, and Benjamin Tufano

Grade 8

Highest Honors: Max van Baaren

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Audrey Corrigan
Honors: Jake Wallace and Rylie Zager

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: Morgan Marron,
Brittany Rawson, and Kaleb Warren
Third Honors: Elliot Bertini Franseen and Sarah McCune

Grade 11

First Honors: Nicholas York
Second Honors: Stephanie Robertson
Third Honors: Zachary Demars and Spencer Hubert

Grade 10

First Honors: Mackenzie Phillips
Third Honors: Krystal Cloutier

Grade 9

First Honors: Gabrielle Arzuaga,
Tahner Castine, Bryn Kruzlic, Kaili Lynch,
and Jeremy Wolfram

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Kyle Kucenski and David Tricolici
Second Honors: Branden Chapin,
James Vaughn and John Wheeler
Third Honors: Kylee Mason

Grade 7

First Honors: Ethan Shilo-Draper
Second Honors: Reilan Castine, Noel Kocsis,
and Emily Minor

Grade 6

First Honors: Lilia Kocsis and Alyson Murphy
Second Honors: Mason Kucenski

If you are a Gill student who has not been included in this list, please let us know so that we may commend you in the future.




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Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 PM in the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. The Commission is charged with planning for the preservation of historical sites and records within Gill. The GHC maintains records and artifacts of Gill history in the Riverside municipal building. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Pam Shoemaker, or Ivan Ussach.



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Perspectives on Winters Past

DIARY 1860 - SIMON CADY PHILLIPS

(residing on the corner of South Cross Road
and current West Gill Road)

SUNDAY, January 1, 1860.

Thermometer stood 18 degrees below cold and clear with 2 feet deep of snow went up to Mothers

MONDAY 2

Doing chores – cold 22 Afternoon repaired 2 clocks for Tim Stoughton paid and got Newspaper at Hollow

TUESDAY 3

Got Severances horse and Uncle Johns sheller and shelled 2 Bu. Corn and carried to Mill in Gill filed J. Knowlton's saw – cold minus 26 below



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MINUTES FROM THE GILL LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

January 1866

The Society is now engaged in piecing bed quilts for the parsonage.

January 28

made Mr. Asbury's setting room carpet this evening.

February 27

to give Mr. Asbury the money in the society to half buy stoves . .

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February 27

braiding and patchwork – calico contributed by Mrs. Marble.

DIARY 1866 – JOSEPH B. MARBLE

(living on River Road and later in Gill Center)

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1866

Some cloudy and foggy all day; went to Greenfield and carried Hollis Slate (Note: eventual donor of the Prentice Slate Memorial Library in Gill. Prentice S. Slate was his father.)

TUESDAY 2

Some cloudy and rather warm all day. Father Morgan here. cut and drew 2 loads of wood.

THURSDAY 4

Foggy and frosty this morning pleasant and rather warm through the day; watched with Frederick Potter last night not doing much through the day

SATURDAY 6

Pleasant and very cold and some windy all day the coldest of the season; shelled some corn and went to mill and worked about the house

MONDAY 8

Very cold last night and all day the coldest of the season pump froze at the barn and the well froze over good

THURSDAY 11

Pleasant and a little warmer quite warm at night Killed a heifer (sic) and carried the meet (sic) away Went to John Roberts in the evening

SATURDAY 13

Snowed a little last night cloudy and warm with a shower at night snow mostly gone chopped some wood

TUESDAY 16

Commenced snowing in the night and snowed some all day strung my bells and worked about the house all day



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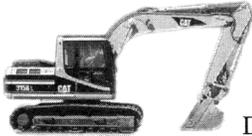
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Business Advertisements

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.

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.

The costs of mailing the newsletter have increased so that our budget is very tight. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses, we would appreciate your sending a check, payable to "Town of Gill", to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354.

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