



THE

Gill Newsletter

October 2008 Issue

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Town Hall News

Website Updates

I've been working to revamp the town's website (www.gillmass.org) lately and I'm looking for new content. During the month of August the site had 503 new visitors and 332 returning! I've added some local businesses, so please let me know if I left yours out. I'd also like to include a list of local authors, artists, musicians and more pictures of your beautiful farms and gardens. Please contact me if you have any information you'd like me to include on the site, or any ideas for sprucing it up.

Broadcast Digital TV Transition Coming-February 17, 2009

As a result of congressional action, full-power over-the-air broadcast stations such as ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and PBS will convert to all-digital broadcasting effective February 17, 2009. The switch from analog to digital broadcast television, referred to as the Broadcast Digital Television (DTV) Transition, is designed to free up a large portion of the valuable spectrum that broadcasters have used for transmissions in "analog" format so it can be used for public safety communications and advanced wireless services.

For consumers who have analog TV sets that receive over-the-air broadcast stations using a rooftop, or "rabbit ears" antenna, knowing what kind of TV set you own is very important. A "digital television receiver" (i.e., one with an internal digital tuner) will allow you to continue to watch free over-the-air programming using rabbit ears or a rooftop antenna after February 17, 2009. However, if you have an analog television you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue to watch broadcast TV stations on that set.

To help consumers with the DTV Transition, the Federal Government established the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program. Every U.S. household is eligible to apply for up to two coupons, worth \$40

each, toward the purchase of eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes. For more information on the coupon program, visit the NTIA's website at www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). Coupons will no longer be distributed after March 31, 2009 and will no longer be accepted after July 1, 2009.

There are many sources of information about the digital transition including the federal government's website www.dtv.gov and the Broadcast Digital Television Coalition's website www.DTVtransition.org.

September 17 Intradistrict Meeting

Thank you to all who attended the intradistrict school meeting on September 17. Gill had a fairly good showing of 96 voters.

The evening began with a proposal from the Gill Montague Regional School District to maintain the 1/12 budget the Commissioner of Education set, with the caveat that the towns' assessments would not rise above a certain level. This level would have created the need for a \$189,325 override in Gill (or serious cuts to services) and would have forced Montague to also hold an override vote or to dip into its reserves. That proposal was defeated by a 4 to 1 margin.



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



The second proposal put before voters was one endorsed by the Select boards and Finance Committees in both Gill and Montague. The figure proposed followed the state's logic for funding the district. Since the state provided the district with a 0.9% increase, the towns should only be asked to provide that much as well. It would have meant a \$141,193 override or cuts to services in Gill. This proposal failed by only one vote, 114 to 113.

The third, and final proposal for the evening, was one that required no override or cuts to services in Gill and no override or use of reserves in Montague. However, it was a figure less than what the district received last year. This proposal failed by a large margin.

At 10:00 PM, Montague Moderator Ray Godin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and was obliged. The School Committee now must reconsider its proposal and call another intradistrict meeting to vote on it.

If the two towns and School Committee cannot agree on a budget by December 1, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will "step in." We're not sure what that means exactly. Even DESE isn't sure what it means because they have never had to implement the regulation. Town officials are concerned that it means the towns will be committed to the 1/12 budget that DESE set in the first place, which, as I mentioned above, means a \$189,325 override for Gill.

We expect the School Committee to schedule the next intradistrict meeting within the next few weeks. Please read the papers and look for notices and signs around town informing you of the date and time. And please attend!

GILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM
in the Riverside Municipal Building
on Route 2, is open
Thursdays from 4 PM to 7 PM.

From the Town Clerk

New Chapter 61/61A Land Values

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue has established new methods for valuing land enrolled in Chapter 61 and certain categories of land enrolled in Chapter 61A. Beginning this tax year, Fiscal Year 2009, land covered by the DOR's changes will be valued at \$173 per acre. Previously, chapter land values were set at 5% of fair market value. Each parcel of chapter land will be affected differently by these changes. The new values will appear on the Actual tax bills which will be mailed later this year. Anyone with questions should contact the assessors at 863-0138 or assessors@gillmass.org

Personal Property

The Assessor's Office is currently working on the final phase of the recollection of data by visiting Gill businesses to make a thorough and accurate listing of all personal property in Gill. This also includes all furnishings in second homes. Representatives from Mayflower Valuation Ltd., who will be carrying photo identification, are conducting the visits.

Property Record Cards Available Online

The assessors wish to remind everyone that all property record cards are now online and can be viewed through a link on the Town of Gill's website, www.gillmass.org. As part of this opportunity, there is an option to have a photograph associated with each card. We mention this so that you will know what is happening if you see someone from the Assessor's Office out with a camera. A photo has nothing to do with valuation; it only makes our records more complete and useful. When we are in the office, it is very helpful to be able to visualize the homes and properties we are discussing. As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words."

Invitation To Bid

The town of Gill will accept sealed bids for the sale of a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruiser until October 27th 2008 at 4 PM in the Selectmen's office, Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, MA. The vehicle's mileage is approximately 85,000. The vehicle may be seen at the Gill Highway Department by calling (413) 625-8200 to schedule an appointment.

New Hours at Town Hall

In order to conserve energy, the Town Hall is now closed on Fridays. Office hours are as follows:

- **Collector/Treasurer:**
Mon 9 AM-6:30 PM,
Tue-Thu 9 AM-4:30 PM
- **Selectboard:**
Mon 9 AM-6:30 PM,
Tue-Thu 9 AM-4:30 PM
- **Assessors' Clerk:**
Mon-Thu 9:30 AM-12:30 PM
- **Town Clerk:**
Mon-Thu 1-4 PM

Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard

Gill Arts and Crafts Festival

Gill residents should make a note to attend the 16th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival on October 18th and 19th at the old Riverside School on route 2 (54 French King Highway). There you will be able to browse through booths of fine arts and crafts and choose from among hundreds of distinctive hand-crafted items. Meet and talk with the artists. Join featured artists at demonstrations and hands-on activities for both adults and children. Explore the produce wagons that reflect Gill's rich agricultural history with local produce, apple cider, honey, jams, spice mixes,



and cheeses. Enjoy the fall foliage at its height, the crafts, the food, and the fun.

Gather around the music tent for a varied selection of Celtic and folk music; on Saturday from 2 to 4 PM, the Fall Town String Band; on Sunday from 12 to 2 PM, Jeff Martell; and from 2 to 4 PM, TJ Ezold of the Corner Boys.

Antiques appraisals will be available on Saturday from 11 AM to 2:00 PM. Bring up to three items for appraisal: \$10 for the first item and \$5 for the second and third.

Susan LaScala will be available at a time to be announced to sign copies of her beautifully written book, *Small Wonder*, the fascinating story of the miraculous survival of her premature baby girl weighing one pound and nine ounces at birth.

Eight Gill farms will be represented at the Fair. Among those, Daniel Botkin of the Laughing Dog Farm will be present on Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Daniel is a long time organic farmer and permaculture advocate in Gill who believes that the most truly local food originates in one's own backyard. He teaches workshops on organic methods, goat husbandry, hoophouse design, winter farming, heirloom seeds, and seed saving. He sells gourmet vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers at the Greenfield Farmers Market. Join him for a spirited discussion about raising your own organic food.

The Historical Commission is planning some new exhibits including items from the Clesson and Ruth (Cook) Blake estate.

Walt Congdon, a retired NMH science teacher, will be available for information about alternative energy. Walt's home in Northfield is powered almost entirely by solar panels and windmills.

The members of Boy Scout Troop 6 will be present to help in setting up and assisting crafters. They will also be sponsoring a raffle for camping equipment and taking orders for popcorn and Christmas wreaths.

NAME THE TRUCK CONTEST!

Sponsored by the Friends of Gill



Every truck worth its wheels needs a name, right? This November Gill's Highway Department will receive its brand new single-axle, 6-wheel International™ dump truck with plow and sander. We'd like you to help give it a name. The chosen name will be painted on the truck along with "Town of Gill" and the town's seal.

Submit your best suggestion for the new truck's name. If your suggestion is judged to be the best by our panel of expert judges (Gill's Selectboard) you win a \$50 gift certificate to a business of your choice located in the town of Gill (prize provided by the Friends of Gill).

Entry forms are available at the Town Hall, or on the town website at www.gillmass.org/events. Deadline for entries is October 22nd 5 PM. Contest is open to persons of any age, but Gill residents only.

Contest Rules:

1. No purchase is necessary.
2. Only Gill residents may enter.
3. Selectboard members are not eligible to enter.
4. Contest ends and judging will take place on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 5 PM. The decision of the judges is final.
5. Prize must be claimed at Town Hall by December 1, 2008, or will be forfeited and will not be re-awarded.
6. Prize may not be used for purchase of alcohol.
7. In the case of multiple entries of the same winning name, a random drawing will determine the winner.
8. All entries remain the property of the Town of Gill.



The Gill Firemen’s Association will be selling the usual picnic entrees with an expanded menu including Firehouse Chili and fried dough as well as their famous fresh-cut French fries. Proceeds benefit the Gill Fire Department. Eat well and feel good about it.

Don’t forget desert. Support the Gill PTO by choosing from a variety of baked goods. The Friends of Gill will be offering their fresh-baked apple pies sold by the pie or the slice. Come early because they sell out quickly.

The Arts and Crafts Festival is open on both days from 10 AM to 4 PM, rain or shine. Plan to join us for this exciting event.

Gill Fire Department

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 5-11 is National Fire Prevention 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 funds 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.

National Fire Prevention Week is a great time to review your family’s plans in case of fire or other emergencies. Please take the time to read the safety pamphlets with your children. Most of this vital safety information pertains to adults, too. Fire Prevention Week is also a good time to check the batteries in your smoke alarms. Be sure to check carbon monoxide detectors as well. 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.

CHIMNEY FIRES

Many Gill families heat their homes with wood and they should be aware of potential chimney fires. Most chimney fires occur because of a build-up of creosote, a tarry by-product of burning wood. Have your chimney flue cleaned before each heating season. You should burn only dry, well-seasoned hardwood to reduce the accumulation of creosote. Don’t use flammable liquids to start a fire. Never leave children unattended near the stove. Check that the damper is open before lighting the fire. A closed damper will result in an accumulation of smoke and carbon monoxide in the home, so do not close the damper until the fire is out and the embers are cold. Use a fireplace screen to prevent flying sparks and embers from falling out on to the floor. Install and maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms to provide protection for your family.



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TIPS FOR THE SAFE USE OF WOOD, COAL, AND PELLET STOVES

Before you purchase a wood or coal heating stove, make sure that it has approval from Underwriter's Laboratories Inc. or another recognized independent testing lab. A building permit must be obtained prior to the installation of fireplaces, fireplace inserts, wood, coal, or pellet burning stoves and the installation must be inspected by the local building inspector prior to its initial use as required by the Massachusetts State Building Code. Allow at least 36 inches of clearance around the appliance to prevent combustibles from coming into contact with heat sources. Solid fuel heating appliances cannot share a common flue with chimney flues utilized by other solid, fossil, or gas fired appliances. A qualified mason should inspect the chimney and flue before the stove is used. Cracks in the flue or mortar joints can allow flames and heated gases to extend into the structure.

PREVENT FIRES FROM IMPROPERLY DISPOSED ASHES

Ashes that are cleaned out from the stove or fireplace should be shoveled into a metal bucket with a metal lid and placed outside on the ground away from the building. There have been many recent fires from ashes stored underneath a deck or porch or inside the garage or from ashes stored in cardboard boxes. A live ember can continue to smolder unnoticed for quite some time.

HEATING SYSTEMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE

Heating systems are the primary source of carbon monoxide in homes. Install smoke alarms to warn of a fire, but also have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in the home to warn of deadly

fumes from a faulty furnace, fireplace and oven flue, or other venting problem. Both types of residential alarms are required by law in Massachusetts.

FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: FRUGAL GOURMETS

It has been known locally for some time that the Gill Firemen's Association serves the best natural potato fries in the County. Once again, members of the public have an opportunity to satisfy their appetites at the Gill Firemen's Association food booth during the Gill Fall Arts and Crafts Festival on October 18 and 19 at the Old Riverside School on Route 2. Association members will be selling hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hotdogs, chili, American chop suey, soda, coffee, and of course, those famous French fries.

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Gill Firemen's Association will hold its annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 26, from 1 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 firefighters. Prizes and treats are available for all participants.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AT GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tuesday, October 7

kindergarten: "Stop, Drop, and Roll"
grades 1 and 2: "Learn Not to Burn"
grades 3 and 4: "Exit Drills in the Home"

Wednesday, October 8

grade 6: "Fire Extinguishers and Fire Safety" at the Fire Station
grade 5: "Fire Safety Education" at the Fire Station

News from Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

New at Gill Town Hall: Fluorescent Bulb Recycling

Have you switched all or some of the light bulbs in your home to the new energy-saving spiral bulbs, also known as compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)? Great job! But you are not done yet. What are you going to do with that bulb when it burns out? Fluorescent light bulbs, including CFLs, should never be thrown in the trash because they contain mercury vapor. As of May 1, 2008 the DEP's Mercury Management Act "prohibits any person, household, business, school, healthcare facility or state or municipal government from knowingly disposing of a mercury-added product." Straight fluorescent lamps with a "green-cap" claim to have low mercury content, but these lamps should also be recycled under the new mercury management law.

The good news is that it is easier than ever to dispose of fluorescent light bulbs. The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District has added 10 drop off sites to its fluorescent lamp recycling program; recycling is now available at all transfer stations and some town halls within the District. To assist residents in properly disposing of fluorescent bulbs, the Gill town hall now has collection boxes. The fee for disposing of a compact, U-tube, or circle bulb is 50¢ each; the fee for disposing of a straight bulb is 50¢ for a 4' lamp or \$1 for an 8' lamp.

Fluorescent light bulbs, or lamps, come in many shapes and sizes. Energy-saving compact fluorescents are now available in the traditional light bulb dome shape as well as twin tubes and the spiral twist bulb. Some other types of fluorescent bulbs are circular (circline) lamps, U-



tubes, and straight lamps, which can be found in any length from two to eight feet.

Exercise caution when handling these bulbs, because if they break, the mercury vapor in the bulb is released and can be harmful to your health. If a fluorescent bulb breaks, open a window to ventilate the room, and then leave the room for 10-15 minutes to allow the mercury vapor to dissipate. On returning to the room, use a broom, NOT a vacuum, to clean up the broken bulb. The broken pieces should be placed in the trash. Since the mercury has escaped, they are no longer hazardous waste. If you notice a white powder, this is phosphorous. It can be placed in the trash with the broken pieces.

You may be wondering if CFLs are worth the extra effort. The Energy Star website (www.energystar.gov) claims that “Energy Star qualified bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.” This energy conservation can translate into \$30 in electricity savings over each bulb’s lifetime. Since CFLs save energy, less energy is drawn from coal-burning power plants. As coal is burned, power plants emit mercury, which pollutes rivers and lakes and makes fish unsafe to eat. By reducing energy use, CFLs actually save mercury from being emitted by coal fired power plants. Fluorescent lamps do not release mercury unless they are broken.

District residents may still bring fluorescent lamps to the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day, scheduled for September 13 in Charlemont, Montague, and Orange, or to the District’s Regional Household Hazardous Waste Sites. These “Super Sites” are located at the transfer stations in Bernardston, Colrain, and Conway. For more information on the sites, including hours and accepted materials, see www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/supersites.html or call 413-772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)

Slate Library News

Slate Library hosted a successful summer reading program over the last few months. Over 50 Gill children and their families enjoyed a variety of programs relating to the theme “Wild Reads at Your Library”. Events ranged from a Birds of Prey show by Wingmasters of Springfield to a puppet show by Rosalita’s Puppets from Boston. All had lots of fun and all events were very well attended.

Slate Library is now gearing up for its autumn story hour. Story hour is held each Friday morning from 10–11AM. A morning filled with stories, a snack and an art project offers parents and caregivers in Gill a chance to come together and socialize while promoting early literacy skills. Some upcoming story hour themes will be Apples, Acorns and Squirrels, Colorful Leaves and Furry Friends. We hope we see you there!



Gill Elementary School

The year has gotten off to a good start at Gill Elementary School. We welcomed several new staff, including Betsy Burnham at Second Grade, Sue Smith at Third Grade, Kelly Gobeil at Kindergarten, Steve Damon at Music, Ron Wood at Physical Education and Michelle Gregory, our new Resource Room Teacher. I am also new in the position of Principal, having spent the past 15 years as a school psychologist in both the Mohawk Trail and Frontier Regional School Districts. Our enrollment is at 132 students and this includes many new students whose families have chosen to send their children here. The Gill Elementary School has a reputation as a close-knit community with high academic standards and I am glad to see that the new staff and students have been so warmly welcomed. Over the summer we had to make some changes to the building in order to incorporate all of the new students. I encourage anyone who is interested to give me a call at school, 863-3255, and I would love to show you around.

I also want to thank Chief Hastings and his officers who helped us deal with parking issues during the first days of school. Many of the new students are arriving by car and this brought logistical challenges. I also want to thank Gene Beaubien who helped us with our first fire drill of the year. We have spent the first few weeks making a map of our school and plotting out all of the fire protection that we have in place. Did you know that we have 10 fire extinguishers throughout the school and alarm boxes in every single room?

During the Gill Fall Arts and Crafts Festival, the Gill School PTO will have a booth where they will be selling fresh maple cotton candy, homemade pastries and breads, scones and other delectables. The proceeds go towards their efforts to buy new playground equipment. Hope to see you there.

*Rita Detweiler,
Principal at Gill Elementary School*

Gill 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; the Museum is open at advertised times as well as by appointment. The Commission continues to appreciate the memorabilia, stories, and photographs that many people share or donate in the interest of documenting and preserving 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.

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The Commission has been busy this summer with the transcription and annotation of the mid-nineteenth century diaries of Mary Jane Elnora (Williams) Bardwell, Abigail Whitcomb, Joseph B. Marble, Chandler S. Munn, Loring Hale, and Simon Cady Phillips.

The diaries covering the 1860's to the 1880's record the activities and personalities of their writers and together give a detailed picture of life in our agrarian community. Three of the accounts cover the year of 1873 and interconnect on some occasions. The Munn, Marble, and Hale diaries record farm work and life at the north end (Munn Road), the south end (River Road), and west side (West Gill Road). The "Jennie" Bardwell diary of 1876 is the companion to her 1873 diary, which was found at an auction, transcribed, and put on-line by John and Janet Maggs in Conway. Like many other



young women, Jennie boarded in Easthampton away from home and son, and worked in a button factory; her husband lived in Brattleboro and worked there and in Greenfield with railway freight. Simon Cady Phillips, living at the west end of South Cross Road, kept annual diaries, which have been preserved in the Blake estate. Phillips helped build the Gill Town Hall and was a selectman for a number of years. Married to Rossy Sophia (Ballard), Simon describes his carpentry work and social interactions with many Gill and Factory Hollow residents. When the transcribing, typing, and annotating is finished, the GHC will make the texts public so that the Gill community may better understand the way we were.

This excerpt from the Simon Cady Phillips 1868 diary illustrates the richness of these accounts. The annotations are not completed.



1868 Simon Cady Phillips Diary

Died 3 August 1906 (Gill); married 10 January 1847 (Gill) to Rossy Sophia Ballard, daughter of Amaziah & Martha (Carter) Ballard; died 9 November 1874 (Gill). Children: Emma Josephine, born 7 February 1851, married Clesson H. Blake; Clesson Ballard, born 29 March 1853 and removed to Chicago; Edward Simon, born 13 November 1854 and removed to Lewis, Iowa)

January WEDNESDAY 1 1868

*ground Bare - Worked on table for Town Hall 1/2 Day
snow 6 inches & rained to make a crust & good sleighing*

THURSDAY 2

Worked on Table for Town Hall 1/2 Day

FRIDAY 3

Drawed load of Apple tree wood from poor House worked on Table some

SUNDAY 5

At home Clesson & Emma went to Gill to meeting half Day

[Clesson and Edward Phillips, sons of Simon Cady and his wife Rossy Sophia (Ballard) Phillips. Emma (Phillips) Blake, wife of Clesson Blake and mother of Ernest Blake, was their sister.]

January TUESDAY 7 1868

Worked on Table some went down to Hollow

[Factory Hollow - from his home on the South Cross Road, he would have taken the now discontinued road to Factory Hollow, a part of Greenfield.]

WEDNESDAY 8

Went up to R.Purples to bill Trimming for Doors & c.

Self & Rossy went over to Israels in evening

[Roswell Purple, born 5 September 1790, died 25 November 1881 (Gill); married 4 December 1816 (Gill) to Mary, daughter of Amaziah & Mary (Hosley) Roberts. 1870 census: age 79 with wife Mary 71 and son Henry 29.]

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THURSDAY 9

*Went to Greenfield -- got cloth for covering table candles & starch
Wind blew & Drifted bad*

January FRIDAY 10 1868

*Went up to L. Bartons got board to make sink
varnished Town House Table and Severance drewed
2 loads wood from D.H. Newtons, Atherton lot
2 1/4 cords cold & clear*

[Leonard Barton listed in 1870 census at 55 with wife Mary E. at 48. Town Death Records: Died 22 October 1897 (Gill), age 82. His parents: Benjamin Barton and Sarah (Parsons).]

SATURDAY 11

*At home, made L Bartons sink 1/2 Day -
A. Severance Drd 2 loads wood one 9 foot long
& one 9 1/2 ft 4 x 4 H - cold & clear*

[1870 census: Alvin Severance 45]

SUNDAY 12

*At home Clesson & Edward both sick with a cold
or nearly so*

TUESDAY 14

*Carried tools up to R. Purples & Clesson's Boots up
to A Hastings to be tapped snows a little - 1 inch*

[Alva Hastings 68 and wife Mary 65 are listed in 1870 census.]

January THURSDAY 16 1868

*Worked for R. Purple hanging (& fitting Doors)
3/4 Day*

FR

*Worked for R. Purple fitting & hanging Doors
putting down thresholds & c. 3/4 Day*

SATURDAY 18

*Went with Rossy & Emma - called at Israel's
and visited at Br Nobles*

MONDAY 20

Went to Greenfield Carried Box of Butter

WEDNESDAY 22

*Shoveled Paths & roads - worked for R. Purple,
hanging and trimming Doors in the Afternoon
R. Purple 1/2 Day fair and pleasant*

THURSDAY 23

*Worked for R. Purple Trimming Doors & putting
in Door & Window stops & c. 3/4 Day*

FRIDAY 24

*Carried Table up to Town Hall
Town Hall Committee met to settle
with O.B. Green*

SUNDAY 26

*Went with Emma to Bernardston to meeting
Br. J. H. Willis preached
Snows more or less all Day*

MONDAY 27

*Went up to Gill fixed the front Door put on new
Knobs to Town Hall for Oliver B. Green -
Snows a little all Day*



The GHC hopes that, along with preserving details like these of Gill residents and their community, you will be inspired to take out diaries, autograph books, and pictures that may be tucked in attics and bureau drawers. We appreciate your sharing these documents with the GHC; we will help transcribe records and scan pictures to add more details to preserving Gill's history.

The GHC is planning some new exhibits for the annual open weekend during the Gill Craft Fair. The elementary school pictures, dinosaur footprints, artifacts from Gill farms and homes, family information folders, the Werte textiles, volunteer firemen pictures, and other artifacts from Gill are available for viewing. The new exhibits will feature items of Gill history from the Clesson and Ruth (Cook) Blake estate. In addition to the Simon Cady Phillips diaries, autograph books from Emma (Phillips) Blake and Clesson Phillips will be displayed. Like the diaries, they show the relationships of friends, relatives, and school mates in the 1860's and early 1870's. Tintypes and CDV's in their albums will also be featured. A 19th century signature quilt from the Gill Congregational church will be shown in photographs with a list of Congregational Church members; the original is now in the collection at Historic Deerfield. Colorful chromolithographs grace a scrapbook kept by Ernest Blake. The GHC looks forward to your visits in October.

Gill Students

Molly R. Perry

Molly R. Perry, daughter of Robert and Ann Perry of West Gill Road, and valedictorian of the Turners Falls High School graduating class of 2008, will be spending her first semester as a college freshman abroad this fall. Molly, who is enrolled in the University of New Haven in Connecticut and majoring in Criminal Justice, was one of 20 students chosen from approximately 200 applicants selected to spend her first semester at Roehampton University in London.

According to the student handbook provided to Molly, "the English life-style is vastly different than here in the United States, and part of studying abroad is experiencing and being open to new things, communicating with people of different backgrounds, and understanding yourself and being able to manage your own affairs while in a foreign setting." In real life this translates to shopping for groceries and cooking in your "flat" along with your room mates, some also from foreign countries, using a foreign currency, learning the ins and outs of a foreign mass transit system of busses and trains and "queuing up" (standing in line) for most all other activities. Molly noted after her first week in London that "queuing up" appears to be an English tradition. The academic scenario is also totally different from the system to which American secondary graduates are accustomed, as large lectures once or twice a week are followed by vast amount of the course-work time spent in tutorials where tutors are responsible for teaching the material discussed in the lectures.

Molly left JFK airport on September 16th and will be returning home on December 20th. She will begin her second semester at the University of New Haven after the holiday break.

Molly is the third consecutive Gill student to graduate from Turner Falls High



School as the graduating class valedictorian. Previous recipients include Ben Garber, Class of 2007, son of Ken and Janet Garber of South Cross Road, in his second year at Northeastern University and Molly's older sister, Anna, Class of 2006 in her third year at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. These students, along with many others from the Town of Gill, both past and present, continue to populate the ranks of the National Honor Society, student government, academic Honor Roles and numerous athletic teams and community service oriented groups at their respective schools, both public and private. All of them demonstrate a continuing commitment to academic excellence, teamwork, good citizenship and serious preparation for the challenges of tomorrow. Proof that students from Gill are highly motivated and represent our community in a very positive manner.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

University of Massachusetts

Kristie L. Gagne
Jocelyn M. Keech

DEAN'S LIST – Spring 2008

Greenfield Community College

William F. Goldfarb
Marilyn Odeh
Justin S. Prokowich

University of Massachusetts

Sarah J. Marchefka

Northeast University

Benjamin B. Garber

American International College

Kellie Brown

HONOR ROLL

**Fourth Quarter
Turners Falls High School**

Grade 12

First Honors: Abbey Daniel Green,
Molly Perry, and Alexander Tufano
Second Honors: Amanda
Golembeski
Third Honors: Zachary Little

Grade 11

First Honors: Amber Henry
Third Honors: Eric Dumas, Angela
Marguet, and Michael Musselman

Grade 10

First Honors: Danielle Dolhenty
Second Honors: Kathleen Rinaldi
and Ashley Sears
Third Honors: Mackae Freeland,
Matthew Garber, and Sarah
Underwood

Grade 9

First Honors: Nina Dodge, Brooke
Hastings, Krysten Hawkins, Julie
Howard-Thompson, Andrew Turban,
and Natasha Vaughn
Second Honors: Makayla Dolhenty
and Jack Hubert
Third Honors: Rachel Arial

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Jane Booth, Lily Kane
and Malik Odeh
Second Honors: Christopher Gordon
and Todd Richardson
Third Honors: Colton Hallett

Grade 7

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Ceara
Dolhenty, Shawn Englehardt,
Timothy Meyer, and Nala Vaughn
Second Honors: Abigayle
Cichanowicz and Brittany York
Third Honors: Bethany Laramie

Grade 6

First Honors: Tyler Richardson

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

Honor: Christa Neff

Grade 11

Honor: Nils Albert Johnson

Grade 10

High Honor: Nicholas Duska
Honor: Jared Towne

Grade 8

High Honor: Mary Duska
Honor: Chad Galipault and Jacob
Levin

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur, Emily
Messer, and Raleigh Yates
Honor: John Arena and Kaylyn
Tognarelli

**Northfield Mount Hermon
School**

Grade 12

Honors: Spencer Hattendorf and Aja
Kane

Grade 11

High Honors: Harriet Booth

Grade 10

High Honors: Bradford Ward

Grade 9

High Honors: Nora Hefner

**Franklin County Regional
Technical School**

Grade 12

High Honors: Kathryn Dodd
Honors: Nicolas Berniche and
Nathan Towne



Grade 11

Honors: Ashly Brown and Kyle Demers

Grade 9

Honors: Joseph Lafleur

AWARDS

Franklin Cty. Technical School Scholarships:

Paul F. Galisa Memorial Fund:

Nicolas Berniche

Bay Path College, Dean's

Scholarship: Kathryn Dodd

TFHS Awards – June, 2008

Excellence in Microsoft Office:

Krysten Hawkins

GCC Articulation Certificates

Microsoft Office: Krysten Hawkins and Julie Hawkins

Excellence in 10th Grade Physical Education & Most Improved

Artist: Scott Brown

Academic Excellence in Spanish III & Excellence in Wellness:

Amber Henry

Academic Excellence in Honors

Modern World History: Julie-

Howard Thompson

Academic Excellence in Honors

Algebra II: Kathleen Rinaldi

Academic Achievement in Math in

Everyday Life: Danielle Dolhenty

Curiosity & Passion about Earth

Science: Corey Hescocock

Excellence in technology

Education: Natasha Vaughn

Excellence in Manufacturing/

Woodworking: Andrew Turban

Excellence in Building

Construction: Joey Rinaldi

Student Council Emerging

Leader: Brooke Hastings

John & Abigail Adams

Scholarship Recipients: Amanda

Golembeski, Molly Perry, and

Alexander Tufano

Great Falls Middle School Year-end Awards

Grade 8

Science & Principal's Award:

Malik Odeh

Language Arts and Library

Helpers: Jane Booth and Lily Kane

Art: Jane Booth

Physical Education: Matt Gibson

Reading Award: Tyler Richardson

Leadership, Writing Award and

Band Award: Christopher Gordon

Perfect Attendance: Lily Kane

Grade 7

Social Studies, Family Consumer and Writing Award:

Shawn Englehardt

Math & Writing Award:

Timothy Meyer

Physical Education: Katelyn Dodge

Reading Awards and Citizenship:

Nala Vaughn

Reading Award and Perfect

Attendance: Bethany Laramie

Perfect Attendance: Brittany York

Grade 6

Reading Award and Perfect

Attendance: Todd Richardson

Pioneer Valley Reg. Scholarship & Senior Awards

Outstanding Service in Peer

Mediation and Excellence in

Music in Chorus: Christa Neff

Pioneer Valley Reg. School and

Fred E. Wells Fund Scholarships:

Christa Neff

Freshman Awards

Excellence in Intro Shop:

Jared Towne

TFHS Softball Team

Congratulations to the Turners Falls Girls Softball team who won their fourth state title in five years. Chelseigh St. Peter, Angela Marguet, and Jodi Hallet played extremely well for TFHS. Chelseigh was chosen to the Sunday Republican, Division III softball First Team. Chelseigh hit .508 for the season and also played varsity basketball, and volleyball.

Boy Scout Trip

Fifteen year old John Gundelfinger spent three weeks at Philmont Scout Reservation in Cimarron, New Mexico, with 31 other Boy Scouts this summer. Using their scouting skills, they hiked 60 – 70 miles for eleven days through the wilderness. Their food, which was mostly freeze dried, was left at various locations on the route. John is a patrol leader for Troop 9 in Northfield and earned merit badges for this adventure.

FRIENDS OF GILL

ask for your support at the
ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL
October 18th and 19th

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Setup
- Children's activities
- Information booth
- Booth sitting
- Hospitality
- General assistance
- Takedown

For information call 863-2212 (Kathy Augustine), 863-4792 (Bev Demars), or 863-9708 (Barbara Elliott).
e-mail: friendsogill@yahoo.net



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.

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Gill, MA 01354

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