



THE

Gill Newsletter

Winter 2018 Issue

Disclaimer:

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Tax Bills

The second tax bill for FY18 will be mailed during the last week of January, with a due date of May 1, 2018. Residents are reminded that tax bills are not sent to mortgage companies. It is your responsibility to notify your mortgage company and ensure an on-time payment. If you use your bank's online bill payment to send a check, be sure to include the Bill # as part of the memo line.

If you mail in your tax payment, include the bottom tear-off portion of the bill, and write the Bill # on the memo line of your check.

Thank you,
Ronnie LaChance, Tax Collector

Riverside Sewer Rates

On December 26, 2017 the Selectboard, acting as Sewer Commissioners, voted to adopt a new sewer rate of \$0.1995 per cubic foot. The increase is necessary to keep pace with a 3.37% increase in the rate that Montague charges to Gill for treatment and disposal of sewage. Montague's rate increase was adopted on October 1, 2017, and was retroactive to July 1, 2017.

One way to help control the costs of operating the sewer system is to reduce the amount of groundwater and stormwater in the sewer lines. Household sump pumps and perimeter drains may not be connected to the sewer lines, as they introduce unmetered water into the sewer system. The treatment costs for unmetered uses are shared by ALL sewer customers. If

your house is connected to the sewer system, you are helping to pay for your neighbors' sump pumps and perimeter drains!

A handout about reducing the amount of groundwater and stormwater in the sewer lines was included with the sewer bills that were mailed in January. The handout is also available on the Selectboard/Sewer Commissioners page of the Town's website: www.gillmass.org

Winter Parking Ban

Just a reminder, the winter parking ban is in effect through April 15. There is NO on-street parking allowed between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Winter Sand for Driveways

The Highway Department keeps a pile of winter sand (sand & salt mix) at the Public Safety Complex for Gill 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.

Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org
for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!



Fred W. Wells Trust Scholarship

Applications for 2018-2019 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. The completed applications must be postmarked on or before March 20th.

Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

Town Clerk

Census

Please check the mail for census forms from the Town Clerk. These forms are used for updating our Street List and ensuring accurate voter information. Please make corrections and sign before returning. If you did not receive a census form, call the Town Clerk.

Dog licenses:

The census mailing also gives you the opportunity to license dogs by mail. Please register your pet as soon as you can. The fee is \$5 if the dog is spayed or neutered and \$10 for all others. All dogs must be licensed by March 31st to avoid a late fee. A reminder that there is a leash law in Gill and all dogs must be on-leash. There are fines for reports of dogs seen off-leash. This is a very busy time of year in the Town Clerk's office due to the influx of census returns and the licensing of dogs in our community. Also, this year we are looking at three elections,

including our own town election. **Be sure your voter registration is up to date so that you will not be disappointed on the day you come to vote.**

The Town Clerk's office will advertise specific days when residents can come to Town Hall to register, but please note that **you can come to the office any time before that deadline.** The advertised day is the last day for registration and a reminder to those who may have forgotten to register. You can register in person or by mail (postmarked no later than the final registration date). Call the office if you want to check to find out the status of your enrollment.

Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election will be held on May 21, 2018 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 196A Main Road, the Town Municipal Building, in the Fire Station. The deadline for registration to vote at the Annual Town Election will be 8 p.m. on Tuesday May 1, 2018 at the Town Clerk's office.

The offices on the ballot this year include:

Selectboard, Sewer Commissioner

three year term currently held by John Ward

Assessor

three year term, (vacant)

Cemetery Commission

three year term currently held by Joan Pillsbury

Moderator

three year term, (vacant)

Board of Health

three year term currently held by Randy Crochier

Library Trustee

three year term currently held by Kimber Sprankle

Tree Warden

three year term, (vacant)

Town Clerk

three year term currently held by Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

Moderator steps down

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Zywna for his service to the Town of Gill as Moderator. Please join us at the opening of Town Meeting in May when the community will thank John for the time and effort he has given to the town.

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 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2018.

Absentee ballots are available. You may vote absentee if you are unable to vote at the polls on Election Day due to (1) absence from Gill during normal polling hours, (2) physical disability which prevents you from going to your polling place; or (3) religious belief. To vote absentee at Town Hall, contact my office to vote here at a time arranged with the Town Clerk. If you would like to have a ballot mailed to you, please call the office.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk



Board of Assessors

The assessors presented the data and recommendations for the 2018 tax rate to the Select Board at a special public hearing during their regular meeting on December 26th, 2017. The Select Board approved the recommendations. The Division of Local Services within the Department of Revenue approved the data on December 27th, 2017.

Gill's 2018 tax rate will remain at a single rate.

The total 2018 taxable valuation:

Real Estate: \$143,304,098.00

Personal Property: \$10,758,310.00

Total: \$154,062,408.00

The assessed value is \$17.18 per \$1,000 based on valuation on January 1, 2017. A fair market value on sales was derived from analysis using sales from July 2015 to July 2017. If you have any questions please contact the Assessors' office Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 12:30 PM at 863-0138.

In other news, there is still an opening on the Board of Assessors. The Assessor's primary duties are to assess the property taxes for the town, our major source of revenue to support the operations of Gill. This includes excise taxes on motor vehicles, boats, businesses and real estate. Please consider getting involved and let us know of your interest. The position will be appointed by the Select Board until the annual May 2018 election. Come and give it a try. The Board of Assessors will be

sending out a Form of List to be returned by March 1, 2018 to document all Personal Property subject to taxation in the Town of Gill.

The Board of Assessors is also continuing to work out in the community to record project progress up to the January 1, 2018, deadline date that becomes the basis of all the assessments for the 2019 tax bills.

Meetings for the Board of Assessors are held in the meeting area of the first floor of Town Hall.

William Tomb, Chair

Pamela Lester

Energy Commission

The Gill Energy Commission is prepping for a Green Communities competitive grant right now. The following are potential projects that we could apply for. The deadline is March 11, 2018. Each potential item for the grant has a person in charge who is tracking down the necessary information and will have all the numbers ready to plug in at our next meeting on Jan 31 at 4 PM.

Slate Library - insulate the ceiling, install more efficient LED lighting and Air Source Heat Pumps. Even though the use is small, for the past three years the Slate Library has used more heating oil than Town Hall.

Town Hall - some insulation and installation of Variant Refrigerant Flow Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning. This would likely replace the oil heat completely.

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner




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Riverside Municipal Building

- purchase more Indows (rigid interior storm windows) for the windows on the north side.

Public Safety Building - replace the compressor with a new more efficient compressor EV Charging Station - Potentially at the Public Safety Building or Town Hall for folks using the library or the Tavern.

We had a visit from the Lieutenant Governor Polito. She was very interested in energy conservation and she asked us about what we had done with our Green Communities Grant money. Ray Purington demonstrated how much money we saved by owning and replacing the street lights. We also insulated above the Town Hall and Riverside Municipal Building, and installed Air Source Heat Pumps at the RMB.

FRCOG is going with electricity aggregation and we are exploring whether or not aggregation makes sense for Gill. Greenfield, Wendell, Heath and Bernardston are already signed up and Leverett and Orange may join as well. The goal is to purchase more local renewable energy. Individual residents have the option to opt out.

There is an opening on the Energy Commission and we encourage interested people to reach out to one of our current members: Vicky Jenkins, Janet Masucci, Tupper Brown, Alden Booth, Andy Cole, Claire Chang. Please check <http://gillmass.org/> for the dates of our meetings. Sit in and see if this commission is right for you.

Fire Department

Burning season is from January 15 - May 1, 2018. Burning brush requires a permit and can only be done during burning season. If a Gill resident would like to burn brush on a given day, please go to Franklin County Burn Permits (www.fcburnpermits.com) and complete the online permit. Individuals without computer access can call 625-8200, and Shelburne Control will fill out the form for them.

Permits are valid on the day they are issued and are not issued in advance due to the potential for change in weather conditions. Permits may be obtained between the hours of 8:30 AM and 1 PM on days when permits are being issued. If the decision has been made not to allow burning in any town, you will not be able to obtain a permit in that town. This decision is based on fire-weather conditions and environmental air quality. While a rainy day may seem perfect for burning from a fire-weather standpoint, it may not meet the guidelines of air quality.

Later this month the Fire Department will be placing in service the 20 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) that were purchased with the FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant late last year. These will replace the same number of 15-year-old units.

We are looking for Gill residents to join the department. If you are interested, stop by on Thursday evenings to talk.

Police Department

The Police Department has had some staff changes in the last several months. Former Chief of Police David Hastings retired after twenty-three years of service to the town of Gill. Sgt. Christopher Redmond, a twenty-five year member of the department, was promoted to Chief on October 16, 2017. On December 6, Special Officer Jason Bassett was hired to replace the sergeant position which was vacated when Redmond was promoted to the Chief's position. Officer Bassett left the town of Bernardston where he has served as their sergeant for the last several years. We welcome him aboard on a full-time basis, and we thank David Hastings for his years of service to the town.

The department has reconfigured our 2013 Ford police cruiser from an unmarked vehicle into a semi-marked cruiser. New subdued reflective graphics were added to the vehicle exterior, along with protective barriers and additional emergency lights. These changes will improve our officers' safety, and increase police visibility while patrolling the town.

As 2018 began the department is transitioning to a new records management server, which will allow data entry from the cruiser and allow us to be in direct communications with our dispatch center via a computer-aided dispatch program. These two changes, along with funding that was approved by the Selectboard for new cruiser computers, will greatly improve our ability to be



more proficient while on patrol. We thank the Selectboard for their support of this project.

During the last three months, we have scheduled firearms permits on the third Monday evening of the month from 5:30 to 7:30PM. These set times have vastly improved our license renewal times with the state. If your permit will expire prior to the office hours listed above, please contact Officer Schreiber directly to make an alternate plan. She can be reached by calling or texting 603-903-9853. No appointment is needed for renewals or new-issue licenses on the scheduled evenings.

Public Health

Do you need a pneumonia vaccine?

Anyone can develop serious infections from many bacteria that cause pneumonia. Adults over the age of 65, children under 2 years of age, people living with chronic health conditions and cigarette smokers are at highest risk for complications of the disease, which can be fatal. Pneumococcal infections are resistant to the antibiotics that were once used to treat them which makes prevention of the disease even more important.

There are now two types of pneumonia vaccines to provide protection from pneumococcal disease: PPSV23 and PCV13. Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) Cooperative Public Health Nurse Lisa White is holding on-going

pneumonia clinics for residents who need either of these vaccines. Annual flu vaccine for all ages is also still available. Please contact Lisa directly at 413-665-1400 x 114 or stop by her regular hours in the Community Room at Stoughton Place, 12 Main Rd. Gill from 9-11 AM on the second Friday of each month.

Cultural Council Awards

The Gill Cultural Council met in November to decide how to award this year's allotment of money from the state for community-based projects in the arts, humanities and sciences. (Check out www.mass-culture.org for more information about the important local cultural council program.)

Gill received grant applications from twenty-seven individuals and organizations seeking an unprecedented amount of money (almost \$17,000.) Because we had only \$4,550 to distribute, we had to make some hard choices.

The council decided to offer grants to many of the applicants we have helped in the past, such as the local schools and the Common People Concerts, while also giving support to some exciting new ventures. As always, we looked to offer a variety of cultural experiences to the community.

Here are the LCC-sponsored events that Gill can look forward to in 2018:

- A Farm-to-Table program, in collaboration with Upinngil Farm, for the 5th graders at Gill

Elementary School

- Creative movement workshops for the kindergarteners
- An after-school drama program, culminating in a performance at town hall, for 4th- 6th graders
- An introduction to the symphony, with a trip to see the Pioneer Valley Symphony, for 3rd- 4th graders
- A theater residency, focusing on social justice, at the Turners Fall High School
- A drama program at the Franklin County Tech School, leading to a performance at the Shea Theater
- Musician residencies and community outreach, plus a concert series, at Antenna Cloud Farm in Gill
- A summer concert(s) on the town common
- A performance by Greg Snedeker's band during the celebration of Gill's 225th anniversary
- Historical displays to be put up throughout town by the Gill Historical Commission, in honor of the town's 225th anniversary
- The painting of a mural by Turners Falls High School students and Native American artists, entitled "Building Bridges: Connecting Our Communities"
- An illustrated talk in Gill about indigenous ceremonial stone features, entitled "Let the Landscape Speak"



225th Commemorative Bags

Show off your Gill pride with a commemorative 225th Anniversary reusable bag. These strong and roomy bags are perfect for grocery shopping, trips to the beach, and many more storage and toting occasions. The bags are tan with red lettering, and are made from a water-resistant, laminated recycled material.

toward defraying the costs of 225th events.

225 Family Contra Dance

Gillbillies (and friends) will cut a rug at Gill Elementary School on Friday, February 2. Doors will open at 5. Get it? 2/2 at 5. Dancing will commence at 6 and go until 8 PM. World-renowned dance caller and founding member of New England Dancing Masters, Andy Davis, will travel down from Vermont to call various folk dances, mostly contras. He typically throws in some squares and Sicilian circles. He is also known for his musical stories, which he tells while dancers rest and snack.

These dances require only simple moves and will be taught by Andy, who has decades of experience calling community dances for all ages. Dance experience is not needed.

There is no admission. This special event is being funded by A Natural Music School. Please bring a snack to share. Monetary donations for future events are welcome and encouraged.

For more information, contact Steve at damons_of_gill@yahoo.com.

Steve Damon, Member, Gill 225 Committee



The bags are available for a suggested donation of \$3 each or 2 for \$5. We can mail bags anywhere in the US for a donation of \$10 for one bag and \$15 for two. Get the bags at the Town Hall, from members of the 225th Planning Committee, and hopefully at a few Gill businesses.

Proceeds from the bags will go

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Education Fund

2018 GMEF Annual Gala

A Tribute to the Music of
John Denver featuring
Jim Curry & his band



On **Saturday, April 28, 2018** at 7 PM tribute artist Jim Curry, whose voice was heard in the CBS-TV movie *Take Me Home: The John Denver Story*, will make a rare New England appearance at the Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala. Jim's uncanny ability to mirror John's voice and clean-cut look takes you back to the time when "Rocky Mountain High" "Sunshine" "Calypso" and "Annie's Song" topped the charts, and his popular music had the heartfelt message of caring for the earth and caring for each other.

"As John Denver's former drummer and percussionist, working with Jim Curry has kept alive for me how it was playing with John. Jim has stayed true to John's music and vision. It is a pleasure working with Jim and Anne Curry."

—Richie Gajate Garcia

Advance tickets are now available at the GMEF website. Advance tickets are \$20 – At the Door \$25.

Our collaborative effort with Underwriters, Sponsors, Advertisers, and Tier-givers have resulted not only in quality entertainment for our communities but also made available more than **\$106,950** of student enrichment grants.

For more information about our Annual Gala, Tickets, and Student Enrichment Grants go to our website: www.thegmef.org

Honor Roll

1st Quarter

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 11

Honor: Jake Wallace

Grade 10

Highest Honor: Jasmine Terounzo

Grade 8

Highest Honor: Isaac Damon and Meena Relyea-Strawn

High Honor: Robert Kenyon

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Anna Baskowski

Honor: Samantha Pelia and James Staelens

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: John Wheeler II

Third Honor: Noah Courchesne

Grade 11

Third Honors: Reilan Castine

Grade 10

Third Honors: Mason Kucenski and Alyson Murphy

Grade 9

First Honors: Karissa Olson, Leah Timberlake and Olivia Whittier
Second Honors: Taylor Murphy and Hailey Wheeler

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 7

Second Honors: Kole Broderick, Matthew Marchefka and Dante Ruggiano

Grade 6

First Honors: Jessica Tricolici

Recent College Graduates

Theodore J. Short graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

Emily W. Messer received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in May 2017; Jordan M. Anderson and Alivia L. Rinaldi graduated, each with a Bachelor's degree, from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in September 2017.



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Dean's List

For earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher, Beatrice Dowdy and Stephen Filiault were named to the 2017 Dean's List at the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas.

Julia Wallace was named to the 2017 fall semester Dean's List at High Point University in High Point, N.C.

Local News

Beatrice Dowdy and Gabriela McCausland were among the 80 junior volunteers at the University of Dallas who participated in Charity Week. Proceeds raised during the fund-raising week were donated to three nonprofits, Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas, Jonathan's Place in Dallas and the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

Gill Historical Commission

A timeline of Gill history to help you learn local history for the 225th Anniversary Year

245 – 100 million years ago (mya).

Mesozoic Era. Dinosaurs left footprints but became extinct toward the end of the era. Beginning of Connecticut River Valley.

66 mya – present. Melting of the last glacier. Lake Hitchcock formed and drained. Humans appear in the region.

B.C. – A.D. Tribal gatherings over millennia at Peskeompskut/ Great Falls (Riverside) for hunting, fishing, and socializing.

1676. Great Falls Fight in Riverside

and surrounding area during the King Philip's War.

1682 – 1753. Gill is under the Proprietors of Deerfield from 1682 until 1753 when becoming part of Greenfield.

1756. Howland Tavern (Old Red House) was built by Seth Howland, who sold to Isaac Barton in 1823.

1775. Constructed about 1775, Ithmar Allen's gristmill on Woodward's Brook, later Unadilla Brook. Mill pond and dam still exist with foundations and a grist grinding stone.

1793. The Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives approved the designation of Gill as a new district.

1795. Grass Hill (Mount Hermon) section is annexed from Northfield. The geographic center of the town was fixed as Gill Center. In 1796, the Town Common and the Congregational Church lots were laid out.

1796. First Congregational Church, constructed, altered in 1846, and again in 1889 with a spire.

1801 – 1803. First store was established in Gill Center.

1800 – 1830. Town of Gill's population increased from 700 to 864 and in 1865 declined to 635. In 1870 the population of Riverside grew substantially followed by the population at Mount Hermon School.

Pre-1811. Center Cemetery created.

1828. Methodist Church established.

1842 – 1882. Riverside dinosaur tracks discovered. Dexter Marsh (Grnfld.), Edward Hitchcock (Amherst College), Roswell Field (Gill), and then T. M. Stoughton (Gill) host top scientists of natural history and sell prints from Gill quarries to museums and colleges.

Summit/Mobil Project

Thanks to Lynn Stowe Tomb for digitalizing 60 pictures from the Gill Historical collection for Mobil Summit to use as historic wallpaper in their new store at Main Road and Route 2. Approximately 20 pictures have been chosen and installed. GHC appreciates the inclusion of local history in the store.

Riverside Book

A few copies of the Riverside book remain for sale. If you would like a copy, you may find an order form at the Town Hall or on the Town of Gill website or email: Lstomb@gmail.com.

Gill Historical Commission

Meetings are 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 preserving 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, Lynn Stowe Tomb, or Bob Perry (alternate).

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Gill 225th Anniversary Calendar of Events

<p>Friday February 2nd 6:00 – 8:00 PM @ Gill Elementary School</p>	<p><u>Family Contra Dance</u> – Gillbillies (and friends) will cut a rug at Gill Elementary School on Friday, February 2. Doors will open at 5. Get it? 2/2 at 5. Dancing will commence at 6:00 and go until 8:00. World-renowned dance caller and founding member of New England Dancing Masters, Andy Davis will travel from Vermont to call various folk dances, mostly contras. He typically throws in some squares and Sicilian circles. He is also known for his musical stories, which he tells while dancers rest and snack.</p> <p>These dances require only simple moves and will be taught by Andy, who has decades of experience calling community dances for all ages. Dance experience is not needed.</p> <p>There is no admission fee. The A Natural Music School is funding this special event, along with help from an anonymous donor. Please bring a snack to share. Monetary donations for future events are welcome and encouraged.</p> <p>For more information, contact Steve at davons_of_gill@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Saturday February 17th 10:00 AM – Noon @ Slate Memorial Library</p>	<p><u>Jigsaw Puzzle Swap</u> – Puzzled with what to do with the jigsaw puzzles you have already completed? We can help! Bring your adult and children’s puzzles to the Slate Memorial Library in their original boxes, in good condition AND with all their pieces. Exchange your puzzles one for one and go home with some new challenges.</p> <p><i>If you can, please wrap a rubber band around each puzzle box to keep contents secure.</i></p>
<p>Sunday February 18th 4:00 – 6:00 PM AND Sunday February 25th 4:00 – 6:00 PM @ NMH McCollum Hockey Arena</p>	<p><u>Community Skate</u> – Dig out your ice skates and join your friends and neighbors for a skating party at the Northfield Mount Hermon School’s McCollum Hockey Arena (located at 7 Purple Road). NOTE: Both dates are weather-dependent. The rink is a covered outdoor rink, so an early end to winter might curtail the ice skating season in late February.</p> <p>This is a skating party only; hockey sticks and pucks are not allowed. Dress appropriately – even though you are under cover, the rink can be chilly. Adult chaperones are needed for both dates; contact Randy Crochier at hxydad77@yahoo.com if you can help.</p> <p>Hot chocolate will be provided, and you’re encouraged to bring snacks to share. Admission is free, but donations toward future 225th Anniversary events will be gratefully accepted. See you there!</p>
<p>NEW DATE Sat., March 17th 8:00 – 10:30 AM @ Gill Cong. Church</p>	<p><u>Friends of Gill Pancake Breakfast</u> – Join the Friends of Gill for a pancake breakfast at the Gill Congregational Church (6 Center Road, next to the Town Common). REAL maple syrup makes the occasion extra special. Ticket prices will be announced in the newspapers and on event posters. Proceeds will help support college scholarships awarded to students from Gill. NOTE NEW DATE</p>
<p>Friday April 27th @ Town Common</p>	<p><u>Arbor Day Tree Planting on the Town Common</u> – Save the date. Details will be announced as we get closer to the date. A time capsule might be planted by Gill Elementary students as part of this event.</p>
<p>Saturday, May 5th @ your house</p>	<p><u>Gill Community-Wide Tag Sale</u> – Save the date. Details will be announced as we get closer to May.</p>
<p>June, July, and August @ Town Common</p>	<p><u>Common People Concerts</u> – We’ve heard there will be 3 concerts this year. A <i>Natural Concert Band</i> will perform on June 26th. Stay tuned for the other dates, times, and performers.</p>
<p>Saturday July 21st 9:00 AM – Noon @ start location TBD</p>	<p><u>Gillbilly Paddle on the Connecticut River</u> – Isaac Bingham is organizing our first water event of this special year. The current plans have the flotilla of canoes, kayaks, rowing shells, and boats launching from an as yet undisclosed location, and concluding just after paddling under the spectacular French King Bridge, at the confluence of the Millers River and the Connecticut River. Transportation for boats and people back to their cars up river will be provided. As an extra treat, the launch will start with a bang, provided by Ray Steele's cannon.</p>

Gill 225th Anniversary Calendar of Events, continued

Saturday July 28 th @ Riverside School	Coinciding with the Franklin County Boat Club's Christmas in July festivities, we are planning a picnic and pig roast at the Riverside School, including live music, Wagon Wheel ice cream, and tours of the Gill Historical Commission's Collection. Details will be announced as we near the date. We are exploring the possibility of having tables for Gill crafters to display and sell their creations. If you are interested in having a table, contact Robin Paris, robinasa@yahoo.com
Saturday November 3 rd 10:00 AM – Noon @ Slate Memorial Library	Jigsaw Puzzle Swap – Puzzled with what to do with the jigsaw puzzles you have already completed? We can help! Bring your adult and children's puzzles to the library in their original boxes, in good condition AND with all their pieces. Exchange your puzzles one for one and go home with some new challenges. <i>If you can, please wrap a rubber band around each puzzle box to keep contents secure.</i>

Other event ideas we're talking about:

- Conversations with Gill neighbors
- A town-wide read, where all participants are reading the same book
- A picnic on the Town Common
- Gill Historic Commission photographic displays
- "Open Forest" with guided walks on the new trails at the Gill Town Forest
- Service projects
- Bingo

Get involved!

If you would like to get involved on the 225 Anniversary Planning Committee or volunteer to help out at an event, contact one of the committee members listed below. Or, attend one of their meetings, which are posted on the Calendar on the Town's website – www.gillmass.org The website has a page for the 225th activities and a link to our Facebook page for the 225th Anniversary.

Randy Crochier, Chair
 Alison Crochier
 Steve Damon
 Ed Golembeski
 Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

Don Kruger
 Rose Levasseur
 Lynn Nichols
 Robin Paris
 Ray Purington

Chris Redmond
 Emily Samuels
 Pam Shoemaker
 Kim Sprankle
 Ray Steele

Donations toward the 225th Anniversary Celebration

Are you interested in supporting these and other events during our 225th year? Donations may be mailed to or dropped off at the Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354. Checks should be payable to Town of Gill, with "225 Donation" in the memo line.

225th Commemorative Bags

Show off your Gill pride with a commemorative 225th Anniversary reusable bag. These strong and roomy bags are perfect for grocery shopping, trips to the beach, and many more storage and toting occasions. The bags are tan with red lettering, and are made from a water-resistant, laminated recycled material.

The bags are available for a suggested donation of \$3 each or 2 for \$5. We will mail bags anywhere in the US for a donation of \$10 for one bag and \$15 for two. Get the bags at the Town Hall, from members of the 225th Planning Committee, and hopefully at a few Gill businesses.

Proceeds from the bags will go toward defraying the costs of 225th events.

