



THE

Gill Newsletter

Spring 2017 Issue

Disclaimer:

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Town Hall

Annual Town Meeting

This year's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 1st at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. As the meeting warrant, motions, and explanations become available, they will be posted to the Town's website and on our Facebook page. In order to provide more time for the Selectboard and Finance Committee to craft next year's budget, all financial matters will be handled at "Part 2" of the meeting on Monday, June 5th at 6:30 PM.

CodeRED Sign-ups

The Town recently implemented the CodeRED emergency notification service. The system allows Town personnel to send telephone calls (landline and cell), text messages, and emails to provide emergency alerts and general information notices to residents who have enrolled their contact information. More details can be found on the CodeRED insert with this newsletter.

9-1-1 Disability Indicator

Does someone residing at your address communicate over the phone by a TTY and/or have a disability that may hinder evacuation or transport during a medical or other emergency? If so, you may want to consider filing a 9-1-1 Disability Indicator (DI) Form.

The DI Form is used to notify the State 9-1-1 Database that someone at a particular address has equipment required to sustain their life; is bedridden, uses a wheelchair or has another mobility impairment; is legally blind; is deaf or hard of hearing; communicates via a TTY phone; has a speech impairment; or has a cognitive impairment.

In the event of a 9-1-1 call from your home, the DI codes will help the 9-1-1 dispatcher communicate with the caller and provide useful information to the responding public safety personnel.

The information you provide on the DI Form is confidential, and will only appear at the dispatcher's location when a 9-1-1 call originates from your address. If you would like a Disability Indicator Form, please contact Ray Purington, Gill's 9-1-1 Municipal Coordinator, at 863-9347.

Recycling Bins & Compost Pails

Thanks to a Massachusetts DEP Sustainability Grant, there are a limited number of blue recycling bins available free of charge at the Town Hall. Kitchen compost pails are also available. There is a limit of one bin and one pail per household. Items may be picked up during regular hours of operation, Monday 9-6:30 and Tuesday thru Thursday 9-4:30.

Gill Representative for the Tech School Committee

Do you have an interest or passion for the high-quality education provided by our local vocational/technical school? The Town is looking for a volunteer to serve as Gill's representative to the Franklin County Technical School Committee. If you are willing to help out, please contact our Town Clerk, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, at 413-863-8103.

Vacancy – Gill Finance Committee

There is a vacancy on the Finance Committee. If you might be interested in serving on this committee, please contact Lynda Hodsdon

Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org

for up to date news, announcements and contact information!



Mayo, Town Clerk, at 863-8103 or townclerk@gillmass.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, providing review and input on the Town's budget for the next fiscal year.

Agricultural Commission Seeking Members

The Agricultural Commission has two openings. The principal purpose of the AgCom, according to our Town Bylaw, is to "support agriculture and other farming activities in the Town of Gill." The group generally meets once per month. If you are interested, please contact Ray Purington at Town Hall (863-9347), or any of the AgCom members listed on the Town website.

Right to Farm – Annual Disclosure

In accordance with the Right to Farm bylaw adopted by the Town in January 2009, we remind our residents of the following:

"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, Administrative Assistant

Paying Your Taxes

Please, please, please...when you mail in a tax payment for real estate taxes, sewer charges, or motor vehicle excise, include the Remittance portion of the bill with your check, and write the bill number and tax type ("real estate," "sewer," or "excise") in the memo line of the check. This helps make sure that your payment is properly applied to your account.

Even more importantly, for residents who use online banking to pay bills, be sure your payment includes the bill number and type. Without this information on the check, time is wasted having to research and look up what bill you're paying. Thank you!

Veronica "Ronnie" LaChance, Tax Collector

From the Board of Assessors' Office

Reminders:

There are some residents who have not yet responded to the census. This information is important for keeping the town's records complete. Remember also to get your dog licensed, if you have not already done so.

Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election will be held on May 15, 2017 from noon to 8 PM at 196A Main Road, the Town Municipal Building, in the Fire Station. The offices and candidates on the [town ballot](#) this year include:

Selectboard, Sewer Commissioner, three-year term, Greg Snedeker, Incumbent.

Board of Assessors, three-year term, Pam Lester, Candidate

Board of Assessors, two-year term, Bill Tomb, Candidate

Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, Carrie Stevens, Incumbent

Constable, three-year term, Fred Chase II, Incumbent

Constable, three-year term, Craig Gaudry, Incumbent

Constable, three-year term, Fred Chase III, Incumbent

Board of Health, three-year term, Ed Galipault, Incumbent

Library Trustee, three-year term, Megan Bathory-Peeler, Incumbent

Tax Collector, three-year term, Veronica LaChance, Incumbent

Tree Warden, one-year term, Brian Koshinski, Candidate

The offices and candidates on the [school ballot](#) this year include:

Gill-Montague Regional School Committee, three-year term,

Sandy Brown, Incumbent
Shawn Hubert, Candidate

I would like to remind voters that absentee ballots will be available for anyone unable to be at the polls on election day due to hardship or because they are out of the town. Please contact the Town Clerk.

Also, remember that we have a voting machine for those who have a disability or have difficulty standing at the voting stations. You can be seated and there are headphones for listening to the choices. By touching the screen, your vote will mark a ballot that can be inserted in the ballot box. Voters that used the machine at the last election found it to be helpful. Someone with you can help you or an election worker is available to help.

Town Clerk office hours are Monday-Thursday 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Monday evening 5:30- 6:30 PM and other times by appointment. 413-863-8103

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk



Slate Library News

Slate Library is welcoming spring by hosting a few new events. In April we held an egg-decorating party offering five different techniques for creating beautiful Easter eggs. In June we will host Arthur Evans of Makerspace Workshops. His program has been funded by the Gill Cultural Council and will take place on Thursday, June 1 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. We are hoping for an after-school crowd!

Makerspace workshops are STEM based and they will teach participants how to use 3D software to create and print or carve 3D objects of their own design. All supplies and materials are provided. Makerspace will bring laptops for public use but you can also bring your own and learn how to design with this new technology.

Stop by and check out our new acquisitions. We have new books, DVDs and audiobooks to get you ready for spring road trips or just hanging out at home. There is always something new at Slate Memorial Library!

Gill Church

Greetings from the Gill Church. We would like to invite you to our 10 AM Sunday service. The Gill Church also has a Sunday School/Bible study at 9 AM, where you can enjoy a coffee or tea and join in an open discussion format with members of the congregation. To learn more about Gill Church, check out our new website, which is still being developed. The current address is www.lhpikewixsite.com/gillchurch. For now the surest way to get to the site is to Google **First Congregational Church of Gill**, and the address will pop up in the first few options. We hope you find it informative and interesting.

On Memorial Day Sunday at 10 AM, the Gill Church will have a community recognition of this significant day with a special service beginning at the church and continuing across the street at the veterans' memorials for the Rose Ceremony, flag-raising, gun salute and taps. Please join us at this time when we honor those who have sacrificed in service to our country.

Common People Concerts 2017!

- June 27** A Natural Concert Band ~ Professional-caliber concert band
- July 4** NO CONCERT ~ ENJOY THE HOLIDAY.
- July 11** The Fantastic Partnerz ~ Chill rock for dancing
- July 18** Flootissimo ~ Piping-hot flute music
- July 25** Bad to Be Good ~ Eastern Country and Northern Blues
- August 1** Monadnock Steel Drum Band ~ Caribbean sounds in Gill!

Where? On Gill Common. If the weather is yucky, concerts will be held in Gill Congregational Church. If weather is yucky on June 27, the concert will be held at United Church of Bernardston, on Route 10.

When? Summer Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Cost? None, but Friends of Gill will sell refreshments at concerts.

Why? Because Gill deserves lots of very good music.

More info? Contact Steve at anaturalmusicschool@yahoo.com

Thank you, Gill Cultural Council, for funding this concert series

Doug's Auto Body

Doug Smith - Owner



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Honor Roll

2nd Quarter

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

High Honor: Ameilia Pelletier

Grade 11

Honor: Rylie Zager;

Grade 9

Highest Honor: Marin Klein and

Emaline Relyea-Strawn

Honor: Brian Peila, Jr.

Grade 7

Highest honor: Meena Relyea-Strawn

High Honor: Isaac Damon, Robert Kenyon

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: Bryn Kruzlic and

Jeremy Wolfram

Grade 11

Second Honors: Branden Chapin,

Noah Courchesne, Kyle Kucenski and

Kylee Mason

Grade 10

Third Honors: Reilan Castine

Grade 9

First Honors: Alyson Murphy

Third Honors: Mason Kucenski

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Taylor Murphy, Karissa

Olson, Julie Sprankle, Leah Timberlake,

Hailey Wheeler and Olivia Whittier

Second Honors: Luke Timberlake

Grade 6

Second Honors: Robert Murphy

Northfield Mount Hermon

Local students Patterson Malcolm of Mount Hermon and Eli Nicholson of Northfield were named to the Cum Laude Society.

This independent-school national honor society is the secondary-school equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa. Last fall, 17 students were elected to early membership based on their junior year records. This spring 17 additional members have been elected to the society, based on their junior and senior year records. Both Malcolm and Nicholson are seniors.

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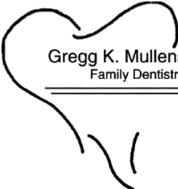
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Gill Historical Commission

Good news – The Massachusetts Historical Commission has approved Gill's proposed Riverside Village Historical District to the National Register. The National Park Service will now review the nomination and give final approval.

THE VILLAGE POST was edited and printed every other Tuesday by Josiah D. Canning in Gill for 50 cents per annum, payable always in advance, or 75 cents if not paid till the end of the year:

May 21, 1833 - The River

The Connecticut the past week has been uncommonly high being 8 to 10 feet above low water mark. The scenery at the fall is truly sublime and borders on the terrific. The sheet of water which is poured over the cataract, is thought to be 15 ft. thick, and Niagara-like, it dashes down the rocks with amazing force, causing a spray which rises far to the top of the highest trees. We never have seen the Falls look so grand, as when the water was at its utmost height. In consequence of the swollen state of the river, considerable damage will be experienced. Valuable lumber is constantly hurrying down the current, and a great portion of it is destroyed in its descent at the falls.

March 25 1834 - Kidd's Island

This name is applied to a considerable Island lying in the river nearly opposite to this village, latterly [sic] more commonly called Stratton's Island. There is a story current among the gossiping part of community, that the famous pirate, Kidd once ascended the Connecticut to this place, and here buried an iron chest, containing a good share of his "Ninety bars of gold." [In 1834] an excavation is now to be seen on the southern point of the Island, where a believer in the "hidden treasure" once made diligent search. The digger, after consulting an old necromancer who resided then in this vicinity, repaired by night to this spot and commenced the operation, despite the horrible phantoms

which appeared; and the digger ... affirmed positively that he reached the chest with his iron-bar when an unlucky word from his overjoyed brother attendant, caused the ponderous gold to remove from beneath their feet with a growl like distant thunder. ... In the summer season [the island] forms a beautiful retreat. The lovers of the romantic and the marvelous, are at such times often seen under sail for the Island, which, as long as [the] Connecticut River runs, will perpetuate the memory of him whose "Name was Robert Kidd,/ As he sailed."

April 29, 1834 - SALE

A few hundred WHITE MULBERRY TREES of two years growth, by A. Stoughton.

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. The GHC maintains records and artifacts of Gill in the Riverside building. If you have questions or information, please contact Ivan Ussach, chair; Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Pam Shoemaker, or Lynn Stowe Tomb.

Copies of The Gill Historical Commission's history, *Riverside, Life Along the Connecticut in Gill, Massachusetts*, are now available for sale from Ronnie LaChance at Town Hall or by email: Lstomb@gmail.com. The book is \$42.00 plus \$5.00 if shipping is needed.

FOR SALE: Used wooden shelving with adjustable rails. Painted white. Glass shelves available. Also, plate glass panels (34" x 76" and 3/16" thick) that may be screwed to the fronts of the units or used separately. For viewing or questions, call 413-863-4170 or Ray at the Town Hall.

We can use some help! If you have time to volunteer and help with projects, please let one of the GHC members know of your skills and interest

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