



THE

# Gill Newsletter

Summer 2018 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

### Trash & Recycling Reminders

Alternative Recycling, the company that does the curbside collection of our trash and recyclables, reminds everyone to please have your items to the curb by 7:00 AM. Items that are not put out in time may not be collected until the following week.

During holiday weeks, curbside collection will often be postponed to Saturday. The Town announces the schedule change using a General Notification through the CodeRED notification system. CodeRED alerts can be delivered to your home phone, cell phone, email address, or text message. There is no fee for signing up or for receiving alerts. To register, visit the Town's website ([www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)), and click on the link for CodeRED. If you don't have access to the internet, or need assistance with signing up, call Ray at the Town Hall, 413-863-9347.

### Recycling Bins & Compost Pails

Recycling bins and kitchen compost pails are again available free of charge at the Town Hall. 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.

*Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant*

## Board of Assessors

The Assessors of Gill would like to welcome Tim Storrow to the Board. Tim was elected by write-in votes at the May 21, 2018 Annual Town Election. He brings his experience as ZBA and Planning Board member of Gill to our

group. It is exciting to have him with us and to have a full membership of the Board. He is currently beginning his period of training and certification by taking a 101 class prepared by the MAAO.

June was a busy month in the Assessors' office, as there are a number of reports that come due. These reports are Exemption and Reimbursement Report, Revised and Omitted Assessment Report and the Department of Revenue Directory update report. A mailing to those people in Gill who have received exemptions in the past is also prepared for July. If you think that you might be eligible to receive an exemption, please call the office and we will explore the possibility with you to enable you to complete an application. The Gill exemptions available, as voted by the Town, go to Veterans, Surviving Spouse, and Seniors over age 70.

Also during July our consultants will be visiting various businesses in Gill to update the data related to Personal Property for FY2019. This also includes accounts for second homes and animals.

In July we will begin our work on the Preliminary Real Estate and Personal Property extracts for tax bills. It is very



Check in with the Gill Website

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





important that you contact the office if there has been a change in your address or if you recall that there was an error on the address of the last tax bill that you received. We strive to keep the most up-to-date information in our records.

In August, the Boat excise bills will be mailed to boat owners who have boats moored or docked in Gill. Each year an inventory of these vessels is provided to the Town by the Massachusetts Environmental Police Registration Bureau.

If you have any questions concerning any of the above, please call the Assessors' office at 863-0138.

Assessors' Clerk office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Board of Assessors meetings are alternate Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

*Board of Assessors: Bill Tomb, Chair  
Pamela Lester  
Tim Storrow*

## Gill Cares!

On Saturday, June 23rd the Slate Library hosted a program entitled **Gill Conversations: Neighbors Helping Neighbors**. It was an opportunity for Gill residents to come together and talk about what needs our neighbors have now, to learn how we have helped one another in the past, and to share ideas for the future. The program, moderated by Megan Bathory-Peeler, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, was attended by a dozen community members. Roberta Potter, Director of the Council on Aging in Gill-

Montague and head of our Senior Center located in Turners Falls, spoke extensively and answered questions about services presently offered to seniors in Gill. Megan started the program by talking about what community means, having awareness of who is around us and what each other's needs are, and the fact that many universal needs that are not just about aging get hidden. With the sense that our community has been spreading apart, the challenges that we face now are to determine what the needs are in Gill; what specific skills individuals have that could be shared with neighbors; how best to educate and communicate within our town community; and the best ways to connect people with available resources. The hope is that this initial conversation plants a seed and is a useful start to the reclaiming of community support and engagement in Gill. We talked about a few model programs currently in place (particularly two models being explored or used in Northfield and Plainfield, MA) and will be asking representatives from these groups to talk with us and share their strategies so that we can formulate a community-caring program specific to Gill. Our program will be called Gill Cares. Future meetings of the steering committee will be posted on the town website events and Facebook page. If you are interested in joining this conversation now and/or would like to take a leadership role in this effort, please contact one of the Slate Library Trustees: Megan Bathory-Peeler 413-498-0103, Kim Sprankle 413-863-2975 or Barb Watson 413-863-9749.

The Trustees are pleased to support and host Gill Cares events but are not able to take on leadership roles at this time. Gill needs your care. Please get involved today!

## Slate Library

Slate Library would like to shine a spotlight on items that are part of our collection. Magazines are available to the public to peruse at the library or to be checked out and taken home. We have a large, varied collection and are always open to suggestions from the community regarding what type of periodicals you would like us to carry. Some titles include *Time*, *People*, *Vanity Fair*, and *National Geographic* as well as titles geared toward specific interests like *Cooks Magazine*, *Bon Appetite*, *Martha Stewart Living*, and *Organic Gardening*. We also carry *Discover*, *Consumer Reports*, *Yankee Magazine*, *Massachusetts Wildlife*, and *Interweave Knits*. For our younger patrons we carry *Ranger Rick* and *Sports Illustrated Kids*. Please visit the library and bring your suggestions for new additions to our collection. We aim to please!

## Update on All Town Read

Each of the books picked by the 225 Committee tells a good story; Someday is historical fiction that takes place in Enfield, one of the towns drowned by the Quabbin Reservoir, and The Red Garden is a collection of stories that follow generations of characters in Blackwell, a fictitious western Massachusetts town. Sense of place is key to each story, to the extent



that the town is almost a character itself.

As we celebrate our own small town, we can use these stories as a springboard for discussion of what it means to live here and to reflect on our shared history. Please join your neighbors at 2 pm on October 27th at the Slate Library. We will gather to enjoy our community and talk about ideas inspired by our reading.

**Possible topics:**

- How long have you lived in Gill? What brought you here?
- Has your family lived in Gill a long time?
- Are you aware of any friction or animosity of new vs. old in town?
- How does the history of Gill affect your life in Gill?
- Are you aware of any legends in Gill of characters or events, not specific to history?
- What do you know about famous landmarks?
- Do you think there are any magical spots?
- The Slate Library has ordered six copies of each book. Please contact Emily Samuels (413-863-9446) if you need any help in getting hold of a copy.

**Music at Antenna Cloud Farm**

Antenna Cloud Farm, a local music festival that presents a wide variety of music here in Gill, is in full swing, and we invite you to join us for one (or all!) of our remaining

five concerts. From a folk/jazz/pop band to a flute and piano duo to a wine glass virtuoso, we have something for anybody with an adventurous ear. All remaining concerts will take place in our indoor, air-conditioned, 80-person capacity music venue.

We seem to find kindred spirits in artists who work in the realm of fermentation, and we are lucky to be able to present refreshments from the following sponsors: Jen's Bread, Upinngil Farm, Real Pickles, and Artisan Beverage Cooperative.

Come enjoy world-class music and local community, all while eating a freshly-baked chocolate chip cookie and enjoying the early evening sky.

**August 4 @ 7 pm:** The Founders (folk/jazz/pop band)

**August 18 @ 5 pm:** Irwin Reese & Julia Bady (Veteran Metropolitan Opera singer)

**August 31 @ 7 pm:** Alex Sopp & Michael Mizrahi (flute/piano duo. Alex is currently on tour with Paul Simon!)

**September 14 @ 7 pm:** Anna & Grey (gorgeous folk vocals with fiddle, banjo, and electric guitar)

**September 16 @ 4 pm:** Gaelynn Lea (singer, violinist, winner of NPR's 2016 Tiny Desk Contest)

**September 29 @ 4 pm:** Cindertalk (songwriter and virtuoso wine glass player)

For information and tickets, please visit us at [www.antennacloudfarm.com](http://www.antennacloudfarm.com).

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# Honor Roll

## 3rd Quarter

### Pioneer Valley Regional School

#### Grade 11

High Honor: Jake Wallace  
Honor: Rylie Zager

#### Grade 10

Highest Honor: Jasmine Terounzo  
Honor: Thalia Schodel

#### Grade 8

Highest Honor: Isaac Damon and Meena Relyea-Strawn

#### Grade 7

High Honor: Anna Baskowski  
Honor: Samantha Peila and James Staelens

### Turners Falls High School

#### Grade 12

Second Honors: Noah Courchesne and John Wheeler II

#### Grade 11

Second Honors: Reilan Castine  
Third Honors: Jovanni Ruggiano

#### Grade 10

Third Honors: Mason Kucenski, Zachary Mason and Alyson Murphy

#### Grade 9

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

### Great Falls Middle School

#### Grade 7

Second Honors: Kole Broderick  
Third Honors: Dante Ruggiano

#### Grade 6

Third Honors: Jessica Tricolici

## 4th Quarter

### Pioneer Valley Regional School

#### Grade 11

Honor: Jake Wallace and Rylie Zager

#### Grade 10

Highest Honor: Jasmine Terounzo  
Honor: Thalia Schodel

#### Grade 8

Highest Honor: Meena Relyea-Strawn  
High Honor: Issac Damon  
Honor: Robert Kenyon

#### Grade 7

Highest Honor: Anna Baskowski  
High Honor: Samantha Peila  
Honor: James Staelens

### Turners Falls High School

#### Grade 12

Second Honors: John Wheeler

#### Grade 11

Third Honors: Jovanni Ruggiano

#### Grade 10

Third Honors: Mason Kucenski, Zachary Mason and Alyson Murphy

#### Grade 9

First Honors: Karissa Olson, Leah Timberlake, Haley Wheeler and Olivia Whitter

### Great Falls Middle School

#### Grade 7

Second Honors: Kole Broderick  
Third Honors: Dante Ruggiano

#### Grade 6

Second Honors: Jessica Tricolici

### Local College Graduates

Haley Short graduated Cum Laude in May from Tufts University with a Bachelor's Degree in political science.

Cooper Mason Hemphill graduated Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with a major in classics and mathematics from Brunswick College.

John Gundelfinger graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell with a Master of Science in radiological sciences and protection.

### Dean's List

Audrey Korte has been named to the spring Dean's List at Wichita State University along with Kelly Elizabeth Sweeney at Simmons College in Boston, Matthew Haight enrolled at Goodwin College and Samuel Schechterle at Lasell College.

### Four Rivers School

Four Rivers School graduates from Gill were Casey Davey, Toby Foster, Juliet Margola and Abigail Milewski. Juliet Margola and Abigail Milewski received Fred W. Wells Scholarships and Abigail Milewski also received the Cohn and Company Scholarship.

### Frontier Regional School

Joseph Lawton-Curtis graduated from Frontier and received a Sgt. Gregory Belanger Memorial Award, a Yankee Candle Scholarship, and a John & Abigail Adams Scholarship.

### Turners Falls High School

Graduates from TFHS include Branden Chapin, Noah Courchesne, Kyle Kucenski, David Tricolici, James Vaughn and John Wheeler and Kylee Mason. Kyle Kucenski, who was on the National Honor Society received a Fred R. Whitcomb Scholarship, the Friends of Gill Scholarship, a TFHS All-Sports Booster Scholarship and a Wells Trust Fund Scholarship. Kylee Mason received the Harriet E. Tidd Memorial Scholarship, the Mary Stuart Rogers Scholarship and a Women's Club of Turners Falls Scholarship. John Wheeler received a Wells Trust Fund Scholarship.



On Senior Awards night James Vaughn was given the most valuable player award for Basketball and Tennis, the Class of 1945 Joseph J. Sheff Memorial Award and Excellence in Physical Science Award. Kyle Kucenski was a member of the National Honor Society and received a valuable player award for golf.

### Northfield Mount Hermon

Ella Bathory-Peeler, Maia Castro-Santos, Marina Keator, Bekah Keator, Heidi Leeds, Emaline Relyea-Strawn and Noah Burstein earned high academic honors in both semesters of 2017-2018.

Marin Klein and Via Schatz-Allison earned high academic honors during the Spring 2018 semester.

### 225th GILL ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

**August 7** Common People Concert – Monadnock Steel Drummers – Town Common

**August 7** Puzzle/Book/Game Swap – Slate Library

**September 23** Tentative: Town Picnic – Town Common

**September 28** Tree Planting – Town Common

**October 13** Jurassic Road Show, 1 to 4 PM – Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2

**October 17** Town Book Discussion – Slate Library

Details and other possible events will be posted on the town website.

## Gill Historical Commission

### Jurassic Road Show – A 225th Anniversary Event

Please come to the Jurassic Road Show on October 13, 2018, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2 in Gill, for a 200-million-year leap back into the time when dinosaurs roamed this area.

New England may not come to mind when you think of dinosaurs, yet some of the first dinosaur remains, mostly in the form of footprints, were found locally in the 19th century. Many of these early footprints were quarried along the Connecticut River in Gill. The then-unidentified footprints were first discovered in 1835 by Dexter Marsh while laying slabs of rock in a sidewalk in Greenfield. These “bird tracks” were studied by Edward Hitchcock from Amherst College and sold to academic institutions not only in the United States but also in Europe. Marsh began quarrying the fossil slabs along the Connecticut River in Gill on land owned by Roswell Field.

After Marsh’s death in 1853, Field began to excavate in earnest the numerous specimens on his land near Barton Cove and corresponded with other scientist collectors, many of whom were from major universities. He, like Marsh, was given honorary membership to scientific institutions, and, in 1859, gave a talk at a meeting of the Association for the Advancement of

American Science in Springfield.

Field, who died in 1882, bequeathed his personal fossil collection to the Mount Hermon School for Boys, which had been founded by fellow Northfield friend Dwight L. Moody the year before. Field’s surviving letters are in Gill’s historical collection, and transcriptions by scholar Robert Herbert are available online at [ida.mtholyoke.edu](http://ida.mtholyoke.edu).

Another Gill resident, Timothy M. Stoughton, also excavated hundreds of specimens, most from his Lily Pond quarry at Barton Cove, and sold them to collectors and scientific institutions including the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, and Columbia College in New York City. He was responsible for hosting renowned scholars like Harvard’s Louis Agassiz and the British biologist Thomas H. Huxley in his Riverside home.

Many of the footprints excavated from Gill’s Riverside quarries can still be seen locally at Amherst College’s Beneski Museum. The Gill Historical Commission will exhibit its footprints when the collection is next open to the public.

Members of the Jurassic Road Show team will show and discuss numerous specimens and artifacts from their various collections. Visitors to the October 13 event are welcome to bring any fossils or yet-to-be identified artifacts. The Jurassic Road Show team members will happily attempt to identify or classify those objects and relics.





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### New Acquisitions in the Gill Historical Collection

The GHC is pleased to accept several new items. Leonard Eastman, descendent of George Barney Hale, has contributed several more items from G. B. Hale's Civil War service, including several pictures of Hale, his cap with inner foraging pocket and a framed certificate of his participation in the Massachusetts 52nd Regiment. These gifts will be added to Hale's CW backpack and other memorabilia in the collection.

Bob Perry has contributed an Otter River – C cast iron stove, which will be displayed with cast iron cook-ware in the collection. Mrs. William Boyle has added some samples of Robert Darr Wert's textiles and a collection of Wert tiles. Lynn Stowe Tomb has added several maps to the town's collection, including one of the 1676 encampment at the river. These additions are timely as we work to refurbish our displays at Riverside.

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### Gill Center's Nomination to the National Register

After a three-year process of research, revisions, and review, the Massachusetts Historical Commission has scheduled a vote on the nomination to the National Register for their September meeting. Property owners in the proposed district will receive mailings about the historic district program and an open meeting in late August in Gill where for further information and questions. The GHC hopes that the historic significance of the town's center will be recognized and that the center will join Riverside with distinction on the national listing of historic places. A reminder: the photographic exhibit of Gill Center will remain on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall through the end of September 2018.

### Changes in GHC Membership

The members of the GHC are grateful for the service of Ivan Ussach who is moving to Warwick and therefore will leave the Commission. He has served with dedication and insight, both as a member and as chair. Ivan will be missed. Lynda Hodson Mayo has also resigned as a GHC member although her persistence in the preservation and understanding of Gill history will continue under the aegis of Town Clerk. We thank her for all she has done and will do. If you are interested in working as a member of the GHC, please contact a current member.

### 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 (<http://www.gill-mass.org/historical.php>) or email: [Lstomb@gmail.com](mailto:Lstomb@gmail.com).

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC)

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 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 Kit Carpenter, Bob Perry, Pam Shoemaker, Lynn Stowe Tomb, or Bev Demars (alternate).

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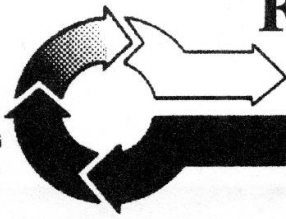
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## ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its 2018 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 22 at GCC Main Campus and Orange Transfer Station.

**Residents and businesses must pre-register between August 16 and September 17.**

During that time, online registration will be open: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html). Paper registration forms will be available at participating town offices, transfer stations, and in ads in the Greenfield Recorder.

The collection is free for residents of most member towns. Businesses must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, see: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html).

Mercury-containing products such as thermometers, thermostats and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) should never be put in the trash. At the 2018 Hazardous Waste Collection Event, only mercury-containing items such as thermostats and thermometers will be accepted; fluorescent bulbs will not be accepted at this collection. CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs are accepted at all municipal transfer stations. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe's Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only). Questions? - 413-772-2438, [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org)

**Save the Date!** The Fall "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day is Saturday, October 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. Locations: Buckland Rec. Center, Northfield Highway Garage, Whately Transfer Station.

Residents from any District town may bring tires, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, propane tanks, construction debris, and other large items.



Clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books accepted free for reuse or recycling. Bring bulky rigid plastics such as 5-gallon ppails and plastic lawn furniture for special recycling program (\$5 per load: for acceptable items, see website or call). Disposal fees: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html)

**Did you know?** Staples accepts computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call store for details. Various charities and non-profits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

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Reduce trash by **composting**: "Earth Machine" compost bins (\$45) and "Sure-Close" compost pails (\$5) are available at the Solid Waste District office in Greenfield: call for hours. Cash or checks only.

For more information about recycling or these programs, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438; email [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org); or visit: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org).

*MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).*

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