



THE

Gill Newsletter

October 2007 Issue

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Town Hall News

Eight Weeks and Counting!

At the time of this submission, I am in the midst of my eighth week on the job as Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard. It has been quite an adventure getting up to speed on Gill's issues, not the least of which has been the struggle to settle a school budget. I am enjoying my time here and learning a tremendous amount; never a dull moment in Town Hall!

I am very open to listening to residents any time about anything. My office hours are Monday 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM and Tuesday – Friday 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Call (863-9347), e-mail (administrator@gillmass.org), write (325 Main Rd, Gill, MA 01354), or just stop in to share whatever's on your mind.

I must admit that I've grown accustomed to the online generation. I intend to keep the town's website (www.gillmass.org) up to date and keep expanding it to make it more useful to residents and visitors. Please let me know if there's something you don't see that you'd like to.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone at Town Hall and those on the boards and committees I have met for making my introduction to Gill a welcome one. People have been kind, understanding, and extremely helpful. Thank you!

School Budget

On August 28, the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee agreed to accept the budget voted on by residents of both towns at the July 31 meeting at Turners Falls High School. The Selectboard is now considering how that vote will impact the town's fiscal 2008 budget. It will require an override vote, but at this time, we are not sure for how much.

Part of their consideration is how the revaluation of properties currently being conducted by Mayflower will change the assessment on residents' homes. Mayflower expects to be finished soon and then the Department of Revenue must certify the assessments as accurate. We expect this certification to come through by mid-October.

Once the assessments are certified, the Board of Assessors will share the new values with the public. The Selectboard is keenly aware that it



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



would be of no use to hold override votes if people don't know what their newly assessed values are. So, once people have had a chance to see those values, a special town meeting will be scheduled to ratify the School Committee's vote and to discuss the override. We anticipate the meeting will be scheduled for late October and an override vote will be scheduled for early November. Stay tuned!

Main Road Update

F & J Construction is planning to begin paving Main Road on Monday, September 17 between Gill Center Road in Northfield and Boyle Road in Gill. This is one of the final pieces of work necessary on the road—there is light at the end of the tunnel! It's difficult to predict how long the job will take them, given that weather is a consideration. So, until further notice, unless you are visiting a local business or residence along that stretch of road, please avoid travel along it as much as possible to ensure the job is completed as quickly as possible.

The office of the Collector/Treasurer will be closed from September 24th thru the 28th and will reopen on October 1st.

Gill Cultural Council applications are due by October 15th. Applications can be picked up at

the Town Hall or downloaded from www.massculturalcouncil.org.

Due to recollection of Real Estate data, the Tax Collector anticipates a delay in mailing out the 2008 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills. The Town would appreciate homeowners prepaying their taxes based on 2007 figures. Any questions, please call the Tax Collector's office at 863-2105 or the Assessor's office at 863-0138.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rogers
Administrative Assistant

Gill Fire Department

National Fire Prevention Week: October 7-13

Did you know that many families have fire escape plans, but most never practice them? Plan ahead, then practice. Where will you meet if your family must evacuate your home in case of fire? Do your children know when and how to call for help? Do you know how to operate a fire extinguisher? October 7-13 is National Fire Prevention Week. This is a great time to review your family's plans in case of fire or other emergencies. During this important week, students in the Gill Elementary School and local preschools will participate in fire safety activities with members of the Gill Fire Department. A Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.)

grant from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services will fund this year's activities for children, which include pamphlets and other handouts, educational videos, "hands-on" training, and S.A.F.E. T-shirts for participants. Please take the time to read the safety pamphlets with your children. Most of this vital safety information pertains to adults, too.

Annual Halloween Party

The Gill Firemen's Association will hold its annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 28, from 1:00 PM until 2:30 PM, at the Gill Fire Station. School-age children from Gill are invited to show their costumes and participate in games and fun activities hosted by the Town's firefighters. Prizes and treats are available for all participants.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

According to a recent poll by the National Fire Protection Agency, nearly all American homes (96%) have at least one smoke detector. Will your smoke detector work if you need it? Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 4. This is traditionally a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Remember, early warning systems save lives, and they should work properly before the heating season. Please call the fire station at 863-8955 if you have questions about smoke alarms or



carbon monoxide detectors. See the flyer on page 11 for more on the dangers of carbon monoxide.

Seasonal Chimney Maintenance

Keep your house safe this winter while you keep warm. Most chimney fires result from a build-up of creosote, an extremely flammable tar-like substance. All wood-burning chimneys collect creosote, which is caused by the incomplete combustion of wood in the stove or fireplace. Other causes of chimney fires include faulty installation and poor maintenance. Chimneys need frequent inspection. Call a certified chimney sweep to check for obstructions (like bird nests or leaves), crumbling mortar, damaged flashing, broken tiles or liner, cracks or holes, or corrosion in metal chimneys. The chimney sweep will advise you how to make your chimney safe. Call the Gill Fire Department at 863-8955 if you would like more information about chimney fires.

Kitchen Fire Safety

Kitchens are the leading area of origin for home structure fires (38%) and civilian home fire injuries (35%). Always give cooking your full attention; never leave the kitchen when cooking on the stove. Keep the stovetop neat and clean. Establish a “kid-free zone” for safety around the stove. Have a fire extinguisher available and know how to fight grease, oven, and microwave fires. Source: Home Structure Fires report by the NFPA, February 2007.

FRIENDS OF GILL

The **15th Annual Gill Arts and Crafts Festival** will be held at the Old Riverside School on Route 2 on **Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14**. Visitors will be amazed by the variety of fine crafts by regional artists, technical demonstrations, music entertainment, food concessions, and hands-on activities for children. Browse through hundreds of hand-crafted gifts and specialty items, including fine and folk art, pottery, quilts, wood and metal work, fiber art, photography, fused glass, and fleece wear. Join featured artisans in the demonstration tent for weaving, drop spinning, carding, rug hooking, and other fiber arts. Explore the produce wagons that reflect Gill’s rich agricultural history with local produce, apple cider, maple syrup, honey, jellies and jams, apple pies, and dried floral arrangements. Gather under the music tent for sounds of Celtic songs and folk music. Make your own beeswax candles, print your own greeting cards, or even make your own knitting needles. The Arts and Crafts Festival is a weekend of fun for the entire family!

MUSIC

Saturday	11:00 - 1:00	George McLaughlin, Violinist
	1:00 – 3:00	Corner Boys, Celtic music
Sunday	11:00 – 2:00	Jeff Martell, Guitarist
	2:00 – 3:00	Steve and Joyanna Dean, Trumpeters

ANTIQUES APPRAISALS

Sunday	12:30 – 2:30	\$5.00 first item, \$2.00 per item after, limit: 3 items
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WORKSHOPS

Sunday	11:00 – 12:00	Drop spindle spinning
	2:00 – 3:00	Drop spindle spinning

DRAWINGS

Sunday	3:00	Drawing of Gill Scholarship Raffle
Sunday	3:30	Drawing of Brick House Silent Auction

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following contributors to the Friends of Gill and to the Gill Arts and Crafts Festival: A-I Enterprises, Country Oil, Foster’s Super Market, In Stitches, Jan’s Package Store, Kuzmeskus, Northfield Mountain, Oak Ridge Golf Course, Renaissance Builders, Verona Press and Wagon Wheel.



Trash and Recycling Collection

Trash and recycling must be placed curbside by 7 AM. Duseau Trucking picks up both trash and recycling on Friday mornings. If bad weather is an issue, postponement or delays will be broadcast on radio stations WHAI and WHMP, or on Channel 22 and Channel 40 television stations and on their website at www.duseautrucking.com.

Please be sure to place a trash sticker on every bag. Make sure it is a Gill trash sticker--not a Montague sticker. And please place the sticker on the bag--not on the barrel.

Trash stickers are available 24/7 at the Gill Mobil Station and Monday – Friday 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM at the Town Hall.

If there is a problem with your rubbish or recycling pickup, please call Duseau directly at (413) 773-5712 as soon as possible. If you do not get satisfaction or feel further discussion is warranted, please call the Selectboard office at 863-9347 and we'll be glad to assist.

Gill residents may also use the Greenfield transfer station for a \$5 per day user fee. This is a flat rate for multiple trips in one day. There is also a per item charge for some items. For more information, go to www.gillmass.org/services.html and look for the information on Trash and Recycling, or call the office and we'll send you the information.


HOLIDAY PICKUP ~ During the following Holiday weeks, BOTH trash and recycling pick up moves ahead one day to Saturday, when and only when the holiday falls on a weekday, Monday through Friday.



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Senior Real Estate Specialist

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Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
REALTOR®

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

<p>New Year's Day Memorial Day July 4th</p>	<p>Labor Day Thanksgiving Christmas</p>
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Annual Bulky Waste Collection

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its “Clean Sweep” bulky waste collection on Saturday, October 13th from 9 AM to 1 PM. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South, the Northfield Highway Garage, and the Whately Transfer Station.

District residents may bring a wide range of items that are typically difficult to get rid of such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. District residents are from the towns of Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell and Whately.

Residents do not need to pre-register for the collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees will be collected from residents during check-in at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items is available at local town halls, town transfer stations, and the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield. Information is also available on-line at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. Businesses may participate. For more information call the District office at 413-772-2438, or email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Gill Montague Education Fund

Gill-Montague Education Fund Offers ‘Tribute Gifts’

Are you looking for a gift for that special someone, the hard to buy for, or the person who has everything? A new “Tribute Gift” to the Gill-Montague Education Fund could be just the right gift.

By making a tax-deductible donation to the GMEF, a

non-profit organization established in 1996 by the parents and citizens of the towns of Gill and Montague to support district schools, donors recognize special events and honors. The GMEF will send a note of appreciation, including your personal tribute message, to the honoree.

Has your son or daughter reached a key milestone, celebrated a success, or completed their education in the Gill-Montague Regional School District? You may want to consider making a special tax-deductible donation to the GMEF to honor a teacher, staff member or volunteer who has made a significant contribution to your child’s educational experience. Persons may also make memorial gifts to the GMEF.

Whatever the occasion, whatever the reason, your gift will be doubly appreciated: first by the recipient of the honor and second by the students of the school district who will benefit from the enrichment opportunities funded by the GMEF.

To make a gift in honor or in memory of someone, send donations to GMEF, PO Box 383, Turners Falls, MA 01376, attention Sandra Miner. Include the name of the person you are acknowledging, your message, and the name and address to which the note of appreciation should be sent.

Forms for the Tribute Gifts can be found at www.thegmef.org.



Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the 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.

The Commission is looking forward to opening the Gill Museum on Saturday and Sunday of the Gill Craft Fair. The Museum offers a variety of exhibits including dinosaur foot prints, family history folders, school pictures, vintage clothing, farm tools, and household items. This year, an exhibit honoring volunteers in the town

will feature Gill firefighters; this photographic display will be seen for the first time on the 13th and 14th of October in the Museum.

Last spring Bob Perry presented his one-man show on river logging to the elementary children in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2. Bob will repeat his informative show on Saturday and Sunday of the Craft Fair from 10:30 to 12 noon. Come find out about a logger's breakfast of stove lids, blackstrap, logger berries, and jerk water. All are welcome but young children should be accompanied by an adult.

Slate Library News



Slate Library is happy to announce that **Story Hour** is up and running! Parents and children can gather on the big rug and hear stories, enjoy a healthy snack, and engage in a hands-on art project. Slate librarians, Jocelyn Castro-Santos and Kim Sprankle, host the program. We have an exciting series lined up for autumn. Come listen to stories about apples, leaves, pumpkins, and shivery spooks!

Kim will also be hosting her very popular knitting group on the first and third Thursday of each month. This group encompasses a range of knitters from experienced to absolute beginners. We have many exciting new knitting titles at the library to provide inspiration and ideas. Check out "Knitting Simple Sweaters from Luxurious Yarns" by Marilyn Cohen or "Hand knits for Kids" by British knitwear designer, Lucinda Guy. The group starts at 7 pm and welcomes knitters, crocheters, and anyone else who would like to join.

Many new books have just arrived in time for curling up in a chair during the autumn months. Young adults may be interested in *Love, Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli, the just published sequel to his popular novel *Stargirl*.



Other titles include the *Septimus Heap* series by Angie Sage, *The Land of Silver Apples* by Nancy Farmer and *Eulalia* by Brian Jacques. Some new titles for adults include, *On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan, *Peony in Love* by Lisa See, and *The River Wife* by Jonas Agee.

There are lots of lovely new illustrated picture books to read to your little ones as well. Please stop by and visit for a complete list and to find out more about programs at Slate library.

Slate library is open Monday 2-6 PM, Thursday 2-8 PM, and Saturday from 10 AM – 2 PM.

Hometown Students

College Graduates

Jennifer Stone graduated from Northeastern University's School of Arts and Sciences with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology.

Jennifer Bruno and Michele Newton graduated from Westfield State College this year. Jennifer earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business management and Michelle earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communication.

Wesley Becklo earned a bachelor's degree in theater, cum laude, from Saint Michael's College.

Kelly Augustine, Grace Harris & Dana Parsons graduated from Greenfield Community College in June.

Dean's List

Jennifer Stone was named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Northeastern University in Boston. Kellie Brown was also named to the dean's list at American International College.

Turners Falls High School Graduation

We are proud to announce that Benjamin Garber was Valedictorian of the TFHS Class of 2007. Graduating from Gill with Ben were Elizabeth Giknis, Chelsea Isles, Jacob Prevett, Ashleigh St. Peter, & Haley Trenholm.

TFHS Awards Night

Scholarships presented to Gill students at the Senior Awards Night were Montague Elks Scholarship: Haley Trenholm; Eleanor Dorrance Memorial: Benjamin Garber & Haley Trenholm; Royer Collins Student Athlete: Benjamin Garber; Friends of Gill, Chelsea Isles & Haley Trenholm; Gill's Firemen's Association: Chelsea Isles; Sam Walton Scholarship: Benjamin Garber.

Awards presented were the Joseph J. Sheff Memorial Award: Ashleigh St. Peter (basketball); Band Boosters Appreciation Awards: Benjamin Garber, Elizabeth Giknis, & Chelsea Isles; Most Valuable Players: Ashleigh St. Peter for basketball and softball; Gill-Montague Education Association: Elizabeth Giknis; Excellence in Business Education: Haley Trenholm; Miss Alice Teed Award: Benjamin Garber; Academic Excellence in Science: Haley Trenholm; Academic Excellence in Social Studies: Benjamin Garber; Superior Achievement in AP Calculus: Benjamin Garber; Service Awards: Haley Trenholm; President's Awards for Academic Excellence: Benjamin Garber, Elizabeth Giknis, & Haley Trenholm; President's Award for Academic Achievement: Ashleigh St. Peter; Scholastic Merit Awards: Benjamin Garber & Haley Trenholm; Valedictorian Scholarship: Benjamin Garber; GCC Articulation Certificate: Haley Trenholm; Outstanding Achievement in Theater: Chelsea Isles; U.S. Army Reserve "National Scholar/Athlete Award": Benjamin Garber; U.S. Marine Corps "Distinguished Athlete Award": Ashleigh St. Peter, and the U.S. Marine Corps "Scholastic Excellence Award": Benjamin Garber.

Benjamin Garber also received a 2007 McDonald's McScholar Athlete Award for



exemplary athletic and academic achievements, strong leadership, good citizenship and high levels of integrity and a Big Y scholarship for academic excellence.

Pioneer Valley Regional School Graduation

Maxwell Fish & Johanna Johnson graduated from Pioneer Regional High School and received awards as follows: Max received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship and the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation Scholarship. Johanna received the Pioneer Valley Regional School Scholarship.

Northfield Mt. Hermon School Graduation

Elijah Pack, Grace Booth and Ashley Storrow graduated from Northfield Mt. Hermon School this June. Grace Booth received the Dr. Marvin Thomas Blanket Award, & the Mehrkens

Religious Studies Award. Ashley Storrow received the Piscuskas Day Student Prize.

Honor Roll June 2007

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

First honors: Benjamin Garber, Ashleigh St. Peter, & Haley Trenholm

Third honors: Elizabeth Giknis

Grade 11

First honors: Abbey Daniel-Green, Amanda Golembeski, Molly Perry, & Alexander Tufano

Third honors: Zachary Little & Chelseigh St. Peter

Grade 10

Second honors: Allison Giknis, Amber Henry, & Joseph Rinaldi III

Third honors: Eric Dumas, Jodi Hallett, & Angela Marguet

Grade 9

First honors: Kathleen Rinaldi & Sarah Underwood

Second honors: Danielle Dolhenty & Matthew Garber

Third honors: Scott Brown & Mackae Freeland

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First honors: Makalya Dolhenty, Brooke Hastings, Julie Howard-Thompson, Jack Hubert, Joseph LaFleur, & Andrew Turban.

Third honors: Rachel Arial and Natasha Vaughn.

Grade 7

First honors: Jane Booth, Christopher Gordon, Lily Kane, Malik Odeh, & Todd Richardson

Second honors: Colton Hallett & Samantha Shaw

Pioneer Valley Regional High School

Grade 9

Honor: Nicholas Duska



Grade 8

Highest honor: Patrick Arena & Savannah Yates

Grade 7

High honors: Mary Duska & Chad Galipault

Turners Falls High School Awards

English: Indomitable Scholarship in Honors English 10: Allison Giknis; For Diligence & Excellence in Humanities: Katie Rinaldi.

History: Outstanding Academic Performance in Advanced Placement Psychology: Molly Perry; Academic Excellence in U.S. History II: Zach Little; Academic Enthusiasm in U.S. History I: Joey Rinaldi; Academic Excellence in Advanced Placement U.S. History: Molly Perry.

Music: Excellence in Band: Sarah Underwood; Excellence in Choir: Abbey Daniel-Green, & Zach Little.

Science: Academic Excellence in Botanicals: Zach Little; Excellence in Biology: Scott Brown; Academic Excellence in Physics: Molly Perry; Academic Excellence in Introduction to Physical Sciences: Eric Dumas.

Technology Education: Excellence in Technology Education I: Sarah Underwood; Excellence in Manufacturing/

Woodworking: Jake Field & Joey Rinaldi; Excellence in Video Arts: Danielle Dolhenty

World Language: Academic Excellence in French II: Katie Rinaldi.

Great Falls Middle School Awards

Grade 8 Awards

Social Studies: Academic Leadership: Joseph Lafleur.

Science: Academic Leadership: Jack Hubert; Achievement: Julie Howard-Thompson; & Excellence: Andrew Turban.

Health: Brooke Hastings

Math Application: Joseph Lafleur

Physical Education: Andrew Turban

Writing Awards: Natasha Vaughn
Most Improved Academics: Emily Robertson

Perfect Attendance: Jack Hubert

Citizenship: Brooke Hastings

Grade 7 Awards

Science: Excellence: Christopher Gordon

Math: Achievement: Todd Richardson

Family Consumer: Jane Booth

Physical Education: Matthew Gibson

Writing Awards: Malik Odeh, Jane Booth, & Lily Kane

Reading Awards: Lily Kane, Todd Richardson, & Jane Booth

Academic Achievement: Jane Booth

Community Council Service: Jack Hubert

Franklin County Fair Youth Awards

If you're looking for some delicious cookies and don't have the time maybe Malcolm Crosby with bake them for you. He took third place in the Fair's 6 drop cookies contest. Malcolm also took a third in Youth Eggs, brown chicken, and first place in 2 pumpkins. Celia Bales won third place for Youth Vegetables, 5 potatoes, and Whitney Urgiel took third place in Youth Cattle, Jersey intermediate heifer calf.

Summer Sports

Erika Loomer's West volleyball team took the gold for the second year in a row at the Bay State Games. Zach French played in the Bay State Games on the West's soccer team.

Ashleigh St. Peter was chosen to the Sunday Republican Spring 2007 All-Scholastic Division III softball team.

The Turners Falls High School girl's softball team was one game shy of taking the Division III State Championship this year. Ashleigh St. Peter, Haley Trenholm, Angela Marguet,



Chelseigh St. Peter, and Jodie Hallet played their hearts out all season. We are proud of how they played the game and their good sportsmanship.

T.J. Meyer was a major contributor to the 12 & under Turners Falls Cal Ripken team this season. On one weekend playing three games T.J. had 5 homeruns, 3 in one game, and a total of 10 runs batted in. We'll be watching him at Great Falls Middle School in the spring.

Scott Brown has been running this summer and took second place in the 2 mile Montague Mini-Mug Race in August.

Tom Field, Eric Dumas, Tony DeNofrio, and Jake Field played for the Western Mass Knights basketball team this summer. They, along with most of their opposing players, will join their high school teams for the 2007-2008 basketball season.

Fall sports have started and Gill students are active again this year. They can use your support, so take some time, relax, and head to their sporting events at Pioneer, NMH, Tech School, GFMS & TFHS.

Gill Recreation Commission

Here we are again preparing for the cold and saying goodbye to another summer that has gone by too fast. I would like to start with a thank you to Pat Shilo, Lori Rinaldi and Heather Lawton for all their hard work running the summer program this year. There were many improvements to the program and there are many ideas on how to make this program better for next summer. We are very happy to be able to offer a low cost program for local families and we are hoping for more families to take advantage of this next year. We are always looking for new ideas that will help better this program.



With the colder weather comes the soccer season. We are very happy to have Steve

Striebel back again this year volunteering his time, sharing his knowledge and love of soccer and making sure that the program is enjoyed by all. Thank you Steve for all your time and energy, it is appreciated by all. Once again this year we will practice on the lower soccer fields at Northfield Mount Hermon on Saturday mornings and some evenings (TBD). We would like to thank Tom Pratt & Rafaela Calicchio

for the use of these fields. We are very pleased to have some wonderful volunteers again this year that have stepped up to coach. Included are Jim Burnstein, with assistance from the NMH varsity soccer team, coaching pre-k – 1st graders, Mark Almeida & Nathan Duda coaching 2nd – 4th grade coed, Pat Garland and David Dowdy coaching 2nd – 4th grade coed and Brian Bodell coaching 5th – 6th grade coed. If you are interested in volunteering some time or if you have a child who would like to play, stop by the lower fields at NMH any Saturday morning 9 AM to 10:30 AM or contact Nathan Duda at 522-3209.

News from The Brick House

The Brick House Community Resource Center will have quality art and craft items from their Silent Art Auction available for viewing and bidding during the Gill Arts and Crafts Festival. Items will be auctioned off at the end of the festival and the funds raised will be used in support of the community based programming offered by the Brick House.



Exposing an Invisible Killer

A Factsheet on the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Each year in America, unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning claims more than 500 lives and sends another 15,200 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.¹

The U. S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISK

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

WHERE DOES CARBON MONOXIDE COME FROM?

CO gas can come from several sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood-burning furnaces or fireplaces and motor vehicles.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Medical experts believe that unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems are at even greater risk for CO poisoning.

WHAT ACTIONS DO I TAKE IF MY CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM GOES OFF?

What you need to do if your carbon monoxide alarm goes off depends on whether anyone is feeling ill or not.

IF NO ONE IS FEELING ILL:

1. Silence the alarm.
2. Turn off all appliances and sources of combustion (i.e. furnace and fireplace).
3. Ventilate the house with fresh air by opening doors and windows.
4. Call a qualified professional to investigate the source of the possible CO buildup.

IF ILLNESS IS A FACTOR:

1. Evacuate all occupants immediately.
2. Determine how many occupants are ill and determine their symptoms.
3. Call your local emergency number and when relaying information to the dispatcher, include the number of people feeling ill.
4. Do not re-enter the home without the approval of a fire department representative.
5. Call a qualified professional to repair the source of the CO.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM CO POISONING

- Install at least one UL (Underwriters Laboratories) listed carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed to sound an alarm before an average, healthy

adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.

- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage.
- Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO.
- When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.

¹ Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For more information contact:

The U. S. Fire Administration
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
or
Visit the USFA Web site:
www.usfa.fema.gov



Homeland Security



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

November 15th for the December Issue

Gill Fire Dept.
196A Main Road
Gill, MA 01354

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TURNERS FALLS, MA
PERMIT NO. 173
ZIP CODE 01376

RR CUSTOMER

RURAL ROUTE

GILL, MA 01354