



THE

Gill Newsletter

Summer 2024 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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With Thanks to the Outgoing Newsletter Team...

As we take over the reins of the Newsletter, we want to acknowledge the wonderful work of the team that kept the community informed over the past eight years. As recipients who have enjoyed - and used - the Newsletter to stay informed, we are anxious to carry on the legacy that fine team created.

In a 'hand-over' meeting, we were given thoughtful and thorough information which has made this transition easy for us. So we will continue to appreciate the eight years of excellence that is their legacy, and thank Susan LaScala for her leadership as editor, Harry van Baaren for layout, Barbara Watson for advertising and Bev Demars for student information. In addition, Jeff Bloomstedt, Betsy Evans, Lissa Greenough, Vicky Jenkins, Colleen Lilly, Emily Samuels, Anna Steele, Dorothy Storrow, and Anne Wiley have helped with production. We applaud them all!

Your new co-editors are both relatively new to Gill and are excited to provide you with timely and important news about our shared community. We hope you will communicate with us freely with ideas, suggestions, and questions. For that purpose, we have created an email address which both of us can monitor:

thegillnewsletter@gmail.com

We will be happy to hear from you!
Joan Meyer and Mimi Mayer,
Co-editors

From Town Hall

Good-bye Tim, but not farewell

Belatedly, and sadly, we announce the resignation of Tim Batchelder from the position of Administrative Clerk this past March in order to spend more time with his family. Tim's calm competence, friendly demeanor, and unabashed willingness to help was appreciated by all, residents and co-workers alike. Thank you! Fortunately, Tim also took an interest in the cameras and other equipment used to video record the biweekly Selectboard meetings, town meetings, and other events for later broadcast on MCTV and on-demand viewing on Vimeo. He is now the camera operator for most of our meetings, and his presence means these important Gill proceedings continue to be available to all who cannot attend in person.

Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org

for up to date news, announcements and contact information!



Job Opening: Administrative Clerk (Part Time)

The Town is accepting applications for the Administrative Clerk position. It is part-time, averaging 17 hours per week, with a rate of \$21.31/hour. Attendance at some evening meetings is required.

The Administrative Clerk provides support and assistance to the Town Administrator, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Board of Health, Conservation Commission, and other Town Boards and Departments as directed by the Town Administrator.

A partial list of responsibilities includes: compile Annual Town Reports; attend evening meetings of the ZBA and Planning Board and take and transcribe meeting minutes; prepare and collate handouts for meetings; provide customer service in person and on the telephone and respond to inquiries regarding town services; organize and file all records for Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board; update information on town website; and prepare articles for the newsletter and local newspapers. Excellent writing abilities and attention to details, coupled with friendliness and a team-player spirit, are important skills for the successful applicant to possess.

Qualified Gill residents are encouraged to apply. A complete job description and application form are available at Town Hall and online at www.gillmass.org.

org/jobs. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Highlights from the Annual Town Meeting

This year's Annual Town Meeting opened on May 6th and lasted 80 minutes while the 38 registered voters discussed and approved the seven nonfinancial articles that were presented.

The meeting concluded on June 11th, and a slightly different group of 38 voters took 55 minutes to discuss and approve the remaining eleven financial articles. Among the highlights:

-Approved changing the Treasurer and Tax Collector positions from being elected to being appointed by the Selectboard. The corresponding ballot questions were also approved at the May town election. The Treasurer will become appointed in May 2025 and the Tax Collector will become appointed in May 2026.

-Adopted the "Prudent Investor Rule" which allows the Treasurer to invest the Town's trust funds in more diverse portfolios with the potential to improve long term returns and reduce overall risk

-Increased the annual real estate tax exemption provided to legally blind persons from \$437.50 to \$500.00

-Recommended the Selectboard support a petition by the Northfield Mount Hermon School to discontinue Mount Hermon Road as a public road

-Approved a 3% cost-of-living increase for Town employees

-Approved the Town's Fiscal Year 2025 operating budget in the amount of \$2,375,928 and the Town's Fiscal Year 2025 assessment to the Gill-Montague Regional School District in the amount of \$1,769,126

-Used \$58,330 of "Free Cash" to make the second payment of the three-year loan for the new Highway truck, thereby reducing the burden on taxpayers this year.

-Placed \$85,904 of "Free Cash" into the Town's various Stabilization Funds

Thanks again to each and every person who attended and participated in the governance of our town.

Committee Openings

Most of Gill's boards, committees, and commissions have openings and desperately need volunteers to help round out their memberships. Many of these groups only meet monthly, so it can be a fulfilling way to meet your town-wide neighbors and give back to the community in which you live, without a major time commitment. If you are interested in serving on any of the following, or want to know more about what a particular group does, please contact the Chair (names and contact info are on the Town website) or get in touch with Ray Purington, Town Administrator, 413-863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.



- Agricultural Commission
- Cable Advisory Committee
- Capital Improvement Planning Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Council on Aging
- Cultural Council
- Energy Commission
- Finance Committee
- Historical Commission
- Memorial Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Planning Board
- Recreation Committee
- Town Forest Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

New to Town?

Are you one of the many people who have moved to Gill during the past year? If so, welcome! Please be sure to sign up for the Town’s CodeRED emergency notification service. We use this system to provide residents with time-sensitive general and emergency notifications for such things as town events, changes to the trash/recycling collection schedule, hazardous traffic or road conditions, detours, flooding, emergency shelters, or evacuation notices.

There is no deadline to sign up. If you haven’t added your telephone numbers (landline and cell), text numbers, and email addresses, visit the Town’s website, 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

Trash & Recycling Reminders

The new Residential Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Guide, which includes the curbside collection calendar for July 2024 - June 2025, was delivered to mailboxes during the last week of June. If you did not receive one, it can be downloaded from the Town’s website: <https://gillmass.org/p/34/Trash-Recycling-and-Solid-Waste>. Copies are also available at the Town Hall.

Casella Waste Management Systems, 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. If there is a problem with your rubbish or recycling pickup, please call Casella directly at (800) 227-3552 as soon as possible.

Trash Stickers by Mail

If any resident wants to purchase trash stickers by mail, send a check payable to Town of Gill along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354. Trash stickers are \$3 apiece. Please include a note or indicate on your check that you are purchasing trash stickers. Trash stickers continue to be available for in-person purchases at the following locations during their posted business hours: Town Hall, Upinngil, Spirit Shoppe, and The Mill.

Doug’s Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190
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Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354



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Janet Masucci 413-863-8694 JanetMasucci.com
84 French King Highway, Gill, MA



Energy Commission

Rain Barrels are still Available

The Energy Commission still has some rain barrels left that we will make available at the remarkable bargain price of \$35 for both barrels and converters! The current price for just the diverter kit is \$42.95. These 30 gallon white plastic barrels previously had food grade contents and were procured from Coca Cola.

Since our source for barrels has dried up we will not be running this program again so this is your last chance.

If you would like to purchase a barrel/diverter, contact Janet Masucci at jmasucci@msn.com

Assessor's Office

Property Inspections coming soon

The Assessor's Office wants residents to know that they have contracted with Catalis to conduct the regular cyclical and building permit inspections that must be done in order to be in compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue guidelines. The purpose of the inspection process is to verify data on which assessed values are, in part, based. Since soundly based equitable assessments require accurate property data, we ask that you permit our consultant, Catalis, to inspect your property. A complete inspection consists of an exterior as well as an interior inspection of your property. Typically, these inspections take only a few minutes and consist of a walk-

through of your basement and living areas, as well as an exterior measurement of your home. Pictures of the outside of your home will also be taken as the Massachusetts Department of Revenue has directed us to put pictures on all property cards. These visits will be done during the summer months. If you have any concerns, please call the Assessors' Office at: 413-863-0138. Your assistance in this effort is greatly appreciated as we strive to maintain the accuracy of our parcel data. We appreciate your help in this matter.

From the Town Clerk:

This is a very busy Election year, there is a lot of information about the elections below. We are working on making elections as efficient and safe as possible, there are many ways for you to vote so your voice will be heard. As always please feel free to contact the Town Clerk with any questions.

State Primary and Presidential Election

Vote by Mail for:
State Primary Election Tuesday, September 3, 2024,
Presidential Election Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

The State Primary Election will be held Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

The Presidential Election is Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

The state will be sending out postcard applications for Vote by Mail, if you have already signed up for Vote by Mail for the Presidential primary in March and checked the box for All Elections this year you will not be getting a postcard. All other voters will be receiving a postcard from the state. If you wish to Vote by Mail and have not yet signed up to receive ballots by mail, send in your postcard promptly.

You may also get an application online <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> or in the Town Clerk's office. You will receive your ballot as soon as the state gets the ballots out to Gill. When you receive your ballot, please follow all instructions and return promptly to the Town Hall either by mail or by putting your ballot in the drop box at the rear of the Town Hall.

-Vote by mail ballots for the State Primary must be returned to the Town Hall by 8PM Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

-Vote by Mail ballots for the Presidential Election must be returned to the Town Hall by 8PM Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Ballots for the Presidential Election will also be accepted with a postmark of November 5, 2024. Please bear in mind that if the postmark cannot be read your ballot will be rejected.

The Town Clerk will be glad to



help explain the process if you have any questions, and this information will be posted on the Town website www.gillmass.org.

To register to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Gill and at least 18 years old on or before the date of the town election. Voter registration forms are available online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> or in The Town Clerk's Office.

Just a reminder ALL elections are now being held at the Town Hall 325 Main Road, this includes Early voting in Person.

-Last day to register to vote for State Primary: August 24, 2024, 9AM-11AM and 3PM-5PM

-Last day to register to vote for Presidential Election: Saturday, October 26, 2024 9AM-11PM and 3PM-5PM

Early Voting in Person dates:

State Primary:

Saturday, August 24, 2024
9AM-11AM and 3PM-5PM
Monday, August 26, 2024
1PM-3PM
Tuesday, August 27, 2024
1PM-3PM
Wednesday, August 28, 2024
1PM-3PM
Thursday, August 29, 2024
3PM-5:30PM

Presidential Election:

Saturday, October 19, 2024
11AM-3PM
Monday, October 21, 2024

1PM-3PM
Tuesday, October 22, 2024
1PM-3PM
Wednesday, October 23, 2024
1PM-3PM
Thursday, October 24, 2024
3PM-5:30PM
Saturday, October 26, 2024
9AM-11AM and 3PM-5PM
Monday, October 28, 2024
1PM-3PM
Tuesday, October 29, 2024
1PM-3PM
Wednesday, October 30, 2024
1PM-3PM
Thursday, October 31, 2024
3PM-5:30PM

If this is your first time voting in the Town of Gill it might be a good idea to bring your ID.

We anticipate several questions on the Presidential Ballot, if you would like to bring in a list of how you would like to vote on the questions, please feel free to do so. Be aware that election workers can ONLY read the question to you. They cannot offer you any interpretation or advice on how to vote on any question or race. The state will be mailing out little red booklets that contain all the questions on the ballot with explanations. You are welcome to bring this booklet to the polls with you.

Town Clerk hours: Monday, 9AM-4PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM, Wednesday, 9AM-3PM, Thursday 3PM-6PM or by appointment. The Town Clerk can be reached at townclerk@gillmass.org, 413-863-8103

From the CPHS Public Health Team:

This summer, public health officials across the state are on the lookout for increased mosquito-borne illness activity. This is because multiple risk factors are present: mild winter, above average rainfall, and there was activity last year, notably Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). The prevalence of mosquitoes carrying disease tends to increase as summer passes.

By mid-July of this year, mosquitoes in Eastern Mass have tested positive for West Nile Virus and EEE. While both diseases can affect anyone of any age, EEE captures headlines because it can be deadly and its survivors are often permanently disabled. Overall, it is a rare disease: In the last 85 years, there have been 115 cases of EEE in people in Massachusetts.

Although only a small percentage of mosquitoes carry disease, the best way to prevent illness is to prevent mosquito bites. Strongly consider using insect repellents when outdoors. Repellents that contain DEET, permethrin (for clothing, not skin) or picaridin work against mosquitoes. Oil of lemon eucalyptus can provide as much protection against mosquitoes as low concentrations of DEET. Always read and follow the label's instructions carefully. Wearing long-sleeved clothing and scheduling outdoor activities to avoid the hours from dusk to



dawn can help avoid bites. Inside your home, repair damaged window screens. Outside, remove outdoor standing water. This can disrupt mosquito breeding so you can eliminate future mosquitoes—and their bites!

Fall marks the start of respiratory illness season and is a great time to get vaccinated to prevent hospitalization and severe disease. Information on where to get a vaccine will be updated here: <https://frcog.org/vaccine-information>.

Fish Consumption Health Advisory

Connecticut River fish

Due to elevated levels of PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in fish found in the Connecticut River, the Department of Public Health advises that the consumption of fish from the river may pose a potential health concern. Sensitive populations should not eat any fish from the waters and the general population should limit consumption to two meals per month

Are you 80+ years old?

GILL NEIGHBORS can provide:

Rides to medical appointments. Rides to the Montague Senior Center. Medication pick-up at local pharmacies. Rides to visit friends or family at local healthcare facilities. Pick up food at Food Pantry.

Call Emily at 413-863 9446 and leave a message. Also... Kim the librarian will bring books to you

Call her at 413-325 4053

Congratulations Students!

Dean's List

Kole S. Broderick was named to the Fitchburg State University Dean's List for the Spring Semester.

Franklin County Technical School

Grade 11

High Honors: Josiah Little

Honors: Zachary Zilinski

Grade 10

High Honors: Emma Little,

Honors: Ashlyn Chapin and Ella Vassar

Grade 9

Honors: Vincent Craig

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 8, Fourth Quarter

Highest Honor: Daein Kim

Honor: Benjamin Peila

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12, Fourth Quarter

First Honors: Owen LaValley

Third Honors: Noah DeLorenzo and Regan Marshall

Grade 11

Third Honors: Sheni Ovalle Roblero

Grade 10

First Honors: Ella DeLorenzo, Lily DeLorenzo and Vaughn LaValley

Second Honors: Caleb Lincoln and Kainen Stevens

Third Honors: Christopher Halla

and Ciana James

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8, Fourth Quarter

First Honors: Madison Haight and Jonathan Holmes

Second Honors: Jocelyn Ovalle Roblero

Grade 7

First Honors: Santiago Buri Rosales

Second Honors: Owen Zilinski

High School Graduates

Franklin County Technical School

Conner Dunn and Britney Zager -Britney received an Excellence in Journalism Yearbook Award.

Turners Falls High School

Noah Delorenzo, Owen Lavalle and Regan Marshall.

-Owen LaValley, a National Honor Society member, received the Harriet A. Tidd Memorial Scholarship, a Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Commonwealth Award, the TFHS Class of 1964 Scholarship, a Turners Falls Athletic Scholarship and the Football MVP Award.

-Regan Marshall received a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

Gill Elementary School

Farm-to-School Initiative

There are great things growing at Gill School! This past year we became involved in the local Farm-to-School Initiative which supports school districts wanting to help students make healthy food choices and connect local



farms and community members with schools. In Gill our focus is on getting healthy food into the cafeteria, educating students about where their food comes from and encouraging critical thinking about issues such as environmental stewardship and social justice.

Our little school is lucky to sit on a beautiful piece of land with ample playground space, a lovely maze of nature trails, a wildflower meadow, a vernal pool and a school garden. It's a perfect set up for outdoor learning and there is a rich history of community involvement at the school around outdoor education. One of those community members is Sorrel Hatch, our neighboring farmer at Upinngil and mother of three boys at our school. She has been volunteering her time for years to tend the garden and grounds. Now we have an official Farm-to-School Committee to help her!

The teachers at Gill are working to integrate the garden and the concept of sustainability into the school curricula. Some of our activities with students throughout the school year have included composting and recycling, grinding wheat and baking with Sorrel, the science of vernal pools, plant identification on the nature trails, hatching monarchs from our pollinator garden, providing more healthy food choices in the cafeteria, hiking to Upinngil to pick strawberries and of course, planting and tending and eating the garden. We hope to provide many more opportunities to connect students to the land as we

move forward.

One such opportunity is happening every week at the school on Boyle Road throughout this summer and until the snow flies. Every Tuesday at 3:30 we host a Garden Club where families and community members are

welcome to join us for a snack, a little activity for the kids and a little weeding and watering in the garden. All are welcome! Caregivers are kindly requested to stay and enjoy the time with their children. Sorrel sends out a reminder every week so if you'd like to get on her list please contact her at slh53z@gmail.com

No rsvp needed. Just show up!

We hope to see you there!

Respectfully,

The Gill Farm-to-School Team

-Molly Brooks, District Food Service Manager

-Jessie Groneman, Parent

-Jenay Hall, Teacher

-Sorrel Hatch, Farmer and Parent

-Walter Huston, Principal

-Faith Rand, Instructional Assistant and Farmer



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Jon Miller Carolann Zaccara



Cultural Council News

Upcoming Funded Programs

Pocumtuck Homelands Festival
Saturday. Aug. 3, 10-7,
Sunday. Aug. 4, 10-5.
At Unity Park Waterfront in
Turners Falls. Organized by
Nolumbeka Project. Indigenous
artists, authors, dancers, crafts-
people, food vendors, and much
more. For information: [https://
nolumbekaproject.org](https://nolumbekaproject.org), or the
Pocumtuck Homelands Festival
Facebook Page.

Gill Square Dance

Saturday Evening, October 26th
in Town Hall.
This is a Family Friendly Event!
Come celebrate the crisp and
glorious fall by dancing with your
neighbors to melodies played by
local musicians. The time will be
on the town website closer to the
date. See you there!

2025 Local Cultural Grants

The application for Local Cul-
tural Council Grants- funded
by the Massachusetts Cultural
Council- becomes available on
the MCC website on September
1st. Grant applications are due
October 16th. For information
on eligibility- and how to apply-
please visit the MCC website:
[https://massculturalcouncil.org/
communities/local-cultural-coun-
cil-program/faqs/](https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/faqs/)
The Gill Cultural Council encour-
ages grant proposals for projects
by Gill artists and cultural prac-
titioners, projects that occur in
Gill, and projects that attract and

benefit Gill residents.

Creating a Directory of Gill Artists and Cultural Practitioners

We are creating a Directory of
Gill Artists, Craftspeople, Writ-
ers, Musicians, Photographers,
and other Cultural Practitioners
who live and/or work in this lively
town. This list will include both
those who make their living from
their creative work and those
who do it simply for the pleasure
of creating.

This list will be used to notify
folks of local opportunities that
might be of interest to them; to
help organize possible future
showcases of our Gill creative
talent; to remind people of ap-
proaching grant deadlines; or to
invite our creative citizens to a
future social event to meet each
other. We would not ever give
away or sell this list- it will be
used only to celebrate and orga-
nize Gill artists and creative folks
here in Gill.

If you would like to be on this list
please send your name and con-
tact information to:

The Gill Cultural Council at [lcc@
gillmass.org](mailto:lcc@gillmass.org). or stop by the Cul-
tural Council Table at the Harvest
Fair on September 29th to sign
up (Rain date October 6). And
if you know someone artistic or
creative please encourage them
to add their name to the list!

Thanks.

Survey

In the Spring Gill Newsletter we
included our annual survey ask-
ing brief questions designed to
help us understand the types of
projects our friends and neigh-
bors would like us to fund with

Cultural Council Grants. We very
much value your input. You can
still submit a completed survey.
They are available at Town Hall
and The Library where you may
leave the completed form. Thank
you!

Recreation News:

Free Community Contra/Square Dance at Gill Town Hall

On Saturday, September 28th,
from 7pm - 10pm there will be
a Community Contra/Square
Dance with live music and a
caller at the Gill Town Hall. This
FREE event will help kick off the
annual Gill Fall Festival occurring
the following day, Sunday, on
the common in front of the Town
Hall. The caller for the dance will
be Andy Davis, he will be teach-
ing the dances accompanied by
live music. Beginners welcome!
There will be a 20 minute intro-
ductory lesson starting promptly
at 7pm. This event is funded
with a grant from the Gill Cultural
Council and organized by the Gill
Recreation Committee. It coin-
cides with the Gill Fall Festival
which is organized each year by
the Gill Agricultural Commission.
The Committee, the Council, and
the Commission collaborating for
a fun filled weekend! The event is
Free and handicap accessible.

After School Soccer Returns to the Gill Elementary School for Fall 2024:

To sign up your Gill Elementary
School student for the Fall Soc-
cer Season use the QR code
found on the flyer posted at the



Gill Town Hall. Alternatively you can text Isaac Bingham at (332) 205 - 0648 for a link to the online registration form. Grades 1 - 3 soccer teams will practice on Thursdays directly after school until 4:30pm, and Grades 4 - 6 will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 - 6:00pm. Games against neighboring towns are on Saturday mornings. \$30 participation fee for Gill Elementary School students, \$40 for non-Gill Elementary School students. The participation fee will be waived for any parents who volunteer to help coach.

Gillbilly Paddle Sunday October 6th from the NMH Boathouse to French King

Bridge:

Meet at the NMH boathouse (19 Speer St) on Sunday morning October 6th at 9am with your canoe, kayak, or other non-motorized boat and join your fellow boating enthusiasts for a paddle down river to the French King Bridge. We will pull boats out at the Cabot Camp at the mouth of the Millers River. Transportation will be provided back to your vehicle.

Gill Historical Commission

In February, we lost a long-standing member of GHC, Pam Shoemaker. She was honored at the May 6 Town Meeting. We also want to thank former members Terri Rice and Charlene Currie for their energy, ideas and contributions to the GHC. In 2024 so far, GHC has offered

two talks with the Slate Library staff: "Tales of Farming in Gill" (Gary Stevens and Ernie Hastings) and "Ferries and Bridges" (Joel Fowler), as well as "Cemeteries in Gill" by the Gravestone Girls, with a walk through Center Cemetery.

Historical Trivia Questions

We invite you to submit your own!

- A. How many dairy farms were there in Gill in the 1940s?
- B. What color sheets or blankets were hung by families with members on both sides of the river and what did the colors mean?
- c. When did the natural burial ground cemetery open in Gill?

We Invite You

GHC gets all kinds of questions from Gill residents and former Gillbillies: inquiries about residents' ancestors, diaries, indigenous communities in Riverside in the 17th century, objects found in yards, Civil War cutlery made nearby, hex signs on tea towels (Wert), local stone walls, deeds, old maps, preservation of documents, old objects, historical homes and much more.

Are you interested! What are your questions?

GHC invites you to join us at our September 16th meeting, 3:00 p.m., at Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2 in our museum room. We're hoping to add some new members or volunteers for projects and look forward to meeting you.

Cemetery Commission

It's been a good year. The Cemetery Commission has been able to accomplish many of our goals. Negas and Taylor Monuments have fixed the broken stones at North cemetery. Fred Chase II has repaired and uprighted the stones at Center Cemetery. Thank you Fred! Fred will begin to repair and upright the stones at Riverside Cemetery soon. We are hoping to repair gravestones at W. Gill also. There is a new water barrel at Center Cemetery for those who water their plantings.

The Gravestone Girls presentation, on April 20th, sponsored by the Historical Commission was fun and informative. There was a good group in attendance. After the presentation we walked around Center Cemetery while she showed us the different types of stones and art work and why they changed over the decades. Watch for the video coming to the Town Historic Commission website.

There has been a small work bee cleaning the grave stones this spring. We cleaned about twelve stones. The Cemetery Commission would like to create a group of volunteers to help us with this project. If you are interested in caring for our cemeteries please email me at trisha_hawkins@comcast.net.

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2024 household hazardous waste collection



on Saturday, September 21 at Greenfield Community College (GCC) and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 13th. Online pre-registration for the 2024 collection will open on August 14, at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in registration forms will be available in mid-August at town transfer stations and in local newspapers. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring waste to the collection; an appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of most of the District's 21 member towns. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This event provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at: franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats are not accepted at this collection. These items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should never be put in trash or recycling. Handle them carefully, bring them to a municipi-

pal transfer station or a Regional Hazardous Waste "Super Site" and hand to the attendant. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe's Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information visit: franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Gill-Montague Education Fund

It's Never Easy To Say Goodbye

This year marked the 20th Anniversary of the GMEF and its rebirth with an Annual Gala -- an event with a variety of performers to span generations to enrich our communities and raise money for Student Enrichment! For Joyce Phillips, Executive Producer of the Galas and member of the GMEF Board of Directors, this 20 year commitment has been inspiring and rewarding!

It all began on Wednesday, April 14, 2004, with energy, excitement and a new enthusiasm at the Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club, when the Gill-Montague Education Fund opened its' kick-off meeting with a welcome from Carol Jacobs, President. The GMEF, established in 1996, had been somewhat inactive in the past few years. The non-profit organization was launched for the purpose of supporting excellence and innovation in the GMRSD schools. The new Board of Directors brainstormed

ideas on how to meet both of these GMEF goals. An Annual Gala was the decision to raise money for Student Enrichment.

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, Carol Jacobs, President of the Gill-Montague Education Fund Board of Directors, welcomed a nearly sold out audience to the Turners Falls High School Theater and the first Gill-Montague Gala with Nick Waynelovich and a family oriented concert. The Gill-Montague GALA brought something for every generation and every style of music.

From 2006 through 2024, Joyce Phillips served as the Executive Producer and the GMEF hosted quality performances, featuring a variety of entertainers: Elisabeth vonTrapp, The Mummers, The Edwards Twins and some of the most amazing tribute artists performing: Roy Orbison, Conway Twitty, Elvis, John Denver, Union Jack, ABBA, the Eagles & Journey, The Piano Men: Double Bill: Elton John & Billy Joel featuring Anton Doran & the Tampa Bay All Stars.

On Saturday, April 27th Joyce told the audience that her inspiration came from having the privilege of meeting and working with some of the most remarkable people in our local communities. "It began with local businesses, organizations, and individuals who were willing to take a chance with the GMEF vision, supported us and fulfilled their commitment to us every year. It was extraordinary to experience underwriters, corporate sponsors, major advertisers, general advertising, tier-giving, and in-kind contributors continually extending their financial support."



In addition, Joyce had the pleasure of bringing some of the most amazing performers to the Turners High School Theater. Appearing at their 17 Galas were artists from - Alabama, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Vermont. Their talent was only exceeded by their generosity (often waiving their transportation and accommodation fees and/or donating a percentage of their souvenir earnings in support of the GMEF), their kindness and collaboration for education.

The rewards were \$127,000 in student enrichment grants, the awarding of 35 scholarships and 11 years of roses for the graduating seniors. In closing Phillips said, "If as an educator, student, parent, grandparent, patron these have made you smile, brought you joy, or left you with a warm memory the GMEF has met its goal. The grants, scholarship and roses will continue until the GMEF funding is depleted. As for me, as the Executive Producer of the Annual Gala it's never easy to say goodbye, however, this is my final gala. Thank you."

From Antenna Cloud Farm

Your friendly neighborhood music festival Antenna Cloud Farm just finished a wonderful 7th season of live performances, both in Gill and in Turners Falls. Thanks to everyone who came out to listen and support!

We are thrilled to announce the addition of a new show, presented by ACF and taking place in the Great Hall at Great Falls

Discovery Center on Thursday, August 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$0-25. Hope to see you there! Tickets and more info at www.antennacloudfarm.com
 Through-the-Looking-Glass: A fresh approach to traditional Irish music, featuring celebrated artists Dana Lyn, Kyle Sanna, and Seamus Egan. Hailed as "first-rate, versatile musicians" by The New Yorker, composers and improvisers Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna have collaborated with some of the greatest interpreters of Irish music, including Martin Hayes

and Dennis Cahill, Cillian Vallely, Kevin Burke, and Mick McAuley. The duo will be joined by special guest Seamus Egan, founder of the Irish-American powerhouse band Solas, and a world-renowned multi-instrumentalist who has inspired multiple generations of musicians and helped define the sound of Irish music today.

Senior Tech Time

Tech Drop-in

Tuesdays 12:30-2pm
 Gill Montague Senior Center
 62 5th Street, Turners Falls, MA

5th Annual Gill Harvest Festival

Join Your Neighbors at the 5th Annual Gill Harvest Festival!

- Food and Drink with the Fire Department and The Gill Tavern
- Farm activities for all ages!
- Gill farms and farmers will display the fruits, vegetables and meats of their labors
- Tractors to climb, stock to pet, and hay wagons to ride
- Search for coins in the sawdust
- Hay Toss
- Live Music
- Visit with friends and neighbors
- Crafts to see and purchase
- Plus more, much more!

Sunday September 29, 2024 from 12-3 p.m.

Rain Date October 6, 2024

The Common, Town Center, Gill

All those interested in displaying crafts, farm or farm-related products please call an Ag Commission member or go to the town website.

Ag Commission members are Roger Augustine, Tom Chalmers, Zoe Fox, Dick French, Ed Golembeski, Hannah Sol, and Gary Stevens

Town Hall
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354-9747

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

GILL, MA 01354

Upcoming Events You Won't Want To Miss

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| August 22 | Through the Looking Glass, traditional Irish music at Antenna Cloud |
| August 24 | Last day to register to vote in the State Primary Election
Early voting for the State Primary Election begins |
| September 03 | State Primary Election |
| September 13 | Pre-registration deadline for Hazardous Waste collection |
| September 21 | Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day |
| September 28 | Gill Community Contra Dance |
| September 29 | Gill Harvest Festival |
| October 06 | Gillbilly Paddle |
| October 19 | Early voting for Presidential Election begins
Fall "Clean Sweep" bulky waste day |
| October 26 | Last day to register to vote in the Presidential Election
Gill Square Dance Town Hall |
| November 05 | Presidential Election |

GILL Soccer is Back!

Fall 2024



- Sponsored by the Town of Gill Recreation Committee
- Saturday morning games against neighboring towns
- \$30 per Gill School student to participate, non-Gill School students \$40 (no student turned away for lack of funds)
- Two Groups: 1st - 3rd grade (Thursday after school practice)
4th - 6th grade (Tues + Thurs evening practice)
- Additional help needed with assistant coaching from Parents

To Sign Up Use the QR code or Text:



Phil Galluzzo
(413) 325 - 5117
Or
Isaac Bingham
(332) 205 - 0648

Please sign up now even if you're uncertain so that we can gauge interest. Payment and waiver forms will be due at the Back to School Ice Cream Social in late August.

TOWN OF GILL

Community Contra Dance



Andy Davis
Calling the dance

&

Live Music by
Andy Davis and Friends

Saturday, September 28th
7:00pm - 10:00pm
At the Gill Town Hall 325 Main Road

Free! All ages and experience levels welcome.
Lesson for beginners starts promptly at 7:00pm.

This program is sponsored by the Gill Recreation Committee, and supported in part by a grant from the Gill Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Return the following day, Sunday
September 29th at noon for the Annual
Gill Harvest Festival on the
Town Common.

