



THE

Gill Newsletter

February 2007 Issue

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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

Town Hall News

As some of you may know Philip Maddern, Selectman/Assessor, has taken ill and will be out of the office for a number of weeks. Please send your well wishes through the Selectboard office and we'll be sure to direct them to him and Miss Susie. Thank you.

Zoning revisions unanimously approved!

Congratulations to Gill's Planning Board for a job well done. With the assistance of planners from the Regional Council of Government and the Selectboard's Administrative Assistant, Deb Roussel, the voters unanimously approved the changes presented at the Special Town Meeting in December. The working group did well conveying the importance of the need and process, then adapting initiatives based on residents' input. Once approved by the Attorney General's office, the new zoning bylaws must be published and then become Gill's law as of the date of town meeting approval, December 11, 2006. Copies of the zoning bylaws as voted are posted online at www.gill-mass.org and are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Mariamante Request for

Proposals has been advertised and will close on March 15, 2007. The original date had to be extended after review by the Inspector General's office required a change in verbiage to ensure understanding. The zoning change to commercial use should make

the land more sought-after, despite the archeological restrictions. Requests for information have been received and we are hopeful the process will culminate in a commercial venture that will complement our rural district, provide a broader tax base and not burden existing services.

URGENT...The Zoning Board of Appeals still needs one member to complete the five-member board as town meeting decreed. As previously explained, many of the decisions required of the Board need a quorum of four people under State law. Therefore if one of the four members has a possible conflict (a family members owns abutting property etc.) and cannot participate, the Board is unable to act and the variance or permit will be granted by default. Ann Banash, Selectboard Chair, is attending meetings to fill the gap temporarily until a resident comes forward to serve; however, she would rather a new resident step forward to serve. Zoning changes voted in December included the addition of



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



two supplemental members to the Board as well. Perhaps service as an alternate member while you observe the process and gain experience would make you feel more comfortable, well here's your chance! We are also working on availability of training for new members to ultimately ensure Gill's regulations are followed, protecting Gill's future.

Town meeting recently approved a bylaw establishing an agricultural commission to support agriculture and other farming activities in the Town of Gill. The Commission's function is to promote agricultural-based opportunities in Town. Members must be involved in farming in some aspect to serve, per your bylaw vote. If you are interested in serving, please call Ray Steele, the Town Moderator, at (413) 863-2443. Two members have come forward thus far.

Welcome to Deb Urgiel of Munn's Ferry Road, recently appointed as the new clerical staff for the Zoning and Planning Boards and the Board of Health for a total of twelve hours a month. A committee comprised of a member from each board the position will serve, a Select board member as the appointing authority, and the Administrative Assistant providing administrative support interviewed and made the final choice. The position will provide some much needed relief for these volunteer boards, easing their ever-burgeoning load.

Main Road reconstruction that began late this fall has been resurfaced to allow safe passage and plowing to occur during the winter months. Many thanks to Gill residents, Highway Superintendent Mick LaClaire, and Police Officers for their patience and service during the entire process; it's certainly been a learning experience for us all. Watch for notices for timelines when the project resumes in the spring.

Thank you...to Farmers Exchange in Greenfield and Sudbury Nurseries of Gill for their generous donation of wreathes and conifer trees to plant in the barrels that adorn the front of the Town Hall steps for the holiday season. Thank you also to the Highway staff for planting the trees, the Administrative Assistant for donating the ornaments, and Town Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo and Treasurer Collector Ronnie LaChance for the decorating! Wonderful teamwork!

REMINDER

The all night winter parking ban is in effect through April 15, 2007. A vehicle may park on the street for an emergency for no longer than 1 hour between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. of any day. The Town is also asking residents to park off street during the day after a storm to make cleanup easier. When clearing private ways, remember not to throw or move snow onto a public way, creating a

hazard and more work for our hard working highway crew!

Gill Fire Department

Spaghetti Supper

Mark your calendars. The Gill Firemen's Association is raising funds for a new defibrillator- a device that can restart a patient's heart during emergency cardiac care. Join our chefs on Saturday, February 17, at the Gill Elementary School for a delicious supper of spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread sticks, salad, beverages, and desert. The supper runs from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Adults: \$7.00; children 5-12 and seniors: \$5.00; and kids under 5 eat free. All you can eat. Proceeds will help replace the Department's automatic external defibrillator with up-to-date equipment that complies with the new American Heart Association's standards for emergency cardiac care. Have a heart. Have some spaghetti. Save a life.

2006 Run Summary

The Gill Fire Department responded to 180 calls for assistance in 2006. Nearly half of the Department's calls were for medical emergencies (45%). Fire alarms (12%), mutual aid to other towns (8%), and motor vehicle accidents (6.7%) rounded out the most common emergency responses for the year.



Medical Emergency	81
Alarm Sounding	22
Mutual Aid	14
Vehicle Accidents	12
Brush Fire	10
Public Service	10
Smoke Investigation	10
Wires Down	6
Car Fire	3
River Search/Rescue	3
Electrical Problem	2
Transformer Fire	2
Appliance Malfunction	1
Chimney Fire	1
Elevator Malfunction	1
Fuel Spill	1
VY Unusual Event	1

Brush Permit Season

Brush burning season runs from January 15 to April 30, 2007. Town residents who wish to burn brush, sticks, or fallen tree limbs may contact Shelburne Control at 625-8200 to obtain a permit. Fires must be at least 75 feet from buildings, contained, and attended. Residents may not burn trees, logs, stumps, leaves, trash, or demolition materials. Fires must begin before noon and be completely extinguished before 4:00 PM. Call the Fire Department at 863-8955 if you need further information on brush permits.

National Burn Awareness Week

February 4-10 is National Burn Awareness Week. The Massachusetts State Fire Marshall reminds Massachusetts residents to use common sense around household items that may cause serious burns. Keep hot liquids and dangerous items out of children's reach. Keep children away from stoves and other appliances, fireplaces, campfires, and outdoor grills. Turn down water heaters to less than 130 degrees. A higher water temperature can cause a third degree burn in less than two seconds. Watch those cords, too. Frayed appliance and extension cords are a leading cause of residential fires. Cool any burned skin with cold water for several minutes and never apply grease, oil, or ointment to a burn. Serious burns require immediate medical attention, which is available by dialing 911.

News from Gill Elementary School

The school play, "Cindy Ella", was held on December 13th. This western, "Cinderella", version is fun and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed this musical. Having the performance in the Turners Falls High School was a great success. The theater seating capacity is 425 and there was

FRIENDS OF GILL

Pancake Breakfast

Join friends and neighbors at the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 25. This scrumptious breakfast features homemade pancakes topped with golden maple syrup made just in time by some of Gill's best sugar houses. The all-you-can eat menu includes sausage, coffee, and orange juice. The breakfast will take place in the Gill Congregational Church on the town common and it runs from 8:00 to 10:30 AM. Adults: \$6.00, Seniors: \$5.00, and children under 10: \$3.00. Proceeds help support Gill projects, scholarships, and community events throughout the year.

Volunteer

The Friends of Gill are already busy planning the Gill Fall Arts and Crafts Festival. The Festival, held each year during the weekend after Columbus Day, is our biggest fund raiser and growing each year. We welcome ideas, suggestions, or help on any of the fair committees. If you would like to work on the Festival, or you would like to help pick, hull or serve strawberries at the June Picnic on the Common, or to donate some time to one of our other activities call Ed Golembeski at 863-2313, Kathleen Raczynski at 863-9288, or come to a meeting. All meetings are open and are held in the basement of the Gill Congregational Church at 6:30 on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is February 14th.



standing room only. The students were terrific. We heard many positive comments about their acting and musical ability. Parents enjoyed the full student participation and the various acting, dancing and singing parts by each class. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped in the production and special thanks to Court Dorsey, Director – Mary Reeder – Assistant Director - John Van Eps, Musical Director, all the Gill Elementary School Staff and parent and community volunteers for making the production such a success.

We are scheduling an important community event for March. The annual Grandparent Luncheon is to be held on Thursday, March 22, 2007. In the past we have had great participation for the spaghetti lunch. Carole Lafleur, our school cook is still planning the menu. There will be two sittings for the lunch.

Time:
11:30AM-12:30PM 1st Sitting
Grades: K,1, 2

Time:
12:20AM-1:00PM 2nd Sitting
Grades: 3,4,5,6

The school will be sending home a notice with the students which will provide you with more details and a sign up for the lunch. The staff and I look forward to meeting you and sharing our day with your grandchildren at the Gill School.

Instructional Happenings – The staff is working diligently in implementing the new Houghton-Mifflin Math Impressions series. Everyone is actively involved in the professional development activities by the Houghton-Mifflin consultants who are training the staff as to the new strategies for teaching elementary math methods. The new reform math is quite different in the way it is taught to children. Sarita Belmont, the district Curriculum Director, was able to acquire more than \$30,000 dollars of free math support material that supplements the new text materials. These items include manipulative materials, additional text, math boards, and flip charts that focus on many ways that help students



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better understand math concepts and counting strategies. The teachers are excited about the program and will provide a great boost for the school in the teaching of math to our Gill Students. Over the next month we will be moving forward to acquiring updated Houghton Mifflin reading material. With the implementation of the HM reading program there will be a consistent series district wide.

Again, the staff and I would like to thank the citizens of Gill for your support in keeping the Gill Elementary School in the forefront of math and reading instruction. Your decision to provide the school with additional funds was an important milestone. Our goal will be to invite parents and citizens in the spring to a forum for us to explain the new math program and the philosophy of reform math teaching.

By the efforts of the Gill sixth grade students and parents and the major effort by Mrs. Rabideau, they have raised all of the funds necessary for the sixth grade to attend for one week the Boston University Sargent Science Camp, in Peterborough, NH. I will give you an update in our next news letter with some of the activities that will happen at the camp.

— Dr. David Crisafulli

Hometown Students

Springfield Republican All-Academic Sports Team

Benjamin Garber was elected to The Republican All-Academic Sports Team, Fall 2006. To be eligible for this award you must be a senior attending a school in the Republican circulation area, have at least an A-minus average during the previous marking period, no grade lower than B-minus, and meet the teams requirements for earning a varsity letter. Academically Ben had two A+'s, two A's, two AP and one honors class, received the Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence Award and played soccer. Additional extra-curricular activities included marching, concert, and jazz bands, student council, National Honor Society, and class treasurer.

Franklin County Technical School National Honor Society

Juniors Kathryn Dodd (Office Technology) and Nicholas Berniche (Welding and Metal Fabrication) were inducted into the Tech School's National Honor Society. The traditional candle lighting ceremony was held to honor the five qualities of members of the National Honor Society: scholarship, citizenship, service, character, and leadership.

Turners Falls High School National Honor Society

Juniors inducted into the George F. Wrightson Chapter of the National Honor Society were Abbey Daniel-Green, Amanda Golembeski, Molly Perry, and Alexander Tufano.

Northfield Mount Hermon Honor Roll

Fall Term

Grade 12:

High Honors: Grace Booth and Ashley Storrow

Grade 11:

Honors: Spencer Hattendorf and Erika Loomer

Grade 10:

High Honors: Harriet Booth

Grade 9:

High Honors: Bradford Ward

Honors: Kevin Pratt

Great Falls Middle School Honor Roll

First Quarter

Grade 8:

First Honors: Rachel Arial, Makayla Dolhenty, Brooke Hastings, Julie Howard-Thompson, Jack Hubert, Joseph Lafleur, Andrew Turban, and Natasha Vaughn

Second Honors: Emily Robertson



Grade 7:

First Honors: Christopher Gordon, Colton Hallett, Lily Kane, Malik Odeh, and Samantha Shaw

Sports

The Turners Falls High School varsity basketball team is working hard to get to the post season playoffs this year. Captain Jake Fields, Tom Field, and Eric Dumas represent the Gill players. Unfortunately Tom Fields was knocked to the floor by an opponent early in the season and broke his wrist. He has been a strong supporter for his team and hopes to be back before the season ends. Alex Tufano, Bryon Lee, Mackae Freeland, and Tony Denofrio play on the JV team.

The Great Falls Middle School basketball team has seven Gill residents on the team: Colton Hallett, Jeff Gibson, Matt Gibson, Jack Hubert, Matt Parenteau, Malik Odeh, and Chris Gordon.

Ashleigh and Chelseigh St. Peter and Angela Marquet are on the TFHS girl's varsity basketball team. Katie Rinaldi and Amber Henry are on the JV team and Makayla Dolhenty is playing on the Great Falls Middle School girl's basketball team.

Sara Underwood and Danielle Dolhenty joined the TFHS cheerleading squad this year.

The TFHS swim team with Matt Garber, Abbey Daniel-Green, Jodi Hallett, and Molly Perry are having a very good season this year.

Joey Rinaldi has been helping the Turners Falls High School hockey team by turning away shots as goalie.

Belt ranking in American Karate-Do at J. R. Martial Arts Studio in Greenfield were held in December and John Gundelfinger earned his brown belt.

Mackey Hemphill helped the girl's Springfield

Junior Pics U14 hockey team win the A Division championship of the Connecticut Polar Bears Holiday Tournament. The 4-day tournament beginning December 27th consisted of 19 teams from across the United States.

Jake Galipault continues to help Pioneer Regional School varsity team win basketball games. Opponents don't like seeing Jake set up for a three pointer because he seldom misses. Zach French transferred to Pioneer and is also on the team. Chad Galipault is playing on the 7th-8th grad boy's basketball team and Jared Towne is on Pioneer's indoor track team.

Gill Concert Series Opens Inaugural Season

by Steve Damon

The Gill Cultural Council is graciously funding a concert series for our enjoyment. Mark Tuesdays on your summer calendar for free-to-the-public outdoor concerts on the Common in front of Town Hall. The rain or shine concerts start at 7:00 PM; Gary Bourbeau has offered the church during yucky weather. We have musical pleasure planned from the end of May to the middle of August.

Performers will be paid through a grant from the Gill Cultural Council as well as produce purchased from Upingill Farm and Graves-Glen Farm in Shelburne. The dates during strawberry season are a hot commodity!

Dates are in flux so I won't give you any definite events, but I can tell you to expect Bagpiper Eric Goodchild, the "Hip-Shakin' Blues" of the King Bees (with Gill's own Bob Veronelli), the Greenfield Military Band, the Gill-based Light Amber Brass Ensemble, the Native American Flute sounds of Barry Higgens, and Stephanie Marshall's country twang. The Country Players will give us a preview of their summer's Wizard of Oz, while Gill be infiltrated with the Western New England Double Brass Society. Our first concert, set for May 29, will likely bring a saxophone quartet from the eastern part of the state.



Lots of publicity will go out once the dates are secure.

Don't eat too much before the concerts as I am contacting area civic groups (Friends of Gill, PTO, Fire Department, etc.) to provide refreshments as a fundraiser for their organizations.

I have a catchy name for this series, but I need permission from the Boston Symphony orchestra before I publicize it. For now, we'll call it "The Gill Concert Series."

Audience members need to bring their own picnic blankets and lawn chairs for relaxing under the sunset. Some concerts need audience participation. Come prepared to sing-along, sway, dance, and drum at The Gill Concert Series.

Recreation Committee



Happy New Year! I hope everyone is enjoying 2007 thus far. Basketball season is in full swing and we have three travel teams and one in-house team. Our teams consist of a 5th & 6th grade boys team coached by Jim Poulson & Steve Striebel, a 5th & 6th

grade girls team coached by Brain Boudell, John Perreault & Ed Dolhenty, a 2nd, 3rd & 4th grade coed team coached by Fred Bezio and our in-house team is a group of K-2nd graders who are learning the basic skills of the game and is coached by Paul Nicolson & Rose Levasseur with lots of assistance from parents. We have had a few games so far and the kids are having a great time. All of our home games are held at Turners Falls High School on Saturday mornings and anyone who is interested in coming to a home game can check out the schedule on our website. I would like to thank our Referees Eric Dumas and Danielle Dolhenty and Angela Marguet who runs the scoreboard.

On December 30th teams of 5th & 6th grade boys & girls competed in a pre-season Basketball Jamboree orga-

nized by Steve Striebel and held at NMH. We had teams from Gill, Northfield, Bernardston and Vernon participating. What a Great Day! Thank you Steve for organizing this event. We would also like to thank Tom Pratt & Rafaela Calicchio and NMH for the use of their facilities for this event as well as all of our Wednesday and Sunday practices.

We are very pleased to be able to offer family swim & family ice skate times this winter. We have offered this in the past and it is a great way to expend some energy during the winter months. These events are both held on the NMH Gill campus most Sundays between 1-3 PM and are open to all Gill residents. Please check our website for any change in date or time. We have a lifeguard on duty for the pool. We also strongly encourage the use of helmets when ice skating. Thank you so much to all of the NMH faculty members who have volunteered their time as facility sitters making these events possible.



We are really hoping to be able to hold our annual Wacky Sliding Party at Oak Ridge Golf Course this year. We had to cancel this event last year due to the lack of snow. Although we haven't had any snow yet this year we are still hopeful that Mother Nature will come through and deliver an adequate amount of snow so that we can hold this event. Please watch our website, the Gill school newsletter and flyers at local businesses for more information on this. In the meantime start creating your families wacky sled and hope for lots of snow.

It's not too early to start thinking about our annual Red Sox trip. We hope to purchase group tickets in early February and will post the game date & time on our website as soon as tickets are secured. As always this is a first come first served basis and the tickets always go fast. If you want to be placed on a call list to be notified as soon as the date is secured you can contact me, Nathan Duda, directly at 413-522-3209. GO RED SOX!!!



Thank you to Kim Malcolm and Deb Rousell for managing our new website at www.gillmass.org/recreation.html

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan Duda, Gill Recreation Committee Chairman

Call For Artists and Young Filmmakers

The Brick House Community Resource Center of Turners Falls is sponsoring its third annual Great Falls Art Fest on Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, 2007 on the beautiful grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center on Avenue A, in Turners Falls, MA (just off Route 2 and over the Gill-Montague Bridge). Along with a myriad of artists, the Great Falls Art Fest also offers two full days of live local music, fun children's activities, and delicious local cuisine. Proceeds from this event will benefit the community-based programs at The Brick House. The Great Falls Art Fest is a juried festival, in order to assure a good balance and wide variety of arts and crafts. The jurying process will begin on January 29th and will continue until we have reached our desired level of quality, balance, and quantity. In addition to the lovely level grounds at the Great Falls Discovery Center, this year's fest is offering artists the opportunity to display their work in an indoor venue, the Discovery Center's Great Hall. This space is available on a first come, first served basis. Artists who are interested in participating can call Karen Stinchfield at The Brick House (413-863-9576), or visit www.thebrickhouseinc.org, to obtain an application or more information.

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The Brick House is holding a second Young Moviemakers Festival on May 5, 2007, and is putting out the call for emerging youth videographers to submit their work! Youth and youth groups (those still under age 21 by May 5th) are eligible to send in their videos and have them compared to their peers' work and judged by a panel of experts. Submissions will be welcomed from youth anywhere in the region, and the submission deadline is April 2, 2007. The videos of all finalists will be shown the afternoon of May 5th 2007 at The Brick House. The Brick House is most interested this time around in videos best portraying something about the Connecticut River or any of its tributaries. This can include environmental aspects but might also concentrate on the (real life or fictitious) people and communities living alongside or near the river. This emphasis on the Connecticut River is part of the Turners Falls River Culture initiative, which leverages the river as an historical and cultural focus to support local economic development. This initiative is partially funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information on TF River Culture, see www.turnersfallsriverculture.org. There will continue to be a wide open category to cover any submissions not related to the Connecticut River at all. For more information about the Young Moviemakers Festival, go to www.thebrickhouseinc.org, or call 863-9576 or 863-9559.

Historical Commission Report

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

In the last issue of the newsletter, The Historical Commission Report featured some meeting minutes

of the Gill Community Club. In this issue, we continue to excerpt minutes quoted from The History of Gill, Volume 2, which was originally edited by James Greenleaf and Irene Greenleaf. We hope that these notes will provide insights into the life of this tiny western Massachusetts farming community.

The Gill Community Club was established in 1929 to promote social meetings and civic welfare in the town of Gill. For 61 years they sponsored many social functions and aided citizens of Gill in times of need.

October 1947: The banquet celebrating the 18th birthday of the Club was held at the Leyden Town Hall where a chicken dinner with all the fixings was served. There was a birthday cake in the Club colors, blue and white with 18 candles which decorated the head table. The first candlelight installation of officers was held at this meeting.

The following is the Candlelight Installation Service written by Mrs. Charles Sumner:

All past presidents take a candle and form a half circle. Members and guests march in single line each taking a candle, lighting them from the presidents candle as they go back to their place and stand while new officers take position in front of past presidents, while a past president (to be chosen) reads by candlelight if possible. This little light represents you and your neighbor. It is your interest in the Club and it is up to you to keep it glowing that others may see the good we try to do. So let each one of us watch our own light and keep it bright.

We must put time, energy, and thought into our Club to make it a success and think only of the good of the community and the Club. Striving always to make it grow in interest and strength that it may help to make this a better place in which to live.



Then everyone sings “America.”

January 3, 1948: The Club put on a wedding dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jackson. Two dances held this month.

April 7, 1948: “Radio Program” entertainment held. It was all home talent using a radio background. A bale of hay was used by the announcer for a table on Station WHAY. It was later won by Bunny Mayberry as the prize on a quiz program. The Club voted to buy a hectograph. Paper drapes were purchased for the dining room as well as white oil cloth for the tables with the Ladies Aid Society sharing the cost.

March 23, 1949: It was voted to install bottled gas in the kitchen at the Town Hall. The Club paid for the installation and the first tank of gas at a cost of \$34.78.

March 14, 1951: Henry Ingram, leader of the 4-H Boy Agricultural Club, asked and received permission from the Club to run a raffle. The proceeds to be used to repair the Club room in Mr. Clapp’s cellar.

June 1956: The mystery ride ended at the home of Mrs. Annie Franklin. She served a very bountiful turkey supper with all the trimmings, making us wish we hadn’t eaten supper at home before the meeting. Price of the Mystery Ride rose from fifty cents to one dollar.

June 2, 1965: Twenty-three members met at the Town Hall for the annual Mystery Ride. The ride ended at the Charlemont Inn where members enjoyed a delightful and plentiful smorgasbord.

October 2, 1968: From the annual report. Our annual banquet was held on October 4 at the Old Stone Lodge in Gill. There were 23 members present but our members’ attendance at meetings in 1968 was very low. At quite a few meetings there were only eight members present of a membership of 24.

October 1974: A successful food, doughnut, and coffee sale was held at March Town Meeting for the first time in the new Town Hall. The Sunshine Committee delivered 12 fruit baskets at Christmas, receiving five thank-you’s. Also, flowers were delivered to members who were hospitalized or ill during the year.

April 7, 1976: A letter of appreciation for the \$25.00 donation to Mr. Seaman’s class from the Club was read. In part it reads:

Your gift of scholarship monies was the first element in getting our Philadelphia trip off on a happy note. We were able to cite six of our children for their studying and give each a prize of \$2.00. We also paid for material that went into the making of a Colonial costume for one of our girls. It was a very dear article of clothing and worn several times with much pride.

October 1990: As there were so few members left, we did not hold regular meetings but got together at intervals. The last of the Gill people were Mrs. Sumner, Helen St. Germain, Gertrude Chase and Irene Greenleaf. Mrs. Chase died and Mrs. Sumner entered a nursing home, which left Helen St. Germain and Irene Greenleaf. We continued sending Christmas baskets to shut-ins. . . . Twelve to fourteen baskets were made. James Greenleaf delivered the baskets for us. When he became unable to do so, Richard Greenleaf volunteered to do it. We kept this up until a year before Mrs. Sumner and Helen St. Germain died. Irene Greenleaf was treasurer. We still had \$711.00 in the treasury. This amount of money was donated to the Gill School for their library.

This brings to a close 61 years of service to the town of Gill by the Gill Community Club. It is a story of neighbor helping neighbor in times of need, a group that provided activities for its young people and social functions for Gill families.



Disposal of Hazardous Products

Most homes have hazardous products that are used for cleaning, maintenance, or automotive projects. If dumped on the ground or down sewer drains, these hazardous products can contaminate ground and surface water, as well as drinking water supplies. They can also affect the functioning of septic systems when poured down drains or toilets.

Here are some tips from the Franklin County Solid Waste District:

- Do not pour leftover products down the sink, storm drains, or on the ground.
- Do not wash hazardous products down impervious surfaces, such as driveways, streets, or sidewalks.
- Never burn, bury, or dump leftover oil, pesticides, or other hazardous products. Burning may produce toxic gases and hazardous ash and smoke.
- If a product spills, read the product label for exposure and spill information. Cover the spill with absorbent material such as cat litter, sawdust, or sand. Keep the area well-ventilated. Wear gloves and protective clothing. Sweep and scoop the material into a container with a lid or doubled plastic bags. Secure it well. Wash the surface with soap and water, if so advised by the product label. Properly dispose of the waste (see below).

What should you do with leftover hazardous products? The Solid Waste District coordinates an annual collection event for hazardous wastes that is free for residents. This event is typically held in September.

Other areas in the region also host collection events open to Franklin County residents. Disposal is usually free for residents.

The District also operates three “Super Sites” that accept oil-based paint, paint related products (thinners, solvents), stains, varnishes, polyurethane, used motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze. Fluorescent light bulbs, mercury thermometers and thermostats, and rechargeable batteries are also accepted at these sites. These “Super Sites” are located in Bernardston, Colrain, and Conway. Some disposal charges may apply. Call the District at (413) 772-2438 for more information, locations, and hours of operation.

Empty containers from hazardous products, including motor oil containers, should be discarded in the trash, NOT the recycling bin. Never reuse chemical product containers.

Water-based latex paint can be safely and legally disposed of in regular household garbage if it is completely dried out. Mix the paint with kitty litter or sawdust to speed up the drying process. Empty or dried-out cans of paint should be discarded in the trash, NOT in the recycling bins.

Contact the District at 774-2438 for more information about household hazardous waste disposal options or check the District’s website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.



Subscriptions

Know anyone no longer in town who would like to receive the Gill Newsletter? For \$7.00 per annum, we will mail out six issues. Please send subscription name, address, and a check payable to the Town of Gill to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses in a very tight budget, we would also welcome such contributions mailed to the above address.

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we and our advertisers cannot be responsible for errors or the accuracy of materials submitted to us.

Next Newsletter Deadline

March 15th for the April Issue

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

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

RR CUSTOMER

RURAL ROUTE

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