

ANNUAL REPORT of Officers and Committees



Photo: A white oak in Art Lafleur's pasture

2008

DEDICATION TO ED POGODA

The Town of Gill lost a well loved member of its community this last fall, when Ed Pogoda of Pisgah Mountain Road died at the age of 89.

Ed was born in 1919 in Gill to Ludik and Stephanie Pogoda, and went to the Riverside School and Turners Falls High. He grew up farming, and the most important things in his life were always family, hard work and nature. He is probably best remembered for his sense of humor. He was good at getting things done without fuss or bull while, at the same time, making people feel welcome.

Ed joined the Army in March, 1942. He was in the 83rd Infantry, first as a machine gunnery instructor, and then fought his way across France, Belgium and Germany as a machine gunner. He lost a number of close friends while fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. Late in the war he helped liberate a concentration camp, an experience that clearly stayed with him after more than sixty years.

After the war, Ed came home and married his sweetheart Cle-mantine, known to everyone as Babe. He went to work as a carpenter and built over 100 homes and businesses, mostly in Franklin and Hampshire counties. At his funeral, many people that he had taught carpentry to showed up, some from hundreds of miles away, to honor him.

The love of Ed's life was his wife, Babe. Almost every time I saw them together, Ed was smiling. Ed's farm (the one he grew up on) was in Gill, but Babe had a farm in North Hadley. Ed spent most of his time in Hadley even though he was always officially a resident of Gill. He and Babe made a great team, and people will remember them for doing things like going to polka dances and giving away strawberries to their friends and neighbors.

Ed was a longtime member of the Gill Building Committee and served on the Gill Conservation Commission for forty years. He liked being part of the town and was still attending meetings until just before he died.

*Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Mathews*

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FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

U.S. Senators	Edward M. Kennedy John F. Kerry
U.S. Representative	John W. Olver
Governor	Deval Patrick
Lieutenant Governor	Tim Murray
State Senator	Stanley C. Rosenberg
State Representative	Christopher J. Donelan
Franklin Regional Council of Governments Executive Committee	Bill Perlman, Chair John Paciorek, Vice Chair Sam Lovejoy, Secretary Christine Forgey Ann Banash

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Board of Selectmen*	Leland E. Stevens	2009
	Nancy A. Griswold, Chair	2010
	Ann H. Banash	2011
Board of Assessors	Nancy A. Griswold	2009
	Raymond Purington, Chair	2009
	Peter Conway	2010
Board of Health	Randy P. Crochier, Secretary	2009
	Douglas A. Edson, Chair	2010
	Edward W. Galipault, Jr.	2011
Cemetery Commission	Patricia Haigis	2009
	Beverly L. Demars	2010
	Carrie R. Stevens	2011
Constables	Fred O. Chase, II	2011
	Fred O. Chase, III	2011
	Craig D. Gaudry	2011

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS *(Continued)*

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Field Drivers	Edward J. Golembeski	2011
	Clifford C. Hatch	2011
Gill-Montague Regional School Committee	Valeria Smith	2009
	Sandra Brown	2010
	Sorrel Hatch	2011
Library Trustees	Ellen A. Johnson, Chair	2009
	Elisabeth Greenough	2010
	Ann C. Perry	2011
Moderator	Raymond F. Steele	2009
Tax Collector	Veronica A. LaChance	2011
Town Clerk	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2009
Treasurer	Veronica A. LaChance	2010
Tree Warden	Ernest M. Hastings	2009

*Selectmen also serve as Sewer Commissioners; Measurers of Wood, Bark & Surveyors of Lumber; and Fence Viewers.

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
911 Coordinator	Joseph Elliott, Jr.	2009
Accountant	Joyce Muka, Accounting Program Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2009
Administrative Assistant	Tracy Rogers	
Assistant Town Clerk	Doreen Stevens	2009

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN *(Continued)*

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2009
Animal Control Officer	Edward M. Ambo, Jr.	2008
Assistant Tree Warden	Mitchell LaClaire, Sr.	2009
Board of Registrars	Kathleen Augustine	2009
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2009
	Richard Peller	2010
	Allan Adie, Sr.	2011
Building Committee	Philip Maddern, Chair	2008
	Roger Augustine	2009
	Richard French	2009
	Ernest Hastings	2009
	Kyle Maurer	2009
Cable Advisory Committee	Richard James	2009
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Secretary	2009
	Leland E. Stevens, Chair	2009
Central Franklin County Veterans' District Representative	Patricia Haigis	2009
Conservation Commission	Edward Pogoda	2008
	Ted Castro-Santos	2009
	Kenneth Sprankle	2009
	Keith Lilly	2010
	Anthony Mathews, Chair	2010
	Joanne Rabideau	2011

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN *(Continued)*

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Council on Aging	James Greenleaf	2009
	Joseph Naida	2009
	Renee Jenkins	2010
	Audrey Ambo	2011
	Beverly L. Demars, Chair	2011
Cultural Council	Elisabeth Greenough	2008
	Veronica A. LaChance	2009
	Steve Damon	2010
	Lynn Nichols	2010
	Emily Samuels	2010
	Jocelyn Castro-Santos	2011
	Elizabeth Gardner	2011
	Kathleen Raczynski	2011
Election Workers	James Greenleaf	2008
	Ellen Hastings	2009
	Helen Chappell	2009
	Barbara Elliot	2009
	Sorrel Hatch	2009
	Pamela Hubert	2009
	Renee Jenkins	2009
	Geraldine Johnson	2009
	Nancy Krejmas	2009
	Donald LaChance (Election Worker, Election Constable, Special Election Officer)	2009
	Raymond Moore	2009
	Joseph Naida (Special Election Officer)	2009
	Lorri Parody	2009
	Dorothy Petrin	2009
	Edith Schechterle	2009
	John Schechterle	2009

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN *(Continued)*

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Emergency Management Director	Gene Beaubien	2009
Fire Chief	Gene Beaubien	
Fire Dept. Board of Engineers	Gene Beaubien	2009
	Michael Crochier	2009
	Donald Crouse, Jr.	2009
	Jason Edson	2009
	Stuart Elliott	2009
	Christopher Goodhind	2009
	Scott Goodhind	2009
	Kyle LaPointe	2009
	Stephen McConley, Jr.	2009
	Noah Pack	2009
	Steve Peters	2009
	Kenneth Sears	2009
Firefighters	Steven Connell	2009
	Lucas Gray	2009
	William Kimball	2009
	Paul Marguet	2009
	Austin McComb	2009
	Travis St. Peter	2009
	Hillary Szteliga	2009
	Tyler Ward	2009
Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program Representative	Tracy A. Rogers	2009
Inspector of Buildings	James Hawkins	2009
Local Building Insp.	James Cerone	2009
Electrical Insp.	James Slowinski	2009
Plumbing/Gas Insp.	Andrew French	2009

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN *(Continued)*

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Representative	Arthur Cohen	2009
Franklin Regional Transit Authority Representative	James Poulsen	2009
Fred W. Wells Trust	Frank J. Cutting	2009
Hazardous Waste Coordinator	Douglas Edson	2009
Highway Superintendent	Mitchell LaClaire, Sr.	
Historical Commission	Beverly L. Demars	2009
	Stuart Elliott	2010
	Richard French	2010
	Pamela Shoemaker	2010
	Cristin Carpenter, Chair	2011
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2011
	Robert Perry	2011
Memorial Committee	Gary Bourbeau	2009
	Merri Bourbeau	2009
	Chester Kuzontkoski, Chair	2009
	Douglas Smith	2009
	Elaine Smith	2009
Planning Board	Thomas Storrow	2009
	Richard French	2010
	John Duda	2011
	Shirley Flagg	2011
	Douglas Smith, Chair	2011

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN *(Continued)*

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Police Department	David W. Hastings, Chief	2009
	Christopher Redmond, Sergeant	2009
	Adam Sokoloski, Patrolman	2008
	Jason Bassett, Officer	2009
	Shaun Coughlin, Officer	2009
	Nicole Fiske, Officer	2009
	Robert Hunter, Officer	2009
	Paul J. Marguet, Officer	2009
	Brian J. Ravish, Officer	2009
	Scott M. Waldron, Officer	2009
	Robert A. Whittier, Officer	2009
Right to Know Officer	Mitchell LaClaire, Sr.	2009
Town Counsel	Donna MacNicol of MacNicol & Tombs, LLC	2009
Veterans' Agent	Leo Parent	2009
Veterans' Grave Officer	William Huber	2009
Zoning Board of Appeals	William Burnham	2009
	Suzanne Smiley, Chair	2009
	Allen Tupper Brown	2010
	Robert Perry	2010
	Raymond Purington	2011



APPOINTMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Animal Inspector	Tari Grimard	2009
Burial Agent	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2009

APPOINTMENTS BY MODERATOR

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Agricultural Commission	Bruce Yukl	2009
	Richard French	2009
	Shirley Flagg	2010
	Bridget Logan	2010
Finance Committee	Allen Tupper Brown, Chair	2009
	Ernest M. Hastings	2009
	James Poulsen	2009
	Edward L. Dolhenty	2010
	Veronica A. LaChance	2010
	Joseph Williams	2010
	Alden Booth	2011
	Claire Chang	2011
Franklin County Technical School Committee	Chris Collins	2011
	Clifford C. Hatch	2010
Personnel Committee	<i>Employee Rep.</i> George Emery	2009
	<i>Member-at-large</i> Tom Hodak	2009
	<i>Member-at-large</i> Kristi Tognarelli	2009
	<i>Bd. of Selectmen</i> Leland E. Stevens	2009
	<i>Finance Comm.</i> Joseph Williams	2010
	<i>Secretary (non-voting)</i> Tracy Rogers	2010
Recreation Committee	Nathan G. Duda, Chair	2009
	Kimberly Malcolm	2009
	Rose Levasseur, Treasurer	2010
	Charlene Vaughn	2010

OTHER STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>
Assistant Librarian	Kimber Sprankle
Assistant Treasurer	Ellen Hastings
Clerical Assistant for the Board of Health, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals	Bonnie Welcome
Custodian	James Connelly
Highway Foreman	Edward Ambo, Jr.
Highway Mechanic/Operator	George Emery
Highway Part-Time Help	Ernest M. Hastings
Slate Memorial Library Director	Jocelyn Castro-Santos
Volunteers	Steven Connell Donald LaChance Calvin Parsons Raymond Purington Raymond Steele Carrie Stevens Doreen Stevens

2008
GILL VITAL STATISTICS
TOWN POPULATION ON MAY 5, 2008 = 1,535

BIRTHS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Parents</i>
January 24	Dylan Jacob Brunault	Teresa Lynn (Garland) Brunault Frank Arden Brunault
February 23	Dylan Michael Gilbert	Kelly Lynne (Dunn) Gilbert Jeremy Michael Gilbert
March 6	Vaughn Mason LaValley	Julie Melinda (Fuller) LaValley Paul Robert LaValley
March 29	Jacob Alexander Maynard	Aimee Lynn (Urgiel) Maynard Shaun Michael Maynard
April 13	Elliott Sebastian Heilig-Rury	Sarah Elizabeth Rury Erika Leigh Heilig
June 30	Matilda June Mac Court	Marianne Marie Lockwood David Andrew Mac Court
August 15	Ella Grace Vassar	Kerri Jean (Recore) Vassar Gabriel Latham Vassar
October 10	Elijah Frankel Brody	Joanna Wendy Frankel Max Apter Brody
November 28	Logan William Arial-Clough	Melissa Jean Arial Travis Edward Clough

MARRIAGES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Names</i>
February 2	Anthony Morrow Williams Sarah Lynn Valley
February 23	Amy Lynne Allen Robert Patrick Amell
August 2	Thomas Patrick Crouse Dolores Marie Crouse
August 16	Janoov Tovia Skiathitis Morgan Sawyer Coldwell
August 16	Susan Gauthier Jeffrey Lee Lewandowski
August 30	Margery Yeoman Brown Thomas Charles Johnston



DEATHS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Names</i>
January 15	Ruth Jocelyn Cook
January 17	Rita Irene King
January 31	Edna Parzych
March 10	Mildred Caroline Gaida
April 22	Henry B. Glazier
April 23	Ervin J. Bedaw
September 2	Earlene J. Bosworth
September 20	Ruth B. Wallace
October 29	Edith C. Graveline

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk*

ANNUAL REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS,



Iris at Town Hall

BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

2008 was a very interesting year for the Board of Selectmen. Perhaps the largest accomplishment was completion of the Main Road project. The Town was awarded \$100,000 in grant funds from the state's Chapter 43D program to provide technical assistance in expediting the permitting process for the Mariamante parcel as well as funding a market study and creation of conceptual designs. The Board reviewed and updated the town's Sewer Regulations. The Town voted to adopt preliminary tax billing to help with cash flow and reduce the need for borrowing money while waiting for taxes to come in.

The Board also approved the ESCO project (Energy Savings Contract) through the FRCOG which resulted in having a preliminary energy audit conducted by Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. Once results of the audit are reported, the Town will work toward making town buildings more energy efficient, with the costs paid for by the energy savings. One very nice addition was made to the Town in the form of a solar powered light for the flagpole on the Town Common, thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust.

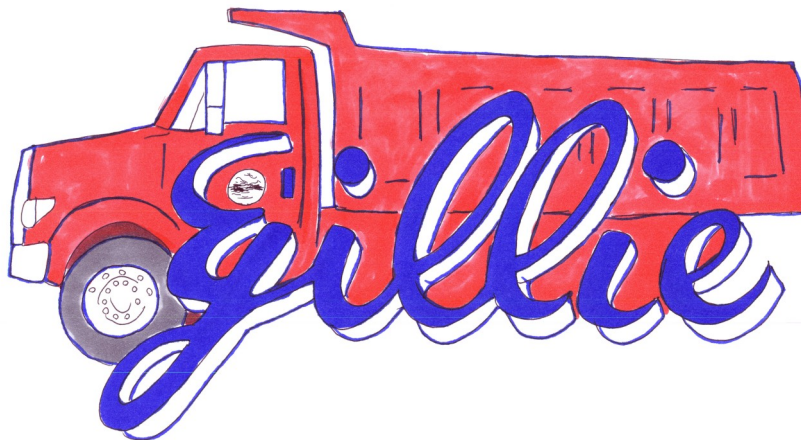
The Town passed a debt exclusion override in June to purchase a new highway truck, replacing the oldest (19 years old) in the fleet. In late December, during a very hard winter, the Highway Department welcomed the new truck into service. Pat Haigis won the "Name the Truck" contest with her entry of GILLY. We were all happy to put the truck into service.

The Board also requested a Financial Management Review from the Department of Revenue (DOR) in late summer and the review took place in November. Representatives from DOR interviewed the Board of Selectmen, Board of Assessors, Town Clerk, Town Accountant, Collector-Treasurer, and Finance Committee. Results of the review are available on the Town website, www.gillmass.org.

One of the most difficult processes the Board went through this year concerned the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget. The Budget was not set until December due to the impasse experienced with the Gill-Montague Regional School District. In late August the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee, along with the same from Montague, attended a meeting hosted by Senator Rosenberg and Representatives Donelan and Kulik at the State House in Boston.

We met with a representative from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to discuss the school budget impasse. During the ensuing months until the school budget was imposed by the State on December 1, the selectmen and finance committees of both towns met weekly trying to come to a compromise with the District, but to no avail. The towns had two district-wide budget meetings resulting in the School Committee rejecting the voter-approved budget, and voting instead to have DESE take over the financial responsibilities of the school district. By the end of December, the town had not resolved its FY2009 budget.

Unfortunately, the financial situation in the near future, both with the state and federal government, looks challenging at best. The Board of Selectmen intends to continue to do the very best it can to serve the Town of Gill.



Frank Brunault

Illustration by Frank Brunault, Gill.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS REPORT

Calendar year 2008 was another busy year for Gill's Board of Assessors.

State certification of Gill's property values for FY2008 was a long, slow process. After months of back-and-forth discussions among the Board of Assessors, appraisal consultants Mayflower Valuation, and the state's Department of Revenue, Gill's property values for FY2008 were finally certified on January 28th, and the tax rate was set on February 27th. Taxpayers received only one bill for FY2008, with first-half and second-half payments both due on May 1, 2008. This meant that town operations for most of FY2008 were funded using short-term loans.

To help reduce short-term borrowing and interest payments in future years, the Treasurer/Tax Collector proposed a change to Gill's tax bill process. Voters at Annual Town Meeting agreed and gave their approval. Under the new system, which took effect immediately, taxpayers will now receive two bills each fiscal year. The first bill is based on the prior year's property values and uses the prior year's tax rate. This "preliminary bill" typically is due in October or November. The second bill, called an "actual bill", is calculated after the town adopts a budget, certifies its property values, and receives its tax rate from the state. The actual bill, which uses the new tax rate and new property values, is typically due in April or May.

Assessor Greg Snedeker declined to run for reelection, after serving four years on the board. Thank you Greg for the time you gave to Gill.

Annual town elections in May resulted in a tie for the seat vacated by Greg, with Raymond Purington and Paul Nowill receiving the same number of write-in votes. At its June 23rd meeting the Selectboard appointed Ray to a one-year term.

In August, Assessors Peter Conway and Ray Purington attended a four-day training program at UMASS Amherst entitled "Assessment Administration: Law, Procedures, and Valuation." The Massachusetts Department of Revenue requires all assessors to attend this class and pass a written exam. Nancy Griswold, Gill's third assessor, will take the course in FY2010.

In light of frequent news stories about the recession, financial crisis, and dropping home prices, it is important to remember that Gill property values for FY2009 are based on Gill land and home

sales that occurred in 2006 and 2007. Property values for FY2010 will be based on sales from the 2007-2008 timeframe. Because of this time lag between assessed values and current market conditions, it will be another year or two before any effects from the recession impact property values used to set the tax rate and calculate tax bills.

By the end of 2008, sale prices of Gill homes had declined only slightly, and were stable compared to the economic downturn experienced by other parts of the state and country. However, homes appear to be staying on the market longer, which may indicate a softening of the local real estate market.

Gill's property values for FY2009 were submitted to the state on December 23rd and were approved just three hours later, which is believed to be a local record! A special town meeting was scheduled for January 2009 to adopt a balanced budget, which would allow the Town to set the tax rate.

Discounts on property taxes are available to qualified taxpayers, including the elderly, the blind, veterans, and surviving spouses. To learn more about these exemptions, contact the Assessors' Office.

Finally, remember that the more you involve yourself in town government, the more town government will reflect what is important to you. Run for an elected position or volunteer for a board or committee. Vote in town elections and attend town meetings. Be a part of what's good for Gill!

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Purington

Peter Conway

Nancy Griswold

Board of Assessors

BOARD OF ASSESSORS FINANCIAL REPORT

	FY2007	FY2008
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$2,776,423.26	\$2,706,053.58
Less Estimated Receipts & Revenues	<u>1,158,315.97</u>	<u>905,195.15</u>
Net to be Raised (A)	\$1,618,107.29	\$1,800,858.43

Valuation:

Real Estate	\$117,230,434.00	\$154,876,923.00
Personal Property	<u>2,275,275.00</u>	<u>2,403,290.00</u>
Total Valuation (B)	\$119,505,709.00	\$157,280,213.00

Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Valuation (A multiplied by 1,000 divided by B)

\$13.54	\$11.45
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Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments

Levy Year 2006	\$35,397.05	\$0.00
Levy Year 2007	194,815.39	43,722.10
Levy Year 2008	<u>0.00</u>	<u>216,851.02</u>
Total	\$230,212.44	\$260,573.12

Boat Excise Commitment	\$1,732.00	\$1,796.50
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	FY2007	FY2008
Motor Vehicle Excise Abatements		
Levy Year 2006	\$172.58	\$0.00
Levy Year 2007	3,573.27	180.94
Levy Year 2008	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,867.58</u>
Total	\$3,745.85	\$3,048.52

Real Estate Exemptions

Section 22 (Veterans)	\$5,600.00	\$6,800.00
Section 42	2,525.21	2,470.91
Section 41C (Over 70)	4,000.00	2,500.00

Real Estate and Personal Property Abatements

Chapter 59	<u>30,445.55</u>	<u>5,816.91</u>
Total	\$42,570.76	\$17,587.82



BAYSTATE HEALTH AMBULANCE REPORT

Baystate Health Ambulance, the Town of Gill's emergency medical services provider, is pleased that we can continue to offer paramedic-level service to your community at ***no cost*** to the town – ensuring that your municipal budget dollars can be focused on schools, police, and other essential community services.

The continuing global economic challenges and fiscal crisis faced in the Commonwealth are likely to force additional reductions in state aid and diminish tax revenues, while at the same time, increasing demand for key services supported by municipal governments. Our services allow us the privilege to continue to provide the members of your community with the highest level of

emergency medical care at the most critical moments in their lives – all done at ***no cost*** to your town.

As a service of Baystate Health, Inc., the region's leader in health care services, we have an experienced team of professionals, backed by the resources of Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Baystate Medical Center. We provide the latest in mobile critical care, and are literally a "hospital on wheels" bringing 24/7 paramedic-level care to the Town of Gill. We are proud of our highly-trained team of EMT's and paramedics, many of whom have over 20 years of experience – providing the residents of Gill the best in emergency medical care.

In 2008, Baystate Health Ambulance:

- ◆ Was called and responded to the Town of Gill 100 times and transported 78 patients to the hospital.
- ◆ Celebrated our 20th anniversary of providing 9-1-1 emergency medical services to Franklin County. This accomplishment was achieved because of the valued partnerships we have with Gill, Northfield, Leyden, Erving, Bernardston, Greenfield and Montague, along with the Shelburne Fire District.
- ◆ Received a special project waiver from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to purchase and train our staff to utilize new state-of-the art airway management equipment. We now have the specialized equipment and trained staff to care for the most severely compromised respiratory patients – making their transport easier and safer.
- ◆ Received the Baystate Health President's Award for our continuing efforts to reduce the amount of time it takes to get a heart attack patient to advanced care, thus improving chances for a complete recovery.
- ◆ Continued our work with Franklin County Technical High School to provide emergency medical training to their students. In addition, we sought out and participated in local school, fire, police, senior centers and civic events.
- ◆ Continued to be an active member of the national and Western MA Safe Kids Coalition, committed to teaching our children how to remain healthy, and safe from injury and harm.

Gill is a vital partner in the group of towns within Franklin County that make up the regional service area covered by Baystate Health Ambulance – all who enjoy the same high quality services.

We value this relationship and will continue our commitment to provide you and all members of the community with the best possible patient care at no cost to your town.

*Respectfully submitted,
D. Lee Irish, Jr., REMT-P, General Manager*



CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The erosion problem at the Center Cemetery was a major concern for the Commissioners this year. We were fortunate to have Conservation Commission member Kenneth Sprankle, Highway Superintendent Mick LaClaire, Douglas Edson of Renaissance Excavating and former Highway Superintendent Ernest Hastings give us helpful advice for the reconstruction of the bank adjacent to Dry Brook.

Town residents voted to appropriate \$20,000 at the May 2008 annual town meeting for the erosion project. In the meantime, State Representative Chris Donelan was successful in securing a \$30,000 earmark from the State for the work; but with the State's financial problems, the funds were later withdrawn.

By waiting until November to conduct the work, we did not have to hire a representative from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to oversee the work. The Highway Department was able to secure the bank, working from the top instead of the brook area. We were able to return \$13,000 of the \$20,000 to the Town and leave enough in the account for any additional work after the bank settles. We thank Mick, Ed and George of the Highway Department for reconstructing the bank and saving the town thousands of dollars. It was a job well done.

Roberge & Associates completed a database map for North Cemetery this year, and we now have information for all three of the town cemeteries.

The Commissioners sold seven burial lots this year; two in North Cemetery, three in West Gill Cemetery and two in Center Cemetery. There were five burials, three in Center Cemetery, one

in North Cemetery and one in West Gill Cemetery.

Fred Bidwell, who had been mowing our cemeteries, retired this year. We thank Fred for all his hard work, and hope he is enjoying his retirement. After going out to bid, Cardaropoli Lawn Maintenance was awarded the mowing contract. We are very pleased with Cardaropoli's work and have a very good working relationship with Snow & Sons Landscaping for our burials.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gill Cemetery Commission*



CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

The Conservation Commission lost a long-time member and friend Ed Pagoda, in December 2008. Ed was a U.S. Army veteran of WWII and fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge. We also appreciate his many years of service to the Town of Gill. His good humor, anecdotes, and historical knowledge will be missed at our Commission meetings.

In early 2008, the Commission had a unique joint hearing with the Greenfield Conservation Commission to permit the replacement of the Bascom Hollow Bridge, which was completed in the summer months. Reviews of other permits included the bank restoration work on Dry Brook adjacent to the Town Cemetery, redevelopment of the old Route 2 Barbeque/Restaurant Bar property, tennis court development at Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), and a septic tank replacement. NMH has also submitted plans for a landfill capping/remediation project (which was also used by the town) near the Connecticut River, a dry hydrant installation in Shadow Lake, and for an irrigation project for their lower sports fields. Reviews of whether a proposed activity would impact wetlands, river front habitat, or threatened and endangered species were completed for a variety of projects brought to our attention by concerned landowners.

Ongoing participation with the Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Control Committee (CRSEC) by the Commission and Gill

river bank landowners resulted in some very positive advances in First Light Power's (FLP) required restoration activities. In 2008, federal government regulators visited with CRSEC and toured the eroded banks of Gill, resulting in a renewed directive to FLP to address important concerns on several aspects of their restoration work relative to scheduling, timing, approach, and current license responsibility. Draft plans for river bank restoration work along the "lower" Gill agricultural fields have been partially submitted with formal permitting to occur in early 2009. People and organizations making a difference on this important town matter are engaged landowners, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

We encourage anyone who may have questions or concerns regarding wetlands, river frontage (any perennial stream), or threatened and endangered species regulations to contact the Commission for assistance.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ken Sprankle*

*Tony Matthews, Chair
Ted Castro-Santos
Keith Lilly
Joanne Rabideau
Ken Sprankle*



COUNCIL ON AGING REPORT

Gill and Montague Councils on Aging operate the Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street, in Turners Falls. The center is open between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for meals and activities.

The mission of the Council on Aging is: to provide referral, outreach, nutrition, and health services in cooperation with other town departments and area agencies, to set policy for the operation of the Senior Center, and to enhance the quality of life for seniors

in the community by providing health, education and recreation programs. Our building is no longer adequate to house all the programs offered. We look to other resources for some of our activities. We sincerely thank the Great Falls Discovery Center and Our Lady of Peace for allowing us the use of their facilities this year.

The Gill/Montague Senior Newsletter is published and sent 6 times a year to seniors in Gill and Montague. Senior Publishing Co publishes the newsletter free. Postage is paid by donations and a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Council on Aging events and activities are also posted in the Recorder, Montague Reporter and Montague Cable TV.

There are approximately 1900 seniors in the 2 towns and in 2008 over 700 of them took part in one or more of our activities. Most programs are available to all seniors, even those residing out of the Montague and Gill area. About 5% were people living in another town

Transportation to the Senior Center is available through Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). There is a reduced rate for seniors traveling from home to the Center and return. Franklin County Home Care subsidizes transportation cost for their clients.

Health and exercise programs are an important part of senior activities. Funding is made available through a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and donations.

Foot Screenings are provided free through the EOEA grant. Elders pay a moderate fee for toenail clipping. About 30-35 seniors per month take advantage of this service

The annual flu clinic was held at Turners Falls High School. This clinic was part of a 4 - town Emergency Disaster Planning event. Volunteers from the 4 towns and Greenfield Community College nursing students planned and implemented a well-organized flu clinic. The Montague Police Department supplied a bus to transport seniors from the center to the clinic.

This year's Senior Health Fair was held at the Discovery Center as an outreach project by the Greenfield Community College nursing students. Dr. Wadman provided vision and glaucoma screening to seniors free of charge. Other screenings included blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, skin and dental. Information on insurance and health issues were available free to any senior. Other vendors included VNA Hospice, YMCA and Franklin County Home Care.

Exercise classes are available 6 times a week. Senior Aerobics

classes are held three times a week at the center. Easy Aerobics, a program designed for the frailer seniors, is available twice a week. In the fall Chair Yoga was added. These programs are free of charge. However participants make a donation to the Senior Center to support this and future programs.

We have noted an increase in applications for “Brown Bag”. Brown Bag is a food distribution program, for eligible seniors from Western Mass Food Bank. Over 1500 pounds of food was distributed to over a hundred elders from Montague and Gill each month for a small donation to the Western Mass Food Bank.

Seniors attended free educational programs offered by speakers from Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Harborside Healthcare Community Presentations, Franklin County Home Care Nutrition Programs, Western Mass Bar Association, VNA Hospice, SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders), and the Greenfield Community College Nursing Program,

Other recreation programs included bus trips, coffee breaks, holiday parties, potluck lunches, and card and bingo games. Painting Classes were offered in the fall and spring.

Congregate meals are available for a small donation five days a week at the Senior Center through the Franklin County Home Care meals program. Many people come early to socialize with friends and play cards. Over 20,000 Meals on Wheels were distributed from this center.

The Senior Picnic at the Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club in July and an Ice Cream Social at the Center in August were well attended.

The Council on Aging recognized its volunteers at the annual Volunteer Lunch in the spring. Volunteers from the two towns worked over five hundred hours. All Council on Aging programs and activities are implemented and funded through in-kind services, donations and grants and many volunteers.

Gill and Montague seniors are fortunate to have an active TRIAD program. TRIAD is a local community policing initiative between seniors, the Police Department, and the District Attorney’s Office. Programs are informative, entertaining, and provide an opportunity for socialization. Montague and Gill Police departments and the District Attorney’s Office sponsored 4 TRIAD events with meals, at a minimum charge, serving approximately 180 people at each meal and provide interesting and informative programs helpful to the older population. TRIAD offers 911 cell

phones for emergency use to seniors. “File of Life” and emergency information is available through the Council On Aging and TRIAD. We thank the Montague and Gill police, District Attorney’s Office and Sheriff’s Department for the services they provide the seniors in this community.

AARP provided individual tax preparation and consultation free to seniors.

Many seniors or family members have asked for and received information and referral on topics such as housing, health, heating, insurance and other needs of daily living.

We thank all the community agencies and individuals whose efforts have benefited the seniors in this town.

Juanita “Bunny” Caldwell, Director

*Gill Council on Aging
Beverly Demars, Chair
Audrey Ambo
Renee Jenkins*



Town Clerk/Assessors’ Assistant Lynda Hodsdon Mayo and Collector-Treasurer Ronnie LaChance getting ready for the Senior Center Tea Party.

CULTURAL COUNCIL REPORT

Each year the Gill Cultural Council receives an allocation of funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support cultural programs in the Town of Gill. This year we were awarded \$4,300.

In the fall of 2007, the council received a total of 28 applications for funding. There were many worthwhile applicants, but funding allowed for only eleven programs during the grant cycle. Cultural Council members chose grantees based on support to the school and library and also entertainment for community functions.

Selected applicants:

Pat LaMountain	<i>Living Along the River</i>	\$400
Erika Almeida	<i>Shea Theater</i>	665
Amy Salenetti	<i>Backyard Biologists</i>	500
John Root	<i>Edible Wild Plants</i>	225
Tim Van Egmond	<i>Library Summer Reading Program</i>	300
Sondra Radash	<i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>	200
Steve Damon	<i>Common People Concerts</i>	800
Joseph Elliott	<i>Gill Fall Arts & Craft Fair</i>	300
Gregory Marchack	<i>Pastel Paint</i>	435
Jocelyn Castro-Santos	<i>Mad Science Rocket Building Workshops</i>	300
Joseph Elliott	<i>Picnic on the Common</i>	175

The Cultural Council welcomes input and comments regarding events in town.

You are invited to submit applications for funding or attend any of our review meetings.

Many thanks to all the committee members, who worked very hard this year on reviews. Thanks also for their time, dedication, and input in serving on the Gill Cultural Council.

Lastly, a warm Welcome to our new member, Kathleen Raczynski.

*Respectfully submitted,
Veronica A. LaChance, Chair*

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Gill Fire Department responded to 174 calls in 2008, which is down from 186 calls last year. We responded twelve times for mutual aid to surrounding towns, and received mutual aid four times.

Alarm Sounding	26	14.94%
Appliance Fire	1	0.57%
Brush Fire	1	0.57%
Chimney Fire	3	1.72%
CO Alarm Sounding	1	0.57%
Flooded Basement	3	1.72%
Fuel Spill	1	0.57%
Gas Grill Fire	1	0.57%
Illegal Burn	1	0.57%
Mattress Fire	1	0.57%
Medical Emergency	78	44.83%
Mutual Aid Out	12	6.90%
Motor Vehicle Crash	13	7.47%
Odor Investigation	1	0.57%
Public Service	14	8.05%
Smoke Investigation	3	1.72%
Structure Fire	2	1.15%
Transformer Fire	1	0.57%
Trees/Wires Down	11	6.32%
Total	174	100.00%

The Department continued its aggressive fire prevention program for our elementary school and pre-schools. During Fire Prevention week we visit the schools and have discussions about fire prevention and what to do if you have a fire. With the early grades we have the students practice stop-drop and roll. We have a firefighter don his firefighting gear to show that we are not “monsters”, so that if they see us in a fire they come to us and we will rescue them. In the fifth grade we have the class come to the fire station and explain about smoke and ventilation. We then fill the meeting room with a candy smoke to give the students a chance to see a smoke filled environment and how easy it is to get disoriented. The sixth grade also comes to the station and we explain the different classes of fire extinguishers and the proper use of them. We then light some live fires and let the students put them out us-

ing extinguishers donated by Dependable Fire and Safety of Greenfield. After the end of the training, each child is given a SAFE T-shirt and fire prevention handouts purchased through the SAFE grant that we were awarded.

I would like to thank all the firefighters who help make this Fire Prevention Week a great success.

The Department continues to train every Thursday night. During these Thursday night trainings the firefighters check all the trucks and equipment to make sure they are in good working order. We then go out and do practical training including ladder training, pumping, fire tactics and simulated fires, and search and rescue, just to name a few. I would like to thank my Training Officers Stu Elliott, Ken Sears, and Christopher Goodhind for all their hard work in planning these training nights. Department members also continue to devote a lot of their own time for training and spend a lot of nights out away from their families. These hours spent on training are all unpaid. We continue to utilize the Mass Firefighting Academy training programs. They are offered throughout the state and open to any firefighter. Meadowood Training facility in New Hampshire has been re-opened and offers training.

This past November and December the department personnel were trained by MEMA in radiological monitoring and decontamination procedures in case of an event at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. The trainings are offered to communities within the ten-mile radius of the plant. Every two years there is a full scale exercise conducted by FEMA and the NRC. This event is monitored by FEMA, and their evaluators score us. We are preparing for one of these exercises in March, April and June of 2009.

The Gill Fire Department continues to upgrade its equipment and replace old, worn out equipment. This fire equipment can be very costly and has a definite impact on our yearly budget.

Every year the Gill Firemen's Association sponsors the annual Halloween party for all children of Gill. Again this past year it was a success and I would like to thank my wife, Dorri, and Holly Sears and Amanda Edson for planning this event.

If you are interested in becoming a member please stop by the fire station any Thursday night and talk to us about it. We provide the training and gear; you provide the willingness.

As I have stated in past years, it is time for the town to realize that we are a growing community and therefore I will be again requesting a fulltime daytime firefighter position. Due to the num-

ber of volunteer firefighters who work outside of town, there is often a delay in a response. Also, there is an increase in paperwork and inspections that need to be done during the work week and some of these can be done during the day.

I would like to thank the anonymous donor who paid for our fuel to allow us to participate in the Franklin County Fair Emergency Services Parade.

This past year we were able to get the electric car, which was donated by the Gill Montague Regional School District a couple of years ago, into working condition. This will be used by the fire, highway and police departments around the town.

In closing, my thanks to the officers and firefighters of this department for their help and support over the last year. Thanks also to their spouses, children, and significant others for giving up your husband, wife, father, mother to the Fire Department each week... in the middle of the night, middle of dinner.

And thanks to the many townspeople who have shown their support for the job we try to do for you. Special thanks to Mick, Ed and George from the highway department, and Dave and Chris and their officers for their support during the past year.

Also thanks to my wife, Dorri, for her understanding and help throughout the year as I have to attend many meetings and trainings.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene M. Beaubien

Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director

Grants Acquired by the Gill Fire Dept. FY2009

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Use</u>
SAFE Grant	\$2,964.62	Fire prevention education
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	\$3,897.00	Purchase goggles, vests, hoods

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE INSPECTION PROGRAM REPORT

Building Inspections

Fiscal Year 2008 showed further decline in dwelling units constructed. The number of dwelling units for all towns was 46, the lowest since 1977. However, permit values held steady, totaling \$28,850,100, due to an increase in our fee schedule. Total fees collected were \$183,105.

Total number of permits issued remained steady at 989, with a significant number of wood stove permits and renovation work.

Gill's fiscal year report for building permits:

Permits	61
Value	\$25,507,607
Dwelling Units*	4
Permit Fees	\$15,563
Certificates of Occupancy	11
Certificates of Inspection**	31
C.I. Fees	\$372
Other Fees***	\$1,031
Total	\$16,966

*2-family and multi-dwellings are issued only one permit per building.

**These figures reflect only those inspections which receive certificates, but for various reasons no certificates are issued.

***Other fees reflect reinspections and duplication of permits and C.O.'s.

Our newsletter is sent to all member towns and builders. If you wish to have a copy, please contact this office.

James D. Hawkins
Inspector of Buildings

Electrical Inspections

In 2008 the State was the first to adopt the new electrical code. With the many changes, it took a great amount of time to educate the contractors on the new regulations. This is just another reason to hire a qualified licensed contractor. Also, there are a large number of outside wood boilers being installed without the proper permits. These are required to be wired by a licensed electrician.

Below is a report for Fiscal Year 2008 which reflects wiring permits and fee activity for your town. For more information on activity in your town, please contact the office.

Reinspection Fees	\$0
Permits	27
Amount	\$3,490

If you have any questions I can be reached during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7AM-9AM at 772-2026, ext 126 or by email at electric@frcog.org. You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our web site at www.frcog.org, under the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

*Sincerely,
James Slowinski
Electrical Inspector*

Plumbing/Gas Inspections

I have included the Fiscal Year 2008 report at the bottom of this page which reflects plumbing/gas permits and fee activity for all member towns.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind town residents that the Mass State Plumbing & Gas Code and our inspection program are in place for the health and safety protection of all residents. Protection of potable water, proper installation of drainage systems and code compliant gas systems are three major responsibilities of licensed plumbers & plumbing/gas inspectors. After an accident insurance companies may not pay claims if a permit has not been issued for any repairs. Permits shall only be issued to licensed plumbers. You can contact me during office hours on Tues-

day & Thursday mornings 7a.m.-9a.m. at 772-2026, ext. 125 or email me at plumbing@frcog.org. You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our web site at www.frcog.org, under Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

Once again, I would like to extend my appreciation to all town officials for your cooperation and assistance during the past year.

Andrew French
Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Reinspection Fees	\$0
Permits	46
Amount	\$4,505



FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (REPC) REPORT

A Franklin County REPC was formed to enhance cooperative regional emergency planning, and address the Federal SARA Title III requirement that all communities have active Local Emergency Planning Committees, procedures to deal with hazardous materials (“hazmat”) emergencies, meet right-to-know requirements, and encourage community awareness. In 2000, under the leadership and administrative support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), all 26 Franklin County towns opted into this regional committee and elected an “all hazards” approach to emergency planning. This approach addresses planning for hazmat emergencies as well as other natural, technological, and man-made events that call for a similar inter-town, inter-disciplinary response.

Since that time the Committee developed a Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan (HMEP) which is a planning and guidance document that provides resources and recommendations for the development of individual community response plans. In addition, it established several subcommittees (including a Planning, Industry, and Training Subcommittee), elected an Executive Com-

mittee, and began to conduct regular meetings. The Committee provided trainings and exercises to emergency responders and local community leaders throughout Franklin County to meet local and state training requirements. These efforts resulted in the Committee being recognized by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and becoming a fully-certified Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) in 2006.

The Franklin County REPC remains the largest of 23 REPCs in the Commonwealth. During 2008, the Committee continued its mandated activities:

1. Reviewing and Updating the HMEP annually.
2. Training emergency responders.
3. Exercising response plans.
4. Creating a system to collect, store and respond to public requests.

With the assistance of FRCOG, the committee collected and recorded Tier II Hazardous Material data updates from 57 sites in Franklin County. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) facilities using, storing or manufacturing more than a certain amount of hazardous chemicals on-site at any time during a reporting year, are required to submit reports on their chemical inventories to state and local authorities.

Additionally, the Committee:

- ◆ Conducted trainings for local first responders, including a class on Hazardous Materials Awareness and four Incident Command System 100/700 classes.
- ◆ Purchased and distributed ICS Field Operations Guides and laminated Emergency Response Planning Maps to all member communities.
- ◆ Purchased digital aerial photography and mapping software and initiated a training program for all member cities and towns for use in emergency planning and response.
- ◆ Applied for, secured, and administered a Homeland Security grant of \$62,566 to aid two communities in updating generators and radio systems.

Lastly, the REPC, the FRCOG, and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District developed a Disaster Debris Planning Document with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Your REPC membership currently consists of the following individuals who represent fourteen disciplines:

- ◆ Fire Service: Walter Tibbits (Franklin County Fire Chiefs)
- ◆ Law Enforcement: Gary Sibiliala (Franklin County Police Chiefs)
- ◆ Emergency Medical Services: Dave Hansen (Franklin County EMS)
- ◆ Boards of Health: Dave Chichester/Gina McNeeley (Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition)
- ◆ Hospitals: Fred Callahan (Franklin Medical Center)
- ◆ Transportation: Tina Cote (Franklin Regional Transit Authority)
- ◆ Media: George Claxton (The Recorder)
- ◆ Emergency Management: John Bartus (Town of Orange)
- ◆ Public Works: Open
- ◆ Community Groups: Dawn Josefski (Franklin County CERT Team)
- ◆ Environmental: John Bourcier (MA Department of Environmental Protection)
- ◆ Elected Officials: Mark Gilmore (Town of Deerfield)
- ◆ Industry: Jim Field (University of Massachusetts)
- ◆ Schools: Open

In addition each of the member communities has designated an Emergency Response Coordinator who is the contact between the REPC and their town:

Ashfield: Doug Field
 Bernardston: Peter Shedd
 Buckland: Milton Rock III
 Charlemont: Charles Bellows
 Colrain: Lawrence Dumas
 Conway: Jeff McFarland
 Deerfield: Mark Gilmore
 Erving: Mitchell LeClaire
 Gill: Jason Edson
 Greenfield: Michael Winn
 Hawley: Greg Cox
 Heath: Tim Lively
 Leverett: James Field
 Leyden: Gilda Galvis
 Monroe: David Nash
 Montague: Bob Escott
 New Salem: Thomas Reidy
 Northfield: Gary Sibiliala

Orange: Dennis Annear
Rowe: Edwin May
Shelburne: Angus Dun III
Shutesbury: Walter Tibbits
Sunderland: Robert Ahearn
Warwick: Donald Matthews
Wendell: Everett Ricketts
Whately: Lynn Sibley

John Taylor (Shelburne), Chair
Mark Gilmore (Deerfield), Vice Chair
Lynn Sibley (Whately), Secretary
Patricia Auchard (Greenfield), Treasurer
John Bartus (Orange), Exec Comm
Jim Field (Leverett), Exec Comm
Michael Winn (Greenfield), Exec Comm

¹As of 12/31/08



FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPORT

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to the twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

Many people have read news articles about the decline in recycling markets at the end of 2008. Fortunately, most Franklin County towns have long-term contracts with the recycling processing facility. This contract guarantees a minimum base revenue to towns of \$15.67 per ton. When the markets were high in early and mid-2008, towns were also receiving additional market revenue. While that additional revenue is not currently being paid, towns

will receive the base payment and will still save money through avoided disposal costs (not sending recyclables to a landfill or incinerator). Despite the downturn in market revenue, District towns collectively received well over \$100,000 for their recyclables in 2008.

In 2008, District towns recycled over 2,500 tons of paper and over 1,200 tons of mixed containers. By diverting a total of 3,700 tons of recyclables from landfills and incineration, District towns collectively saved over \$250,000 in disposal costs.

We continue to work with several schools to improve their recycling program as well as to implement a program to collect food waste for composting. The District also provides hands-on assistance to businesses and institutions that want to recycle or compost their waste.

We increased the number of special events (fairs, races, etc.) that separated recyclables from the trash from 10 in 2007 to 30 in 2008. Organizers of these public events borrowed our specialized recycling bins. Some events have also added bins to collect organic waste for composting.

The Solid Waste District held its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection in September and its Clean Sweep Collection in October. These events are held at multiple sites in the county and are open to all District residents. We also continue to sell backyard compost bins and blue recycling bins from our office.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 772-2438; visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org; or visit us at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - Executive Director

Becky Jurek, Bernardston - Chair

Nathaniel L'Etoile, Northfield - Vice-Chair

Andrea Donlon, Buckland - Treasurer

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

We submit this annual report for 2008 on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

Total enrollment as of October 1, 2008 was 517 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	16	Erving	10	Montague	68	Sunderland	22
Buckland	16	Gill	8	New Salem	5	Warwick	9
Colrain	22	Greenfield	141	Northfield	28	Wendell	7
Conway	10	Heath	6	Orange	59	Whately	8
Deerfield	22	Leyden	5	Shelburne	16	Non-District	39

Franklin County Technical School awarded 135 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2008. This marked the seventh year that Massachusetts students were required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma. Once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The graduates also earned their vocational certificate along with their diploma. 42% of our graduates planned to go on to either a two or four year college, 35% joined the area work force, 1% planned to join the military, 11% went on to a post secondary trade/technical school, and 11% were unsure as to which of the above options they would pursue. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2008.

All schools in the Commonwealth are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to meet or exceed specific student performance standards in English/language arts, mathematics and beginning with the Class of 2010, science also. The Franklin County Technical School is proud to note that it met these adequate yearly progress determinations for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

During 2008, the students from various vocational programs performed a variety of service projects benefiting the city of Greenfield and many of our member towns. We plan to continue supplying our constituent towns with these services as they offer both the ideal learning laboratory for our students as well as an opportunity to contribute back to the communities that have supported us so well over the years. A small sample of recent projects

include a sign for the Bernardston Public Library, a scoring table for the Greenfield High School Booster's Club, a timber frame boathouse for the town of Orange, installation of classroom projectors in Whately, Sunderland and Deerfield elementary schools and the restoration and painting of numerous municipal vehicles for the town of Montague. Students from many shop areas also routinely assist our building maintenance department, supplying services that would otherwise be contracted to outside agencies.

We are in the final stages of a performance contract with the Energy Service Company (ESCO), Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. This project included the installation of energy efficient lighting and sensors, the conversion to high efficiency natural gas-fired boilers and roof top units for heating and ventilation, the sealing of the building envelope, and the installation of energy saving controllers for our computer network and the walk-in coolers/freezers along with a state-of-the-art energy management system to ensure our ability to maximize our savings throughout the life of these new systems. We are pleased to share that this five million dollar project has been completed without any capital request to our member towns. The cost of the project will be covered from the money saved in our utilities budget, ensuring a net zero impact on our overall operating budget. We have since fielded inquiries from many local municipalities and hosted visits from two school districts that are also keenly interested in performance contracting as the only viable means of addressing the issue of aging mechanical systems in the current economic climate.

Our application for a \$35,000 competitive grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative was successful. The grant funds will allow us to acquire both solar thermal and photovoltaic training equipment as well as additional resources to enable further development of curriculum to be used to establish a Solar Energy Training Program. These funds will also be used to supplement the renewable energy component of a required junior year science course. We believe that renewable energy systems are here to stay and we intend to be the premier site in Franklin County for the training of technicians needed to install and maintain these systems.

We continue to work with Greenfield Community College to offer evening courses at Franklin County Technical School. We offer an after-school program in conjunction with GCC that enables our seniors to experience the college environment first hand

while obtaining three college credits. We also offer an EMT basic course for six college credits during the school day to our seniors in our Health Technology program. Six of our classroom instructors are upgrading their skills by taking the new renewable coursework offered at GCC. These new skill sets will translate to additional opportunities for their students to earn college level credits while attending Franklin County Tech.

We also continue to work with Franklin County businesses, the Regional Employment Board and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to make sure that our graduates are part of the economic development for Franklin County.

We thank each and every citizen of Franklin County for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,




Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman

Mr. Richard K. Lane

Franklin County Technical School District Committee

<u>Bernardston</u> Jeffrey B. Beckwith	<u>Buckland</u> Laura J. Earl	<u>Colrain</u> <i>Vacancy</i>	<u>Conway</u> Jack R. Dixon
<u>Deerfield</u> Edward W. Pepyne, Jr.	<u>Erving</u> Robert F. Bitzer	<u>Gill</u> Clifford C. Hatch	<u>Greenfield</u> Larry D. Geiser Jeffrey D. Hamp- ton Mark M. Maloney John A. Zon, Jr.
<u>Heath</u> Arthur A. Schwenger	<u>Leyden</u> Gerald N. Levine	<u>Montague</u> Richard J. Kuklewicz, Chairperson	<u>New Salem</u> Jeff D. Adams
<u>Northfield</u> Gail V. Zukowski	<u>Orange</u> Clifford J. Fournier, Secretary <i>Vacancy</i>	<u>Shelburne</u> Eugene R. Butler	<u>Sunderland</u> <i>Vacancy</i>
<u>Warwick</u> A. George Day, Jr., Vice-Chairperson	<u>Wendell</u> Richard E. Drohen	<u>Whately</u> Donald C. Sluter	

**ANNUAL REPORT
GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT
FISCAL YEAR 2007 - 2008**

<u>SCHOOL COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION (May)</u>
Mary Kociela, Chair	2010
Joyce Phillips, Vice-Chair	2010
Kristin Boyle	2009
Sandra Brown	2010
Sorrel Hatch	2011
Linda Kuklewicz	2009
Terry Lapachinski	2011
Mike Langknecht	2011
Valeria Smith	2009

**GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Gill-Montague Regional School District promotes intellectual, ethical, and social growth within a dynamic educational community in order to develop knowledgeable, productive, and caring citizens.

The 07-08 school year was a time of significant change, decision-making, and educational planning for the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD).

Joining the GIC

GMRSD took advantage of recent legislation allowing school districts and municipalities to join the state-sponsored Group Insurance Commission health insurance plan. With full cooperation and collaboration between the School Committee, the administrative team, our employees and our retirees, all necessary groups voted to join the GIC by the September 30, 2007 deadline, making our district the first in the state to voluntarily join, and paving the way for other county school districts to do the same. This was accomplished on a very tight timeline, with extensive negotiations, and with a positive and cost-effective result for the district and for district taxpayers. District health insurance costs had been increasing

at an annual rate of 18% - 20%, while GIC rate increases have been in the 6% - 8% range for the past several years. Our membership in GIC began on July 1, 2008, and has enabled us to limit the increases in one of our major budget categories.

Setting School Committee Goals

On October 16, 2007, the GMRSD School Committee conducted a retreat workshop, facilitated by an independent consultant from the New England School Development Council, and voted unanimously to establish the following three key goals for the district:

1. *Restore public trust, confidence and respect in the school committee by reaching a decision on the elementary configuration question that puts the needs of students first and enjoys broad public support.*
2. *Develop a sustainable budget that restores needed educational services, provides funds for new program development, and has the full support of the school committee.*
3. *Create a top leadership team, retain effective teachers, and support professional development.*

The District Leadership Evaluation Report issued by the Massachusetts Department of Education (DOE) in November of 2007 endorsed and supported these goals, stating that:

The review team believes that expeditious implementation of these priorities by the School Committee will help strengthen the district's capacity to improve the academic performance of GMRSD students.

Report of the DOE District Leadership Evaluation Team

The DOE visiting team went on to make the following recommendations to the district:

The Interim Superintendent, in concert with the School Committee and in consultation with appropriate district stakeholders, must develop and implement an organizational and operational plan and budget to meet the academic leadership, curriculum and instruction needs of the GMRSD. The plan and budget should provide for the following:

- ♦ *Stable, focused, and effective administrative and academic leadership in schools;*

- ◆ *Focused effort and resources in the central office to support curriculum and instruction throughout the district;*
- ◆ *Complete development and implementation of curricula for all subjects and grade levels;*
- ◆ *Provision of ELA and math coaches;*
- ◆ *Provision for sufficient time for teachers to collaborate on curriculum;*
- ◆ *Full implementation of standards-based teaching and learning;*
- ◆ *Full implementation of timely, written performance evaluations of all district staff, including frequent classroom observations of teachers; and*
- ◆ *Development and implementation of a professional development plan for all district staff based on identified district, school, curricula, and individual developmental needs.*

The review team recommends that the Board of Education require the GMRSD to develop a detailed action plan and timetable for implementation of these recommendations. The review team also recommends that the Department of Education monitor the district's progress in implementing the action plan.

The Turn Around Plan

In response to school committee goals and the DOE Leadership Team report, the Interim Superintendent developed a comprehensive Turn Around Plan, listing the following goals (the complete report and Turn Around Plan are available under the Superintendent's Corner at our website, www.gmrsl.org):

- A. *Resolve the elementary education question.*
- B. *Create an educationally sound and fiscally sustainable budget for FY09 and beyond.*
- C. *Restore elementary educational programs and services.*
- D. *Improve elementary education.*
- E. *Restore middle school and high school programs and services.*
- F. *Improve secondary education.*
- G. *Reorganize central office and educational administrative staffing.*

This Turn Around Plan, after some revisions of the original

submission, was approved by the State Board of Education on April 29, 2008. In his letter to GMRSD notifying us of this approval, Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner of Education wrote the following:

The Department recognizes the efforts you have undertaken at both the school and district levels in the face of diminishing resources. Congratulations on developing and presenting a plan that is focused and deliberate, supported by your prioritization of the critical initiatives to be undertaken on behalf of the GMRSD.

The three key goals set by the school committee, in concert with the state-approved Turn Around Plan, set the framework and guidelines for school improvement efforts carried out by the administrative team during SY 07-08.

Elementary Schools Configuration

Beginning in September 2007, the 6th grade classes from Sheffield were moved to Great Falls Middle School. The district also instituted an intra-district school choice policy, allowing students from either member town to ‘choice-in’ to elementary school in the other town.

After a long and difficult process, the School Committee voted on April 1, 2008, to close Montague Center School, and to move all of its classes and students to Hillcrest Elementary and Sheffield Elementary schools for September 2008. In addition, the school committee voted to move all 1st and 2nd grade classes from Hillcrest to Sheffield.

Educational Improvement

The dedicated and skilled teachers and administrators of GMRSD continued to make significant progress on key educational improvement initiatives during SY 07-08. These efforts and their very positive results are detailed in the individual school reports that follow.

Town Support of Education

Although budget discussions between GMRSD and our two member towns, Gill and Montague, were difficult at times during FY08, the entire school community is grateful and appreciative of the continued and dedicated support that the towns have shown the district and our students.

Please visit our website (www.gmrtd.org) for up-to-date information on our schools and our district.

Gill Elementary School

For the school year 2007-2008, Gill Elementary School had an enrollment of 104 children in kindergarten through Grade 6. Classroom teachers were supported in their work by a Special Needs teacher and a teacher responsible for the operation of the program for the five children on the autism spectrum. The teaching staff worked closely with a skilled group of paraprofessionals to create a warm, friendly and academically challenging program for each child. Staff and students continued to work together to pursue the identified core values, which call for ownership, investment, and commitment to the social, academic, and community growth of the school.

This year went by quickly with a change in the administrative staff and new personnel in the teaching and paraprofessional staff. William McDonald was hired as the new principal, Sara Abt was hired to coordinate the autism program and Gloria Montalvo was hired as a paraprofessional.

Enchanted Circle Theater provided the Gill School with an artist-in-residency program for all staff and students, which integrated theater arts, such as drama, dance, music, visual and listening arts, with the schools language arts and science curriculum. Enchanted Circle Theatre staff members led a professional development experience on March 7th for all staff members. The culminating activity of the residency was an all school assembly, with each classroom sharing their creative curriculum performance project on March 29th. In between, Enchanted Circle Theater artists worked with staff and students with the theme of The Connecticut River and its related content themes of Animal Adaptations, Habitat Industry, Geology and Conservation.

The arts are greatly valued at Gill. This concentration on the arts (music, visual arts, theater and storytelling) was a conscious effort to provide each child with an increased level of expressiveness. Grants from the Gill Arts Lottery Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Gill-Montague Education Fund and the Quintus Allen Fund, along with funds from the PTO, all helped support these efforts. In order to sustain a vision of a well rounded arts program, the PTO continued to help support the district-funded art education program. For the entire school year, Nancy Meagher was the district elementary art teacher and met with each class on a weekly basis. Coordinated by the PTO, student art work and projects were displayed in June at the "Arts and Eats Exhibit".

Faculty professional development activities focused on the implementation of the new Houghton-Mifflin math program “Math Expressions” being adopted district-wide. Everyone is actively involved in the professional development activities led by the Houghton-Mifflin consultants who are training the staff in the new strategies for teaching elementary math. The teachers are excited about the program and its ability to provide a great boost for the school in the teaching of math to our Gill students. In September we also acquired all new updated Houghton-Mifflin reading material for each class. With the implementation of the HM reading program there is now a consistent reading series district wide.

This school year saw an increase in the school population. The end result was a net gain of an additional 10 students in the fall. This year we had a combined class of fifth and sixth grade students. With the sixth grade students heading off to the Middle School, the configuration of the grades for next year is being evaluated based on enrollment and budget considerations. The new structure will be in place for the opening of school.

We were able to expand student experiences and support in-school curriculum by utilizing local and regional resources through a series of field trips. Local field trips included visits to the Gill Library and the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. In addition, fourth grade students took a day long trip to Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. The fifth/sixth grade classroom was able to visit the Sargent Center in Hancock, New Hampshire for a week long environmental education experience in February. The trip was a great success and students enjoyed the center and the welcoming approach by the Sargent staff.

Parent involvement continued to be a key ingredient of the school's success. Parents organized the school library program. This included purchasing, cataloging, and repairing books, and operating the library program each week. This marked the eleventh consecutive year that parents have operated the school library and provided students with the opportunity to explore the world through the books, stories and poems of our collection.

The Gill PTO raised funds via our annual Read-a-thon, and the always eventful carnival. In addition, there were family events such as the Book Fair, Holiday Crafts Night, the Cookie Exchange and the Arts and Eats Evening. The PTO at the Gill School goes the extra mile and was of great financial assistance in supporting this year's school play and field trips, providing staff with school sup-

plies, and making numerous donations that helped the staff have a successful school year. The school would like to recognize all the members of the executive committee and all those parents whose strong support assisted the students at the Gill School.

Accomplishments for the 2007-2008 school year included the following:

- ♦ The tremendous cooperation of the parent group to support the efforts of the school through fundraising and volunteering. The efforts of the PTO staff play an important role in establishing a nurturing student-based climate.

- ♦ Introduction and continuation of the use of the formal assessment tools Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Group Reading Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation (GRADE). These assessments were utilized to examine student achievement in language arts related areas.

- ♦ The performance of the all-school assembly, *Exploring the River Around Us*. This culminating performance was viewed by a standing room crowd and highlighted the talents of students at all grade levels.

- ♦ The winter week long trip by the fifth/sixth grade students to the Sargent Center in New Hampshire. This trip has been, for many, the best part of their schooling experience.

Montague Center Elementary School

For the school year 2007-2008, Montague Center Elementary School had an enrollment of 70 children in kindergarten through Grade 3. Children attending the school come from each of the five villages of the town. There were a total of sixteen staff member that included professional and paraprofessional staff, part-time therapists, maintenance workers and administrative personnel.

This year went by quickly with a change in the administrative staff and new personnel in the teaching and paraprofessional staff. William McDonald was hired as the new principal, Sue Smith joined our school to teach third grade and Melissa Hunn was hired as the physical education teacher.

Professional development activities focused on the implementation of the new Houghton-Mifflin math program. The staff is working diligently to implement the new Houghton-Mifflin "Math Expressions" series. Everyone is actively involved in the professional development activities led by the Houghton-Mifflin consultants who are training the staff in the new strategies for teaching elemen-

tary math. The teachers are excited about the program and its ability to provide a great boost for the school in the teaching of math to our students. The Houghton-Mifflin Reading Program is now utilized school-wide as part of the district program.

There were some highlights in 2007-2008 that we want to spotlight. First and foremost was our study of the Sawmill River. This was a multi-disciplinary project that utilized the environment as an integrated context for learning (EIC) approach and included work with staff from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. Montague Center School is an EIC school, one of four that have been given that distinct honor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This all-school project culminated with the presentation of an all-school meeting about the information gathered and learned throughout the year.

In Kindergarten in the year 07'-08' we have been working hard in Science. Our E.I.C. area of study is the animals of the Sawmill River and water. Our question is "What would life be like without water?" We have observed live animals and mounts of animals. After we observe with tools (magnifying glasses, observascopes, etc.) we sketch the animals. We have also experimented with water using pipettes. We will take three walking field trips to the river in the three seasons comparing its flow each time. Our final project was a mural depicting winter at the river showing the animals and their tracks. Life in Kindergarten was very full with reading, writing, math, social skills and social science. We also did a series of small plays throughout the year to help the children learn about characters, setting, props, rehearsal and show time.

The first grade focus was the school pond and how it changes during the seasons. The first grade also explored how the pond connected to the Saw Mill River. In the spring, the first grade did a ponding field trip during which nets were used to discover the various creatures that inhabit the pond. They made a pond field guide as well as post cards based on the actual pond creatures found in the pond. A 3D model of life on the bottom of our pond was made.

Second grade worked on producing a field guide of plants along the Sawmill River and as a final project planted dogwood trees to help get rid of the more invasive Japanese Knotweed.

Lastly, the third grade studied the Sawmill River and water conservation. They undertook a series of tests of the river that included pH and dissolved oxygen, to arrive at a conclusion: the river is healthy.

A copy of the book produced entitled, The History of the Sawmill River can be found at the Montague Center library. All the classes took three trips to the Nature Trail which is in walking distance of the school. They traveled in the fall, winter and spring and this went along with the study of the Sawmill River.

Another great learning experience this past year was a doll making project made possible by the speech therapist, Gloria Nicols. The third graders chose a character from a book, wrote about it and created a doll made out of clay that was extraordinary. This was made possible by Gloria's many talents. The PTO did partial funding and the rest of the money was earned by the third grade children.

Parental involvement and support remained an integral part of the daily activities and special events at the school. Traditional school events were coordinated efforts between the parent group and the staff and students. These events and activities included the Halloween festival, the cookie exchange, book fair, fishing derby and field day, and the gathering together for the community picnic and pie auction. Parent volunteers also operated the school library and helped out on field trips. We were able to expand student experiences and support in-school curriculum by utilizing local and regional resources through a series of field trips. Local field trips included visits to the Saw Mill River plus the Shea Theater and the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Accomplishments for the 2007-2008 school year:

- ◆ The continuation of the Sawmill River project in collaboration with the Hitchcock Center.
- ◆ The launching of the school-wide reading series as published by the Houghton-Mifflin Company. This was part of the ongoing efforts to standardize the district curriculum and improve the links between the different elementary schools.
- ◆ The tremendous cooperation of the parent group to support the efforts of the school through fundraising and volunteering.
- ◆ Introduction and continuation of the use of the formal assessment tools Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Group Reading Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation (GRADE). These assessments were utilized to examine student achievement in language arts related areas.
- ◆ The performance of the all-school play, *How Does Your Garden Grow*. This musical theater piece was viewed by a standing room only crowd and highlighted the work of the music teacher,

Nan Sadoski, and the talents of the third grade class.

♦ The continuation of the reading program, *Read Naturally*, by Sherri Leh which helps children receive extra reading support.

Hillcrest Elementary School

Statistics

The Hillcrest Elementary School had an enrollment average of 184 students preschool through grade 2. During 2008 we were able to increase our preschool programs to 2 full day and 1 half day programs, serving 45 preschool students. We started the year with 2 kindergarten classrooms but added a third classroom because of a dramatic rise in enrollment. We were able to secure some additional state funding through the kindergarten grant 701 to reduce class size for the new classroom. We had 2 classrooms of first grade and 3 classrooms of second grade. Of the preschoolers, 21 of 45 students were on IEPs, one student was on a 504 plan. For students in kindergarten through grade 2, 1 of 137 students received services through special education and there was 1 student on a 504 plan. We had 7 students for whom English was a second language. Our free and reduced lunch averaged 52%.

A Culture of Literacy

Our Kindergarten, First and Second grades continued a final year of implementation of the Reading First Program. Kindergarten paraprofessionals delivered an intervention program for letter and sound work, and we were able to offer reading intervention before school and during school to targeted students in all grade levels in word work, fluency and comprehension. An average of 30 students were served before school in groups which changed membership depending on student progress, while in-school interventions targeted an additional 40+ students. On the whole, there was positive movement as measured by the DIBLES and GRADE of students into the best category “low risk”.

Reading Recovery, a program providing individualized reading instruction to the lowest first grade readers provided support to 8 students. The Reading Recovery teacher also provided small group targeted instruction to first and second grade students under the Title I Program. The special education teacher, who also is a certified Reading Recovery teacher, provided additional small group targeted instruction. The students in the behavioral classroom received reading support through direct instruction from their teacher and additional support before school and/or with a trained parapro-

fessional. All students were assigned and supported to participate in mainstream classrooms whenever possible and received additional reading instruction there.

Classroom environments continued to be print-rich with newly added focus walls. These are designed to show students (and remind teachers) what the focus of instruction is for the week. Teachers also added math and special reading vocabulary walls to their classroom print. The All School Meeting continued to feature vocabulary which became part of a school wide “Word Market”.

Under the Reading First initiative, teachers continued to meet with the reading specialist in regular grade level meetings, targeting topics related to implementation of the Houghton-Mifflin reading program. This included continued work with comprehension, fluency and writing and continued use of the RF assessments and progress monitoring data to form reading groups, small group work and targeted instruction. The staff looked at uses of non-fiction (informational text) with an eye towards stepping up its important place in instruction begun last school year. School wide literacy events included our annual read-a-thon, parent read-a-thon, Family Literacy Night celebration, Title I family events (Bingo 4 Books) and information in the Principal’s newsletters about supporting children’s literacy development at home.

Students targeted to be in first, second and third grade of fall 2008 were invited to participate in the summer reading camp Razzle Dazzle. The summer of 2008 marked the seventh year of this joint effort of the Montague Public Library, Hillcrest School, Great Falls Discovery Center, and the 21st Century Program of the Sheffield School. The staff of trained reading and classroom teachers and a paraprofessional provided supplemental reading and writing instruction four days a week for six weeks in the summer, closer to the start of school. Students researched the Olympics, completed projects and made weekly trips to the Carnegie Library. Thirty-six students of all reading abilities participated in the program, including students from Montague Center and Gill. Razzle Dazzle students were also able to participate in the summer feeding program at Unity Park. Since this was our final year to receive Reading First grant funds, we created a Sustainability Plan in order to identify and continue best practices in reading instruction for the 2009 school year. The Sustainability Plan was presented to the school committee in May.

Other Curriculum & Instruction

As a district, we continued an all-elementary focus for professional development, targeting the implementation of a new mathematics curriculum, *Houghton-Mifflin Math Expressions*. Literacy work included sessions on open response to text and a focus on student writing. Elementary teacher focus groups meet to select power standards for math and English language arts. Power standards are to be part of daily classroom instruction and displayed on the Focus Wall. Preschool staff continued to seek out professional development related to the special needs of autism spectrum disorder. They also began investigation and dialogue for project-based approaches to learning in the preschool classroom. Through the work of the kindergarten committee (grant 701), teachers from all three elementary schools looked at refinement of parent intake information at the time of kindergarten screening. They also reviewed and made decisions about kindergarten screening tools. Because there was going to be a consolidation of students into two schools, time was spent making plans for transitions.

The Enrichment

Because of the joint efforts of the Hillcrest PTO and the Massachusetts Cultural Council grant, an expanded art experience for our students continued. We began year two of our project *Quilt Chronicles*. The program brought artist Susan Boss to our school for a second year to help students create individual “quilt” panels. Books by author Faith Ringold were featured. The curriculum link focused on mathematics with classroom teachers supporting the geometry and measurement standards at their grade level throughout the residency. It also supported our culture of literacy. Preschool students made a large wall hanging based upon the story *The Blackbird*. The panels were on display in the auditorium for all parents to enjoy. Other enrichment included using Gill-Montague Education Fund and Local Cultural Council funding for visits to the Shea Theater and trips to the Northfield Mountain Program for hands-on experience with life science-life cycles. Preschool students participated in community field trips to the fire station, supermarket, post office and a farm. After school programs provided enrichment opportunities for our students in arts and crafts, friendship groups, Family Make and Takes, and a program at the Carnegie Library. Other students participated in after school programs at the YMCA and Montague Catholic Social Ministries. We also had a puppetry residency sponsored by the PTO. The Caravan Puppet

program included individual classroom puppet creation and plays and a school wide performance. We also enjoyed a school wide performance of the No String Marionettes, also supported by the PTO.

Families

Families participated in monthly activities throughout the school year. Beginning with the First Day of School breakfast and a separate Kindergarten Family Welcome, Preschool Open Houses and family activities focused on student learning and accomplishment in math, literacy and year two of the Quilt Chronicles project. Various community nights, PTO family “Make n’ Takes”, Family Lunch and our ever-popular January Family Literacy Night continued the tradition of inviting families to be part of their children’s school. Our School Read-a-thon invited parents to participate in their own read-a-thon with small prizes awarded for their participation. An additional Community Night was sponsored by the Hillcrest teachers in the fields between the Sheffield and Hillcrest Schools as a large event designed to bring families together for the move of grades 1& 2 to Sheffield School. The Community Partnership for Children/Family Network and the Kindergarten Enhancement grant were able to jointly fund a parenting workshop series. The Hillcrest School Council met with members of the Sheffield School Council to begin consolidation planning and make plans for the future of a new configuration of preK-K and grades 1-5.

The Annual Report reflects another year of hard work and dedication by the teachers and support staff to the best possible educational start to our students’ education. We thank our families who have joined us as partners on this very important journey.

Sheffield Elementary School

This year Sheffield Elementary School served all of the Montague villages for children attending grades 4-5 only, as 6th graders in Montague completed their first year at Great Falls Middle School. Sheffield also served Grade 3 students from Montague City, Turners Falls, Millers Falls, and Lake Pleasant. For the 2007-2008 school year, student enrollment was 150 with 2 grade three classrooms, 3 grade four classrooms, and 3 grade five classrooms. We maintained 1.5 reading teachers under Title I and continued a successful Reading First Program for students in grade three. Instruction was provided in Special Education, Physical Education (1/2 hr per week per student), Instrumental Music (1/2 hr per week per stu-

dent) and Art Education (1/2 hr per week per student). Under Special Education Services, counseling was provided to students from guidance and school adjustment counselors and additional therapies from PT/OT and Speech and Language professionals. Students whose first language is not English receive teaching and language support from a certified ELL teacher who works throughout the district.

Activity and Accomplishments for the 2007-2008 school year include the following:

- ◆ “First Day of School” orientation and class meetings to describe the academic program and expectations for students and to provide a joyous welcome to the school year. This year we had an overflow crowd for the breakfast in our gymnasium and enthusiasm for the classroom meetings from parents and teachers alike.

- ◆ Full first year implementation and training in our district-wide major professional development curriculum adoption of Houghton-Mifflin “Math Expressions” aimed at increasing the math skills and proficiency of all district students in grades K-5.

- ◆ Development of “Power Standards” for English Language Arts and Mathematics together with all teachers PK-5 to bring all elementary curriculum standards “on the same page”, so that children in all schools and classes are being taught the same basic core content according to state standards.

- ◆ \$10,000 “Writer-in-Residency” Grant from Northeast Foundation for Children for collaborative study of further development of school-wide discipline approaches based on the Responsive Classroom model.

- ◆ \$95,000 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant (Annual amount awarded annually for 3-5 years) received from State DESE for before and after-school academic and enrichment programs.

- ◆ \$5,000 anonymous gift to support computer literacy instruction at Sheffield.

- ◆ Increased use of data assessments through DIBELS, GRADE, GALILEO and other software support to better monitor student progress in reading and math.

- ◆ “Ready, Set, Go to Sheffield” was funded to accommodate 40 children in a four week summer program from donations and community support. The program included instruction in reading, computers, and art, as well as mediation training for students in upper elementary grades. A \$3,000 grant from the Montague Elks made

the mediation effort possible.

♦“Ready, Set, Go to Sheffield” provided a special opportunity for incoming students from Hillcrest and Montague Center to ease into their new school as Sheffield consolidated into grades 1-5 in the summer of 2008. Through participation in the program, approximately 15 students each day got to know Sheffield while participating in academic enrichment activities in a small group setting. The community helped support the program in many ways.

♦Many thoughtful transition and orientation activities including school visits, parent picnics, field days, musical plays, and “step-up” days were held to honor and acknowledge the feelings and changes for families in the Hillcrest, Montague Center and Sheffield School communities as one school closed, one school grew smaller and one became much larger for the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. We also said goodbye to retiring teachers and staff, and teachers and principals moving to new positions in the district.

Great Falls Middle School

Great Falls Middle School is an exemplary middle school of approximately 270 students in grades six through eight. A team structure, common planning time, flexible block scheduling, and philosophy that acknowledges the needs of young adolescents are what set us apart from junior highs and many other middle schools. We take great pride in the quality of the education that we offer our students and in the cooperative and respectful atmosphere where students and teachers work and learn together. Great Falls Middle School is housed in the new middle school addition attached to the east end of Turners Falls High School. While Great Falls Middle School is substantially separate from the High School, the library, gymnasium, auditorium, band room, and cafeteria are shared facilities.

Great Falls Middle School is composed of two interdisciplinary academic teams, one at the seventh grade level, and one at the eighth grade level. The sixth grade also operates as a team, but students maintain the self-contained elementary classroom model they are familiar with from elementary school. The seventh and eighth grade teams include teachers of math, science, language arts and social studies as well as special education. The sixth grade team is composed of three generalist academic teachers, a special education teacher, and two special education paraprofessionals. A fourth

team is composed of the teachers of related arts classes such as family and consumer science, health, art, physical education, and math applications. In addition to the four academic courses and the exploratory courses, all students participate in a directed reading program designed to improve their reading comprehension and fluency and expose them to a wide variety of authors and genres. Great Falls Middle School students also participate in the Responsive Designs for Middle School program, taking part in a Circle of Power and Respect each morning where students get to know one another, learn to interact respectfully, and have the opportunity to participate in group greetings, sharing and activities.

Throughout the year, students have the option of participating in marching band, jazz band and chorus as well as peer mediation, and several after school clubs. In addition, all students are invited to participate in a variety of after school activities offered daily through the 21st Century Community Learning Center. The learning center offerings include a wide range of activities such as the homework help center, arts and crafts, movie making, flag football, and juggling, to name a few. In addition to the activities already mentioned, students may participate in the inter-scholastic sports program which includes soccer, football, field hockey, cross country, volleyball, golf, basketball, swimming, baseball, softball, tennis, and track.

The highlights of 2007-2008 at Great Falls Middle School:

- ◆First Day Celebration: The middle school began the year with a First Day celebration. On the day prior to school opening, parents and families of our students joined the faculty and staff for breakfast in the cafeteria. Tours of the middle school and shared middle school/high school facilities were provided and parents had the opportunity to meet with the teachers of their child's team. It was a great success and a wonderful start to the new school year.

- ◆Open House: Meeting with parents, family members, and people in the community is essential to an effective school program. At our annual open house on September 26th, we all came together to learn about the middle school program and the middle school facility and its many advantages for our students. The open house is always a wonderful way to start the year and helps parents and teachers get to know each other as they begin the important work together of educating children.

- ◆The eleventh Annual Community Pot Luck Supper: Parent and community involvement in the education of our young people

is essential to any successful school. This annual event provides an opportunity for students, parents and staff to make critical connections and get to know one another while they enjoy a traditional New England pot luck supper. It also serves as the culminating activity for the annual school raffle which raised nearly \$5,000 for student activities. This year, we once again had the honor of hosting this memorable event. During dessert, student dancers and singers as well as the faculty band entertained the attendees.

♦ Providing students with a wide variety of activities and learning experiences as a means of educating the “whole child” is one of the middle school goals. In the GFMS/TFHS musical production of “Once Upon a Mattress”, more than 100 middle school and high school students joined together to perform this classic show. A tremendous amount of help from parents, staff, and the community preparing sets and costumes went into making this a wonderful event. The production in the renovated theater was truly a marvelous experience.

♦ The social development of our middle school students is important and this year we had a Farewell Dance sponsored by the 6th and 7th grade students for the 8th grade. This event provides the opportunity for students to work together to plan, organize, and finance a large social event. The Farewell Dance is a semi-formal dance and this year, the event was once again held in the middle school/high school cafeteria. The Farewell Dance was, as always, the social event of the year for middle school students.

♦ Community Service: As citizens of any community, it is important that students understand and value the need to be of service to others. Once again, the student Great Falls Middle School Student Council, with the charitable assistance of the middle school community, successfully responded to the needs of others by collecting several car loads of food for donation to the survival center.

Great Falls Middle School provides a safe, nurturing, and academically challenging environment and a supportive transition from elementary to secondary school. The program is specifically designed to meet the needs of early adolescents while empowering them to develop and recognize their value and place in the global community.

Turners Falls High School

Turners Falls High School is a four-year, comprehensive high school accredited by the New England Association of Schools and

Colleges. For the 2007-2008 school year, 36 teachers, eight para-professionals, and nine support staff served the needs of 342 students. The Turners Falls High School has a modified schedule of 4x4 blocks (The school day is made up of 4 periods of 90 minutes per semester, which allows for 8 classes per year.) Our graduates for the class of 2008 have advised us of their plans after graduation and they include:

- ◆30% of them will go on to 4 year colleges,
- ◆46% will begin their post secondary education at 2 year colleges,
- ◆4% will attend technical/vocational schools training for careers in a variety of different fields,
- ◆20% will go directly into the work force or military service.

Wherever their paths lead, no matter how many new friends they make or people they meet, as the class of 2008, and graduates of TFHS, they will share a bond that will keep them connected throughout their lives.

Students of Turners Falls High School are required to earn one hundred forty (140) credits to graduate. In addition to course offerings in English, mathematics, science, and social studies, Turners Falls High School has offered diverse elective courses including three world languages (Latin, Spanish, and French), business education, technology education (graphic arts, Computer Aided Design, Wood Shop Manufacturing, Basic Video, and Television Studio Production), health education, physical education grades 9-12, art, music, fine arts and theater arts.

The school curriculum supports Advanced Placement courses that offer students the opportunity to receive college credit for courses. When a student scores a 3, 4 or 5 on an AP test, colleges award college credit, which can save parents tuition costs. Turners Falls High School offers AP courses in calculus, literature and composition, US history, biology, and psychology.

Opportunities are available for students to take courses outside of Turners Falls High School, through the Dual Enrollment Program. In addition, we have partnered with Greenfield Community College's Educational Transitions Program which provides low income students with dual enrollment opportunities at no cost to their families. Recognizing the importance of providing students with insight into the world of work, we also offer school-to-work opportunities for students who qualify. Students internships within the school provided assistance to staff and programs at both Turn-

ers Falls High School and other schools in the district.

Turners Falls High School has a tradition of maintaining a commitment to excellence, a caring atmosphere promoted by students and staff, and a sense of community. This tradition was exhibited in several events through out the year. Student Council & National Honor society students worked on a variety of individual projects to improve school community relationships as well as several community service efforts and charitable undertakings.

The Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School complex is a “Green School”. This term is given to schools or buildings that are designed to be environmentally sensitive, energy efficient and healthy for their occupants. Thanks to the generosity from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust in supporting the renovations to our building, “Green School” features were incorporated into the facility. Students are also able to learn about the “Green School” features from curriculum that has been developed by teachers and staff in connection with the MTCRET. Additional “Green School” information is available at the high school main office.

The 2008 graduation was held in our air conditioned gymnasium. Students set up and decorated the facility, taking great pride in their efforts. The Turners Falls High School administration and staff celebrated the event with the students, their parents, and family members.. Student accomplishments for the 2007-2008 school year included the following:

- ◆ Students continued to participate and excel in a wide variety of athletics: in the fall, cross-country, football, volleyball, and field hockey; in the winter, basketball, swimming and ice hockey (co-op team); and in the spring, softball, baseball, tennis, golf, and track. Many of our teams were very successful in post season play, bringing recognition to our school.

- ◆ Students also participated in a variety of academic, fine arts and club activities. The band and chorus continued to entertain and win awards in a variety of competitions. The TFHS Band participated in the Franklin County Fair Parade. Again the band marched in the Booster Day Parade and the Memorial Day Parade. The students performed in the Harvest Parade in Orange, Massachusetts and won awards for their performance. The band also traveled to Cleveland, Ohio where the Concert Band, Jazz Band and Chorus competed and visited the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

- ◆ Activities such as the 2nd annual Powder Puff football game,

Snow Ball, National Honor Society induction, Prom, Booster Day activities, and Prom Fashion show provided opportunities for students to plan, organize, and finance events, with the support of local businesses and community friends. Booster Week homecoming and spirit week activities were a success with all four grades constructing floats and marching in the parade. Dances, rallies, and games were highlighted. The Thanksgiving bonfire, held prior to the Thanksgiving Day football game, was organized by students from the Technology classes and Mr. Jobst, and was a highlight of the fall season. In March, students from Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School participated in the musical *Once Upon a Mattress*, and performed to capacity crowds at each performance.

Demonstrating their commitment to professional development, all staff participated in a variety of workshops related to the NEASC accreditation recommendations, curriculum mapping, and MCAS skills and assessment. The Turners Falls High School staff is dedicated to meeting the needs of diversified learners, and developing curriculum and strategies to improve student learning and MCAS scores.

Turners Falls High School is grateful for the communities' support of the many activities, athletic events, fundraisers, concerts, musical productions, and field trips and for the help of the many volunteers who assist the school on a daily basis.

District Special Education/Pupil Services

During the 2007-2008 school year, the Gill-Montague Regional School District's Special Education/Student Services Department provided a vast array of services to approximately 250 special education students, 50 accommodation/504 students, 19 English Language Learners, and 25 home schooled students. Most services were provided in the district's six public schools. These services included, but were not limited to, education assistance and remediation consistent with the established regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Massachusetts Department of Education policies for educating English Language Learners, Special Needs students, and students on Accommodation Plans (504). Direct services included the following: speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, therapy for hearing impaired students, vision/mobility therapy, counseling, testing, adaptive physical education, community-based vocational coaching, and behavior man-

agement. The district also funded day and residential special education programs for approximately 15 eligible students.

Special education students attending programs in the district were provided access to each school's curriculum. The least restrictive placement with free and appropriate educational services, supported by IDEA and considered best practice, provided the overarching goal for each program. With inclusion as the best practice model at the elementary and middle school levels, "pull-out" time is used when necessary. There was ongoing decision making at annual review meetings, focusing on meeting the program needs of eligible students. Agreements between parents and the school regarding programming were made in approximately 350 TEAM meetings. There were no hearings needed as any conflicts were resolved in additional meetings with families. There was one mediation to settle differences between school decisions and those made by parents/DCF and DMH. Staff efforts resulted in success in the district's programs. Assistance from teachers, administrators, support staff, paraprofessionals, and consultants contributed to the gains made in well-run programs.

There are K-12 programs that are dedicated to providing emotional/social supports for students with behavioral disorders or emotional disabilities. The Life Skills program at GFMS and TFHS promotes access of developmentally delayed students to the school's general curriculum while providing them with intensive instruction in skills that will allow them to live full lives as independently as possible. The Autism Program at Gill Elementary School offers highly specialized instruction in "concert" with a variety of related services to a small group of our most disabled Autistic students.

Special Education services face significant financial challenges in providing mandated programming with insufficient funding provided by the state or federal governments. Grants have been reduced or eliminated and those that have increased slightly are not keeping pace with cost of living increases in salaries or services. The budget for the out-of-district tuitions continues to climb while the DOE Circuit Breaker reimbursement program stays static at a reimbursement level of 72%. Homeless transportation, Elementary Specialized Transportation, and Secondary Specialized Transportation line items continue to be high with no reimbursement from the state. However, with the continued development of in-district programs and services we will reduce the need for "outside" programs.

In addition, Special Education Directors from the region are working to increase their level of collaboration in an effort to provide specialized programs for other local districts at a reasonable cost.

Health Services

Gill-Montague Regional School District employed three elementary and one secondary nurse for the 2007-2008 school year. The district continues to collaborate with the East Longmeadow School System, sharing content of East Longmeadow's Health Improvement Grant. This collaboration allowed nurses to receive updated screening equipment.

Grants

The Gill-Montague Regional School District receives grant funds for both programs and personnel from private organizations and from state and federal agencies. These grants and reimbursements may cover all or some portion of the cost of a wide variety of school programs. All of the programs supported through these grants provide valuable services to students and staff. Literally every student in the district benefits to some degree from these grants. However, our decreasing student enrollment continues to impact the amount of funding we receive. For the 2007-2008 school year we received \$91,700 less in grant funds than the year before. This was due to decreases in the funds available from various state and federal grants. For example, we received \$47,709 less in federal Title I funds than the year before. Nevertheless, we continue to actively seek out and apply for grants whenever we find an opportunity.

It should be noted that we will benefit from three grants awarded to the Gill-Montague Community-School Partnership, or members of the Partnership working with and for the youth of the community.

1. A Drug Free Communities grant of \$125,000 from the US Department of Health & Human Services. This is a 5 year grant with funding of \$125,000 each year.
2. A Violence Prevention grant of \$50,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
3. An "After School and Out of School Time" grant of \$10,000 to develop plans for meaningful programs for the community's youth when they're not in school.

Technology

The following are highlights of accomplishments in the 2007-2008 school year in the area of technology:

- We began to use on a regular basis the Galileo software program provided by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to assess students' progress in math and English/language arts.
- We expanded our use of DESE's Data Warehouse. The student information in the warehouse is designed to help teachers plan instruction and improve student performance. Access to the warehouse is free of charge.
- We reconfigured our computer network and replaced two network servers.
- We replaced 24 computers using funds from the Stabilization Fund. It was the first time in 5 years that we have been able to replace some of our oldest computers.
- We reduced our technology support staff from four to three.

Each year educators find new ways to use computer technology to help students learn. We continue to do our best to comply with the Massachusetts Technology Benchmarks and to take advantage of the ever-increasing educational possibilities presented by technology. We are fortunate to have a technology support staff who is able to maintain the integrity of our computer networks and to keep

<u>Contributors to the Annual Report</u>
Kenneth M. Rocke, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Lynn Bassett, Director of Business and Operations
Martin Espinola, Director of Technology and Grants
Nadine Ekstrom, Director of Special Education and Student Services
Christine Jutres, Principal, Hillcrest Elementary School
Jeffrey Kenney, Principal, Turners Falls High School
William McDonald, Principal, Gill Elementary School
Chip Wood, Principal, Sheffield Elementary School
Donna Fitzpatrick, Principal, Great Falls Middle School

Gill-Montague Regional School District
Governmental Funds
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources, and Expenditures and Other
Uses – Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008 (Not-Audited)

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
Revenues and Other Sources:				
Assessments to mem- ber towns	8,426,581	\$8,426,581	\$8,426,581	0
Tuition	495,592	495,592	567,595	72,003
Intergovernmental	6,821,228	6,821,228	6,779,545	-41,683
Investment Income	52,500	52,500	72,196	19,696
Miscellaneous	0	0	24,736	24,736
Other Sources	200,000	200,000	218,515	18,515
Transfers in	185,000	185,000	185,000	0
Total Revenues and Other Sources	16,180,901	16,180,901	16,274,168	93,267
Expenditures and Other Uses:				
Administration	648,665	648,665	631,345	-17,320
Instruction	7,577,833	7,577,833	7,285,219	-292,614
Other School Ser- vices	1,028,582	1,028,582	950,345	-78,237
Operation and main- tenance	1,496,631	1,496,631	1,496,182	-449
Fixed charges bene- fits	3,575,847	3,575,847	3,440,556	-135,291
Debt Service	257,655	257,655	243,466	-14,189
Special education tuitions	701,000	701,000	880,070	179,070
School choice/charter	894,688	894,688	783,233	-111,455
Transfer out	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	16,180,901	16,180,901	15,710,416	-470,485
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditure and other uses	0	0	563,752	563,752

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

As highway superintendent I would like to thank all the citizens for your continued support. It is, as always, a pleasure to serve this wonderful community.

This past year the Main Road reconstruction project was completed. MassHighway and F&J Construction of Ludlow completed the punch list, turning the roadway back to the town. Several modifications to the original plans were implemented to accommodate residents. Planning for this project started over ten years ago and took just two years to complete. I am happy to report that we now have a very much improved roadway. I am also happy to report that the project came in under budget.

Chapter 90 funds this year were used to maintain the chip seal program, to keep the roads in the best possible shape we can. These funds come through the Commonwealth and are restricted for use on roadway upgrades and roadway repairs. This year's spending of Chapter 90 funds was kept at a minimum due to the fiscal crisis the town is in. The chip seal program of resurfacing three miles of roads per year has been a struggle the past few years; the cost of materials has risen, putting a burden on the town. This year's chip



Bascom Hollow Bridge

sealing program addressed 8/10 mile of Dole Road, 4/10 mile of Atherton Road and 1/10 of a mile on Center Road. Additionally, 350 feet of sub-drainage was installed on Dole Road this year.

Town funds this year were used to patch, shim, repair roads and mow along the roadsides, install signs, trim brush and maintain the roads in winter. We also cleaned catch basins, swept the roads, and conducted general maintenance of town-owned buildings. This year we repaired heating system valves at the Riverside Building, repaired fans in the fire dept, addressed roof leaks in the public safety complex and repaired the heating system in the complex as well. We repaired doors and windows in the town hall, and repaired valves and pump issues in the sewer system, and even assisted the police and fire departments on emergency calls during the daytime hours.

In closing this year's report, I would like to commend the residents for your continued support and give a special thanks to the two other highway department employees for their dedication toward giving you the best possible roads you could ask for. Without these talented people the highway department could not maintain the level of service you deserve. Thanks again for your support.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell LaClaire, Sr.
Highway Superintendent*



HISTORICAL COMMISSION REPORT

In 2008 the Historical Commission consulted with other town boards on proposed changes to local businesses and roadways. The Commission expanded the Gill museum collections and increased its research into the history of Gill families. Members continued to transcribe and annotate diaries from Gill residents of the 1860 – 1880s, and began building computerized archives of scanned photos, autograph books, ledgers and maps of Gill. The museum continued to be open to the public on Thursday evenings until late in the spring.

On April 30, children from the Gill School came to the museum to learn more about commerce and industry on the Connecticut River, try on historical clothing and sample the life of a logger during Bob Perry's logging demonstration. In May, members of the Commission hosted a visit from the Great Falls Discovery Center. Visitors were impressed by the 1840 Geology book by Edward Hitchcock, displayed in the glass case in the museum. This important volume was donated to the Commission by Dick French.

In June, an auction of property was held at the Mountain Road estate of the late Ruth and Clesson Blake. Facilitated by trustee and Commission member Dick French, the auction provided the Historical Commission opportunities to view and later acquire items of significant historical value to Gill. Led by Pam Shoemaker, Commission members spent time in the summer preparing some of these items for display at the museum during the Fall Craft Fair, Oct. 18 and 19. These include excerpts and transcriptions from more Gill diaries, as well as maps of Gill cemeteries and a photo exhibit of a quilt made at the Gill Church in 1888, signed by members of the congregation of that time. Members transcribed the signatures for the Gill museum collection, and provided a list of the names to Old Deerfield PVMA who bought the quilt at the auction.

Other 2008 acquisitions were papers from the turkey business of Francis Remillard of West Gill, a scrapbook about Robert Darr Wert's Country Prints textile business, two small glass front display cases, photos of Gill families such as the Blakes, Phillips, Bascoms and Ballards, and papers lent or donated from the Blake estate. One of the diaries refers to the Simon Phillips wooden ballot box which is on display in the museum.

Commission members continued researching and transcribing Gill diaries from the Blake estate, the estate of Harriet Tidd and from Philip and Susie Maddern. The diaries are rich with information about business and family life in Gill, which will help the Commission apply for nomination to the National Register for a historic district in the center of Gill. A website for the Historical Commission is in the planning stages.

The Historical Commission meets every third Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Grateful to all those who made donations to the museum in 2008, we also encourage Gill residents to contact us to share stories, letters, photos or diaries as we gather more historical information about our town. We continue to work

toward the preservation of historical information and materials and welcome your ideas for sharing our history.

*Respectfully submitted,
Cristin Carpenter, Chair*



MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Memorial Day service was held on May 25th in the Gill Congregational Church. The service was opened by Amanda Morrell singing The Star Spangled Banner. Gary Bourbeau led with the welcome, introductions and announcements. Ms. Morrell then sang God Bless America, followed by the address given by Chester Kuzontkoski.

Services continued at the Veterans' Monuments, where Gary Bourbeau gave the welcoming address. The Oak Ridge Detachment Marine Corps League participated with Senior Vice Commandant John Barlow offering the Memorial Prayer. Boy Scout Troop 6 participated in the Rose Ceremony. Also on hand were members of the Gill Fire Department serving as honor guard, and Steve and Joyanna Damon playing Taps. We had local veterans who volunteered to carry service flags for Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Support Our Troops, which were donated by Chet Kuzontkoski for this special occasion. The service was concluded with the raising of the new flag.

New flags and geraniums were distributed at each veteran's grave site.

We offer our thanks to all who have taken time to participate in this event in which we honor those who made the supreme sacrifice in service to our country.

With the assistance of the Friends of Gill, we were able to have the monuments cleaned in time for this special event.

The 2009 Memorial Day service will be held on Sunday, May 24th.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elaine Smith
Douglas Smith
Chester Kuzontkoski
Gary Bourbeau
Merri Bourbeau*

MOHAWK AREA PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION (MAPHCO) REPORT

The Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO) is a regional coalition that represents the Boards of Health (BOH) from the following towns: Ashfield, Buckland, Bernardston, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Goshen, Greenfield, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, Northfield, Rowe, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Whately, Williamsburg, and Wendell.

This coalition is responsible for public health emergency planning as mandated by the State Department of Public Health, and members work collaboratively to enhance the communities' collective capacity to share resources and respond to public health threats and emergencies including terrorism and outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Oversight

An elected Steering Committee is the governing body that guides the work of MAPHCO and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is the host agency serving as the Coalition's fiscal and administrative agent.

Currently the Steering Committee is comprised of these selected representatives according to the following population districts:

Population 0-1,000: Rowe, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, Warwick, Leyden, Goshen, and Wendell

- ♦ *Dawn Peters (Resigned 2008)*

Population 1,001 – 2,000: Charlemont, Gill, Erving, Whately, Leverett, Ashfield, Conway, Shutesbury, Colrain, and Buckland

- ♦ *Dave Chichester*
- ♦ *Carolyn Ness*
- ♦ *Bill Elliott (Co-Chair)*
- ♦ *Ruth Cannavo (Resigned mid-2008)*

Population 2,001-7,000: Sunderland, Shelburne, Bernardston, Williamsburg, Northfield, and Deerfield

- ♦ *Jon Pineo*
- ♦ *Donna Gibson*

Population 7,001 or more: Greenfield and Montague

- ♦ *Nicole Zabko*

- ♦ *Chris Boutwell (Co-Chair)*
- ♦ *Gina McNeely*

EDS Organization

MAPCHO is organized into eight Emergency Dispensing Site Districts (EDS). An EDS is a location where mass vaccinations can be provided in the event of an outbreak or flu pandemic. Each district has a designated Emergency Dispensing Site(s); this is where the Strategic National Stockpile system will deliver any medication:

District Name	Cities and Towns	EDS Location
Hawlemont	Charlemont, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, Rowe	Hawlemont School
Mohawk	Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Shelburne	Mohawk High School
Pioneer	Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, Warwick	Pioneer High School
Greenfield	Greenfield	Greenfield Middle & High School
Montague	Erving, Gill, Montague, Wendell	Turners Falls High School
Frontier	Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, Whately	Frontier High School
Leverett and Shutesbury	Leverett, Shutesbury	Leverett Elementary School
Williamsburg and Goshen	Williamsburg, Goshen	Dunphy Elementary School

Exercises and EDS Planning

The Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition represents 64,671 people across the Pioneer Valley. In 2008 it served more than 78 percent of its residents with its planning and exercise program. This work was funded primarily by grants distributed through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, but because these events were fully compliant with all applicable State and Federal

guidelines, including the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), MAPHCO secured for its efforts more than \$22,000 in additional funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

- ♦ Frontier (Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately representing 18 percent of the region's population) was the most active district in the Franklin Region. The Towns of Conway and Sunderland ran full-scale Door2Door Exercises demonstrating that they could each serve more than 80 percent of their communities in a 12-hour period, while the Town of Deerfield developed a scaled down "test," delivering only to a select set of neighborhoods. Deerfield also ran a traditional EDS exercise, held in conjunction with a flu-clinic distributing nearly 900 vaccines to a wide cross section of its residents. The Town of Whately has an exercise scheduled for early 2009. The Town of Deerfield also executed an alert/call-down drill using CDC metrics, and participated in the first (anticipated) quarterly test of the HHAN network.
- ♦ Montague (Montague, Wendell, Erving, and Gill, representing 19 percent of the region's population) served more than 250 residents using a flu vaccine clinic to test its EDS plans.
- ♦ The Town of Shutesbury (representing two percent of the region's population) distributed vaccinations in its own EDS exercise and flu clinic.
- ♦ The City of Greenfield (representing 28 percent of the region's population) facilitated five workshops to update its EDS plan and prepare for a series of exercises in 2009.
- ♦ Williamsburg and Goshen (representing five percent of the region's population) are drafting an updated EDS plan as well with publication set for 2009.
- ♦ Hawlemont (Charlemont, Hawley, Rowe, Monroe, and Heath, representing four percent of the region's population) renewed its EDS planning with a "Jump-Start" program that convened its planning team and established a timeline for publication.

MAPHCO also participated in a regional public health emergency communications drill. This drill involved all the Public Health Coalitions in the four counties of Western Massachusetts and tested 24/7 communication systems.

Conferences and Training

During FY '08, MAPHCO members had the opportunity to attend multiple conferences and training events. In addition to Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, members attended training on:

- ◆ Public Information Officer (PIO) (sponsored by FRCOG with an eye toward building a regional crisis communications plan)
- ◆ Strategic National Stockpile
- ◆ Infectious disease reporting (MAVEN)
- ◆ American Red Cross sheltering
- ◆ The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

Additionally, MAPHCO staff presented different components of the Region's preparedness program at regional and national conferences.

Supplies and Equipment

In 2008 MAPHCO awarded more than \$26,000 in mini-grants to its member cities and towns to enhance local public health capacity. Award amounts were based on population size. Projects ranged from technology purchases to hiring part-time public health nurses:

Ashfield	\$881.39	VHF radios
Bernardston	920.44	Laptop computer
Buckland	921.86	VHF radios
Colrain	884.15	Internet service
Conway	883.30	Connect CTY
Deerfield	1,506.45	"Crank" FM radios
Erving	810.83	EDS supplies
Gill	788.80	Laptop computer
Greenfield	4,349.51	Temporary public health nurse
Hawley	571.19	Internet service
Heath	670.57	Internet service
Leverett	852.36	Laptop computer

Montague	\$2,298.68	Temporary public health nurse
Northfield	1,125.27	Software and Internet service
Shelburne	766.55	ICS vests and hazmat suits
Shutesbury	883.51	Handheld scanner and computer
Sunderland	1,300.29	Connect CTY
Wendell	708.92	Emergency (med and non-med) supplies
Whately	833.29	EDS supplies
Williamsburg	1,015.73	“Crank” FM radios and water filters

Planning for Vulnerable Populations

Under funding provided by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Western Massachusetts Homeland Security Advisory Council, the Coalition continued its Vulnerable Populations Emergency Preparedness Project. This project includes the development of a database of service agencies that can assist individuals requiring special assistance during times of emergencies, and develops/conducts personal preparedness trainings for service agency staff and consumers, as well as developing a training curriculum to educate emergency responders on the specific needs of differing populations.



PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The vision for the Town of Gill is to recognize the town’s rural character and to preserve its unique natural, historic and scenic resources. The preservation of these assets is for the benefit of current and future residents as well as visitors who come to our town.

Planning can help a community to guide future growth. The Planning Board sets goals and objectives and takes into consideration the town’s population, the local economy, demographic and

socio-economic trends, historic and cultural resources, sensitive environmental areas, existing parks and recreation areas, housing resources and needs including affordable housing.

Currently the Planning Board is working on updating the town's Subdivision Rules and Regulations. This has been a lengthy process over a period of many months with the goal of development that remains consistent with the community's needs. Factors considered by the Planning Board in the subdivision review process include: conformity to the zoning ordinance, relationship of development to environmental conditions, street construction standards and impacts including width, grades, sight distances and cul-de-sac characteristics, road length, installation of drainage and other public facilities, provisions of recreation and open space.

The Planning Board is looking for new members who are able to meet one evening per month. This is a small time commitment that will make a big difference in your town. No special experience is necessary. Any resident of Gill with an interest in the town is encouraged to join. If you would like more information please contact any Board member or call the Town Hall. We would be happy to have you on board!

*Respectfully submitted,
Doug Smith, Chair*



POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Gill Police Department
196B Main Rd
Gill, MA 01354
Emergency 911
Fax (413) 863-0157
Station (413) 863-9398
Email policedept@gillmass.org

In completing my 14th year as the Chief of Police for the Town of Gill, please accept the following summary of activity for this

community. It is truly my honor to serve the good citizens of Gill and to serve alongside my fellow dedicated officers.

May I start by stating that this has been the most challenging of years due to the financial crisis our town has found itself in. We are at the lowest staffing level the police department has had since 1998. It was ten years ago that the Gill Police Department had only two full-time officers on its roster. Including cuts in our Community Policing grant from the Commonwealth and in funds from the Town, in FY09 the Department has taken a 19% cut in its overall operating budget.

February. With great regret we accepted the resignation of Officer James Deery as he accepted a full-time position in the Town of Montague. We wish him the best and thank him for his service.

Chief Hastings and Sgt. Redmond attended the mandatory ICS 300 training presented by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

March. Officer Sokoloski received a letter of thanks from the Montague Police Dept. for assistance during a narcotics operation.

April. Chief Hastings, Sgt. Redmond and Officers Sokoloski and Coughlin assisted with the TRIAD function at St Kazmierz. A letter of thanks was written to Kevin's Auto Repair for his assistance in painting the 2003 cruiser for only the cost of the paint. The department received a letter of appreciation for Officer Coughlin's actions and assistance during an motor vehicle stop. Chief Hastings attended the Work Zone Safety Training presented by the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA).

May. Officer Fiske attended and assisted with the Memorial Day ceremonies in the center of Town. Renovations began on the French King Bridge addressing joint repairs and resurfacing. Officer Sokoloski attended the Municipal Alcohol Enforcement Training presented by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission and Greenfield-based Community Action.

June. Officers Coughlin and Sokoloski attended mandated in-service training at the Greenfield Police Department. The Department received updated training in elder abuse laws.

July. Animal Control Officer Edward Ambo resigned from his position. No one was re-appointed for this position as the funding was cut from the budget. Department training was provided for updating the Sex Offender Registry Board. All officers received Emergency Driver Training by MIIA in the driver simulator.

August. Officer Waldron attended, and assisted with, the Old

Home Days Parade in Montague. Officer Sokoloski resigned from the Gill Police Department to accept a full-time position with the Deerfield Police Department. A spending freeze was ordered for all departments, causing part-time shifts to be cut to a minimum.

Officer Coughlin resigned for personal reasons. We miss him the best and thank him for his service.

In conjunction with the Gill Highway and Fire Departments, Officer Fiske organized the First Annual Bike Rodeo. Free helmets were given to children, safety checks were performed on bikes and food and drinks were served. Sponsors were The Wagon Wheel and Town Line Auto.

September. Officer Marguet attended Field Sobriety Testing Training. Chief Hastings, Sgt. Redmond and Officer Marguet assisted with the TRIAD Picnic at Schuetzen Verein. Kubotan (a close-quarter self-defense weapon) and hand cuffing training was provided for Department members. The Department received a letter of thanks from the Principal at the Gill Elementary School for assistance in setting up and carrying out new student drop-off plans. All officers were provided training via a DVD from Western MA Electric Company entitled "Your Safety on the Line."

October. The 2003 Crown Victoria cruiser was sold via sealed bids thru the Selectboard's office. A card of thanks was received from the Friends of Gill for the Department's assistance with its annual Fall Craft Fair.

November. Chief Hastings and Sgt. Redmond assisted with the TRIAD dinner at St Kazmierz. Chief Hastings attended the Eleventh Annual School and Police Conference. Sgt. Redmond received a card of thanks for his assistance with a domestic situation in Gill.

December. Sgt. Redmond received a letter of thanks from two residents for assisting them in gaining entrance into their secured home. Chief Hastings was re-elected as the President of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association for the second year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chief David Hastings*

Total Citations = 364

Citation	Number	Percent of Total
Arrest	17	4.7
Civil	139	38.2
Complaint	9	2.5
Warning	198	54.4
Verbal	1	0.3
Speed measured by radar	188	51.6
Speed measured by estimate	3	0.8
Accident occurred	3	0.8
Citation issued to owner	4	1.1
CDL Licenses	2	0.5
Commercial vehicle	1	0.3
Average speed	57 MPH	
Average speed limit	42 MPH	
Average MPH over speed limit	15 MPH	

Racial Profiling Data

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Black	7	1.9
Asian or Pacific Islander	2	0.5
Hispanic	12	3.3
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	0.3
White	332	91.2
Missing/Violator Not Present/Unknown	10	2.7
TOTAL	364	100.0

Case Activity Statistics

Total offenses committed	194
Total felonies	32
Total crime related incidents	6
Total arrests (on view)	30
Total arrests (based on incident/warrants)	9
Total summons arrests	21
Total arrests	60
Total restraint orders	10

No Crime Incident Event Breakdown

<u>Event</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
911 mis-dial	12	2.9
911 hang-up	6	1.2
Alarm	14	3.4
Animal complaint	23	5.6
Annoying phone calls	2	0.5
Assist Fire Dept.	9	2.2
Assist other agency—Bernardston PD	18	4.4
Assist other agency—Environmental Police	1	0.2
Assist other agency—Greenfield PD	5	1.2
Assist other agency—MA State Police	6	1.5
Assist other agency—Montague PD	14	3.4
Assist other agency—Northfield PD	21	5.1
Assist other agency—Unspecified	2	0.5
Assist citizen	11	2.7
ATV complaint	1	0.2
Disabled motor vehicle	2	0.5
Disturbance—family	15	3.6

No Crime Incident Event Breakdown (Cont'd)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Disturbance—general	16	3.9
Disturbance—loud noise	14	3.4
Fire	3	0.7
Harassment	2	0.5
Hazard	8	1.9
Keep the peace	3	0.7
Medical assist	37	9.0
Minor vehicle accident	11	2.7
Missing person	1	0.2
Police information	2	0.5
Possible suicidal subject	4	1.0
Property damage	2	0.5
Pursuit	1	0.2
Suicide	1	0.2
Suspected drug activity	1	0.2
Suspected gang activity	1	0.2
Suspicious activity	14	3.4
Suspicious person	1	0.2
Suspicious vehicle	2	0.5
Summons/court process	12	2.9
Towed vehicle	1	0.2
Trespass	1	0.2
Unattended death	1	0.2
Unwanted subject	9	2.2
Vehicle complaint	10	2.4
Welfare check	8	1.9
Not specified	2	0.5
All other	52	12.6

VETERANS' SERVICES REPORT

The \$375 million provision was included in the Fiscal 2009 VA spending bill measure to allow the department to bring into the system more "Priority 8" veterans: those who typically earn more than \$30,000 a year. The funding aims to expand the enrollment of Priority 8 veterans by 10%. If you are a Priority 8 and you have been denied VA health services since 2003, please call the VA at (413) 582-3091.

Many Veterans have been calling looking for the VA websites. Here are a few for you:

Educational Benefits	www.gibill.va.gov
Home Loan Guaranty	www.homeloans.va.gov
Federal Jobs	www.usajobs.opm.gov
Returning Veterans	www.seamlesstransition.va.gov
VA Home Page	www.va.gov

Veterans Bonus information.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ Chapter 130 of the Acts of 2005: Six months domicile in Massachusetts immediately prior to latest enlistment/ commission into the armed forces,
- ◆ For active service on or after September 11, 2001,
- ◆ Discharged/active service must be under honorable conditions.

Payment Information:

1. Active service in Afghanistan or Iraq: \$1,000
2. Six months or more active service, state side or outside the continental limits of the United States \$500
3. Active service shall not include active duty for training in the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, those in the Naval Academy or active duty for training as a reservist in the armed forces of the United States.

Sincerely,
Leo J. Parent, Jr
Director
Central Franklin County Veterans' District

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT

In 2008, the Gill Zoning Board of Appeals approved the following new uses:

- ♦ to establish a chocolate shoppe & tea room at 61 French King Highway
- ♦ to allow automobile sales at 235 French King Highway
- ♦ to establish a retail coffee business and to have an externally illuminated sign from 3 AM until 10 PM at 4 Main Road
- ♦ to expand the current commercial use of the Gill Store to include a restaurant section with the anticipation of receiving a full liquor pouring license at 326 Main Road.

In all the above cases, it was determined that the proposals would have no adverse effects that would overbalance the beneficial effects on the Town as measured by the Purpose of Bylaws for the Town of Gill.

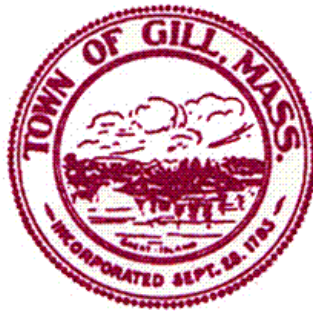
Our zoning bylaws have been adopted and modified by Town residents over a period of years and they represent the general feelings we have about property use in Gill. They include a table of use regulations which allow some uses “by right” (there are no permits or special allowances required), some are never allowed (drive-through establishments, for example), and some are reviewed on a case by case basis. The last of these is where the ZBA has a role to play. We review each proposal brought to us against criteria outlined in our bylaws, gather information and reactions from abutters and the general public at public hearings, and make decisions as to whether or not a particular use will be allowed at a particular location.

We welcome any Town resident to become more involved with the ZBA. We’re happy to answer questions about our role or processes. If you would like to be more involved, please talk to us about serving as an alternate. We need two alternate members who would attend meetings and be ready to serve if a regular member is unable to attend or participate (due to conflict of interest) in a particular public hearing.

*Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smiley, Chair*

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN OF GILL
MASSACHUSETTS



FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR
2008

TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS

Name	Bal.7/1/07	Income	Expense	Interest	Bal. 6/30/08
West Cemetery					
P.C. Funds	\$ 1,835.63			\$ 80.39	\$ 1,916.02
Alonzo Atherton	407.19		140.00	14.65	281.86
Day, Wood, Hosmer	422.27		39.00	18.49	401.76
George W. Harris	339.46			14.87	354.33
George W. Hastings	249.34			10.92	260.26
Lewis L. Hastings	376.35			16.48	392.83
Helen M. Lynde	136.43			5.98	142.41
Total West Cemetery	\$ 3,766.67		\$ 179.00	\$ 161.78	\$ 3,749.47
North Cemetery					
North Burial	\$ 418.17			\$ 18.31	\$ 436.48
P.C. Funds	1,183.95			51.85	1,235.80
George R. Bliss	449.85			19.70	469.55
Julian T. Martindale	78.29			3.42	81.71
Holland F. Roberts	95.28			4.18	99.46
Bardwell-Severance	424.62			18.59	443.21
Reb. & Lydia Stockwell	303.99		156.00	14.29	161.29
Ella J. Stoughton	597.89		370.00	18.00	245.74
Wright & Perry	826.71		110.00	33.72	750.43
Total North Cemetery	\$ 4,378.75		\$ 636.00	\$ 182.06	\$ 3,923.67

Center Cemetery				
P.C. Funds	\$ 4,466.04		\$ 195.57	\$ 4,661.61
Josiah D. Channing	508.77		22.28	531.05
Frederick Hale	8,351.47	573.98	354.48	8,131.97
Kate L. Haywood	311.68		13.65	325.33
Lyman B. Howe	875.26		38.33	913.59
Samuel Janes	1,012.92		44.36	1,057.28
E.L.Kelly	1,051.93		46.28	1,097.99
A.F.S. Lyons	1,315.71		57.61	1,373.32
William Nichols	969.56		42.45	1,012.01
Halbert & Persis Phillips	962.58		49.43	1,004.73
Warren Purple	620.03		27.15	647.18
William H. Rapp	1,140.41		49.94	1,190.35
Emily A.Roberts	950.89		41.64	992.53
Toomey-Scheiding	754.95		33.06	788.01
Hollis M. Slate	1,595.66		69.88	1,665.54
Gilbert Stacy	954.03		41.78	995.81
Samuel P.Stratton	926.44		40.57	967.01
John A. Tenney	720.87		31.57	752.44
Sarah S. Van Horn	862.75	180.00	33.73	716.48
Total Center Cemetery	\$ 28,351.95	\$ 753.98	\$ 1,233.76	\$ 28,824.23
Total Riverside Cemetery	\$ 100.89		\$ 4.42	\$ 105.31

Name	Bal.7/1/07	Income	Expense	Interest	Bal. 6/30/08
Library Funds					
Charles Stoughton	\$ 4,406.01			\$ 192.94	\$ 4,598.95
Cora Holmes	1,249.95			54.74	1,304.69
Harris Trust	10,719.09			470.40	11,189.49
Mary Morgan	1,069.86			46.85	1,116.71
Riverside Library	3,791.02			166.01	3,957.03
Library Trustees	27.90			1.22	29.12
Gill Protective	912.61			39.96	952.57
Benevolent Society	2,653.52			116.20	2,769.72
Total Library Funds	\$ 24,829.96			\$ 1,088.32	\$ 25,918.28
Bank of Western Mass.					
Stabilization Fund	\$116,393.45	\$ 16,907.94			\$133,301.39
General Funds	759.29			33.25	792.54
Unemployment	38,184.32			1,566.52	39,750.84
Recreation Revolving	(538.09)	14,126.61	11,700.48		1,888.04
Sewer Loan	72,204.99			3,161.95	75,366.94
Quintus Allen	11,441.40	722.55		552.62	12,716.57
Payroll/Vender Account	2,358.24	682,226.56	682,669.46		1,915.34
Sweep Account	-	2,253,101.51	1,642,972.42	8,253.90	618,382.99
Money Market	502,373.61	992,325.61	1,497,692.25	2,993.03	-
Collector's	14,500.68	2,187,354.59	2,180,385.28	88.06	21,558.05

Webster Bank				
Money market	928.90	78.98	1,007.88	
Stabilization	499.76	18.64	518.40	
MMDT				
Rehab Account	21,926.73	983.03	22,909.76	
Arts Lottery	1,062.58	47.64	1,110.22	
General Funds	1,787.78	80.15	1,867.93	
Bank Funds	\$783,883.64	\$6,015,419.89	\$17,857.77	\$933,086.89
Total General Fund Acct.	\$845,311.86	\$6,146,765.37	\$20,528.11	\$995,607.85

FY2008 TREASURER'S SUMMARY

	<u>WARRANTS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
July	260,261.82	100,983.70
August	132,379.39	90,959.59
September	461,485.34	786,820.88
1st Quarter	854,126.55	978,764.17
October	551,908.84	162,883.97
November	190,793.77	154,431.64
December	194,585.72	416,720.58
2nd Quarter	937,288.33	734,036.19
January	425,758.28	105,014.94
February	141,708.93	175,004.98
March	525,563.87	349,745.99
3rd Quarter	1,093,031.08	629,765.91
April	88,598.01	810,720.60
May	829,840.80	480,837.37
June	118,487.35	197,414.58
4th Quarter	1,036,926.16	1,488,972.55
Total	3,921,372.12	3,831,538.82
Beginning Balance	1,064,449.42	
Receipts	3,831,538.82	
Warrants	(3,921,372.12)	
Ending Balance	974,616.12	

FY2008 GENERAL FUND REVENUE REPORT

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>YTD Revenues</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Personal Property Taxes	27,517.67	27,888.99	371.32
Real Estate Taxes	1,728,289.50	1,730,900.32	2,610.82
Tax Liens Redeemed	0.00	32,593.29	32,593.29
Motor Vehicle Excise	149,250.00	258,311.25	109,061.25
Boat Excise	0.00	1,581.00	1,581.00
Farm Animal Excise	3,000.00	0.00	-3,000.00
Pen & Int on Prop Taxes	11,365.00	9,090.95	-2,274.05
Pen & Int on Excise Taxes	0.00	2,133.91	2,133.91
Trash Sticker Sales	31,369.00	29,797.65	-1,571.35

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>YTD Revenues</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Fees-Collector	14,852.00	6,245.04	-8,606.96
Fees-Registry Markings	0.00	1,460.00	1,460.00
Fees-Town Clerk	0.00	1,559.50	1,559.50
Fees-Conservation Comm	0.00	34.08	34.08
Fees-Planning Board	0.00	100.00	100.00
Fees-Zoning Board	0.00	144.50	144.50
Fees-Police	0.00	3,205.84	3,205.84
Fees-Fire Dept	0.00	1,260.00	1,260.00
Fees-Transfer Station	0.00	1,636.00	1,636.00
Fees-Health Board	0.00	5,525.00	5,525.00
	14,852.00	21,169.96	6,317.96
Rentals	10,200.00	10,050.00	-150.00
Licenses-Liquor	0.00	3,080.00	3,080.00
Licenses-Other	0.00	1,030.00	1,030.00
Permits-Police Dept	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Permits-Building Insp	32,250.00	18,763.00	-13,487.00
Permits-Plumbing Insp	0.00	2,860.00	2,860.00

Permits-Electrical Insp	0.00	3,785.00	3,785.00
	32,250.00	26,408.00	-5,842.00
Reimb for Loss of Taxes	14,488.00	14,488.00	0.00
Surv Spouse Abatements	3,675.00	4,875.00	1,200.00
Elderly Abatements	4,016.00	4,016.00	0.00
Lottery Aid	264,688.00	264,688.00	0.00
Other State Revenue	0.00	188.00	188.00
Fines - RMV	18,500.00	15,330.00	-3,170.00
Fines - District Court	0.00	2,112.50	2,112.50
Sale of Fixed Assets	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Earnings on Investments	10,000.00	13,971.13	3,971.13
NMH FRTA Reimbursement	0.00	5,480.00	5,480.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	13,480.00	13,352.17	-127.83
Transfer From Special Revenue	75,783.15	75,783.15	0.00
Transfer From Stabilization	23,451.00	23,451.00	0.00
<u>Totals</u>	<u>2,436,174.32</u>	<u>2,592,770.27</u>	<u>156,595.95</u>

FY2008 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total 2008 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Re- maining</u>	<u>% Used</u>
Moderator	165.05	0.00	165.05	145.85	19.20	88.37%
Selectboard Salaries	6,388.60	0.00	6,388.60	6,388.56	0.04	100.00%
Selectboard Expenses	3,562.61	1,000.00	4,562.61	4,175.76	386.85	91.52%
	9,951.21	1,000.00	10,951.21	10,564.32	386.89	
Town Administrator	41,646.20	-3,500.00	38,146.20	37,452.44	693.76	98.18%
Clerical Salary for Boards	1,644.00	-60.77	1,583.23	1,016.38	566.85	64.20%
Town Administrator Expenses	880.00	1,000.00	1,880.00	1,248.27	631.73	66.40%
	44,170.20	-2,560.77	41,609.43	39,717.09	1,892.34	
Finance Committee Expenses	150.00	0.00	150.00	145.00	5.00	96.67%
Reserve Fund	2,500.00	-2,350.40	149.60	0.00	149.60	0.00%
Accountant	22,440.00	-2,207.86	20,232.14	19,296.00	936.14	95.37%
Accountant Expense	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,090.27	109.73	90.86%
Accounting Software Purchase	0.00	9,900.00	9,900.00	9,900.00	0.00	100.00%
	23,640.00	7,692.14	31,332.14	30,286.27	1,045.87	

Assessor's Salaries	7,757.77	0.00	7,757.77	7,372.79	384.98	95.04%
Assessor's Clerk	14,830.40	0.00	14,830.40	14,830.40	0.00	100.00%
Assessor's Expenses	5,975.00	0.00	5,975.00	3,153.97	2,821.03	52.79%
Assessor's Legal Counsel	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Assessor's Software	<u>0.00</u> <u>24,154.82</u>		<u>24,154.82</u>	<u>19,228.10</u>	<u>4,926.72</u>	79.60%
	29,063.17	24,154.82	53,217.99	44,585.26	8,632.73	
Assessor's Revaluation	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00%
Treasurer Salary	13,299.41	0.00	13,299.41	13,299.41	0.00	100.00%
Treasurer's Expenses	4,055.00	191.14	4,246.14	4,166.09	80.05	98.11%
Treasurer's Banking Services	<u>150.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	100.00%
	17,504.41	191.14	17,695.55	17,615.50	80.05	
Collector Salary	15,959.48	0.00	15,959.48	15,959.48	0.00	100.00%
Collector's Expenses	<u>6,338.00</u>	<u>574.34</u>	<u>6,912.34</u>	<u>6,864.35</u>	<u>47.99</u>	99.31%
	22,297.48	574.34	22,871.82	22,823.83	47.99	
Legal Expenses	5,200.00	0.00	5,200.00	3,494.17	1,705.83	67.20%
Computer/Software/Serv	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	3,734.69	265.31	93.37%

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total 2008 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Re- maining</u>	<u>% Used</u>
Tax Taking	3,750.00	750.00	4,500.00	3,140.00	1,360.00	69.78%
Town Clerk Salary	10,706.23	0.00	10,706.23	10,706.23	0.00	100.00%
Town Clerk's Expenses	<u>2,125.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,125.00</u>	<u>2,003.56</u>	<u>121.44</u>	<u>94.29%</u>
	12,831.23	0.00	12,831.23	12,709.79	121.44	
Elections, Registration, Listing	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	1,750.27	249.73	87.51%
Voting Machine Purchase	<u>2,200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>83.33%</u>
	4,200.00	200.00	4,400.00	3,750.27	649.73	
Conservation Comm	450.00	0.00	450.00	269.82	180.18	59.96%
Agriculture Protection/Restora	0.00	15,547.50	15,547.50	7,500.00	8,047.50	48.24%
Planning Board	745.00	0.00	745.00	6.40	738.60	0.86%
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,850.00	0.00	1,850.00	212.69	1,637.31	11.50%

Town Hall Building	17,325.00	1,500.00	18,825.00	18,713.59	111.41	99.41%
Garage & Public Safety Bldg	18,420.00	0.00	18,420.00	16,233.58	2,186.42	88.13%
Town Bldg Repairs & Maint	0.00	3,085.57	3,085.57	0.00	3,085.57	0.00%
Riverside Municipal Bldg	<u>10,200.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,200.00</u>	<u>9,819.71</u>	<u>380.29</u>	<u>96.27%</u>
	45,945.00	4,585.57	50,530.57	44,766.88	5,763.69	
Property Insurance	48,000.00	0.00	48,000.00	47,824.22	175.78	99.63%
FRCOG Assessment	8,778.84	0.00	8,778.84	8,778.84	0.00	100.00%
FRCOG Fee for Service	<u>350.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>350.00</u>	<u>135.00</u>	<u>215.00</u>	<u>38.57%</u>
	9,128.84	0.00	9,128.84	8,913.84	215.00	
Police Dept Expenses	176,116.91	1,030.07	177,146.98	175,567.86	1,579.12	99.11%
Regional Radio Assessment	<u>1,512.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,512.00</u>	<u>1,512.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
	177,628.91	1,030.07	178,658.98	177,079.86	1,579.12	
Fire Dept Expenses	68,278.90	88.00	68,366.90	62,400.39	5,966.51	91.27%
FRCOG Inspection Program	41,494.00	0.00	41,494.00	41,494.00	0.00	100.00%
Civil Defense Program	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00%

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total 2008 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Re- maining</u>	<u>% Used</u>
Animal Control Officer	800.00	0.00	800.00	342.50	457.50	42.81%
Dog Fund	800.00	0.00	800.00	79.00	721.00	9.88%
	<u>1,600.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>	<u>421.50</u>	<u>1,178.50</u>	
Tree & Forestry Expenses	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	2,636.08	1,363.92	65.90%
Gill/ Montague School District	1,303,738.00	0.00	1,303,738.00	1,303,737.99	0.01	100.00%
Gill/ Montague Curriculum	<u>16,330.00</u>	<u>9,755.01</u>	<u>26,085.01</u>	<u>26,085.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
	1,320,068.00	9,755.01	1,329,823.01	1,329,823.00	0.01	
Franklin Cty Tech School	77,542.00	0.00	77,542.00	74,476.00	3,066.00	96.05%
General Highway Exp	261,467.19	2,594.83	264,062.02	252,627.60	11,434.42	95.67%
Road Maint. / Constr.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,520.18</u>	<u>1,520.18</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,520.18</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
	261,467.19	4,115.01	265,582.20	252,627.60	12,954.60	
Bridges & Street Lighting	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	6,115.86	1,884.14	76.45%

Hazardous Waste Collection	850.00	0.00	850.00	850.00	0.00	100.00%
Solid Waste Removal	<u>68,906.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>68,906.00</u>	<u>64,471.28</u>	<u>4,434.72</u>	<u>93.56%</u>
	69,756.00	0.00	69,756.00	65,321.28	4,434.72	
Riverside Sewer System	61,516.35	0.00	61,516.35	54,242.71	7,273.64	88.18%
Cemetery Commission	1,855.00	7,907.01	9,762.01	8,417.48	1,344.53	86.23%
Memorial Committee	645.00	60.77	705.77	683.29	22.48	96.81%
Board of Health Salaries	7,073.14	368.20	7,441.34	5,198.68	2,242.66	69.86%
Board of Health Expenses	500.00	0.00	500.00	59.80	440.20	11.96%
Regional Health Program	<u>7,186.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,186.00</u>	<u>7,186.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
	14,759.14	368.20	15,127.34	12,444.48	2,682.86	
Council on Aging Expenses	6,940.41	0.00	6,940.41	6,894.79	45.62	99.34%
Veterans Services	2,232.00	0.00	2,232.00	2,232.00	0.00	100.00%
Veterans Benefits	<u>4,800.00</u>	<u>-397.52</u>	<u>4,402.48</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,402.48</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
	7,032.00	-397.52	6,634.48	2,232.00	4,402.48	

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total 2008 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Re- maining</u>	<u>% Used</u>
Library Salaries	10,219.88	0.00	10,219.88	10,216.77	3.11	99.97%
Library Expenses	<u>7,275.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,275.00</u>	<u>7,275.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	100.00%
	17,494.88	0.00	17,494.88	17,491.77	3.11	
Recreation Comm Expenses	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	3,187.50	812.50	79.69%
Historical Commission Exp	860.00	154.19	1,014.19	1,014.19	0.00	100.00%
Historical Home Survey	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	0.00%
	860.00	1,154.19	2,014.19	1,014.19	1,000.00	
Garage Construction Loan	17,696.00	0.00	17,696.00	17,696.00	0.00	100.00%
Mariamante Loan	<u>23,451.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>23,451.00</u>	<u>23,451.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	100.00%
	41,147.00	0.00	41,147.00	41,147.00	0.00	
Interest - Temporary Loans	10,000.00	4,558.26	14,558.26	14,558.26	0.00	100.00%
Air Pollution District	299.00	0.00	299.00	299.00	0.00	100.00%
RMV Marking Surcharge	2,420.00	0.00	2,420.00	1,140.00	1,280.00	47.11%
Reg Transit Authority	<u>6,987.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,987.00</u>	<u>6,987.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	100.00%
	9,706.00	0.00	9,706.00	8,426.00	1,280.00	

Franklin County Retirement	60,971.00	0.00	60,971.00	60,971.00	0.00	100.00%
Unemployment Insurance	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00%
Personal Insurance	88,700.00	100.64	88,800.64	88,800.64	0.00	100.00%
<u>Totals</u>	<u>2,646,903.37</u>	<u>78,523.98</u>	<u>2,725,427.35</u>	<u>2,635,112.57</u>	<u>90,314.78</u>	<u>96.69%</u>

FY2008 OTHER FUND EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>Opening Bal</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>
<u>Highway Funds</u>				
MA Highway C291 FY06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MA Highway C291 FY07	-7,195.00	52,200.00	-122,608.17	-77,603.17
<u>Revolving Funds</u>				
Wetlands Protection Fund	970.68	580.00	0.00	1,550.68
Oil & Gas Inspections	220.00	225.00	-200.00	245.00
Recreation Revolving Fund	-538.09	14,126.61	-11,700.48	1,888.04
Dog Revolving Fund	1,292.54	1,934.84	0.00	3,227.38
Trash Stickers	6,687.55	0.00	-6,687.55	0.00
<u>Receipts Reserved for Approp.</u>				
Sale of Cemetery Lots	7,093.26	0.00	-7,000.00	93.26
Sale of Real Estate	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
County Dog Fund	3,832.69	0.00	-83.99	3,748.70
Road Machinery Fund	16,484.37	0.00	0.00	16,484.37
PEG Access Fund	8,030.85	7,243.36	-3,109.80	12,164.41
PEG Access Capital Fund	648.49	0.00	0.00	648.49

Police Donations Fund	1,277.08	100.00	0.00	1,377.08
Library Donations	1,755.63	549.53	-830.03	1,475.13
Friends of Slate Donations	72.52	0.00	0.00	72.52
Ballfield Donations	1,541.58	0.00	0.00	1,541.58
Historical Comm Donations	856.20	0.00	0.00	856.20
Bridge St Anchorage Sign	320.70	0.00	0.00	320.70
Newsletter Donations	161.48	835.00	-703.14	293.34
NMH Gifts	1,381.10	20,000.00	-2,000.00	19,381.10
Vt Yankee Emer Mgmt Fund	3,538.69	15,230.68	-7,511.46	11,257.91
Rehab Loan Paybacks	28,441.01	983.03	0.00	29,424.04
Septic Grants	47,548.82	2,898.89	-2,292.00	48,155.71
Renaissance Donation	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Ins Proceeds Under 25K	94.10	0.00	0.00	94.10
Net Fund Cash	0.00	21,310.23	-18,809.71	2,500.52

State & Federal Grants

Dare Grant-Police	0.00	1,894.58	-1,894.58	0.00
Comm Policing Grant	26,688.67	45,600.00	-71,088.58	1,200.09
Gov Highway Safety Grant	-707.52	1,097.48	-1,917.86	-1,527.90
Local Preparedness Grant	0.00	0.00	-543.90	-543.90
Council on Aging Grant	34.51	3,300.00	-3,514.71	-180.20
Library State Aid	220.35	3,002.16	-2,666.98	555.53

<u>State & Federal Grants</u>	<u>Opening Bal</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>
Cultural Council	5,102.86	4,047.64	-3,466.48	5,684.02
Fire Dept SAFE Grant	4,007.28	3,100.00	-2,467.19	4,640.09
Fire Dept Equip Grant	3,900.00	0.00	-3,900.00	0.00
Volunteer Fire Asst Grant	-2,000.00	4,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00
FEMA Fire Asst Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MRF Recycling Grant	925.70	0.00	0.00	925.70
43D Permitting Grant	0.00	6,750.00	0.00	6,750.00
WWTP Fund	109,094.13	60,799.01	-62,095.60	107,797.54
Marimante Land Purchase	-242,099.07	0.00	0.00	-242,099.07
<u>Trust Funds</u>				
Quintus Allen Fund	11,441.40	1,275.17	0.00	12,716.57
Cemetery Fund Expendable	21,741.36	1,593.97	-1,585.99	21,749.34
Cemetery Fund Non-Expendable	14,147.45	0.00	0.00	14,147.45
Library Trust Funds Expendable	21,291.81	1,282.97	0.00	22,574.78
Library Trust Funds-Non-Expendable	2,147.08	0.00	0.00	2,147.08
Unemployment Fund	35,854.66	1,357.85	-98.30	37,114.21
Stabilization Fund	116,393.45	16,780.96	0.00	133,174.41
Off Duty Police Detail	0.00	150,409.05	-150,042.05	367.00

Firearm ID Cards	-587.50	3,075.00	-2,662.50	-175.00
Town Clerk Fees	31.79	0.00	0.00	31.79
State Wildlife Permits	211.20	386.75	-297.25	300.70
Trash Sticker Commissions	0.00	1,194.85	-1,155.85	39.00
Deputy Collector Fees	604.00	3,744.00	-4,530.00	-182.00
Due to County Dog Officer	57.00	0.00	0.00	57.00

FY2008 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—REAL ESTATE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>ENDING TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>	<u>NSF Fee</u>
2004	754.84				110.39	865.23				
2005	5,308.58		(3,548.86)		3,438.52	5,198.36	(1,341.97)		0.12	
2006	10,306.06		(10,846.74)		6,903.82	6,369.23	(2,228.31)		6.09	
2007	56,989.83		(58,487.22)		11,615.43	10,120.86	(4,184.95)	(1,531.53)	42.82	
2008	(31,334.24)	1,773,341.10	(1,689,105.63)	(16,164.61)	41,360.93	72,293.61	(689.02)	(5,803.47)	1.92	

FY2008 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—PERSONAL PROPERTY

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>ENDING TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>	<u>NSF Fee</u>
2004	76.59				92.02	168.61				
2005	260.17					264.73			4.56	
2006	239.65		(152.20)		20.09	116.54	(44.51)		9.00	
2007	1,061.96		(600.83)			466.44	(80.87)		5.31	
2008		27,517.70	(29,474.15)			(1,956.45)	(8.22)			

FY2008 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—MOTOR VEHICLES

YEAR	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>ENDING TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>	<u>NSF Fee</u>
2004	1,038.84		(172.50)			866.35	(73.86)			
2005	2,188.79	1,432.92	(2,497.09)	(290.00)		834.62	(223.13)			
2006	1,241.04	33,969.32	(36,852.25)	(7.30)	7.30	(1,636.75)	(841.41)		5.14	(25.00)
2007	8,312.65	61,085.36	(65,339.78)	(902.25)	794.12	3,944.26	(586.01)		(5.84)	
2008	(526.25)	164,947.91	(154,485.93)	(4,009.88)	994.08	6,936.92	(435.32)		16.99	

FY2008 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—SEWER

YEAR	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>CHARGES</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>	<u>NSF Fee</u>
2003	(52.56)					(52.46)				
2004	(60.70)					(60.70)				
2005	(177.21)		(1,415.59)			(1,592.80)			(6.54)	
2006	(210.59)		(12.90)			(223.49)				
2007	16,073.13		(9,872.42)			6,200.31	(184.74)		(0.40)	
2008		62,344.76	(42,683.41)	(300.38)	240.38	19,601.35	(699.57)			

FY2008 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—BOAT EXCISE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>CHARGES</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>	<u>NSF Fee</u>
2007	3,386.00		(2,227.00)	281.00		878.00				
2008	1,732.00		(1,390.00)			342.00				

FY2008 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—FOREST PRODUCTS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>CHARGES</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>	<u>NSF Fee</u>
2007		6,657.00	(6,657.00)			-				

TOWN CLERK FINANCIAL REPORT

Birth certificates	\$55.00
Death certificates	155.00
Marriage certificates	35.00
Marriage intentions	60.00
Special permits	300.00
Site plan reviews	75.00
ANR	450.00
Fuel storage	80.00
Zoning bylaws/street lists	20.00
Business certificates	200.00
<u>Dog fees</u>	<u>1,997.00</u>
Total	\$3,427.00

TOWN MEETING MINUTES AND ELECTION RESULTS



Solar-powered light installed to shine on Town Common flagpole

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2008

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Special Town Meeting February 25, 2008 7:00 p.m.

1076 Registered Voters

48 Voters Present

The Special Town Meeting was opened at 7:00 P.M. by Moderator, Ray Steele at the Gill Town Hall.

Article 1: Move the Town vote to amend Motion 5 made at the Special Town Meeting held June 11, 2007 to raise and appropriate the sum of Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Five and no/100 Dollars (\$19,835.00) to increase the Gill-Montague Regional School District budget, including debt, for a total assessment of One Million Three Hundred Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Eight and no/100 Dollars (\$1,303,738.00).

Passed Unanimously

Article 2: Move the Town vote to amend the agreement between the towns of Montague and Gill with respect to the formation of a regional school district by replacing SECTION C OF SECTION III—LOCATION OF REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS—which now states:

(C) CLOSING OF SCHOOL(S)

Schools located in the District can only be closed permanently or for a period of one or more school years upon the affirmative vote of at least eight (8) members of the Committee.

And replacing the stated language with the following

(C) CLOSING OF SCHOOL(S)

Schools located in the District can only be closed permanently or for a period of one or more school years upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the

full Committee, and at least a majority of the eligible voters present at a meeting called for such purpose in the member town in which the school is located.

Passed 26 YES 22 NO

Article 3: Move the Town vote to release funds from Gill-Montague Regional School District Debt Reserve to offset Fiscal Year 2008 Gill-Montague Regional School District debt payments in the sum of Nine Thousand, Four Hundred Dollars (\$9,400.00).

Passed Unanimously

Article 4: Move the Town vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 43D of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended pursuant to Section 11 of Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2006 contingent upon the Massachusetts Interagency Permitting Board approving the proposed Priority Development Site in the Town of Gill, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Passed Unanimously

Article 5: Move the Town vote to approve the filing of a formal proposal with the Interagency Permitting Board for the designation as a Priority Development Site for land known as the Mariamante Parcel (Map 224, Lots 34.1 through 34.6), and to apply to said Board for a technical assistance grant in the amount of \$100,000, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Passed Unanimously

Article 6: Move the Town vote to add the following bylaw to create a Capital Improvement Planning Committee to its town bylaws:

Section 1. The Board of Selectmen shall establish and appoint a committee to be known as the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, composed of one member of the Board of Selectmen, one member of the Finance Committee, one member of the Planning Board, the School Superintendent or a member of the School Committee or a designee representing the schools, and one member at large, for a total of five members. The Town Accountant and the Adminis-

trative Assistant shall be ex-officio Committee staff members without the right to vote. The Committee shall choose its own officers.

Section 2. The Committee shall study proposed capital projects and improvements involving major non-recurring tangible assets and projects which: 1) are purchased or undertaken at intervals of not less than five years; 2) have a useful life of at least five years; and 3) cost over \$10,000. All officers, boards and committees, including the Selectmen and the School Committee, shall, by January 15 of each year, give to the Committee, on forms prepared by it, information concerning all anticipated projects requiring Town Meeting action during the ensuing six years. The Committee shall consider the relative need, impact, timing and cost of these expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the town. No appropriation shall be voted for a capital improvement requested by a department, board or commission unless the proposed capital improvement is considered in the Committee's annual report, or the Committee shall first have submitted a report to the Board of Selectmen explaining the omission, or the Selectboard has waived this requirement for just cause.

Section 3. The Committee shall prepare an annual report recommending a Capital Improvement Budget for the next fiscal year, and a Capital Improvement Program including recommended capital improvements for the following five fiscal years. The report shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for its consideration and approval. The Board shall submit its approved Capital Budget to the Annual Town Meeting for adoption by the town.

Section 4. The Capital Improvement Program, after its adoption, shall permit the expenditure on projects included therein of sums from departmental budgets for surveys, architectural or engineering services,

options or appraisals; but no such expenditure shall be incurred on projects which have not been so approved by the town through the appropriation of sums in the current year or in prior years, or for preliminary planning for projects to be undertaken more than five years in the future, unless the omission of the proposed capital improvement shall first have been explained by the Committee or the Selectboard has waived this requirement for just cause.

Section 5. The Committee's report and the Selectmen's recommended Capital Budget shall be published and made available in a manner consistent with the distribution of the Finance Committee report. The Committee shall deposit its original report with the Town Clerk.

Motion to Passover Indefinitely - Passed

Article 7: Move the Town vote to adopt Chapter 59, §57C of Massachusetts General Law to establish a quarterly tax payment system.

Motion to Passover - Passed

Article 8: Move the Town vote to transfer funds from Sewer Use Fees to Riverside Sewer System the sum of Sixty Two Thousand Ninety Five and 60/100 Dollars (\$62,095.60) to offset Fiscal Year 2008 sewer expenses including the tax collector's salary as related to collecting sewer fees.

Passed Unanimously

Article 9: Move the Town vote to transfer available funds from the Trash Sticker Revolving Fund to offset the Fiscal Year 2008 budget in the amount of Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven and 55/100 Dollars (\$6,687.55).

Passed Unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 P.M.
A True Copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

May 5, 2008 7:00 p.m.

1060 Registered Voters

76 Voters Present

**The Special Town Meeting was brought to order by Ray Steele,
Moderator with 76 voters present.**

Article 1: Move the town vote to transfer \$7,000 from the Sale of
Cemetery Lots account to the Fiscal Year 2008 Cemetery Commis-
sion account.

Passed Unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

A True Copy. Attest:

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 5, 2008 7:15 p.m.

1060 Registered Voters

76 Voters Present

The Annual Town Meeting was brought to order by Moderator Ray Steele at 7:15 PM in the second floor of the Gill Town Hall. There were 76 registered voters present of a total of 1060 registered voters in the town of Gill.

Article 1: Move the town vote to hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town.

Passed Unanimously

Article 2: Move the town vote to elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year.

Passed Unanimously

Article 3: Move the town vote to accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the fiscal year 2009 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement.

Passed Unanimously

Article 4: Move the town vote to adopt Chapter 59, §57C of Massachusetts General Law to establish a semi-annual preliminary tax payment system.

Passed Unanimously

Article 5: Move the town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Fifteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$15,000.00) to repair the pump and gear box on Fire Engine 1.

Passed Unanimously

Article 6: Move the town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$20,000.00) to repair the erosion problem at the Center Cemetery.

Passed Unanimously

Article 7: Move the town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) to add to the Board of Assessors' Revaluation Account.

Motion to Passover- Passed Unanimously

Article 8: Move the town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds One Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,500.00) for the Board of Assessors to place a link on the town website to provide access to Gill property card information online.

Motion to Passover- Passed Unanimously

Article 9: Move the town vote to reauthorize a revolving account pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for which revenues from fees or fines related to the licensing and care of dogs will be deposited and expended to purchase dog tags, pay for various expenses in relation to licensing, care and other expenses related to dog control under the direction of the Town Clerk, for which total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1st next will be limited to Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000.00), with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year.

Passed Unanimously

Article 10: Move the town vote to allow the Franklin County Technical School to establish a stabilization fund in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §16G ½.

Passed Unanimously

Article 11: Move the town vote to allow the Franklin County Technical School to transfer funds from the school district's Capital Assessment Fund to its stabilization fund, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §16G ½, for the purpose of remodeling and making extraordinary repairs to the school district's facilities and grounds.

Passed Unanimously

Article 12: Move the town vote to approve the following, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto: Town employees, spouses, and immediate families will be prohibited to bid on any town owned surplus equipment. Sealed bids and public auctions are included.

Petition article sponsored by Joseph Williams, Jr. of West Gill Road.

Defeated-Majority

Article 13: Move the town vote to approve the following, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

Whereas the town of Gill lies ten miles to the south of Entergy Nuclear corporation's Vermont Yankee nuclear power reactor in Vernon, Vermont;

Whereas the residents of Gill and other neighboring towns have an inalienable right to have their voices heard regarding possible threats to the health, safety, and general well-being of themselves, their property, and the surrounding environment arising from the continued operation of the Entergy Nuclear reactor; and,

Whereas the people of Gill and people everywhere, want a safe, renewable, and affordable energy supply for themselves and future generations;

Therefore, we the citizens of Gill:

Oppose the relicense of Entergy Nuclear's Vermont Yankee Reactor for an additional 20 years to 2032.

Call for the decommissioning of the Entergy Nuclear reactor at the expiration of its 40-yr license in March of 2012, and for immediate efforts to decontaminate the site employing current workers at full pay and utilizing the safest and most effective technologies available;

Call for the development and implementation of strategies for full re-employment of displaced workers after decontamination operations have

been completed; and,
Call for immediate efforts to replace the electricity from the Entergy Nuclear reactor with a combination of energy conservation and efficiency measures and sustainable sources of power that are safe, renewable, and affordable, and that provide safe jobs at livable wages.

We further direct the Gill Town Clerk, upon passage of this resolution, to send copies to Gill's state representative, senator, U.S. representative, senators, governor of Massachusetts, and the Vermont senate, representatives, and governor, with an accompanying cover letter stating that this resolution was passed on May 5, 2008 by the residents of Gill at their Annual Town Meeting.

Passed Unanimously

Article 14: Move the town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to purchase a single-axle dump truck with plow, sander and associated equipment and a single-axle dump truck with plow and associated equipment for the highway department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override.

Defeated 23 YES
54 NO

Article 15: Move the town vote to raise and appropriate \$135,000 to purchase a single-axle dump truck with plow, sander and associated equipment for the highway department, plus borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override.

Passed Unanimously

Article 16: Move the town vote to transfer funds from Sewer Use Fees to Riverside Sewer System the sum of Fifty One Thousand

Nine Hundred Fifteen and 66/100 Dollars (\$51,915.66) to offset Fiscal Year 2009 sewer expenses including the tax collector's salary as related to collecting sewer fees.

Passed Unanimously

Article 17: Move the town vote to create a Building Inspector Assessment Stabilization Fund, into which surplus fees collected through the issuance of building, electrical, gas, and plumbing permits will be transferred annually, upon a 2/3 vote of Annual Town Meeting.

Passed Unanimously

Article 18: Move the town vote to transfer Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty One and 00/100 Dollars (\$13,631.00) from unappropriated funds to the Building Inspector Assessment Stabilization Fund.

Passed Unanimously

Article 19: Move the town vote to release funds from Gill-Montague Regional School District Debt Reserve to offset Fiscal Year 2009 Gill-Montague Regional School District debt payments in the sum of Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Three and 41/100 Dollars (\$6,363.41).

Passed Unanimously

Article 20: Move the town vote to transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund the sum of Nine Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$900.00) for use at the Gill Elementary School.

Passed Unanimously

Article 21: Move the town vote transfer the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand One Hundred One and 00/100 Dollars (\$119,101.00) from unappropriated funds to be used to stabilize the tax levy for fiscal year 2009.

Passed Unanimously

Article 22: Move the town vote to transfer Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight and 00/100 Dollars (\$16,748.00) from the Stabilization Fund to make the final payment on the loan for the town garage.

Passed Unanimously

Article 23: Move the town vote to transfer Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty and 62/100 Dollars (\$22,350.62) from the Stabilization Fund to make payment on the loan for the purchase of the Mariamante property.

Passed Unanimously

Article 24: Move the town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$1,339,362.00 for its assessed share of the Gill-Montague Regional School District Budget, all or some of which may be contingent upon an override ballot question.

Passed by Majority

Article 25: Move the town vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials for Fiscal Year 2009, and raise and appropriate any sum or sums therefore, and further raise and appropriate any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount of \$1,346,840.16 recommended by the Select board.

Passed by Majority

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM

A True Copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Monday, May 19, 2008

1060 Registered Voters

55 Voters Participating

Selectman/Sewer Commissioner – Ann Banash	47 Votes
Board of Assessors – A write-in tie; considered failure to vote—left Vacant	
Cemetery Commissioner – Carrie Stevens	53 Votes
Constables — Fred O. Chase II	50 Votes
Fred O. Chase III	48 Votes
Craig Gaudry	52 Votes
Board of Health – Edward Galipault, Jr.	54 Votes
Library Trustee – Ann Perry	55 Votes
Tax Collector – Veronica LaChance	50 Votes
Gill-Montague School Committee — Sorrel Hatch	51 Votes

A True Copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



DEBT EXCLUSION ELECTION

June 17, 2008

1063 Registered Voters

129 Voters Participating

Shall the Town of Gill be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a single-axle dump truck with plow, sander and associated equipment for the highway department?

Yes 69

No 60

A True Copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

**Gill-Montague Regional School District
Regional District Meeting
September 17, 2008 6:30 p.m.
Turners Falls High School Theatre**

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Moderator Raymond Godin.

The official meeting notice and officer's return were read.

Moved by V. Smith and seconded by T. Lapachinski.

That the district meeting approve a Gill-Montague Regional School District Operating Budget for FY09 in the amount of \$16,820,004 with a district assessment not to exceed \$8,763,644(amending Article 1 of the District Meeting Warrant).

The motion, with a total of 240 votes, was defeated by a ballot vote of 196 no and 44 yes.

Motion made by S. Ellis to reconsider so that another proposed operating budget could come forward. Seconded from the floor

Approved by 2/3 majority, voice vote.

Motion made by J. Hanold and seconded from the floor.

That the district meeting approve a Gill-Montague Regional School District Operating Budget for FY09 in the amount of \$16,081,257.

Motion moved by D. Radway and seconded from the floor.

The motion, with a total of 228 votes, was defeated by a ballot vote of 114 no, 113 yes and 1 rejected vote.

Motion made from the floor to reconsider article. Seconded from the floor.

Motion made by M. Naughton and seconded from the floor.

That the district meeting approve a Gill-Montague Regional School District Operating Budget for FY09 in the amount of \$15,073,840 with a district assessment of \$7,455,402.

Motion to move the question made by R. Kuklewicz and seconded from the floor.

The motion, with a total of 209 votes, was defeated by a ballot vote of 158 no and 48 yes.

Motion to adjourn by R. Kuklewicz and seconded by C. Boyle.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Boyle

Secretary of Gill- Montague School Committee

**Gill-Montague Regional School District
Regional District Meeting
November 18, 2008 6:30 p.m.
Turners Falls High School Theatre**

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by Moderator Ray Godin
Preliminary motions and warrant read by Moderator Godin.
Motion to amend Article 1 to \$16,666,328 made by V. Smith, seconded by T. Lapachinski
The following information was distributed by Patricia Pruitt, Montague and Sandy Brown, Gill:
Budgets to be voted on by District Meeting November 18, 2008
GMRSD (passed by School Committee vote): Total Budget of \$16,666,328
Montague's assessment: \$7,285,727 (with debt); \$7,059,374 (without debt)
Gill's assessment: \$1,393,653(with debt); \$1,364,319(without debt)
This reflects a 3% increase over the '08 budget.
TOWNS (passed by majority BOS/FINCOM): Total budget of \$16,416,328
Montague's assessment: \$7,075,727(with debt); \$6,849,374(without debt)
Gill's assessment: \$1,353,653(with debt); \$1,324,319(without debt).
This reflects a less than 1.5% increase over '08 budget.
COMPROMISE: Total budget of \$16,553,062
Montague's assessment: \$7,199,471(with debt);\$6,973,118(without debt)
Gill's assessment:\$1,377,223(with debt);\$1,347,889(without debt).
This reflects a 2.3%increase over '08 budget.
Motion to move question made by P. Allen, seconded by M. Langknecht.
GMRSD proposed budget \$16,666,328 defeated by 46 yes and 171 no with one ballot rejected.
Town budget \$16,416,328 accepted by 120 yes and 94 no.
Adjournment made by Ray Godin, seconded by M. Langknecht. Adjourned at 9:35 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

*Kristin Boyle
Secretary of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee*