



THE

# Gill Newsletter

Fall 2020 Issue

## Disclaimer:

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## From the Town Clerk

### Election Information

- Early voting continues through Monday November 2. Hours are posted on the Town web site.
- Mail-in ballots will be accepted with a November 3rd postmark until November 6th at 5 PM. There must be a legible November 3rd post mark for the ballot to be accepted.
- You may continue to drop ballots off at the drop box located behind the Town Hall, left of the back door until 8 PM November 3rd.
- The drop box will be emptied at 8 PM sharp on November 3rd. Any ballots deposited after 8 PM cannot be counted.
- On November 3rd, Election Day, the polls open at 7 AM and close at 8 PM.
- Polls are located upstairs at the Town Hall, 325 Main Rd.
- Please wear a mask and observe social distancing protocol.
- Any questions call Doreen at 863-8103.

*Doreen Stevens, Town Clerk*

## Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors has been meeting on its regular schedule by teleconference every two weeks since the state Covid -19 restrictions were put in place in March. Home visits have been temporarily delayed by Town Assessors and our contracted consultants will also postpone visits that will be done in the next fiscal year. Assessors are currently in a bid process, along with the town of

Montague, to contract for appraisal of FirstLight Hydro Generation Properties. This work will reflect value to be used in the Quinquennial Revaluation of the two towns for Fiscal Year 2022. Lastly, efforts are being made to meet with the Selectboard and Finance Committee to establish funds for an additional Utility Appraisal as well as other plans they would need to complete in FY2021 in preparation for the FY2022 revaluation.

## Energy Commission

MassSave.com has a wealth of information and resources to help you save money, make your home or business more comfortable AND reduce your energy consumption with a full lineup of rebates, incentives, and special offers. Whether you own or rent, saving energy and money is easy with the no cost Mass Save® Online Home Energy Assessment.

Call 1-866-527-SAVE (7283) to schedule a no-cost Home Energy Assessment. You can also choose a participating Home Performance Contractor (HPC) who can complete your Home Energy Assessment, insulation, and air sealing.

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Generous rebates of up to \$2,750 on qualifying energy-efficient heating, cooling, and water heating equipment.

The opportunity to apply for 0% HEAT Loan financing for eligible upgrades.

Eligibility for a Remote No-Cost Home Energy Assessment

Customers must be comfortable working with the energy specialist over the phone and able to use technology such as video chat and/or sending photos of the home over email.

Customers who do not qualify for a virtual home assessment may still sign up for an in-person no-cost Home Energy Assessment. Customers who meet household income guidelines may instead be eligible for enhanced offers through the Mass Save Income Eligible Program.

## Public Health

Nearly 100 residents and families received their annual flu vaccine last Saturday at Gill Elementary School. The flu clinic was hosted by FRCOG's Cooperative Public Health Service with great help from volunteers including school nurse Carol Varner, Selectboard and Board of Health member Randy Crochier, members of the Medical Reserve Corps, UMASS medical students and community nurses. Taking advantage of the mild weather, the entire flu clinic was held outside with physical distancing. Beautiful views of the season and the opportunity to view a moose wandering the cow pasture on Boyle Rd. made the day all the more special. As daily

life during this pandemic continues to challenge all of us in many ways, it is encouraging to know we can come together to safely meet needs like community vaccination. There are still several flu clinic scheduled and all are welcome. The entire clinic schedule is available at [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org) by link on the Gill website. Need more information? Please contact FRCOG Regional Public Health Nurse Lisa White at 413-665-1400 x 114.

## Four Winds School

The school year is off to a great start at Four Winds School, and students are making the best of their new covid-safe routine. On Mondays we operate in person in the Riverside building in two small "pods", with no more than seven people in a room at a time. Additionally, our two classrooms have been outfitted with surgical-quality air filters to ensure everyone's safety. On Tuesdays-Thursdays, students and teachers participate in school from home. Teachers offer office hours during three hours of independent work time. This period is book-ended by synchronous group classes using Discord. Additionally, students have been socializing after school hours over Discord's video chat function while playing a popular video game, Among Us. On Fridays, if the weather is right, we spend all day doing school together in our beautiful new tent! If it is too rainy, we do Fridays remotely from home instead. We will continue with this schedule through Friday, November 20th and announce

our plan for the winter around Thanksgiving time. Please check our website to learn more ([www.fourwindsschool.info](http://www.fourwindsschool.info)), or send us an email at [fourwindsteachers@gmail.com](mailto:fourwindsteachers@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Stay well!

## High School Graduations and Scholarships

Gill had two seniors graduating from Turners Falls High School this year, **Zachary Mason** and **Alyson Murphy**.

Alyson was a National Honor Society Member and received a Turners Falls High School American Citizenship Award, Most Valuable Player Award for Field Hockey, and an Academic and Service Award for Excellence in Film Editing. Alyson also received the Ethel Raymond Orcutt Scholarship, The Friends of Gill Scholarship, Harriet A. Tidd Memorial Scholarship, Massachusetts Elks Scholarship, Mery O'Brien Scholarship, a Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarship, the T.F.H.S. Class of 1962 Scholarship, a T.F.H.S. Student Government Service Scholarship and a Wells Trust Fund Scholarship. Alyson is currently attending Russell Sage College in Troy, New York, majoring in Education and playing softball. **Maddie Tombs** graduated from Four Rivers Charter School in Greenfield, MA and is attending Greenfield Community College. She was on the Honor Roll with High Honors for last winter's semester at Four Rivers and also on the HOWL of Fame. The HOWL



of Fame recognizes strong Habits of Work and Learning. **Jacqueline Morrissey** has been awarded a scholarship from the United States Coast Guard Foundation that supports its members and their families. Jacqueline is attending Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.



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announcements and  
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