



THE

# Gill Newsletter

Fall 2016 Issue

## 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.

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## Town Hall

### Change to Billing Cycle for Riverside Water & Sewer Customers

The Commissioners of the Riverside Water District, in conjunction with the Gill Selectboard (as sewer Commissioners), have announced a change in the dates of the quarterly bills, in order to better coincide with the District's and Town's fiscal years.

Meter readings will now be taken at the end of December, March, June, and September. Bills will be issued in January, April, July, and October.

In order to switch to the new schedule, the next bill will be issued in January 2017, and will have a four-month billing period instead of the usual three. After that, water and sewer bills will return to the three-month billing period. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this changeover.

### Snow Reminders

The Water Commissioners ask that residents shovel snow away from the fire hydrants after each snowstorm. Also, please keep your outside meter clear of ice and snow for the readings. In accordance with the Town's Winter Parking Ban, there is **NO ON-STREET PARKING** allowed between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM, November 1 through April 15. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### First Time Homebuyer Workshop

Are you ready to be a homeowner? There will be a 4-part workshop for first-time homebuyers on Monday November 14th through Thursday November 17th from 6 – 8:30 PM at Stoughton Place, 12 Main Road. The workshop is provided by the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority, and will include topics such as Roadmap to Home

Ownership, Meet the Professionals, Goal Setting, Household Budgeting, Credit, and more. Space is limited; please sign up by calling 413-863-9781 extension 100.

### Committees with Vacancies

Now is a great time to give back to the town in which you live, and volunteer to be on one of the committees with openings: Agricultural Commission, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Energy Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. To learn more, contact the Chair of each committee — their names, phone numbers, and email addresses can be found in the "Boards, Committees, and Departments" section of the Town website.

*Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant*

## News from the Town Clerk

### Wanted: Representative to the Franklin County Tech School Committee

The Town of Gill is looking for a representative to the Franklin County Technical School District School Committee. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the school. Please contact the Town Clerk's office at 863-8103 if you would like to know more about serving on this committee.

Check in with the Gill Website

[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)  
for up to date news,  
announcements and  
contact information!



## State and Presidential Election

### Early Voting

Early voting will be held at the Gill Town Hall, Monday, October 24 through Thursday, November 3rd from 9 AM to 4 PM

### Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office until noon of the day before the election or November 7th, 2016.

### State and Presidential Election

Location: Gill Fire Station

Time: November 8, 2016 7 AM - 8 PM

*Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk*

## Slate Library News

As the weather gets colder outside, Slate library gets cozier and cozier on the inside. We have been sprucing up and would love to have you stop by for a visit. We have new shades and a rug in the children's room as well as new books and DVDs for both children and adults. Best of all, we have a new children's librarian, Beverly Ketch, whom you can find leading Story Hour on Tuesday mornings or behind the desk on Thursday afternoons. We have kicked off the fall season with a presentation of "Spooky Tales for Halloween," and we will be holding a December 1 event for children hosted by popular singer and storyteller Mary Jo Maichak. Her program, "King Frost & Chilly Tales for Chilly Children," is the perfect event to welcome winter. The program begins at 4 PM, so hurry over after school lets out and take a little time to browse our collection while waiting for the show to start. Some of our newest titles for adults include *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult, *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett and *The Trespasser* by Tana French. In our DVD collection you will find *X-Men: Apocalypse*, *Jason Bourne*, *Florence Foster Jenkins* and *The Secret Life of Pets*. We also have a whole new section of fun audiobooks with musical DVDs for

our youngest patrons. Please stop by and visit, and remember if you would like to start a program at the library (anything from knitting to tying flies for fly fishing!) we are happy to host it. We are your public library and at your service!

## Gill Police News

### Traffic Markings to be Fixed

Gill's police department has been notified of some welcome news regarding the Main Road and French King Highway intersection. The call came last week from Mary Jane Bacon, District Staff representative for Senator Stanley Rosenberg. After many phone calls from both Gill residents and staff members of the Gill Police Department, the MA Department of Transportation has agreed to change the traffic markings coming northbound off the Gill- Montague Bridge. Currently the signage and markings indicate the "Straight" lane is for Left Turn Only, and pulling into the right lane approaching the intersection is for turning right and/or going straight. This change has created many close-call accidents, since most of the motoring public is used to going straight in the Left Turn Lane as it is currently marked. We look forward to the correction coming very soon. Until then please use care driving through the intersection.

### Cameras on French King Bridge

On the 19th of October the first step of the camera installation will be taking place on the French King Bridge to better identify safety issues on the bridge. After many years of working with the State House, MA DOT, MA State Police, the Erving and Gill Selectboards, Fire Departments and Police Departments, the State has found the funding to place a camera on both sides of the bridge that will allow both community police departments to monitor activity on the bridge. It is not yet known when the camera will be activated,

but this is a big step forward for the safety of many, especially when it comes to the potential water-rescue of an individual.

The Gill Police Department wishes to thank the office of Senate President Rosenberg and his district staff member Mary Jane Bacon for being instrumental in assisting our community in these two matters.

## News from the Gill Church

At the Gill Church we are once again having a Christmas Eve service and would like to invite the community to join us for this special time. The service begins at 5:30 PM and we will be joined by our friends from the Northfield Community Bible Church who bring their special talents for music and singing in ministry.

The Gill Church's regular Sunday morning worship service is at 10 AM, and our Sunday school begins at 9 AM. Gary Bourbeau, Pastor, can be reached at (413) 768-9453. Also, Merri Bourbeau leads a ladies' bible study every other Wednesday at 10 AM, followed by a potluck luncheon. Merri can be reached at (413) 863-8613.

## Public Health

### In-Town Flu Clinic on November 2

FRCOG's Cooperative Public Health Service is partnering with Gill Elementary, GCC School of Nursing and community volunteers to hold a public flu clinic on **Wednesday, November 2** from 3:30-5:30 PM at **Gill Elementary School**. Insurance cards (Medicare, MassHealth and commercial insurances) are accepted. For those without insurance the cost is \$10 for children or \$20 for adults. Other flu clinics are also offered in the region. See the full schedule at [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org)



This year only injectable flu vaccine will be offered. The Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices has made an interim recommendation that nasal spray form of the vaccine, FluMist (LAIV), should not be used for the 2016-17 influenza season. There are no concerns about the safety of LAIV. This decision was made in light of evidence of LAIV's poor effectiveness against influenza A (H1N1) in the U.S. during recent seasons. The ACIP will continue to monitor data about LAIV and continues to recommend injectable forms of flu vaccine for everyone 6 month of age and older.

Come to the elementary school on November 2 and get a flu shot! Please contact Lisa White, Cooperative Public Health Service Nurse, for more information at [413-665-1400 x 114](tel:413-665-1400).

## Gill Historical Commission

Phase 2 of the Great Falls Battlefield Project has officially begun with Ivan Ussach continuing to serve on the Project Advisory Board. A Scope of Work and RFP (request for proposal) for the consultant/principal investigator are both being drafted for submission to the National Park Service for approval, with the consultant team expected to be selected in January. The Project Board meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 11 – 1 at the Montague Town Hall; the meetings are open to anyone who is interested.

Preliminary archaeological fieldwork for the Gill Mobil convenience store project has been completed with no significant finds confirmed; the owner's consultant

(UMass Archaeological Services) has recommended that Native American monitors be present onsite during construction, an approach endorsed by various government, native, and local stakeholders. The GHC will continue to monitor the progress on this project.

The GHC is currently reviewing a proposal by Northfield Mount Hermon to replace their Speer boathouse, a project that the Massachusetts Historical Commission has noted includes some archaeologically sensitive areas and for which they are requesting a reconnaissance survey be completed. An on-site walk is scheduled for October 19.

The Historical Commission's recent publication, *Riverside – Life Along the Connecticut River*, sold out 200 copies within ten days of the first printing. Copies from the second printing are being sold, and it is gratifying that many who bought the book in September are ordering copies for holiday gift-giving. See the information box below if you wish to order a book. Proceeds from sale of the book support preservation and projects, and the GHC hopes that the book will encourage pride in Gill history.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) is still reviewing our nomination forms for part of Riverside to be approved for honorary listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Meanwhile, the forms for listing Gill Center have been revised to meet requests from MHC and re-submitted with another set of photographs. A reminder: MHC's review process takes several years and will eventually include meeting with residents. The GHC supports the honorary listing but does not propose local historic districts that carry restrictions on properties. From the application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (page 14): Georgian Period 1750-1776 – The Town of Gill is typical of many of the towns in western Massachusetts in that it was part of sev-

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eral divisions of larger allotments of land to proprietors and to townships before being established in its own right. In this case, it was part of the property of the Proprietors of Deerfield between 1682 and 1753 when it was parceled off as part of the district of Greenfield. It remained the northeast part of Greenfield between 1753 and 1793 when the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives approved its designation as the new district of Gill. At that time there were sixty-one men petitioning for the separation suggesting the size of the settlement. Gill was legally incorporated as a township in September of 1793 and three months later received its corporate privileges. At the time of its formation as a district, Gill Center was reached by Straits Road from Greenfield, some of which had been laid out in 1736 and extended to Gill Center about 1775. It served as a north-south roadway, while Center Road, laid out in 1775 as well, served for east to west travel. Farming was the principle occupation of the settlers, supplemented, in the case of Ithmar Allen and David Squires, by mill work, blacksmithing and potash processing, by others' cabinetmaking, wheel-making, store and tavern-keeping. A schoolhouse was built before 1775 at the junction of Center Road and Main Road.

If you have time to volunteer and help with projects, please let one of the GHC members know of your skills and interest. The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM, unless otherwise posted, in the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. The GHC is charged with planning for the preservation of Gill's historical sites and records as well as educating residents about the history of their town. If you have questions or information about Gill's history, please contact Ivan Ussach, chair; Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Pam Shoemaker, or Lynn Stowe Tomb.



## Note from the Editor

To the Residents of Gill:

The very first thing I heard when I inherited the position of newsletter editor was - thanks for doing this! We love the newsletter! The second thing people said was: when are you going to put the newsletter online? Some readers love to hold the newsletter in their hands and peruse the pages as they sip their morning cups of coffee; others say - "We want a newsletter but this is a waste of paper and postage. Even when citizens of Gill read it from front to back, it ends up in recycling or lining the bottom of the bird cage." Some people don't have computers or use the internet. Others have been getting their news from the internet for years. We don't have a solution to this yet but we are thinking about it, so stay tuned. Perhaps there is a compromise. In the next newsletter we will have a plan for the future of the newsletter. Perhaps it will come to your mailbox; perhaps it will land in your email Inbox. If you have a strong opinion you'd like to share with me, email me at [susan.lascala@gmail.com](mailto:susan.lascala@gmail.com); or pick up a pen, write a note, slip it into an envelope, put a stamp on it and send it to me c/o the Town Hall. I will tear the envelope open, remove the note from inside the envelope, and I will read it. Either way, I will get your message.

Susan LaScala  
Editor

## Holiday Gift Idea!

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the Gill Historical Society

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