



THE

# Gill Newsletter

Spring 2026 Issue

## Disclaimer:

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## From the Town Clerk

### Census:

Thank you to all who sent their Census/Street List back early. Please remember, if you have not already done so, please send back your census/street list forms complete with any changes. We need to make sure your census information is up to date both to keep your voter status active and to make sure 911 has all the information needed about number of people in your home in case of fire or other emergencies.

Winners of the Census "Raffle" are as follows:

- Gift card from the Mill, Janet Powers
- Gift card from the Mill, Paul Marguet
- Gift card from Upinngil, Karen/ Michael Gauthier
- Gift card to Piela's, Robyn Polley
- 1 Quart Maple Syrup made with Gillbilly sap boiled in NH, Carole Sicard
- 1 Quart Maple Syrup made with Gillbilly sap boiled in NH, Robert LaPointe

Thank you to the businesses that participated, Gill is so fortunate to have such great businesses in our own backyard.

### Elections:

The Town Clerk's office has a busier Election year than usual with our Annual Town Election on May 18th, State primary on September 1st, and Midterm Election Day on November 3rd.

The offices up for election on the Annual Town Ballot this year are:

- Selectboard Member** - 3-year term
- Assessor** - 3-year term
- Assessor** - 1-year term
- Cemetery Commissioner** - 3-year term
- Library Trustee** - 3-year term
- Board of Health** - 3-year term
- Constable** - 3-year term
- Constable** - 3-year term
- Constable** - 3-year term

Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's Office for anyone who would like to run for any of these positions. This is an opportunity to serve your community in a very impactful way. If you have any questions about getting your name on the ballot for the May election, please reach out to the Town Clerk at [www.townclerk@gillmass.org](mailto:www.townclerk@gillmass.org) or 413-863-8103. The last day to take out nomination papers is Thursday, March 26th, 2026.

Check in with the Gill Website

**[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)**

for up to date news, announcements and contact information!



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 town meeting/election.

You may register in person or by mail (postmarked no later than the final registration date of April 24, 2026). Vote-by-Mail applications are available online at [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us) and at the Town Clerk's office. Once you receive your ballots in the mail, please follow all instructions to avoid rejection of your ballot. Return your ballots as promptly as possible. All ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's by 5pm on election day.

**Important Dates:**

**Last day to register to vote.**

April 24, 2026, 1-5pm.  
Applications to vote by mail are available online at [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us) or at the Town Clerk's office.

**Annual Town Meeting Part 1**

May 4, 2026, 7pm:

**Last Day to Register to Vote/Make Changes to Voter Registration**

May 9, 2026, 1-5pm:

**Annual Town Election**

May 18, 2026: 10am - 6pm  
•THERE IS NO EARLY VOTING FOR THE TOWN ELECTION

**2026 State Primary**

September 1, 2026:

**Mid-Term Election**

November 3, 2026:

More information about the State Elections will be in the next Newsletter. Vote by Mail postcards for the State Elections will be in the mail sometime this summer.

**Dog Licenses:**

Dog licenses are available in the Clerk's Office. Remember, you must license your dog by March 31st, 2026 to avoid a \$20.00 late fee per license.

Doreen Stevens - Town Clerk, Notary Public, and Justice of the Peace

Office hours: Monday 9am - 4pm, Tuesday 9am - 1pm, Wednesday 9am - 3pm, Thursday 3-5pm; Other times by appointment. 413-863-8103

**Free Computer Classes for Seniors are Coming Soon!**

Gill senior citizens are encouraged to look for applications to register for a series of free computer classes designed specifically for them! As part of a grant awarded by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to the Town of Gill, Seniors over 60 will be eligible to apply for one of eight seats open for a free computer classroom experience. Eligible Seniors will need to complete an application form available at the senior center by March 1. The form must be completed and submitted on, or before, March 16. Eligible Seniors will be selected by lottery.

Those accepted will be provided with Chromebook laptops which they will be able to take home for practice and eventually keep if they attend all six sessions. Prospective students will be expected to have (or get) a Gmail account, have access to Wi-Fi (at home or from a publicly accessible location), and have a willingness to learn. The classes are designed to teach Seniors about navigating social media, Internet safety/privacy, and more.

The two-hour classes will be held on six consecutive Fridays, April 3 through May 8 at 4 p.m. at the Gill-Montague Senior Center. Franklin County Technical School instructor, Marcus McLaurin, will lead the classes. A second Chromebook class will be held later in the year at a Gill location yet to be determined. Any questions should be directed to Senior Digital Equity Coordinator, Jim Cosgrove, at (413) 863-9357 or [gmcoa62@gmail.com](mailto:gmcoa62@gmail.com).

Also, seniors who are currently vexed, stumped or having problems with their phones or computers are invited to drop in between 12:30 and 2 p.m. for our free ongoing "Tech Tuesday" sessions at the Gill-Montague Senior Center where young people in the know are available to assist!



## Gill Historical Commission

As you may know, after many years in one room at the Riverside Municipal Building, the town has offered us more space for our museum's files and historical collections. As we reorganize these materials, we've installed a new outdoor sign for the building, once a schoolhouse, at 54 French King Highway. Do drive by and check it out!

In the meantime, the following poem, written by Gill resident William Glenn Boyle in March of 1977, may help us climb out of our winter weather:

Crocus Gold  
Down amid rock ledges, Rivers icy flow.  
Sugar Loaf's timeless, ancient, shadowy ledges,  
Still holding red rock seams of winter's snow  
Close at hand the River's Verge-side frosty sedges.

And now amid a drift down of new snow falls,  
And of fickle March month; one day all smiles;  
Next day return of winter's wintry calls,  
While birds seek shelter in mountain's seamy aisles.

And now this new ice age throw-back,  
The crocus dares to bare its golden cup.  
Renewing its spring faith, once faltering lack-  
A golden cup fit for a Queen's

royal sup.

Oh yes! Again, Crocus gold renews one's Faith,  
Above, beyond the snow, one's Easter faith, Soul Sayeth.

According to William R. Compton in the History of Gill Vol. II, this poet was "a literate and thoughtful person who had considerable skill with words and had made a local reputation for himself with his essays and poems about the quiet, rural beauty of Gill and its surroundings. He made his living by subsistence farming and held a vision for Gill that was straight out of the nineteenth century." (p. 122) Lastly, we offer an image of GHC's business card, as represented on the Riverside Municipal Building's new outdoor sign.




## Gill Cemetery Commission

We would like to update you on the ongoing efforts to maintain our town cemeteries in the surrounding landscape. Throughout the last few years, we have repaired headstones in North Cemetery, West Cemetery, and Center Cemetery with many stones being washed and cleaned. Next on the list is Riverside Cemetery. The Franklin County Sheriff's Department provided wonderful help in

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sprucing up the grounds. The current commissioners are Gary Bourbeau, Joan Pillsbury and Pat Hawkins. Pat, however, will be leaving us and we thank her for her many years of dedication. We will be seeking a third commissioner to replace her. Please let us know if you are interested. And, as always, we are open to suggestions and any assistance the citizens of Gill would like to offer.

### Gill Memorial Committee

Please join the Memorial Committee for our observation of Memorial Day on Sunday, May 24, 2026, beginning at the Gill Church at 9:30 AM. We will end at the Veterans Monument with a rose ceremony, flag raising, gun salute and taps to honor those in Gill and all others who made the ultimate sacrifice while wearing our country's uniform.

### Gill Cultural Council

Greetings from your neighbors on the Cultural Council. We have been busy contributing funding to the following 2026 events. We hope to see you there!

Full Snow Moon Gathering and Social Dance -- The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.  
February 7th in the Dining Commons of Greenfield Community College. The annual Full Snow Moon Gathering and Social Dance is an opportunity for the public to experience aspects of a traditional Social Dance taught and led by Indigenous leaders.

Honky-tonk Fusion and Swing Night with Live Music -- Rebecca Mandel  
Montague Common Hall February 2026

Montague Square Dance and Jam -- Addie Rose Holland  
Held at Montague Common Hall 2nd Fridays (Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8)

Dancing Stories -- Anna Hendricks  
An In-School dance program at the Gill Elementary School during February and March 2026.

Stars Above Gill at Gill Elementary School in March 2026  
The presenter will bring a Portable Planetarium and customize the show for different ages.

ACT (After-School Community Theater) -- Amy Gordon  
After-School theatre program for Gill 4th-6th grade students. The project will culminate in performances open to the students, families, and the public on March 31, April 1, and April 3.

32nd Annual Education Concert: Winter Moons -- Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.  
Greenfield High School Auditorium Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 10am  
For more than 30 years, the Pioneer Valley Symphony has provided a free educational concert to third and fourth-grade classes in our region, including Gill students. Musicians visit classrooms to teach students about their instruments and upcoming con-

certs. This year, the Symphony will present "Winter Moons" by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate.

Following The Dino Tracks: Live Science Events -- Marshall Escamilla. At the Dinosaur Trackway at Barton Cove in Spring 2026 Working with New England Public Media's popular Dino Map, similar programs will take place in seven science events across western MA. Hosted by Tumble Science Podcast for Kids. Participating kids receive DinoMap passbooks with a stamp for each of the events. Details can be found at: <https://www.nepm.org/dinomap>

Fiery Hope Chorus at Gill / Montague Council on Aging -- Amanda, Inc. Montague Senior Center Spring 2026. Fiery Hope chorus presents songs from around the world with themes including freedom, peace, and the struggles and joys of daily life. Audience participation is encouraged.

Antenna Cloud Farm Spring Residency - Yasmin Williams -- Antenna Cloud Farm, Inc. Locations in Gill, Montague, Greenfield, and neighboring communities. Spring 2026. Antenna Cloud Farm will produce its second annual Spring Residency program, this year featuring world-renowned guitarist, composer, and artist-activist Yasmin Williams. Activities will include interactive educational workshops and performances at schools in the Gill-Montague and Greenfield public school districts, and a live performance at Shea Theater.



On The Boards '26 -- LAVA (Local Access to Valley Arts) LAVA Center, 324 Main Street in Greenfield. May-June 2026  
On the Boards 2026 continues the now-annual play reading series with a dozen readings of new works by Massachusetts playwrights, including some from Franklin County. Each reading is followed by a moderated conversation with the audience and playwright.

Fun Fest -- Musica Franklin, Inc. Unity Park, Turners Falls (rain location to be decided)  
Currently scheduled for May 30, 2026. Activities including arts-and-crafts, a sensory play station, a musical instrument "petting zoo," crafts vendors, and circus acts. Something for all ages to enjoy!

Franklin County Pride Parade and Festival -- Franklin County Pride, Inc. Energy Park in Greenfield, plus the Parade Route  
Currently scheduled for June 26, 2026. An annual gathering of members of the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies from within Franklin County and surrounding areas. The event begins with a parade in downtown Greenfield that leads to Energy Park. Over 70 groups march, including some from Gill.

Montague World Music Festival -- Weathervane Community Arts Corp. Turners Falls, MA -- Peskeompskut Park and Brick House Community Resource Center

Currently scheduled for June 27, 2026. The day-long Montague World Music Fest features performances and workshops of music and dance from a variety of world cultures. The program includes a new collaboration between Zaira Meneses (Boston-based Mexican musician), O Ksenos (Greek music ensemble), and Myrtle Street Klezmer. A video of the events will be posted to their website.

Celebration of Native American Art, Music & Cultures -- The Nolumbeka Project, Inc. Unity Park, Turners Falls August 1 & 2, 2026  
The 13th Pocumtuck Homelands Festival is a unique celebration of Indigenous arts, music, cultures honoring the continuing presence of Northeast Tribal Nations, open to everyone. There is an area of craft & nature activities for children.

RPM Fest -- RPM Fest LLC. Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, 210 Turners Falls Rd, Montague, MA. September 4-September 7, 2026  
RPM Fest is a three-day outdoor heavy music festival. It is volunteer run, and profits go to improvements for following years. With a focus on local and independent talent, the main features are the heavy music acts.

Community Square & Contra Dance -- Town of Gill Recreation Committee . Upstairs at the Gill Town Hall. Evening of September 26, 2026  
The dance will be held in con-

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junction with the Gill Town Harvest Festival on the same weekend. Similar to 2025, the Rec Committee will hire a live band and a caller to teach the dances. The goal is to bring families from all parts of Gill together for a fun evening of music and dance.

Altamira Music Festival -- Helene Grosvenor. A music Festival held at 10 Cross Road in Gill in October 2026. Performers will be from New York, Vermont, and Montague. Watch for posters!

### **Gill Elementary School Performance Alert!**

Mark your calendars for upcoming performances by Gill Elementary School students at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 31st and Wednesday, April 1st, both at 1:30; and an evening performance on April 3rd at 6:30!

Since December, a troupe of 25 Gill School students from grades 4, 5, and 6, (known as ACT) have been hard at work rehearsing "The Curse of the Ring". Written and directed by Amy Gordon, the play draws from fairy tales and other sources, and really fires the imagination. River sprites, trolls, wanderers, minstrels, a royal family, royal servants, dragons, a wild bird, and a lobster all make an appearance! Throw in a magic book that speaks and a talking head on a platter, and you'll have (almost!) the whole story.

Emily Samuels, Isaac Bingham, and Emily Piper are all helping to direct the play with valuable as-

sistance by Kennedy French, the student assistant director, and Liza Ramlow.

The dimension of the stage at Town Hall offers challenges and opportunities. Town Hall officials have been more than welcoming to young actors despite the interruptions to their working day. While not a musical, the songs of the show serve as enhancers, setting the scene, emphasizing action, and drawing all to conclusion. In part with the sponsorship of the Gill Rec committee and the Gill Cultural Council, theatrical lights will be rented, adding to the magic.

Community members are welcome to attend any performance. In the past, we have experienced very large audience numbers in the evening (standing room only!), so we encourage you to consider coming to one of the afternoon shows, if possible.

### **Gill Elementary School Roof Replacement Project**

#### **Join Us This Spring**

The Gill Elementary School Roof Replacement Project committee has been meeting with Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) assigned Owner's Project Manager and Architect to oversee the MSBA Application submission and project timeline since April 2025.

This April and May, Gill residents will have several opportunities to learn about the Gill Elementary School Roof Replacement

Project and ask questions before the town votes. We encourage all residents to take part in these important community conversations and decisions.

#### **School Visit**

Tuesday, April 8

5:30 PM: Building walk-through

6:00 PM: Presentation and questions

Location: Gill Elementary School

#### **School Visit**

Friday, April 11

9:30 AM: Building walk-through

10:00 AM: Presentation and questions

Location: Gill Elementary School

These visits are a great opportunity to see the current condition of the roof and learn more about what's being proposed.

#### **Annual Town Meeting**

Monday, May 4. 7:00 PM

Location: Gill Town Hall

The Gill Elementary School Roof Replacement project will be discussed along with other topics. Registered voters will be asked to appropriate the full cost of the project with the caveat the MSBA will reimburse up to 77% of eligible costs.

#### **Annual Town Election**

Monday, May 18

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

The election will include a vote on the Gill Elementary School Roof Replacement Article. Registered voters will be asked to approve a debt exclusion - a temporary increase to the town's levy limit (amount we can raise through taxation) to cover the



annual payments on the loan/bond. Once the project bond/loan is paid off, the temporary increase to property taxes is eliminated.

Whether you've lived here for decades or just a few years, your voice matters. We look forward to seeing you!  
Gill Elementary School Roof

Replacement committee

### Franklin County Tech News

The School's Aviation Maintenance Technology program received official certification by the Federal Aviation Administration as an Airframe Training Facility, opening the door for graduates to enter a high demand industry. Students who graduate from the program will be trained and eligible to test for their Airframe certificate. An Airframe rating authorizes a mechanic to work on the structure and systems of an aircraft excluding the engine. "We're one of only a few vocational high schools in the country that has FAA certification for Aircraft Maintenance Technicians," said FCTS Superintendent Richard Martin. "As certified Aircraft Maintenance Technicians, our students will have job opportunities not only in Massachusetts, but throughout the entire United States."

The Airframe rating is one half of the certification used for aircraft mechanics; the other half is Powerplant which is an FAA-issued rating authorizing aviation mechanics to inspect, maintain, repair, and overhaul aircraft engines, propellers, and associ-

ated systems.

Aviation Maintenance Technology teacher, Michael McIntyre, said the program will be working toward becoming Powerplant certified. He added that the program is in a great position to do so. "It shouldn't take much to earn Powerplant," McIntyre said. "We have most of what's needed. We'll just need to make some tweaks in tooling."

McIntyre said that Airframe certification is recognized by "every aircraft repair station operator, manufacturer, you name it," making for a strong, well-paying job market for FCTS graduates. Certified aviation mechanics are in high demand and salaries can run from the \$50,000 to over \$200,000 range.

"American Airlines recently advertised jobs for \$39 an hour without experience," McIntyre said.

Students graduating from the Aviation Maintenance Technology program who become certified likely will be able to enter the field at approximately \$30 an hour. The program currently has nine sophomores and seven freshmen.

McIntyre added that other industries such as railroads, wind turbine manufacturers, and power plants also recognize the certifications, which further expands the potential job market.

William C. Cone and Michael A. Edreich, FAA Safety Inspectors, presented the school with the certificate. Superintendent Martin signed the related documents prior to the awarding of the certification.

Individuals who wish to test to



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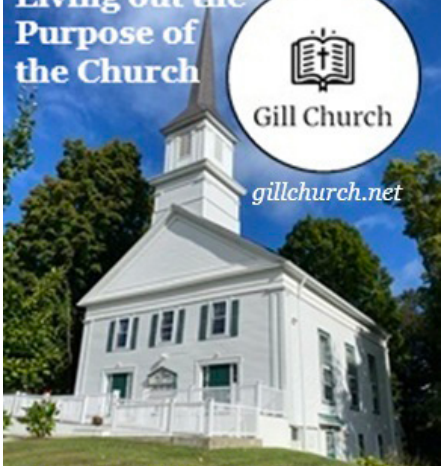


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become Airframe certified must either spend upwards of \$40,000 to attend a private school or obtain 36 months of on-the-job experience. Franklin County Tech Aviation Technology graduates will already be eligible to take the test immediately.

“This is a great opportunity for Franklin County Tech students,” Edreich said. “They don’t have to spend three years working someplace or tens of thousands of dollars to go to a school. They’ll be able to take the certification test when they’re 18.”

In other Franklin County Technical School News, the next public forum to discuss the proposed construction of a new Franklin County Tech School will be held on Wednesday, May 6 from 6-8 p.m. at Greenfield Community College. Everyone interested in finding out about the proposal is invited to come out. For more information, please call the school at 413-863-9561.

## School Honor Rolls

### Springfield Technical College

Dean’s List: Daniel Ware  
Fitchburg State University  
President’s List (GPA 3.75 for 3 successive semesters): Kole S. Broderick

Dean’s List: Jessica Tricolici

### National Honor Society – Turners Falls High School

Ella DeLorenzo, Lily DeLorenzo and Rojelio Galvas Mendez were inducted into the National Honor Society at Turners Falls High School.

### Honor Roll - Franklin County Technical School - Semester #1

Grade 12  
High Honors: Emma Little and Ella Vassar  
Honors: Dylan Brunault and Ashlyn Chapin

Grade 11  
Honors: Vincent Craig  
Grade 10  
Honors: Jonathan Holmes

Grade 9  
High Honors: Avery Chapin and Owen Zilinski  
Honors: Bristol Stevens

### Honor Roll - Pioneer Valley Regional School - First & Second Quarters

Grade 7  
Highest Honor: Adelaide Abercrombie, Brooklyn Batty and Charles Hodgkin

### Honor Roll - Turners Falls High School - First Quarter

Grade 12  
First Honors: Ella DeLorenzo, Lily DeLorenzo and Elizabeth Polatin  
Second Honors: Rojelio Galvez Mendez  
Grade 10  
First Honors: Madison Haight and Jocelyn Ovalle Roblero  
Second Honors: Jakhia Williams  
Grade 9  
Second Honors: Allison Raymond and Jordan Welcome  
Honor Roll - Turners Falls High School - Second Quarter  
Grade 12  
First Honors: Ella DeLorenzo and Lily DeLorenzo  
Second Honors: Rojelio Galvez Mendez  
Grade 10

First Honors: Madison Haight and Jocelyn Ovalle Roblero  
Second Honors: Jakhia Williams  
Grade 9  
Second Honors: Jordan Welcome

### Honor Roll: Great Falls Middle School - First Quarter

Grade 8  
First Honors: Katelynn Dudek and Josephine Hammond  
Grade 7  
First Honors: Bryson Gauthier  
Second Honors: Carter Greene  
Honor Roll: Great Falls Middle School - Second Quarter  
Grade 8  
First Honors: Kaelynn Dudek and Josephine Hayman  
Grade 7  
Second Honors: Carter Greene



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### **Gill Neighbors**

*Offering Help to Gill Seniors*

We are a group of volunteers who give rides to appointments, pick up prescriptions, pick up pre-ordered groceries, deliver library books...

Are you a senior who could use some neighborly help? Do you know of someone else who might? Would you be interested in becoming a driver?

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The last photo was of the climbing wall at Gill Elementary School.  
Where in Gill is this?