

THE Gill Newsletter

Fall 2026 Issue

From the Town Manager

Riverside Municipal Building

Nearly 50 Gill residents attended the Selectboard's meeting on July 27th to participate in a public forum to discuss the Riverside Municipal Building (RMB), with a focus on gathering residents' ideas and input on the building's needs, ways it could be used, and its importance to the Town. The forum was held at the building, also known as the Green School or the Four Winds School, located at 54 French King Highway. At the end of almost two hours of discussion the Selectboard voted to establish an RMB Roof Committee that was tasked with investigating and recommending a solution to the building's desperate need for a new roof. Five residents were appointed to the Roof Committee: Stephen Greenwald, Rob Marcalow, Bob Perry, Ray Steele, and Charles Garbiel as the Selectboard's representative. The Committee held its first meeting on August 3rd.

Residents at the forum expressed many ideas and hopes about ways the building could be used for town purposes and to generate revenue to offset the costs of operating and maintaining the building. At its meeting on August 10th the Selectboard established the RMB Use Committee and charged the committee "to evaluate and make recommendations to the Selectboard regarding potential uses of the entire property at 54 French King Highway, inside and outside, first floor and basement, and including opportunities for Town uses, public uses, and revenue generation via events or leased/rented space(s)." An initial report is to be provided to the Selectboard on September 21st. Seven residents were appointed to the Use Committee: Cathy Demars, Amy Gordon, Karen Larsen, Becky Minor, Chris Pelletier, Sam Plotkin, and Jenn Waldron as the Selectboard's representative. The Committee held its first meeting on August 20th.

Grants Award – Hazard Mitigation

On July 20th the Town was awarded a $30,000 grant from the state's Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office (FFIO). The grant is through the FFIO's Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance (MTTA) grant program and will provide the funds needed to update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Having an up-to-date approved HMP is a strict prerequisite to receive project grants from FEMA's hazard mitigation assistance programs and to qualify to receive post-disaster federal relief funds. As part of the update, the town maps local threats like floods, severe storms, and wildfires to understand vulnerable zones and populations, and develops proactive protection measures such as retrofitting critical infrastructure and guiding smart land-use decisions before disaster strikes. A project team will be formed this fall to work on the plan update; anyone interested in joining the team should contact Town Administrator Ray Purington at 413-863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

Vacancy – Finance Committee

There are two vacancies on the Finance Committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Doreen Stevens, Town Clerk, at 863-8103 or townclerk@gillmass.org or Town Moderator Isaac Bingham at isaacbingham@gmail.com. The Finance Committee is appointed by the Town Moderator, and terms are generally for three years. The Finance Committee acts in an advisory role on all financial matters considered at Town Meeting. Most of the group's meetings occur in the late winter and spring months, providing review and input on the Town's budget for the next fiscal year. The work to develop next year's (Fiscal Year 2028) town budget has not started yet, so now is the perfect time to get involved! To learn more, contact Claire Chang, Chair, at 413-626-3620 or claire@solargreenfield.com.

Emergency, General, and Health Notifications
Gill's Board of Health is making a concerted effort to improve the accuracy of the contact information in the Town's CodeRed notification database. Please use the attached cherry-colored form to provide current email addresses and phone/text numbers for anyone in your household who needs to receive time-sensitive notifications from the Town. Alternatively, you can register your information on your own by visiting the Town's website and clicking on the link for CodeRED. We use this system to provide residents with information about town events, health risks and emergencies, changes to the trash/recycling collection schedule, hazardous traffic or road conditions, detours, flooding, emergency shelters, or evacuation notices.

From the Town Clerk's Office

This will be a very busy Election cycle, please mark the following dates on your calendars:

Tuesday, Sept 1, State Primary Election, 7am-8pm:
Polls open upstairs at the Town Hall. Please note there is handicapped accessibility at the back entrance of the Town Hall.

Tuesday, Oct 6, Franklin County Technical School Proposed New School, 12-8pm:
District wide election to decide if the Tech School can move forward with plans to build a new school. This vote will affect the future opportunities for children who will be going to the Tech School. Please note there is no vote-by-mail or early voting available for this election; however, absentee ballots will be available by calling Town Hall 413-863-8103.

Please note, also on October 6, as this edition went to press, no final confirmation has been received about whether a dual election to decide if the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley school districts will merge. If this merger is approved by the State, there will be a second ballot for this vote on October 6. Please look for more information on the Town's website as we have it.

Early Vote by Mail postcards went out in July. If you submitted your postcard for the primary election and checked the all-elections box, you will not receive another postcard. If you did not fill out and submit your postcard, you will be receiving another postcard for the midterm election. Please follow all the instructions included with your ballot when you receive it.
Ballots may be rejected if sent without a signature on the envelope included in your voting ballot kit or if submitted without the envelope.
If you do not wish to choose the Vote by Mail option, there will also be the opportunity to vote early in person at the Town Hall. Dates are listed below, as well as the last day you may register to vote for the State Mid-Term Election is listed below. You may also vote on Election Day upstairs at the Town Hall 7am-8pm.

State Mid-Term Election: Tuesday, November 3rd, 7AM-8PM
-Saturday, Oct 24 - Last Day to register to vote for the Mid-Term Election
-Saturday, Oct 17 thru Thursday, Oct 29 - In-Person Early Voting Dates
-Tuesday, Oct 27 5pm: Vote-By-Mail Application due at the Town Clerk's Office

Early Voting Schedule State Election
Early voting for State elections will be held October 17-30 at Town Hall as follows:
-Saturday, Oct 17: 11am-3pm
-Monday, Oct 20: 1-3pm
-Tuesday, Oct 21: 1-3pm
-Wednesday, Oct 22: 1-3pm
-Thursday, Oct 23: 3-5:30pm
-Friday, Oct 24: by appointment only (863-8103)
-*Saturday, Oct 24: 9-11am and 3-5pm
-Monday, Oct 26: 1-3pm
-Tuesday, Oct 27: 1-3pm
-Wednesday, Oct 28: 1-3pm
-Thursday, Oct 29: 3-5:30pm
-Friday, Nov4: by appointment only (863-8103)
*Last day to Register to Vote

If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk 413-863-8103 or by email townclerk@gillmass.org.

Gill Board of Assessors

The Town of Gill Assessor's Office conducts regular cyclical and building permit inspections in compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue guidelines. The Assessors have contracted with CIDARE to assist in conducting property visits that will take place from September 7 - 19.

What to Expect During Inspections:

Data Collectors: Staff from CIDARE will visit properties to complete Gill's routine cyclical inspections.

Identification: Workers will carry official identification.

Property Access: Residents that have properties due for inspection can set up an appointment. For properties with no appointment, data collectors will knock on doors and ask to verify exterior measurements and interior data.

If You Are Not Home: Data collectors will leave a notice with contact details if no one answers. The purpose of the inspection process is to verify building and property data which are the basis for the assessed values. Since soundly based, equitable assessments require accurate property data, we ask you to permit us to inspect your property.

A complete inspection consists of an inspection of both the exterior and interior of your property. Typically, these inspections take only a few minutes and consist of a walkthrough of your basement and living areas, as well as an exterior measurement of your home. Photographs of the outside of your home will also be taken as mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. These photos are required for all property data cards.

To learn more, please visit: https://www.gillmass.org/g/2/Board-of-Assessors and click the Property Inspection Information button. Residents with questions can contact the town assessor's office directly for more information at 413-863-0138.

Gill Town Tax News

Fiscal Year 2027 Semi-Annual Preliminary Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills are in process and will be mailed in early September 2026. The due date is November 2, 2026. Payments may be made in several ways:

Online through the due date, accessible on the Town of Gill website at: gillmass.org

Via Mail with a Personal Check, Bank Check, or Money Order payable to Town of Gill and mailed to: Town of Gill, Tax Collector, 325 Main Rd, Gill, MA 01354

In person by Personal Check, Bank Check, Money Order, or Cash (NOTE: Credit/Debit Cards are NOT accepted at the Town Hall, only by Online payments)

Checks may also be put in the secure Drop Box located to the left of the back door of the Town Hall

Always happy to answer any questions you have about your taxes.

Aimee Williams, Tax Collector
413-863-2105 email: taxcollector@gillmass.org
Office Hours: Mon 12 pm – 6 pm, Tues 9 am – 2 pm, Wed 12 pm – 5 pm, Thurs 9 am – 1 pm

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Gill Highway Department

The Highway Department recently acquired equipment and completed road work around town.

The department purchased a new Kubota M7060 utility tractor replacing the Town's 1983 Kubota 5950DT, which served Gill for 42 years and logged 6,255 operating hours, with Chapter 90 funding. The new tractor is compatible with attachments the Town already owns, including the brush hog mower, post hole digger, York rake, and debris blower.

We also thank Town Meeting for supporting the replacement of the department's 41-year-old 1985 Morbark woodchipper with a new Bandit woodchipper.

Gill was also awarded a $246,000 Unpaved Roads Grant Program equipment grant for a replacement wheeled loader. The Town has signed the contract and is awaiting a notice to proceed before moving forward with the purchase.

Finally, this summer's chip sealing projects are also complete, covering approximately 2.2 miles of roadway on Mountain Road, Franklin Road, and Green Hill Road. Thank you for your patience during the road work and equipment transitions. We appreciate the community's support as we continue maintaining Gill's roads and planning for future needs.

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2026 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 19, at Greenfield Community College (GCC) and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 9th. Online pre-registration for the 2026 collection will open in mid-August at franklincountywastedistrict.org or by using the attached mailer with this newsletter.

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).

Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Recycling Day

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding its fall "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on Saturday, October 17, from 9am to 12 noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Mohawk High School on Rt. 112 in Buckland, the Erving Highway Garage at 16 Public Works Blvd, and the Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane (off Rt. 10).

Residents may bring a wide range of bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, carpeting, construction debris, computers, monitors, televisions, BBQ grill tanks, bulky rigid plastic, and other bulky items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the bulky waste collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees, in cash only, will be collected at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items will be available at Town Halls, town transfer stations, and online at: https://franklincountywastedistrict.org/p/71/Clean-Sweep-Price-Guide.

Franklin County Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Plans for National Good Neighbor Day September 26-28

The weekend of September 26-28, 2026, marks the 2nd annual Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day effort organized by the Massachusetts

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Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness. The coalition encourages communities, organizations, and individuals statewide to host activities that strengthen connections, encourage kindness, and foster a deeper sense of belonging in the Commonwealth.

Locally, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments iorganizes neighborhood gatherings across the region. Increasing social connectedness is a priority of the FRCOG's Community Health Improvement Plan because isolation and loneliness impact people of all ages and walks of life in our region. Good Neighbor Day is a reminder that we can all contribute to making this a better place to live – and even the smallest steps help.

Want to plan an event in your neighborhood? FRCOG has resources such as invitations, signs, and activity suggestions for local Good Neighbor Day organizers at: bit.ly/GND-CHIP

You can find more info about MA Good Neighbor Day at https://www.endlonelinessma.com/gnd

For more information email or call at 413-774-3167: Jen Audley (jaudley@frcog.org or extension 126) or Phoebe Walker (walker@frcog.org and extension 103)

Gill Montague Senior Center

Three Thursday Tech Talks:

The Gill-Montague Senior Center invites Gill residents to attend three Tech Talks in September designed to help participants stay informed about important digital issues. Topics will include digital legacy, podcasting, and internet safety. The talks will take place on consecutive Thursdays–Sept. 10, 17, and 24–from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Digital Navigator Rich Vaden will open the series on Sept. 10 with a presentation on what seniors should know about protecting access to digital assets, also known as "digital legacy," particularly under the federal RUFADAA Act (Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets). Beginning with a digital asset inventory, he will explain how to help ensure family memories, financial assets, and important records remain under the control of you and your beneficiaries. Rich recently appeared on "Backyard OASIS" (Older Adults Seeking, Inspiring, and Serving), a local podcast produced by seniors for seniors at Greenfield Community College.

The second speaker, Henry Balzarini, is one of the producers of "Backyard OASIS." On Sept. 17, he will cover the basics and history of podcasting, explain how podcasts make it easy to learn from home and choose what to hear on your own schedule, and demonstrate simple steps for subscribing to this local podcast.

The third speaker, Anne Wiley, is a well-known local voice in digital literacy. She serves as Tech Tutor at the Northfield Center and often speaks at area senior centers and libraries. Her Sept. 24 talk on internet safety is continually updated to reflect the latest scams targeting seniors.

The public is invited to attend any or all of these free talks. Registration is encouraged but not required, and each session will include time for questions and answers. The series is funded by a grant to the Town of Gill from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the Mass Tech Collaborative through the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program.

Computer Tablet Class in October:

A free tablet class for Gill seniors age 60 and over will be held at the Gill Montague Senior Center on four Fridays–Oct. 2, 9, 16, and 23–from 4 to 6 p.m. Eligible residents should register soon using the form available at the Center. Ten participants will receive Samsung Galaxy tablets for class and home use while learning







basic device operation and internet resources. The grant funding the tablets require attendance at all four sessions in order to keep the device after the final class. Marcus McLaurin of the Franklin Regional Technical School will instruct the class. The program is funded by a Town of Gill grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the Mass Tech Collaborative through the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program.

Gill Historical Commission

With extraordinary generosity, many residents have donated materials reflecting the wisdom, brilliance, artistry and the storytelling of Gill's history. One example comes from a high school research paper by a 14 year-old Gill resident, Fred Chase, in 1962 called "Gill History to 1900." It has 11 chapters and features the teacher's comments in red ink. Excerpts from this "A" paper in tiny, elegant cursive sentences include:

"The town of Gill, in the County of Franklin, is situated northeast of the center of the county. The town is situated in a region of hills and plains. In the town of Gill, there are several mountains: Pisgah, Grass Hill, Stacy's Mountain, Barnard's Hill and Darby Hill. There are also several watercourses in the town which, in the early history of the town, were used as millstreams.

"Seth Munn, the father of Lorenzo, secured the laying out of the Munn's Ferry road…He was ferryman for forty years. He died on June 6, 1876, aged eighty-six years, and is buried in North Cemetery.

"Lorenzo Munn always lived on the old Munn homestead in the town of Gill. Though often solicited, he always declined to accept public service so he could devote his whole attention to his farm. 'a kind husband, an indulgent father, an obliging neighbor, he well deserved the esteem in which he was held by the entire community in which he lived.' "

Donated to the town by Fred Chase III, the author's son.

Gill Recreation Committee

Please join us for a Gillbilly Paddle on the Connecticut River on Sunday, October 4th sponsored by the Recreation Committee. Enjoy peak foliage, cool weather, and your fellow Gillbillys.

Tentative plans are as follows:

Date: Sunday, October 4
Put-in: Mount Hermon docks
Departure time:10:30
Take-out: Stacy's Ferry landing (Eastern end of Pisgah Mountain Road, accessible from the north via River Road)

Updates and additional details will be posted on the Gill website as they become available.



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CULTURAL COUNCIL FUNDED HAPPENINGS COMING UP!

RPM FEST

Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, 210 Turners Falls Rd, Montague, MA
September 4-7
RPM Fest is a three-day outdoor heavy music festival. Their goal is to put on a high quality but affordable festival that showcases our favorite performers, artists, and vendors, with a focus on local and independent talent. The main features are the heavy music acts, supplemented with entertainment such as burlesque, wrestling, drag brunch, and yoga. Surrounding the stages is a vendor market and artist alley, with wares and food for folks to enjoy. Details here: https://www.rpmfest.org/

GILL FALL FESTIVAL SQUARE DANCE

At Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road
September 26, 7:00-9:30 PM
With Live Music by The Fall Town String Band
Free! All ages and experience levels welcome. Lesson for beginners starts promptly at 7:00pm. Return the following day, Sunday September 27th at noon, for the Annual Gill Harvest Festival on the Town Common. Sponsored by the Gill Recreation Committee and Agricultural Commission.

ALTAMIRA MUSIC FESTIVAL

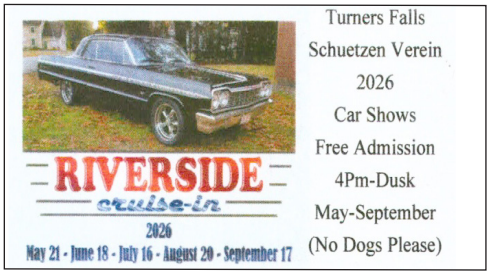
At Altamira Cider -- 10 Cross Road, Gill, MA (near Gill Tavern)
Saturday, September 26th – 1-8pm
The 2nd annual Altamira Music Festival will be held on September 26th in the heart of Pioneer Valley! This family-friendly celebration of music and cider is completely free and all are welcome to attend. Throughout the event, a percentage of all cider, merch, and food sales will be donated to our charity partner, the Cure Alzheimer's Fund. Last year's event raised over $3,750, and we aim to make an even bigger impact this year!

This year's line-up will include artists from all over MA, CT, NY, VT and even as far as Seattle -- including Banning Eyre, Zoe Pete Ford, The Horses, and more. Starting off the day with mellow instrumental folk and progressing to more active indie rock later in the evening.
Seating is hillside. Bring a blanket!

2027 GRANT APPLICATION AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 1ST

The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) provides grants annually to each Massachusetts town or city to be used for cultural projects initiated by individuals or organizations including performers, artists of all genres, authors, historians, naturalists, speakers, musicians, and workshop presenters. For the upcoming year, the Council seeks happenings and events that promote cultural literacy throughout the community through live events to venues in town or nearby towns, written and printed creations, and online offerings. We also prioritize applicants who have made positive contact with their proposed venue as evidenced through include letters of support from the venue or proposed audience. Some of the organizations we have given money to in recent years include the Slate Memorial Library, the Gill Elementary School, the Gill/Montague Council on Aging, the Gill Historical Commission, the Shea Theater, Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, and the Antenna Cloud Farm concert series. We will assist in the promotion of events upon request.

Key dates for 2027 applications are:
Sept 1, 2026 at 10am: Application becomes available on the Massachusetts Cultural Council Website at https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/



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Sept 10, 2026 at 6pm: Applicant Info Session. MCC staff will walk potential applicants through the application process. Recommended for grant applicants
Oct 15, 2026 at 11:59pm: Application Closes. Applicants will no longer be able to submit an LCC (Local Cultural Council) application in the Grant Management System beyond this date. Late applications cannot be evaluated for funding.
If you have any questions, please come to the Harvest Fair on Sunday, September 27th where the Gill Cultural Council booth. BE BOLD AND BE CREATIVE! We look forward to considering your application.

Gill Memorial Committee

When driving through the center of Gill, please check out the new monument honoring all those who made the ultimate sacrifice since the Viet Nam war. Doug Smith, who headed up the project, did an excellent job and provided a valuable service to the community. Financial assistance from “First Light Sustains” grant as well as other donations made this project possible.

In remembrance of Veteran’s Day, we replaced any grave flags that are worn in each of the four cemeteries in Gill.

Gill Elementary

Farm to Table

The Gill School Garden is flourishing! Throughout the summer families joined Sorrel Hatch and Faith Rand weekly to plant, weed, and enjoy the harvest. Cucumber sandwiches made with Upinngil bread and butter and our own endless supply of freshly picked cucumbers have been the summer’s favorite snack.

A grant from the Hitchcock Center provided us with a lovely selection of trees and shrubs, many of them edible, to enhance the school grounds. The plantings include cherries, chestnuts, hazelnuts, persimmons and elderberries! We are looking forward to an all-school field trip to the Blake Town Forest. Students will enjoy a hike to the river, hands-on learning and a picnic lunch. We are excited to be collaborating with the Gill Farms, Forests and Trails Group, the Franklin Land Trust and the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute to make this happen for our students in one of our own community’s beautiful natural spaces. It should prove to be a special day to start the school year and hopefully will become another Gill tradition.
Finally, after-school Garden Club starts up again in September. All community members are welcome! Children up to grade 4 must be accompanied by an adult. Students in grades 5 and 6 may join our Garden Stewards Program, led by Sorrel and Faith. We meet every Tuesday 3:15- 4:45 through the end of October.









Town School Regionalization

From the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board

The present and future health and welfare of our town's public education system is of utmost importance to all of us, including the financial benefits over time and the many educational advantages for our students. This is achieved through regionalization by forming the Great River Regional School District.
This new district, whether five or six towns, creates the benefits of economies of scale to move towards more educational and financial affordability and sustainability for the towns. The timing of this action couldn't be better! Here is what we know:

For the first time in many years, the state has appropriated $16.5 million to support regionalization, in part, through the efforts of Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Susannah Whipps. After 7 years of study, public engagement, financial analysis and planning we have positioned ourselves very well to take advantage of this opportunity. Funding is now in place to implement this new district.

Pedro Martinez, the Commissioner of Education, noted that if the towns support regionalization he is looking forward to a partnership with the Great River Regional School District. Special Legislation may result in a Special Election Ballot (not a Town Meeting) to vote on forming a new district. Your vote is critical.

Town assessments for the new district will be calculated using a 5-year foundation enrollment average to mitigate spikes in assessments.

Expands educational and extracurricular opportunities for students through larger middle and high school enrollments;

Keeps all current elementary schools open;

Addresses long-term educational and financial sustainability;

Minimal changes to transportation, with 20 minutes between regional buildings

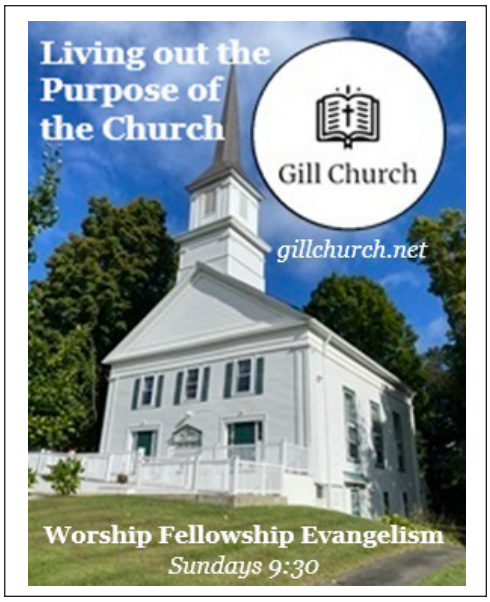
The proposed new regional school district agreements are available for inspection at Town Hall and online at www.6towns.org.

Regionalization addresses the structural decline in enrollment. The Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) has worked tirelessly on behalf of the towns over the past 7 years. Town representatives have crafted a new district agreement to help us all move toward a more sustainable and affordable district, while providing students with the robust education they deserve. The next step is yours! Please vote.

Franklin County Technical School

Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) is entering a historic autumn season packed with major community events and a milestone decision for its future. As the school reflects on five decades of vocational and educational excellence, it is inviting the community to look ahead to its next chapter through three major upcoming events.





50th Anniversary Celebration

FCTS will officially kick off its golden jubilee with a campus-wide 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, September 19, 2026. This family-friendly event welcomes alumni, current students, staff, and area residents to honor the school's past, celebrate its present, and look to its future. The day will feature:

Campus-Wide Tours:
Shop walkthroughs showcasing current vocational programs, as well as an Alumni memory walk.

Family Fun:
Inflatable Obstacle Course, Cornhole, and more.

Reconnections:
Dedicated spaces for alumni and former staff members to catch up,

Live Entertainment:
Musical performances and a DJ.
Food Vendors:
Local vendors and the FCTS Booster Club Snack Shack.
Student Athletics:
Volleyball, Soccer, and Football scheduled throughout the day.
New Building Info:
Opportunity to hear about the new building proposal from School Committee Members.

Annual "Cool Rides" Car Show

Continuing the autumn festivities, the beloved annual FCTS Cool Rides Car Show cruises back to the campus at 82 Industrial Blvd on Saturday, October 3, 2026. Held rain or shine, this community favorite features a massive lineup of classic cars, trucks, motorcycles, and farm tractors.
Free Admission:
The event is entirely free for both participants and spectators, though donations are highly appreciated.
Event Highlights:
Food prepared by the FCTS Culinary Arts program, family activities, and unique student-crafted awards including the coveted People's Choice Trophy. Proceeds from the event support student opportunities and school programming.

New Building Project Vote

A special election to vote on the FCTS building project proposal is scheduled for October 6th 12-8pm at the Gill Town Hall.
To learn more about the 50th-anniversary itinerary, registration info for the car show, and other school events, please visit the official platforms:

Main School Website: https://www.fcts.us/

Event Updates: Franklin County Tech Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/franklincty-tech/

Gill Slate Memorial Library

Gill's Slate Memorial Library might be small, but it is a treasure-trove of current books and films on DVD, with an impressive Library of Things, all waiting for you to check them out!

Some new notable items include a thermal camera that can show where heat is escaping from your home and an electric lawn mower that people can try out before purchasing one. Our lawn games are perfect for Labor Day festivities and birthday parties for all ages.

Please join us for a reading with Amy Gordon introducing her new book of poetry, "Leaf Town" on Sunday Oct-18th at 2pm at the Slate Library.

Hey Kids! Stop in to check out one of the new Nature kits in the children's room, including a bug collection kit and flower press. We also have a complete set of National Geographic field guides that help kids explore the natural world around them. Lots of fun stuff! Just in time for cooler days ahead: Meditation and yoga cards for kids and new popular story starter sets, "Tell Me a Story Fairytales " plus "Tell Me a Story Campfire Tales".

Stop by to check out what's new during the library's open hours: Tuesdays 2-6 pm, Wednesdays 3:30-7:30 pm, Thursdays 2-8 pm & Saturdays 10 am-2 pm.



Mark Your Calendars! Stop by and see us at the Gill Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 27, 12-3 pm. Good fun guaranteed for all!!
Joceyln Casto-Santos, Slate Library Director

INDEPENDENCE DAY REPORT

As promised in the summer issue of the Gill newsletter, the church bell at the Gill Church rang 250 times in recognition of the semi-quincentennial on July 4th. More successful than expected, more than 80 people greeted the occasion with patriotic songs and marches while gathering on the common. A copy of the Declaration of Independence was pinned to the sycamore tree. Seven readers gathered on the deck of the church to recite the Declaration.

Following the ringing, Chet Kuzontkoski presented the crowd with a list of American history trivia, most all of which was answered correctly. Sound was provided by Tyler Bourbeau from Bernardston Northfield Community Television who also recorded the event for broadcast.

Inspired by the overwhelming enthusiasm for this event, we hope to repeat it next year with 251 peals of the church bell.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels drivers are urgently needed in the Gill area! Make a big difference in someone's day by delivering a hot noontime meal and a wellness check in your own community. Stipend and mileage reimbursement available. Call 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259, Ext. 2216 or visit lifepathma.org/volunteer to apply.

First Annual Walkathon for Meals on Wheels

Saturday, October 18th 10-2 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds.
Please share with your family, friends, and colleagues, gather your walking teams, and come join us on Saturday, October 18 10-2 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds for the first annual Walkathon in support of Meals on Wheels and other LifePath programs. We are seeking people to donate, create walking teams, and come out and have fun for a good cause. This family-friendly event brings everyone together for a day of fun in support of a great cause. If you can't attend the Walkathon, we are also encouraging people to hold their own mini-walkathons right in their own neighborhood. We always need volunteers for Meals on Wheels drivers and other programs too. Give us a call if so at 413-773-5555 or visit LifePathMA.org/Walkathon for more information.

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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The photo from the last issue was taken from behind the main desk at the Gill Policy Department.