



THE

Gill Newsletter

February 2015 Issue

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Town Hall News

Fred W. Wells Trust Scholarship

Applications for 2015-2016 Fred W. Wells Trust scholarships are now available at the Town Hall, as well as at area high school guidance offices. Scholarships are available to graduating seniors and full-time college students who have resided in Gill (and other eligible towns) for at least two years immediately before application.

Winter Sand for Driveways

The Highway Department keeps a pile of sand & salt mix at the Public Safety Complex for residents who need a few buckets for driveways and walkways. Use the driveway on the left (Fire Department side of the building), and look for the pile behind the building, off to the left. The pile may not be used by snow removal companies and other private contractors.

Winter Parking Ban in Effect

NO on-street parking is allowed between 1 AM and 6 AM from Nov. through April 15.

Vermont Yankee Calendars & Tone-Alert Radios

2015 Vermont Yankee calendars are available at Town Hall. Also, Tone-Alert Radios and fresh batteries are available at Town Hall.

Vacancy – Capital Improvement Planning Committee

An opening is available on the CIPC for an At Large member (any Gill resident). If interested, please contact Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, 413-863-9347. The CIPC studies proposed capital projects and improvements, and considers the relative need, impact, timing, and cost of each project, and its effect on town finances. The Committee prepares an annual

capital plan that recommends projects and budgets for the next fiscal year, and outlines recommended capital improvements for the following five fiscal years.

Opening on the Conservation Commission

A vacancy is open on the Conservation Commission. Any interested Gill resident is encouraged to contact one of the other members to learn more. Their names are found at www.gillmass.org.

Burning Brush

Burning season runs from January 15 to May 1. Burning brush requires a permit and can only be done in the season. To burn brush on a given day, please go to the website for Franklin County Burn Permits (www.fcburnpermits.com) and complete the online permit, or call 625-8200 for assistance. Please note that permits are only issued from 8:30 AM and 1 PM.

Town Clerk

Everyone in Gill, except Mount Hermon campus faculty, should have received the 2015 census forms. Please respond as soon as possible. Thank you if you have already done so.



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



This notice also gives the opportunity to license dogs by mail. A rabies clinic will be held on March 22 at the Bernardston Police Station from 9 AM to Noon. I will be there to license Gill dogs at the same time.

Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election will be held on May 18, 2015 from Noon to 8 PM at 196A Main Road, the Town Municipal Building, in the Fire Station. The deadline for voter registration to vote at the Annual Town Election will be 8 PM on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at the Town Clerk's office.

The offices and incumbent officers on the ballot this year include:

Select Board, Sewer Commissioner, three-year term, *John Ward*

Moderator, three-year term, *John Zywna*

Assessor, three-year term, *Nancy Griswold*

Cemetery Commission, three-year term, *Vacant*

Tree Warden, three-year term, *Ernest Hastings*

Board of Health, three-year term, *Randy Crochier*

Library Trustee, three-year term, *Vacant*

Town Clerk, three-year term, *Lynda Hodsdon Mayo*

Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's office. Twenty-five signatures of Gill registered voters are necessary to run for office. The last day to submit nomination papers to the town clerk is 5 PM on March 30, 2015.

Town Clerk office hours are Monday-Thursday 1 to 4 PM, Monday evening 5:30-6:30 PM and other times by appointment. 413-863-8103.

Board of Assessors' Gill Cultural Council

The Department of Revenue certified the numbers presented by the Board of Assessors for FY2015 and set a final tax rate of \$16.85. This is based on 2 years of sales in Gill from July 2012 to July 2014 and the assessed values reflected on January 1, 2014. Tax bills have been sent out with a due date of 5 PM on May 1, 2015. This date becomes the deadline for Abatement Applications or Exemption Applications submitted for Assessors' determination. These applications may be found at the Gill web site.

The Board of Assessors has sent out Form of List questionnaires to be returned by March 1, 2015, to document all Personal Property subject to taxation in the Town of Gill.

The Board of Assessors is also continuing to work in the community to record project progress up to the January 1, 2015, the deadline date that becomes the basis of all the assessments for the 2016 tax bills.

Assessors' Clerk office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The Board of Assessors meets alternate Monday evenings at 6:30 PM. 413-863-0138.

Collector of Taxes

Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were mailed to homeowners on January 20, 2015. The new tax rate for 2015 is \$16.85, an increase of 7 cents per \$1,000 of Assessed Value. Property owners who did not receive a bill may contact the Collector's office at 413-863-2105. Any questions related to values should be directed to the Assessor's office at 413-863-0138.

Inserted into this issue is a community survey that we hope all residents will complete anonymously. The results will help the Gill Local Cultural Council (LCC) set its future funding priorities.

The LCC is a town committee that distributes grant money for area projects in art, humanities, and science. LCC members review applications each fall for projects that take place in the following year. Past projects have included Gill Common summer concerts, Gill School theatre, Slate Library enrichment programs, Gill Historical Commission projects, and writing workshops for seniors. Funding has also supported programs at the Shea Theatre, Swift River Historical Society, Mass. Slavery Apology, and the Pioneer Symphony. **Please return** the inserted survey to the **Gill Town Hall at 325 Main Road by March 1, 2015.**

Franklin County Solid Waste Management

Pellet Bag Recycling Program a Hit! - Preparation Instructions

The Greenfield Transfer Station accepts pellets bags for free from any Franklin County resident. **WOOD PELLET BAGS ONLY!** Please no feed bags, soil bags, pesticide bags, or stretch film. All bags must be empty and dry. Wet bags will cause the entire load to be rejected by the recycling company. Pellet bags are baled and shipped to Trex to be recycled into plastic lumber. For more infor-



mation, see www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/PelletBagFlier2.pdf

Gill resident Ray Purington shares a tip: “I keep a pair of rugged scissors on the shelf above the pellet stove and cut open the top of the bag an inch or so below the heat-sealed area. I cut across both sides of the bag, about ½ - ¾ the width of the bag, stopping in the middle. That way, the cut flap remains attached, and I’ve got a smooth ‘spout’ that doesn’t trap pellets when I pour from it. When the bag is empty, cut open the bottom of the bag to release any pellets. Store bags flat and then roll or fold the pile into a pellet bag that has been cut at the top only. Do not ball up or crumple the bags.”

NEW Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District has been awarded a Massachusetts Community Innovation Challenge Grant and a grant from MassDEP to implement a FREE recycling program for agricultural plastics. Starting February 7, four Franklin County Transfer Stations will accept agricultural plastics for free. Any farmer within Franklin County may go to any of the four sites. For locations and hours, see www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. Acceptable items include hay bale wrap, greenhouse film, silage cover, maple tubing, and drip tape. Shake off loose dirt, stones, hay. Keep dry. These items will not be accepted: plastic mulch, garden pots, netting, row cover, twine. Agricultural plastics will be baled and shipped to Delta Plastics in Arkansas to be recycled into 100% recycled content trash bags.

Do Not Throw Away Wall-Mounted Mercury Thermostats!

Updating to a programmable thermostat? Please do not throw your old wall-mounted thermostat into the trash. These thermostats contain liquid mercury, which can be hazardous to our environment and health. Franklin County Solid Waste Management District accepts thermostats for free. Mercury is found in many household items such as thermometers, thermostats, some button batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs, including energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). None of these mercury-containing items should be put in the trash; they can all be safely disposed of at the sites listed below.

Thermostats and thermometers are accepted at the District office at 50 Miles St. in Greenfield. Hours vary; call 413-772-2438. District residents can also bring them to Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, held each fall, or to one of the regional hazardous waste collection sites at the transfer stations in Bernardston (first Sat. of each month; 9 AM-11 AM from Dec-April and 8 AM-noon from May-Nov), Colrain (every Sat., 8 AM-4 PM), or Conway (first Sat. of each month, 11 AM-2 PM).

Return the entire thermostat, and not just the mercury-containing ampoule since the casing provides protection for the mercury. Handle carefully and place in a sealed plastic bag. Batteries and fluorescent light bulbs, including CFLs, can be brought to transfer stations. Transport bulbs carefully; hand to attendant. Home Depot and Lowe’s also accept fluorescent light bulbs.

“Clean Sweep” Collection for Bulky Items: Save the date: Spring “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Day: May 16, from 9 AM-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. Bring tires, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, construction debris, computers and equipment, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items; also bring clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books for reuse or recycling. New in 2015: Bring bulky rigid plastics for recycling. Disposal fees listed at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html.

For more information, contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District: 413-772-2438, info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). An equal opportunity provider.

Energy Commission

Winter Workshops

In 2015 the Gill Energy Commission is offering a number of workshops. Register early as most classes are popular and limited in size. More information and contact numbers may be found on the Energy Commission’s website. More workshops will be offered throughout the rest of the year.

Winter Gardening Under Cover, Daniel Botkin, February 21, 1-3:30 PM, currently fully enrolled.



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Doug Smith - Owner



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Heating with Wood, Alden Booth, Sunday, March 15, 9 AM to Noon, limited to 15. Learn more about cutting and preparing your wood for heat. Includes selecting and felling trees safely, cutting, splitting, seasoning, stacking, and storing.

See **Peter Talmage's House Systems in Northfield**, Peter Talmage, March 28, 9 AM to Noon, class size limited. On-site tour of Talmage home to view various energy saving systems.

Intro to "Permaculture" Gardening: Propagating Real Food on Tiny Plots (While also Improving the Land), Daniel Botkin, April 25, 9 AM to Noon, limited to 12. Small-scale, "permaculture-inspired" food growing with emphasis on working closely with Nature while using less fuel and chemicals. Includes compost making, soil mixing, seed germinating, and seedling propagation.

Electrify your Bicycle, Peter Talmage, May 16, 9 AM to Noon.

Slate Library News

Stop by Slate Library to borrow a dvd of the many nominated and award winning movies in stock. New titles include *The Theory of Everything*, *The Judge*, *Into the Woods*, *Still Alice*, and *The Imitation Game*. We also have some new yoga dvd's to get you ready for spring. Try Rodney Yee's *AM & PM Yoga*, *Abs Yoga* and *Yoga for Relaxation, and Stress Reduction*.

How about some excellent TV viewing? Try *Homeland*, *Once Upon a Time* or *Game of Thrones*.

New books for young adults include *Brown Girl Dreaming*, *The Fourteenth Goldfish*, and *The Vigilante Poets of Selwyn Academy*.

For our youngest library users, we have new audio titles including *The Boxcar Children* and Hans Christian Anderson's *The Snow Queen*.

Come in for a visit and see what else is new!

HONOR ROLLS

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S LIST

Shawn Englehardt, *Brianna M. Grover*, and *Kristina McComb* were named to the College's fall 2014 President's List.

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DEAN'S LIST

Jack R. Hubert was named to the University of Rhode Island's dean's list for the fall 2014 semester.

Andrew Turban was named to the dean's list at the University of New Haven, West Haven, CT. for the fall 2014 semester.

Joshua Tombs was named to the chancellor's list at UMass Dartmouth.

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Ryan Bezio, a senior at FCTS, was awarded a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON HONOR ROLL - Fall Semester

Grade 12

Honors: Beatrice Dowdy and Gabriel Duska

Grade 11

High Honors: Ellen Arena and Simon van Baaren

Honors: Delaney Corrigan and Zachary Leeds

Grade 10

High Honors: Julia McClellan and Dominick Poulsen

Honors: Chloe Castro-Santos and Malcolm Patterson

Grade 9

High Honors: Gavin Flynn and Max van Baaren



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Friends of Gill's 2015 Pancake Breakfast

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Sat., March 28th 8-10:30 A.M.
Adults - \$6 Children under 10 yrs. - \$3
Children 3 yrs. and under - free
at the Gill Church

To reserve, call 863-9240 or 863-2212

Rolling Ridge Sugar House (Jacob Rau) will have maple syrup for purchase.

Our famous baked apple pies will be available for purchase at the breakfast.

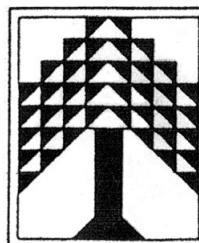
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Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 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. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Pam Shoemaker, Lynn Stowe Tomb, or Ivan Ussach (chair).




Solar Hot Water and Solar Electric

John Ward
Claire Chang
413 772-3122

2 Fiske Ave
Greenfield, MA 01301
info@solarstoreofgreenfield.com

With funding through FRCOG, a well researched and detailed architectural and historical document has been filed with the Massachusetts Historical Commission in an effort to gain their nomination of part of Riverside for the honor of listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Bonnie Parsons, who has done the earlier architectural survey of Gill Center, Bascom Hollow, and Riverside, authored the nomination application. It is important to note that a listing of an area is an honorary designation and is NOT a local, and therefore restrictive, historic district. As MHC evaluates the possible nomination, they will work with the GHC to announce and hold open meetings so that residents may ask questions and be sure they understand what the National Register is and is not.

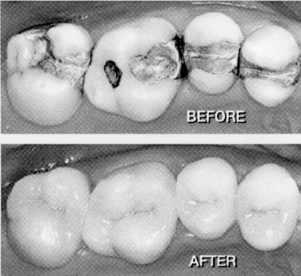


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The GHC is also excited to have begun work on a comprehensive history of the Riverside area of Gill. Graphic designer Lynn Stowe Tomb and Pam Shoemaker are working with other GHC members to collect information about Riverside's development from the archaeological to the industrial to the residential, gathering pictures and maps, interviewing residents, and hoping to have a comprehensive book available by the end of the next two years. As plans progress, we will share details and let you know what additional information is needed.

The Gill Historical Commission met on Tuesday afternoon, February 3, with the research team for the National Park Service grant to detail a history of the Battle of the Great Falls in May 1676. Attending the meeting were Mashantucket Pequot Museum Researchers – Kevin McBride, Ashley Bissonnette, and David Naumec, invited guests – Joe Graveline, Howard Clark, Ed Gregory as photographer, and Shelly Small as well as Ivan Ussach, Lynn Stowe Tomb, Bev Demars, and Pam Shoemaker for the GHC.

The Site Identification and Documentation grant from the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS ABPP) aims to identify the likely locations of the Peskeompskut (Turner's Falls) Battle—a major episode of King Philip's War (1675-1676)—and associated nearby



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sites. A Battlefield Study Advisory Board comprised of representatives from towns including Montague, Greenfield, Erving, Northfield, and Gill, and the Narragansett, Aquinnah Wampanoag, Mohegan, Nipmuc, and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribes has been formed to oversee the study. Much of this massacre and battle occurred within the bounds of the present-day Town of Gill, and Tuesday's meeting with GHC began a collaborative process to gather information from Gill.

The long-term goals of the grant include, but are not limited to, the examination of the region's Native American community through documentary records and archeological research, gathering all relevant historical accounts of the day's fighting, searching for surviving battlefield relics and archeological collections, the collection of Tribal and non-tribal (Yankee) oral histories, and to synthesize these sources along with the use of military terrain analysis models. An additional goal is to engage the local officials, landowners, and the interested public in efforts to locate and protect this important battlefield and its associated sites. The Pequot Museum research team will hold periodic public information meetings, which will be announced in advance. For more information about the project, or if you have any information you would like to share, please contact the Mashantucket Pequot Museum Research Department at (860) 396-6868 or email dnaumec@pequotmuseum.org. You may also speak with Ivan Ussach, GHC chair and representative on the project's advisory group.

As we all experience the cold and snow of this winter, we are sharing a few excerpts from **Henry B. Barton's 1885 Diary**. He farmed and lived in Riverside and served in town government for many years; his wife Emma Weatherhead was also a respected member of the Gill community.

Thursday, January 15, 1885: A steady snow storm has lasted all day about eight inches having fallen, this evening it seems more like rain. Threshing and cleaning of oats has been the principal item of business.

Friday January 16: A stormy day of snow rain and hail I picked and sorted over several kinds of garden beans for ext seasons planting killed several fowls and did a general variety of tinkering.

Saturday, January 17: Our long storm did not clear off till the middle of the forenoon. . . In the afternoon with both teams Willie and I broke a road up on to the mountain the crust has frozen fast and we had to break a track ahead of the team nearly all the way and only drew home

small loads. We have now about one foot of solid snow with a sharp crust on top that tonight holds up to walk on.

Thursday, January 22: One of the coldest days of the winter Mercury scarce above zero all day.

Wednesday, January 28: A regular howler snowed all day but cleared off just at dark.

Thursday, January 29: The coldest morning of the season 22 degrees below zero being the figure.

The Gill Tavern

The Tavern serves fare made from fresh ingredients (mostly locally produced) in an atmosphere that fosters friendship, community, and respect for our environment.
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Copy for the next newsletter should be sent to pshoe27@gmail.com no later than Monday, March 30, 2015

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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