



THE

Gill Newsletter

April 2007 Issue

CONTENTS

Town Hall News	1
Gill Fire Dept	2
Gill Police Dept	3
Friends of Gill	3
Gill Elementary	4
Gill-Mont Educ Fund	5
Slate Library News	6
Gill-Montague Gala	6
Hometown Students	9
Recreation Comm	10
Historical Comm	10
Gill Concert Series	11
Subscriptions	12
Disclaimer	12
News Deadline	12

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

- Lynn Nichols
Starstruck Design
- Dorri Beaubien
- Bev Demars
- Barbara Elliott
- Joe Elliott
- Peter Jenkins
- Don Krüger
- Ronnie LaChance
- Dan Sachs
- Pam Shoemaker
- Dot Underwood
- Barbara Watson

Town Hall News

Phil Maddern is Home

Phil Maddern has made wonderful progress and is home recuperating. Philip and Susie thank you for all of your well wishes and prayers.

Philip has made it known that he will not be running for Selectman or Assessor when his term expires this May. Philip's wit, intellect and mere breadth of knowledge on all things Gill will be missed and is a huge loss for the operation of the Town in terms of institutional memory. (But, we know were you live Philip) It will also be the first change in the membership of the Selectboard in over fifteen years. Wow!

Construction Update

Main Road reconstruction began anew Monday, March 12th. Notice went to families that live within the footprint of construction, to the newspapers and was posted in the Gill Store. Complete closure of the road will be necessary for seven to ten days to allow installation of a culvert in front of the Upingill Farm. Residents that live on the south side of the installation will have access through Main Road, but those that live on the north of the culvert will be required to detour over Boyle and North Cross Road. We apologize for the inconvenience, but public safety is most important. Any issues or questions should be directed to Highway Superintendent Mitchell (Mickey) LaClaire at 413-863-2324. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message and he will return your call. He's more often out and about working on roads!

Mariamante Parcel

Mariamante Request for Proposals elicited interest. We received three requests

for bid packages. However, no proposals were received by the closing date of March 15th. The committee will be meeting in the weeks ahead to make recommendations to the Selectboard on the next step.

Boards and Committees

Welcome Alan Tupper Brown to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Thank you to Selectwoman Ann Banash for stepping in to fill the void in membership. In light of her already burgeoning schedule, it was greatly appreciated. Tupper has also arranged for training with Attorney Bob Ritchie from the Attorney General's office, an Associate and friend. Attorney Richie will present along with our Town Council Donna MacNicol a joint presentation for ZBA members on the various procedures for which they are now responsible. Anyone thinking about stepping forward to serve as a supplemental member for the ZBA should also attend. Serving as an alternate member might provide a unique opportunity to gain experience from the back burner so to speak, rather than jumping in with both feet. Contact the Selectboard office for date and time!

Bruce Yukl, Richard French and Bridget Logan stepped forward in support of agri-



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



culture and other farming activities in Gill. The newly formed Agricultural Commission will hold their first meeting the 28th of March. If you are interested in serving, please call Ray Steele, the Town Moderator at (413) 863-2443. It's never too late!

Public Access TV

Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access is coming to Gill! Currently, your cable contract provides for two public access channels; the Montague and Greenfield Access Channels are shown on Channels 15 and 17. The Gill PEG Access Committee will soon be launching your own bulletin board broadcast on one or both of the channels for approximately one hour a day to start, in the morning and evening. We will be broadcasting music for the background while pictures of Gill and news notes of importance flash across the screen.

This is your public access and we need your help to make it a success! Any news or item of importance you would like to share can be forwarded electronically to pegaccess@gillmass.org or dropped in a mailbox at the Town hall. Be sure to include a name and contact number for verification and/or questions.

We're also looking for digital pictures of Gill's beautiful countryside and or inhabitants for display both on the bulletin access channel and to spruce up the website. Please forward to pegaccess@gillmass.org.

From The Office of the Tax Collector

I have had several calls from taxpayers asking if they should write a check for each bill they are paying or if they can

write only one. It is the individual's choice, however one check can be written for all bills received by the Tax Collector's office. If you are including funds for other offices, like a dog tag, separate checks are necessary for each department.

The second half Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will be mailed out on March 29, 2007. They will be due on or before May 1, 2007. If anyone has questions on their bills please call the Collectors office at 863-2105. Questions on property assessments should be directed to the Assessors at 863-0138.

From the Town Clerk

We are quickly approaching the month of May and the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Election. Here are a few dates to put on your calendar.

The Annual Town Meeting will open May 7, 2007. If you are not already registered to vote, the last day to register to participate is 20 days before or April 17th. The Town Meeting is held on the second floor of the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road.

The Annual Election is scheduled for May 21, 2007. Polling Hours will be from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fire Station, 196 Main Road. Again, if you are not already registered to vote, the last day to register to vote for the Annual Election is 20 days before or May 1, 2007.

Nomination papers are available now until April 2, 2007 and the last day to submit them is April 2, 2007.

Offices on the ballot include Selectperson for 3 years; Assessor for 3 years; Assessor for 2 years; Cemetery Commissioner for 3 years; Board of Health for 3 years; Library Trustee

for 3 years and Treasurer for 3 years. There is no incumbent running for Selectperson, Assessor, and Slate Library Trustee.

Just a reminder: I have been so pleased with the response to the census! For those who may have forgotten, no need to panic, please send them in. Don't forget the March 31st deadline for getting your dog licensed!

In addition to being available on our web site, www.gillmass.org, please be on the look out for a copy of the Zoning Bylaws as accepted by the Attorney General, which I will be mailing to each home in Gill, as required.

From the Board of Assessors

Mayflower Valuation continues to visit the homes of Gill to do exterior and interior assessments. The Town thanks you all for your cooperation in calling the Assessors' Office to schedule times for return visits.

Gill Fire Department

Spaghetti Supper

Mark your calendars once again. February's spaghetti supper was a great success and we'd like to do it again. The Gill Firemen's Association is still raising funds for a new defibrillator, a device that can restart a patient's heart during emergency cardiac care. Join our excellent chefs on Saturday, May 12, at the Gill Elementary School for another superb round of delicious spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, salad, beverages, and desert. The supper runs from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Adults: \$7.00;



children 5-12 and seniors: \$5.00; and kids under 5 eat free. All you can eat. Proceeds will help replace the Department's automatic external defibrillator with up-to-date equipment that complies with the new American Heart Association's standards for emergency cardiac care. Have some spaghetti. Help a heart. Save a life.

Gill Fireman'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.

Brush Permit Season

Brush burning season runs from January 15 to April 30, 2007. 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.

Gill Police Department

Police Staff Change

In February Officer Douglas Kaczmarczyk left the police department to join the Athol police department. Officer Kaczmarczyk had worked for the Town of Gill since 2001. We wish him well in his new endeavors. Officer Adam Sokoloski has been hired to replace Officer Kaczmarczyk. Officer Sokoloski has worked for the department since 2003 and attended the full time police academy in 2006. We welcome Adam aboard full Time.

Main Road Construction

Residents are reminded that construction time is here again. Main Road construction began again on March 12th. Due to the construction there maybe road closures, detours and delays throughout the spring, summer and fall.



F+J Construction from Ludlow is continuing the rebuilding of Main Road from Wood Avenue to the Northfield town line. Vehicles may detour the construction by using Boyle Road and North Cross Road, or by using West Gill Road. Residents

FRIENDS OF GILL

Every year the Friends of Gill sponsor two \$500 scholarships which are awarded to Gill students who will be graduating in the spring from area high schools. These scholarships are in memory of Bernice Keech who was a founding member of the Friends of Gill and a driving force in its early history. Bernice was almost single handedly responsible for the many roast beef dinners of that previous era. Applications have been mailed to all known graduating seniors and are due to be returned to the scholarship committee by March 30th. Earlier in the year the Friends of Gill contributed to the trip that the sixth grade of the Gill Elementary School made to the Sargent Center Outdoor Science Camp in Peterborough, NH. In the column on the Elementary School there is a charming article on some of the students' experiences during that trip. Be sure to read it. Funds to make these gifts possible for the Friends of Gill are the result of our income from our money raising projects such as the Pancake Breakfasts and the October Arts and Crafts Festival.

Although October may seem to be in the far future, the Festival is a colossal undertaking and we are making plans and working on it now. We would welcome any volunteers who would like to help or any contributions to help defray our many expenses. For further information call Barbara Elliott at 863-9708.



are reminded that speeding fines are doubled in a construction area, whether or not workers are present in the roadway.

Officer Attends Specialized Training

In February Sgt. Christopher Redmond attended the F.B.I.'s national course for law enforcement executive development. The week long training was held in Connecticut and included topics such as terrorism updates, advances in forensic science, media relations and many other topics. The course was attended by ninety-four New England area law enforcement executives. Guest speakers included Dr. Henry Lee and Col. David Hunt (ret.) senior military analyst for Fox news.

News from Gill Elementary School

Instructional Happenings

The staff is becoming more familiar with the new Houghton-Mifflin Math Impressions series. Since our last newsletter the staff has continued with a variety of professional development activities to attain a better understanding of the philosophy and daily practices of the new Houghton-Mifflin Math. The new math approach is based on students' ability to gain a stronger conceptualization of number theory and how to approach math problems. The staff is very impressed in the number of teaching resources, quality of the manipulative materials and the teacher aides that help them to present the various math concepts found in the text material. In addition, the staff is able to develop teacher made assessments from a bank of computerized questions that match the skills identified for the MCAS testing program and are compatible with the new series. The math assessment bank provides them with an opportunity to reinforce learning and to receive feedback on student progress.

In the next month we will begin to have further discussion on updating our reading series. The current reading program utilizes an older version of the Houlton-Mifflin text. The staff is very happy with the program, but looks forward to the newer text materials and its relationship to the Massachusetts Reading Frameworks. We will be working with Sarita Belmont, District Curriculum Director, to begin purchasing the newest edition.


Sixth Grade Field Trip to the Sargent Center Outdoor Science Camp in Peterborough, NH – The Gill students had a great week. The weather was cold and snowy. The snowstorm on



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Valentines Day enabled the students to participate in all the winter activities. The students produced a great newsletter describing the events and activities that went on during the week. If you would like a copy let us know. Below is one of the student articles that summarize one of the activities.

The Chocolate River

by Bethany Laramie

HANCOCK, NH—On Wednesday in the meadow, Sarah’s group, the Bionic Bunnies, played a game called the Chocolate River. The object of the game is to get all the way across the Chocolate River with as many marshmallows as possible. The group used wooden boards to represent marshmallows. Since there was a lot of snow on the ground, the boards were very slippery. The boards were also hard to see because of the snow.

Rule 1 of the Chocolate River game is that if one of the people on the river isn’t touching a board at all, they drown, and the group has to start all over again. Rule 2 of the game is that if a board isn’t being touched, it floats away forever, and you never see it again. The group had nine boards to start with, and six to end with. One of the boards was lost because Jeff Taylor forgot he had to touch the boards and lost one. The other two boards were lost the same way Jeff Taylor lost his. T.J. Meyer lost the other two boards because he forgot he had to touch them, too.

Jackie Lafleur commented, “The game was awesome because you have to wait for the person in front of you to get off the board so you can get on it.”

Ceara Dolhenty said, “I thought the Chocolate River was really fun and difficult because of the three boards we lost.”

Brittany York commented, “It was awesome and tricky because of the loss of three boards. It was also hard to pass up the boards and keep going.”

Jeff Taylor answered, “It was fun and a pain in the behind because it was hard to stand on tiny little 1 inch boards.”

Shawn Englehardt commented, “It was fun because it was a challenge to me.”

Alyssa Weld’s comment was short. She replied, “Different.”

Kaylyn Tognarelli commented, “It was awesome because I was in the lead and I didn’t drown!”

T.J. Meyer’s comment was, “It was chocolaty, and the marshmallows tasted great!”

Upcoming Events

Read-A-Thon – The yearly Read-A-Thon began in February. The goal is to encourage reading activities and to establish an appreciation of reading and literature. The Read-A-Thon serves a dual purpose. Sponsors are sought by each student who will contribute funds for each page read. The funds are an important fund raising event for the PTO.

Grandparents Lunch

Our Grandparents Lunch will be held on March 29, 2007. The traditional spaghetti lunch is always well attended and is a great opportunity for the students to inform their grandparents about their classroom activities and programs. We look forward to this positive community event and the school to connect with all of our extended Gill School community family members.

— Dr. David Crisafulli

Gill-Montague Education Fund

The Gill-Montague Education fund board of directors met in early February and awarded more than \$6,000 in grants to be used for educational enrichment programs and activities in the district’s schools.

Fourteen grants were awarded ranging from \$150-\$1,000.

The GMEF grants will fund:

* **Field Trip to New England Flower Show.** Forty-two Turners Falls High School students enrolled in Greenhouse, Botanicals and/or Marketing will attend the New England Flower Show as part of a business venture began last year in which they marketed and sold plant products and plants for profit. The students will attend lectures and watch demonstrations as well as learn about a variety of plants, learn about sales promotion and learn about floral display. They will also develop their own marketing plan for their plant sale. The goal is to raise interest in botanical culture and provide some training for those who may wish to do summer work in landscaping.



* **Meet the Deadline.** Gill Elementary School sixth graders will learn to be reporters through recording, interviewing and news writing following a week-long class trip to The Sargent Center for Outdoor Education. They will develop newspapers that include advertisements and comics. Students have already met with local author Joe Parzych. David Detmold of *The Montague Reporter* will teach the class about interviewing and subsequent article development, and the project will culminate in a trip to the press room.

* **Our Community: Tracks and Fossils.** Fifty-one first-grade Hillcrest School students will visit the Pratt Museum of Natural History to view the collection of dinosaur tracks removed from Turners Falls. They will also see rocks, minerals and other natural history specimens. This experience will help them understand that their locality was once home to dinosaurs and learn about how observations helped scientists come to this conclusion. They will keep journals and drawings.

* **Black Ash Basketry.** Fifty students enrolled in Greenhouse and Botanicals classes at Turners Falls High School will have the opportunity to visit a master basket maker, Alice Ogden, and learn about the history of basket making. Students will make baskets after taking notes from a lecture of history and a demonstration of basketry. The project encompasses art, history and science (floriculture and forestry).

* **Field Trip to Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.** Fifty-one French and Spanish students from Turners Falls High School will visit the Museum of Fine Arts to view pre-selected pieces from the European collection. Through this study, students will learn about culture and history as well as art and to understand the interconnectedness of the pieces and the cultures.

* **Connecticut River Watershed Project Part 2.** Forty-seven Gill Elementary School students in grades K-2 will work with a Hitchcock Center presenter to reinforce science curriculum that focuses on the Connecticut River Watershed. Students will learn about the community's natural resources and discover the watershed's diverse habitats and see how over time the watershed has changed.

* **Audio Equipment Upgrade.** The TFHS TV studio, which serves students in classes and provides

a news program produced by students, will have new audio recording equipment so students can learn about professional-level audio recording. The students will be able to use this in the production of student films as well.

* **College and Theatre Trip for grade seven.** Ninety students in seventh grade at Great Falls Middle School will attend a performance of "Rain" by Cirque Eloize. The performance will include dance, song and music, and the traditions from ancient times are woven into these. Students will be able to make connections with their studies of the culture of ancient Egypt as well as be exposed to a form of artistic expression they might not otherwise experience. A connection between math and juggling will be investigated, and students will write reflections for language arts classes.

* **Culinary Arts Meets Science.** Eighty-eight GFMS eighth graders will make ice cream as part of the science curriculum that teaches chemistry. This project will allow the students to learn about how heat moves in predictable ways, the effect of heat on particle motion, discover the energy of heat and learn about the freezing and melting points of substances and the role of salt in the process. The students will then use pictures to explain the process.

* **Incredible Insects.** Sixty-seven second-grade students from Hillcrest and Montague Center schools will attend a Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center program on the study of insects and life cycles. They will learn about adaptations and habitats of various insects.

* **Grade 3 Trip to Sturbridge Village.** Forty-five Sheffield School third graders will take a trip to Old Sturbridge Village to experience living history.

* **The Preamble.** Fourteen Montague Center School third graders will create a tile project recreating the preamble of the constitution. Some tiles will have illustrations of some of the framers of the constitution. The tiles will grace the school with a backboard and frame as a reminder of the importance of law and rules.

* **2007 Award Winners for Young People's Literature.** Award-winning young people's literature will be purchased for Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School to correlate with the curriculum in the high school and supplement the directed reading program collection in the middle school.



* **Pond Probe: Trip to Northfield Mountain.** Fifty-one Hillcrest first-grade students will take a field trip to Northfield Mountain to participate in a program that allows students to catch, observe and draw pond life. Students will learn about water cycles and notice characteristics of the pond habitat.

The GMEF seeks to enrich and extend the reach of district and school goals through the funding of mini grants and special project grants.

The criteria for awarding grants are:

- Projects enrich and support district and school goals and curricula;
- Projects specify clear goals, and implementation plan, timelines(s) and an evaluation process; and
- Projects demonstrate a strong connection to improved student outcomes.

Slate Library News

This winter Slate library has been a busy, happy gathering place for our community.

Knitters have continued to gather on the first and third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Kim Sprankle hosts this lively group, which has grown considerably over the past several months. Some new knitting titles have been added to the library's collection including *Last Minute Knitted Gifts* by Joelle Hoverson and *Nature Babies* by Tara Jon Manning. Come join us for a fun filled evening.

Story hour continues on Tuesday morning and we invite all parents and caregivers to join us at 10:00 AM for stories, snacks, and a fabulous art project. Children have a chance to work with clay, explore paint, felt, glue and other art media. Adults have a chance to gather and chat with other parents of youngsters in our community. The story schedule for the end of March through April is as follows:

March 20: Hats!

March 27: Maple Syrup

April 3: Dinosaurs

April 10: Nature

April 17: Spring Flowers

April 24: Colors

We also have lots of new titles for little ones including *Now it is Winter* by Eileen Spinelli, *Winter is the Warmest Season* by Lauren Stringer and *So Sleepy Story* by Uri Shulevitz . New teen titles have arrived, such as *An Abundance of Katherines* by John Green, *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* by M.T. Anderson and *Dream Hunter* by Elizabeth Knox. Come check out our new books!

As part of our after school art programs Slate just hosted a five-week hand puppet workshop. Children created clay, papier-mache and fabric hand puppets, which were incredibly imaginative and fun.

In May we will have Northampton artist Jeannie Hunt visit our library to host a book-making workshop for children entitled "Map-making and Imagination".

As well, artist Gregory Maichack will pay our library a visit in June and host a pastel drawing workshop for adults. Look for signs about these events at town hall, the Gill store, or pay a visit to the library yourself!

We have many new adult titles such as Annie Leibowitz's *A Photographers Life* and Norman Mailer's *The Castle in the Forest*. Other titles include *Being Muslim* by Haroon Siddiqui, *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan and Arthur Allen's *Vaccine: The Controversial Story of Medicine's Greatest Lifesaver*.

We look forward to seeing you!

Gill-Montague Fundraising Gala

Tickets went on sale March 17 for the third annual Gill-Montague Gala, this year featuring The Gregory Caputo Big Band and his show "Velocity." The Gill-Montague Education Fund in partnership with "Phil D." of radio station WIZZ 1520 AM will present the gala **Saturday, April 28, at 7:30 PM** in the theater at Turners Falls High School.

Caputo, trained in classical, rock, swing/jazz and Latin styles, has produced this show which highlights the Big Band Era. He serves as emcee and is also a drummer with the 18-piece band. He has been described as "a master drummer who speaks volumes



in refined sensibilities and superb technique.” His professional credits include drumming for the Count Basie Orchestra, the Les Brown big Band, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, the Benny Goodman Big Band, the Gene Krupa Big Band, the Sammy Kaye Orchestra and The Harry James big Band. He has also served as a drummer for The Marvellettes, the Ink Spots, the Coasters and the Mills Brothers as well as for Cab Calloway, Harry Connick Sr., Sammy Davis Jr., Jerry Vale and Benny Waters, among others.

Joyce A. Phillips, producer of the Gill-Montague Gala, said, “Velocity promises to be a rare chance to hear the history of the Big Bands and feel the excitement in the music.” Underwriters for the gala are Hillside Plastics Inc., Construction Monitoring Services Inc. and the Montague Elks Lodge #2521.

Admission will be \$20 and tickets are available at Scotty’s Store in Turners Falls, World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, Turn it Up in Northampton, Turn it Up in Brattleboro, Vt., or by calling Sandy at Turners Falls High School (863-7218).

The Gill-Montague Education Fund is a non-profit organization established to raise funds for students’ enrichment through the academic, arts and athletic programs.

Major supporters of the annual Gill-Montague Gala will be treated to an array of desserts at a pre-show reception called A Taste of “Sweet Beginnings” in the Turners Falls High School cafeteria from 6:30-7:15 PM immediately preceding the Gala. Plan now to attend by supporting the Gill-Montague Education Fund’s fundraising efforts.

This Pre-Show Reception is an opportunity for the Gill-Montague Education Fund Board of Directors to extend special thanks to underwriters and tier-givers whose contributions enable the GMEF to continue providing educational enrichment opportunities for students in the Gill-Montague Regional School District. Desserts will be provided by local businesses including the Cookie Factory, Elm Farm Bakery, Green Fields Market, Mirling’s Bakery, Richardson’s Candy Kitchen, Rose Ann’s and Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters.

Businesses exchange finger desserts for the reception for a quarter-page ad in the concert program valued at \$125. They will display business cards and/or menus and any material they wish with their own personal touch; a member of the GMEF Board of Directors will host the table. Additionally, each business will be recognized in a promotional video for local access television, press releases and promos with Phil D of radio station WIZZ – AM 1520.

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Tier-givers who donate any amount to the fund-raising effort and underwriters who donate at least \$1,000 will be invited to the pre-gala reception. There's still time to become a business sponsor or a tier-giver and be invited to the reception. For more information on business participation in the reception or more information on becoming an underwriter or tier-giver, call Joyce Phillips, producer, at 863-2109.

Hometown Students

Greenfield Community College

Dean's List

Julie Bodenstein, Grace Harris, Kyle Lapointe, Sarah Little and Justin Prokowich

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Second Quarter Marking Period

Honor Roll

Grade 12

Honors: Johanna Johnson

Grade 9

Honors: Nicholas Duska and Jared Towne

Grade 8

Highest Honors: Patrick Arena and Savannah Yates

Grade 7

Highest Honors: Mary Duska

Honors: Chad Galipault

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

First Honors: Benjamin Garber, Elizabeth Giknis, and Haley Trenholm

Second Honors: Ashleigh St. Peter

Grade 11

First Honors: Zachary Little, Molly Perry, and Alexander Tufano

Second Honors: Abbey Daniel-Green

Third Honors: Amanda Golembeski

Grade 10

Second Honors: Eric Dumas, Jodi Hallett, and Charlotte Parody

Third Honors: Allison Giknis, Amber Henry, Joseph Rinaldi, III, and Olga Samokhina

Grade 9

First Honors: Danielle Dolhenty and Matthew Garber

Second honors: Kathleen Rinaldi and Sarah Underwood

Third Honors: Mackae Freeland

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Makayla Dolhenty, Brooke Hastings, Julie Howard-Thompson, Joseph Lafleur, and Andrew Turban

Second Honors: Rachel Arial and Natasha Vaughn

Third Honors: Emily Robertson

Grade 7

First Honors: Jane Booth, Christopher Gordon, Lily Kane, and Malik Odeh

Second Honors: Colton Hallett and Samantha Shaw

Sports

It was a good season for both Pioneer and Turners Falls basketball teams as each made it to post season play. Turners had beaten Pioneer in both regular season games, but when it really counted in tournament play Pioneer came out the winner in overtime. It was an exciting game and both teams played well. Gill's Jake Field, Eric Dumas and Tony Denofrio were playing for TFHS with Tom Fields rooting his team on while healing his arm. Pioneer with Jacob Galipault and Zach French and coached by Dave Hastings advanced to the next level but lost in their second tournament game.

Ashleigh St Peter was chosen to play in the 10th annual girl's Hampshire-Franklin Senior All-Star Game. Proceeds from this game will benefit the William F. Casey Scholarship fund that awards scholarships to student athletes from both counties.

The Turners Falls High School Dance Team with Jodi Hallett, Sarah Underwood and Chelseigh St. Peter entertained the fans during the basketball season.

The Montague Parks and Recreation Bluefish team has Malcolm Hatch-Crosby, Krystal Cloutier, Daniel Cloutier, and Robert Rinaldi helping to bring home first place finishes in their swimming meets.

Spring is here and that means outdoor sports. Take your favorite chair and head to the nearby schools to



watch tennis, track, softball, and baseball. You'll be glad you did. Relax and enjoy our kids.

Franklin County 4-H Awards

At the Franklin County 4-H Dairy Club's award banquet held in January Gill 4-H members receiving awards included Whitney Urgiel for an award for her third year with the 4-H Club and Amanda Golembeski for 10 years, the New England 4-H Dairy Show to Michael Crochier, the Massachusetts 4-H Dairy Show to Whitney Urgiel and Massachusetts 4-H Horse Roundup-Hippology-Senior to Amanda Golembeski and Amber Henry. Awarded the Regional Horse Judging Contest State Visual Presentations was Amber Henry and Appreciation of Thanks to Fair Helpers went to Amanda Golembeski, Amber Henry, Sue Henry and the Hills of Gill Club.

School Musical

Little Shop of Horrors directed by Melissa Urey was recently performed by students from Turners Falls High School & Great Falls Middle School. The musical was performed on March 9th, 10th & 11th, starting in lead roles: Ben Garber as Seymour, Chelsea Isles as Audrey, and Abbey Daniel-Green as Crystal (one of the Do-Wop girls). Other Gill actors performing in the ensemble were Sarah Underwood and Natasha Vaughn.

Recreation Committee

Happy Spring to everyone! As you all know spring means baseball season will be starting up soon. We are planning to have a Farm Team, Pee-Wee Team, Youth Team and a Softball Team. Last year we also added a T-Ball Team and we will try to offer that again this year if there are enough preschoolers interested in playing.

Our Basketball season has come and gone. Congratulations to the 5/6 Girls team for coming in 4th place at the Vernon Invitational Tournament and to the 5/6 Boys team for coming in 3rd place. Way to go!!! We had another really great season. It all came to an end on Sunday, March 4th with our end of the season potluck gathering. This is always a good time! The coaches handed out certificates and medallions to the participants, then everyone enjoyed a potluck meal and the afternoon ended with a friendly game of

basketball with the kids vs. the parents. I would like to extend a huge Thank You to all of the people who volunteered their time to coach these kids, Jim Poulsen, Brian Bodell, John Perreault, Fred Bezio, Nathan Duda, Rose Levasseur, Paul Nicolson, Patrick Garland, Cathy Llewelyn and all of the parents who have helped out with our teams and also to our wonderful referees Eric Dumas and Danielle Dolhenty, and score board keeper Angela Marguet. We couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you again to NMH and the facility sitters who volunteered their time on Sunday afternoons throughout the winter to make our swim and skate times possible. I think that this year we had the largest amount of participants we have ever had and we are already looking forward to next year.

We were also very happy to be able to hold our annual Wacky Sliding Party this year. This funfilled family event was held on Saturday, March 3rd at the Oak Ridge Golf Course in Gill. We had a great turn out and some very creative sleds. Thank you to the Castro-Santos family, the Urgiel family, the Damon Family and the Wallenius-Duda family for participating in creating homemade sleds. The Rec. Dept. supplied hot dogs, cookies and hot chocolate for everyone to enjoy free of charge. A special thank you to Steve Connell, Jason Edson, Deb Parker and Steve Peters, volunteer firefighters from the Gill Fire Dept., for being on hand in case of an injury and also for the use of the rescue truck for chilly kids to warm up in. We also want to thank Rick & Janice, owners of Oak Ridge Golf Course, for letting us use the course to hold this event. We also put out a donation jar for Chad Galipault's family and would like to thank everyone who made a donation.

We still have a few Red Sox tickets available for our annual Red Sox trip. Tickets are \$60 each and this trip is almost sold out so please call soon if you are interested. This year the game will be on June 30th at 7:00 PM against the Texas Rangers. As always, we will be traveling to and from the game on two of Travel Kuz's luxury coaches. If you would like to purchase tickets, call Nathan Duda at 522-3209.



If you have any comments, questions or suggestions please let us know. We are always looking for more ideas. You can call Nathan Duda anytime at 522-3209 or come to one of our monthly meetings which are held on the 1st Friday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan Duda, Gill Recreation Committee Chairman



Historical Commission Report

The Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in Riverside School on Route 2. The Commission maintains the Gill Museum in an effort to preserve the history of Gill. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Dick French, Bob Perry, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo or Pam Shoemaker.

To give you a chuckle while you wait for the snow to melt, we offer an anecdote from *The History of Gill, II* and its chapter on the First Congregational Church of Gill.

Cow Goes to Church

The following was reported in the *Greenfield Recorder-Gazette* of November 6, 1936:

Three residents of Gill were arraigned in District Court, the charge being that the trio led a cow into the church auditorium the night of October 31. Sometime during the night a heifer was lassoed from a pasture near the center of town and taken to the church, there to spend the rest of the night.

Because of cool weather, the janitor arrived earlier than usual to build a fire so the church would be warm for the morning worship. Engrossed in his work, he was startled to hear footsteps in the church proper above him. Upon investigation he found a "wild steer" confronting him. The animal was naturally timid, having been pastured all summer, and every instinct was aroused to escape. With help the animal was removed and the damage estimated. In order to have the usual Sunday morning service, the janitor helped to remove the evidence of the cow's stay.

The case was continued to November 28, when the defendants were charged with the willful defacing of public property. They pleaded not guilty and the case was continued to December 5. At that time they were placed on probation for six months. The boys' council said that financial restitution and assistance in cleaning up the church had been made. The defendants maintained that they led the cow into the vestibule, but someone else must have turned it into the auditorium.

Common People Concerts 2007

Where? On Gill Common, unless the weather is yucky; then upstairs in the Gill Congregational Church

When? Summer (and some Spring)
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Cost? None but bring your change for refreshments.

Why? Because Gill deserves lots of very good music.

May 29: Metro Sax Quartet ~ Eclectic Class from the Boston Area

June 5: Greenfield Military Band ~ Favorite band pieces and more

June 12: King Bees ~ "Hip Shakin' Blues"

June 19: The Country Players ~ The Wizard of Oz Preview

June 26: Community Drum Circle

July 3: Light Amber Brass Ensemble ~ "A Patriotic Celebration"

July 10: Jeff Brewer ~ Folk and Jazz Singer/Songwriter

July 17: Staphanie Marshall ~ Country Music

July 24: Eric Goodchild ~ Bagpiper

July 31: Western New England Double Bass Society ~ "Big Strings Attached"

August 7: Barry Higgins ~ Native American Flutes

August 14: Denise Gendron ~ Folk singer with Guitar and Cello

More info? Contact Steve at damons_of_gill@yahoo.com.

Thank you Gill Cultural Council for funding this concert series!



Subscriptions

Know anyone no longer in town who would like to receive the Gill Newsletter? For \$7.00 per annum, we will mail out six issues. Please send subscription name, address, and a check payable to the 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:

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