



THE

Gill Newsletter

April 2008 Issue

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Town Hall News

Results from Special Town Meeting

The special town meeting held on February 25 contained some routine articles and some not so routine. There was a vote to fully fund the Gill-Montague Regional School District FY08 budget, which finalized the town's FY08 budget as well allowing us to set a tax rate and send out the tax bills. Town meeting also took up the weighty matter of changing the section of the school district agreement regarding the closing of schools. It also voted to designate the Mariamante parcel on Main Road a "priority development site" under Chapter 43D of M.G.L. and approved the town filing a grant application for technical assistance in developing and marketing the property throughout the state and nation.

There were two articles during the meeting that were passed over until more information could be obtained. One was to create a Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC). Questions arose as to whether the functions of a CIPC could be carried out by an already existing town board or committee—perhaps the Finance Committee or Building Committee. The second article was to allow the tax collector to bill residents quarterly for real estate taxes, rather than the current semi-annual system. It is likely that both articles will be discussed again during the annual town meeting.

Speaking of Annual Town Meeting, per town bylaw it will be held the first Monday in May—Monday, May 5, 2008—at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs room at Town Hall.

New Fee Schedules

The Selectboard has recently reviewed the fee schedules throughout town departments and committees and brought them more in line with those of surrounding communities. These fees include items such as: a Title V inspection report review, food service licenses, seasonal camps or pool permits, smoke detector certificates, oil burner permits, curb cut permits, and special permit applications. For a complete list of fees, please go to www.gillmass.org/events or contact Tracy at town hall, 863-9347.

Cable Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals Need Members

The Cable Committee was originally formed to negotiate the contract with Comcast, but now focuses its efforts on the PEG (Public, Educational, and



Check in with the
Gill Website
www.gillmass.org
for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!



Government) Access programming for the town. Currently, programming on cable access is limited to a bulletin board and a couple of DVDs provided by government sources. It is currently seeking new members. If you'd like to see more programming, or see different programming, this is your chance!

Also, the Zoning Board of Appeals is looking for an alternate member. This is a member who attends meetings, but only votes if there are not enough members to make quorum.

Contact Tracy if interested in serving on either committee at 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

News Note from the office of the Tax Collector

Just to clear up any concerns or confusion regarding the Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes. The bills were mailed out on March 10, 2008 which is extremely late this year, so to keep the second billing on schedule, both bills (first & second) are due on the same date of May 1, 2008.

If you have not yet received a bill for 2008 Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, please notify the Tax Collector, Ronnie Lachance, at 863-2105.

From the Town Clerk

Preparations are beginning for the 2008 Annual Town Election.

We have one vacant office as Gregory Snedeker is going to step

down from the Board of Assessors due to a very busy schedule in the coming year. March 31st is the deadline for submitting nomination papers for the office.

The Election will be on May 19, 2008 from 12-8 PM at the Fire Station.

We still get many inquiries in the Town Clerk's office concerning genealogy so I would like to remind families that any Gill Family information is always welcome to share with those who stop in from out of town seeking information about distant relatives.

Town Clerk Assistant, Doreen Stevens has been very busy throughout the winter organizing and protecting all vital documents in archival safe plastic sleeves. The work she has done on this project is greatly appreciated.

Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard

Gill Montague Education Fund Gala

Tickets go on sale March 15 for the annual Gill-Montague Education Fund Gala, which this year will feature Don Campbell and the Don Campbell Band. The event will take place Saturday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the state-of-the-art theater at Turners Falls High School.

"We're going to take the audi-

ence on a comfortable rollercoaster ride of contemporary and traditional country with a sprinkling of bluegrass, Americana, western, and even barn dance. We'll blend original music I've written, which I hope new fans will enjoy discovering as well as some favorites/standards that people can toe-tap or sing along to as we explore a wide and wonderful range of country music," said Campbell, who was named Maine's best singer-songwriter for four years in a row (2004-2007) in the Maine *Sunday Telegram's* Annual Readers Poll. "We'll be showcasing songwriting and musicianship and of course storytelling, as this is a huge piece of country, perhaps its core essence. We'll talk about many of the songs and have a great time with the audience."

Campbell is the recipient of Distinguished Achievement Award from the University of Maine at Augusta, the national grand prize winner of the 18th Annual Country Showdown, the national grand prize winner of the Jim Beam Country Band Talent Search, and the Just Plain Folks Awards Male Artist of the Year/Holiday Song of the Year. He wrote the national theme song for the Visiting Nurse Associations of America.

Campbell and his band mates have opened for Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Randy Travis, Tanya Tucker, Charlie Daniels, American Idol winner, Carrie Underwood, Toby Keith, Keith Urban, Ricky Skaggs, Shawn Colvin, Gretchen



Wilson, Big & Rich, JoDee Messina, Travis Tritt, and others.

Ticket for the gala at Turners Falls High School are available at Scotty's Convenience Store in Turners Falls, World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, Bear Country 95.3, WHAI studios in Greenfield, and by calling Sandy at TFHS 863-721. They may also be purchased online at www.thegmef.org.

Funds raised through the gala will be used to fund educational enrichment opportunities in the schools of the Gill-Montague schools district.

“With economic pressures coming from a variety of sources, it becomes that much more important to encourage and foster arts in the schools through innovative means,” Campbell said. “When the GMEF folks were in touch with us about their concert concept, it was exciting to us as so much of the community is involved.”

He has been able to spend time at the high school through the planning and promotion piece of the concert and come to feel even more vested in coming to the area with his band for the April 26 event. “Two of our band members are music teachers, providing guitar, piano and violin/fiddle lessons when they aren't performing,” he said. “Music and learning go hand in hand with whom we are as a performance and recording group, so working with the GMEF felt like a very nice fit.”

FRIENDS OF GILL

Now that the Pancake Breakfast is a thing of the past, the Friends of Gill are making plans for two events to take place in June. On Saturday, June 28th, we will sponsor a Farm and Garden Tour. Several reservations have already been made but there is room for more. If you have a passion for gardening or farming, you should consider contacting Kathleen Raczynski at 863-9288 for more information.

On the next day, Sunday, June 29th, we will hold our annual Picnic on the Common. This has always been a pleasant occasion for our friends and neighbors with food provided by our dedicated Gill firemen featuring, of course, their famous 'made from scratch' French fries. Again this year there will be live music, horse drawn hayrides, and strawberry shortcake prepared by the Friends of Gill topped with ice cream and whipped cream. Keep the date in mind and plan to join us.

We are currently formulating plans for the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival. The Festival continues to grow and each year involves a larger number of Gill residents who volunteer their time and efforts to ensure its success. It can be fun and if you think you might consider volunteering, call Barbara Elliott at 463-9708.



Gill Fire Department

Gill Firemen's Association Annual Scholarship


The Gill Firemen's Association Scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Firefighter Stanley Ambo, Sr., who gave his last full measure of devotion in the line of duty. The annual scholarship of \$200.00, funded each year by the firefighters of Gill, is available to a town resident who will graduate from an accredited area secondary school and plans to attend college. The scholarship is awarded to a member of the senior class who demonstrates scholastic ability, need, character, and participation in extra-curricular and community activities. Applications are available in the guidance departments at local high schools. Completed applications must be returned to the Gill Firemen's Association by May 15. Instructions for mailing are included in the application packet.



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Brush Permit Season

Brush burning season runs from January 15 to April 30, 2008. Town residents who wish to burn brush, sticks, or fallen tree limbs may contact Shelburne Control at 625-8200 to obtain a permit. Fires must be at least 75 feet from buildings, contained, and attended. Residents may not burn trees, logs, stumps, leaves, trash, or demolition materials. Fires must begin before noon and be completely extinguished before 4:00 PM. Call the Fire Department at 863-8955 if you need further information on brush permits.

Seeking New Members

The Gill Fire Department could always use a few more members, especially during the work day. The Department provides the necessary equipment and training for new firefighters, who must be at least sixteen years of age. Preliminary training includes personal protective equipment, fire behavior, basic firefighting skills, first aid, and CPR and defibrillation. More advanced training opportunities in pump operation, hazardous materials response, rope and water rescue, emergency medical technology, and other areas are available



throughout the year. Remember, a community's volunteer fire department is as good as the people who make it work. If you live in Gill and you are physically up to the challenge of serving as a firefighter, we may be looking for you. The Town of Gill is an equal-opportunity employer and its emergency services personnel are subject to criminal background (CORI) checks. The Gill Fire Department meets each Thursday evening at the fire station from 7:00 to 10:00. For more information, call the fire station at 863-8955.

News from Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

How to Dispose of Household Batteries

There are many different types of household batteries and some contain mercury and other heavy metals. Batteries can release mercury, cadmium or other heavy metals into the air and water, ultimately entering the food chain and posing health threats to people and the environment. Please read below for disposal instructions for specific battery types. There are no charges for recycling these batteries.

Rechargeable batteries are found in those electronics and appliances that can be recharged, such as cellular and cordless phones, cordless

power tools, laptop computers, camcorders, remote-control toys, two-way radios, electric toothbrushes and razors, and emergency medical equipment. Rechargeable batteries contain heavy metals and should *never* be thrown away; they should always be recycled. All towns in the Franklin County Solid Waste District have been supplied with a special "Call 2 Recycle" box for rechargeable battery collection. Gill's collection box is at the Gill town hall. The specific battery chemistries accepted in these boxes are: Nickel-cadmium (Ni-cad), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion batteries (Li-ion) and Small Sealed Lead (Pb), plus cell phones and their batteries.

Button batteries are the small, round and silver batteries found in watches, clocks, calculators, hearing aids, and in some toys and household items. Button batteries contain mercury and must be disposed of properly. All towns in the Franklin County Solid Waste District have been supplied with a collection canister for the recycling of button batteries. Gill's collection canister is at the Gill town hall.

Alkaline (flashlight) batteries are the most common household batteries. They are not rechargeable and available in many sizes and shapes such as AAA, AA, C and D. Alkaline batteries manufactured since 1994 do not contain added mercury and can safely be disposed of in a landfill. It is safe to put alkaline batteries in Gill's trash, since Gill's trash is sent to a

landfill. (This procedure differs in each town; for other towns, please contact the District office.)

Save the Date! (and save those confidential papers!)

On Saturday April 19 from 9 AM – 1 PM there will be a free paper shredding event in the Greenfield Staples parking lot. This has been scheduled to celebrate Earth Day and also to provide a way to safely recycle confidential papers after this year's tax filing deadline. Participants can deliver up to one full recycling bin of paper for destruction and watch their paper being shredded on site. After shredding, all paper will be brought to the Springfield MRF for recycling (www.springfieldmrf.org.) This event is a part of the statewide Mass Recycles Paper campaign and strives to educate the public that shredded paper is recyclable. The best way to recycle shredded paper at home or at the office is to put in a paper bag and, to help avoid a mess or litter, staple the top shut. Plastic bags are not acceptable in municipal recycling programs; please do not put shredded paper in plastic bags. For a full list of what paper is recyclable, visit: www.massrecyclespaper.org.

If you have any disposal or recycling questions, please contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District at 413-772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD) Email: info@franklincountywastedistrict.org. Website: www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org.



Gill Students

College Graduate & Dean's List

Doreen Demars earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business management from Babson College in December.

Gill residents named to the dean's list for the fall 2007 semester at Greenfield Community College are William Goldfarb, Marilyn Odeh, Justin Prokowich and Cindy Richardson.

Turners Falls High School Awards Assembly

Turners Falls High School held an Awards Assembly and the following Gill students were presented awards:

Business Education: Accounting 1—Abbey Daniel-Green

Excellence in Microsoft Office—Katie Rinaldi.

English: Academic Excellence in Theater Arts—Natasha Vaughn.

History: Academic Excellence in Honors Government—Molly Perry

Mathematics: Academic Excellence in Honors Geometry—Katie Rinaldi

Science: Academic Excellence in Honors Earth Science—Eric Dumas

Academic Excellence in Greenhouse—Joey Rinaldi

Excellence in Honors Biology—Natasha Vaughn

Technology Education: Excellence in Graphic Arts—Angela Marguet

Excellence in Manufacturing/Woodworking—Mackie Freeland

Spanish: Academic Excellence In Spanish II—Danielle Dolhenty

Academic Excellence in Humanities—Brooke Hastings and
Julie Howard-Thompson

School Service—Zach Little

John & Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients are Amanda Golembeski, Molly Perry, and Alexander Tufano.

Honor Roll

We apologize for forgetting to add senior Alexander Tufano to the Turners Falls High School first marking period honor roll "First Honors" in the February issue and Brittany York to the Great Falls Middle School basketball team.

GILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Gill Historical Museum
in the Riverside Municipal
Building on Route 2 will be open
Thursdays from 4 PM to 7 PM
starting December 6th, 2007.





Franklin County Technical School Honor Roll:

Grade 12—Nicolas Bernice and Nathan Towne
Grade 9—Joseph Lafleur

Gill-Montague Education Fund Gala

A promotional video for the upcoming gala with Don Campbell and his band was produced for the community access television channel. Scott Brown, David Ramlow-Sachs and Jake Field were on the staging and setup crew, Zach Little, floor director; and Abbey Daniel-Green, red carpet interviews. The event will be held April 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

Once Upon a Mattress

Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School students recently showed their acting talents in “Once Upon a Mattress”. Abbey Daniel-Green had a leading role as the Queen, David Ramlow-Sachs as Sir Henry, Danielle Dolhenty and Sarah Underwood were “Ladies” and Malik Odeh showed us his juggling and unicycle skills. Parents Nancy Daniel-Green and Nancy Underwood helped with costumes, makeup & hair styles for the cast.

Northfield Mount Hermon School

Northfield Mount Hermon School Orchestra and Jazz Band held their annual community concert in February to benefit the area’s Meals on Wheels Program. Spencer Heffernon participated in the concert held at the Chapel. Aja Kane performed in NMH’s dance program also held in February in Grandin Auditorium.

Frank Millard’s NMH wrestling team gave him a great send off to retirement as the team won their first New England Prep Wrestling Championship in March. The team scored 201 points on the weekend, a tournament record. We all wish Frank a happy retirement. He has always been there for the Gill “kids” when they needed a place to practice, or play, basketball and soccer, and Sunday recreational swimming.

Franklin County Technical School

The Tech School’s Cosmetology students have been visiting Charlene Manor to give manicures to its residents. They look forward to the visits from the Tech students.



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We’re sure many of the residents didn’t have the opportunity, or the time, to have manicures while bringing up their families years ago.

Hunters—if you missed it this year mark your calendar for the annual game dinner next February. The Culinary Arts program and student hunters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts worked together to serve 200 people this year. The first dinner six years ago served 30 people. This year bear scaloppini, pheasant and squirrel stew, braised wild boar, pizza with venison sausage and raccoon fajitas along with locally grown vegetables were on the menu.



Business Advertisements

The Gill Newsletter will include business card size advertisements of local businesses for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$50.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$50.00 payable to 'Town of Gill' to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses in a very tight budget, we would also welcome such contributions mailed to the above address.

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.

Next Newsletter Deadline

May 15th for the June Issue

Gill Fire Dept.
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