



THE

# Gill Newsletter

August 2007 Issue

## CONTENTS

Town Hall News . . . . . 1

Gill Fire Dept . . . . . 2

Gill Police Dept . . . . . 2

Friends of Gill . . . . . 3

FC Solid Waste . . . . . 5

Cemetery Comm . . . . . 5

Recreation Comm . . . . . 5

Brick House . . . . . 7

Gill Concert Series . . . . . 7

Trash Collection . . . . . 7

Business Ads . . . . . 8

Disclaimer . . . . . 8

News Deadline . . . . . 8

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## Town Hall News

In the absence of a full time administrator to write a proper article for the newsletter, I have been asked to write this to let you know about a few important issues.

### Crucial School Budget Meeting

We want to remind everyone of a critical meeting coming up on July 31st at 7 PM at the Turners Falls High School. This will be a regional meeting of both the towns of Gill and Montague and is open to all voters in both towns to vote on a budget for the Gill Montague Regional School District.

At Gill's first Town Meeting on May 7th, the town voted the omnibus budget for the operation of the town and the schools contingent on a \$300,000 Proposition 2 1/2 override. That override failed and at Town Meeting on June 11th, the town operating budget was reduced and we appropriated money for the Gill-Montague District based on the amount that was voted in Montague, even though that was not the amount requested by the School Committee. We voted the amount so that we would have the funds to pay the district at a rate of 1/12th of last years budget until a budget is approved and knowing that we would still be in an override situation. The process in the GMRSD is that the budget has now failed and that forces a regional meeting. Registered voters from the two towns will be asked to vote on a budget for the schools as presented by the School Committee. If the vote passes, the towns will be

obligated to pay the district their share, regardless of whether or not an override passes. The budget presently certified by the School Committee will require overrides in both towns. If the overrides are not successful, then the Towns will have to fund the school assessment by reducing the operating budgets of the towns. At this time, it appears that the override necessary in Gill amounts to about \$130,000 and if unsuccessful, we would have to find that money in the town budget. If the vote at the regional meeting fails, the school committee will go back and reduce their budget and present it to another regional meeting for another vote. This process will continue until the two towns finally pass a budget.

It is important that all registered voters in Gill attend this meeting.

### New Faces in Town Hall

Please stop in and welcome Tracy Rogers, the new Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard who started work on July 23rd. We were lucky to have a group of very talented and qualified applicants and feel that Tracy



Check in with the  
Gill Website  
[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)  
for up to date news,  
announcements and  
contact information!



will do a great job for us. Most recently, Tracy was the Legislative Aide to Rep. Steve Kulik and is very familiar with how small towns run and has good connections in Boston. Tracy lives in Northfield with her husband Kevin and two sons. We are looking forward to working with her and hope that you will all give her a warm welcome.

The Selectboard also has a new face. After 15 years Phil Maddern decided not to run for a sixth term and Nancy Griswold was elected in May. Nancy served on the Finance Committee for the past year, was also elected in May as a write-in candidate as Assessor. Nancy has held many appointed and elected positions throughout her career, she was on the Selectboard in Ashfield, served as an administrative assistant. Nancy brings some great experience to the Board and while Phil's shoes will be hard to fill, both Lee and Ann are pleased that she decided to run.

The entire Selectboard thanks Doreen Stevens for filling in while the Selectboard's office was in the transition period after Deb left and before Tracy started. She handled the job extremely well and was able to keep a level head throughout. Great job Doreen and Thanks!!!

### Main Road Update

The work on Main Road continues, and although the road is now open much of the time, it is still recommended to avoid travel on Main Road when possible. You can access to all the businesses on Main Road, just take the shortest route

to them. With luck, and a late winter, the project may be done this construction season.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Banash

## Gill Fire Department

A community's volunteer fire department is as good as the people who make it work. Our town's tradition of turning out excellent firefighters is evident in the number of men and women who began their emergency service careers in Gill. Some notable former members from the past ten years who have gone on to fire service careers include Captain Timothy Goodhind (Masloski), and Firefighter Chris Goodhind (Masloski) and Firefighter Casey Bergeron of the Longmeadow (MA) Fire Department. Robert Strahan, Deputy Chief of the Greenfield Fire Department and Janet Wholey, Greenfield's first female firefighter, also began their careers in Gill. Shaun Bush, District Forest Warden for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation was once a Gill firefighter, as was Firefighter Frank Matuszczak of the Longmeadow Fire Department. And many Gill residents remember Todd Blanchard, a past Gill firefighters who gave his life in service to the Eastern Wake (NC) Fire Department. An exhibit by the Gill Historic Commission will honor some of Gill's volunteer

firefighters during the Gill Arts and Crafts Festival held at the Riverside School grounds on October 13 and 14.

## Gill Police Department

Often times we receive inquiries from residents wondering where past officers have gone. The following is a list of officers who have worked for the Gill Police Department and have left to further their careers in law enforcement. As you will see the former officers have left for prestigious organizations on a full time basis. We would like to think that their time in Gill served them well. We wish them well and thank them for their service to the residents of Gill.

### Full Time Officers

#### George Slocum

Coordinator, Town of Northampton Dispatch Center (retired)

#### James Lake

Coordinator, State Police Dispatch Center Shelburne Falls (retired)

#### Michael Krusiewski

Patrolman, Deerfield Police Department

#### John Perreault

Sgt., Erving MA Police Department

#### Douglas Kaczmarczyk

Patrolman, Athol Police Department



## Part-Time Officers

### **Brian Narkewicz**

Trooper, Connecticut State Police

### **Gary Hebert**

Trooper, Massachusetts State Police – K-9 Unit

### **Shannon Voudren**

United States Air Marshall

### **Joseph Mieczkowski**

Sergeant, University of Massachusetts Police Department

### **Mark Ruddock**

Patrolman, Hadley Police Department

### **Joseph Yuki**

Patrolman, Montague Police Department/FCSO

### **Rick Brook**

Patrolman, Greenfield Police Department

### **Brian Ravish**

Sergeant, Hadley Police Department

### **Gary Darling**

Massachusetts State Police/  
Detective Unit

### **Bunny Billiel**

Sergeant, University of Massachusetts Police Department

### **Sean Eaton**

Brattleboro Vermont Police Department/  
New Hampshire State Police

### **Karl Gardner**

Vermont State Police

## FRIENDS OF GILL

### Tag Sale on the Common

When you finally finished your spring cleaning did you put those things you didn't want or didn't know what to do with in a pile in your garage or basement? If you did, most likely they are still there. You will have the opportunity to get rid of them and, at the same time, earn some money by bringing them to the giant community Tag Sale on the Common sponsored by the Friends of Gill on Saturday, August 18, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Space for a table will be available for the bargain price of \$5.00. The Tag Sale will be widely advertised locally. For information call Ronnie LaChance at 863-9240 or 863-2105, or Bill Burnham at 863-2970.

### Scholarship Raffle

All proceeds go to the Friends of Gill Scholarship Fund.

**First Prize:** Party of eight or two parties of four on the Quinnetucket II with eight box lunches from the Wagon Wheel Restaurant and a case of soda from Jan's Package Store.

**Second Prize:** Trip for two to the Foxwood Casino on Travel Kuz.

**Third Prize:** Two rounds of golf for two with carts at the Oak Ridge Golf Course.

**Fourth Prize:** Twenty five dollar gift certificate to In Stitches in Greenfield.

Drawing will take place on the last day of the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival, October 14, 2007.

Chances: One for \$2.00; Three for \$5.00; Ten for \$10.00



## Current Officers Full Time Jobs

Scott Waldron  
Lieutenant, Franklin County Sheriff's Office

James Deery  
Deputy Sheriff, Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Nikol Fiske  
Triad Officer, Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Shaun Coughlin  
Patrolman, Bernardston Police Department

Robert Hunter  
Lieutenant (retired), Franklin County Sheriff's Office

## First Gill DNA Evidence Solves Crime

The Gill Police Department has successfully used DNA evidence from a blood stain left at a riverside residence during a Breaking and Entering in 2005. The blood evidence was collected by this department and then submitted to the state police crime laboratory in Sudbury Massachusetts. Based on information from the victim, a possible person of interest was suspected of committing the crime. A comparison of the person of interest's DNA and the blood recovered at the crime scene proved a positive match.

Currently the case is being reviewed by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office for future prosecution. With the assistance of the state police crime laboratory crimes in Gill are often solved by forensic evidence which has been proven to be more reliable than eyewitnesses.

## Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

### Annual Hazardous Waste Collection Event


The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding its annual hazardous waste collection for households and businesses on **Saturday, September 8th**, at the Montague Highway Garage and the Town of Orange Transfer Station.



**Geri Johnson**  
ABR, CBB, CRS, GRI  
Senior Real Estate Specialist

66 French King Highway  
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Fax (413) 863-9739



**Stephen Greenwald**  
President

P.O. Box 272  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
413/863-8316 Fax 413/863-9712  
www.renbuild.net

stephen@renbuild.net





The collection is free to residents of Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Businesses must submit an inventory of their wastes and will be charged for disposal.

To participate at any of the sites, residents must pre-register by September 3rd. Registration forms will be available in local newspapers, at local town offices, and at most town transfer stations. Beginning in August, registrations may also be completed on-line at: <http://www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html>.

This annual collection provides residents an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, residents should refer the District's website: <http://www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html>.

For more information, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438. Hearing impaired individuals can contact the District through the Massachusetts Relay at 711 or for TTY/TDD access dial 1-800-439-2370. The District is an equal opportunity provider.

### **New Program for Disposal of Latex Paint**

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is offering a new product to assist District residents in disposing of latex (water-based) paint: latex paint hardener. State law prohibits the disposal of liquid waste with trash, so residents must dry out liquid latex paint before disposing of it. For \$1 per bag, residents can purchase enough paint hardener for one gallon of paint. Once the paint is hardened and dry, residents can put it in their trash or in a bulky waste container, if their town's transfer station has one. Latex paint is not hazardous and is not accepted at the District's annual or regional hazardous waste collections. To purchase a bag of paint hardener, call (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD) The District is an equal opportunity provider.

District residents are from the towns of Bernardston,

Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Greenfield residents are not eligible for this program.

**Remember to reduce:** When purchasing paint, buy only the amount you will need.

**Remember to reuse:** If you have latex paint that is still usable, consider giving it away to neighbors, friends, schools, or nonprofit organizations. It may be usable as a primer if it is not the right final color. Try posting it on your local Freecycle list: <http://freecycle.org>.

## **Gill Cemetery Commission**

In addition to the Riverside Cemetery's decision to raise the price of their cemetery lots to \$400 as reported in the June Newsletter, the Gill Cemetery Commission voted on May 16, 2007 to increase the price of a cemetery lot in Center, North, and West Gill cemeteries from \$375 to \$400, effective July 1, 2007. Please contact a member of the Commission if interested in purchasing a lot by calling 863-4792, 863-9025 or 863-8781.



## **Gill Recreation Commission**

On Saturday, June 30th, 105 residents and family members participated in our sixth annual Red Sox trip. We departed from Travel Kuz on two of their luxury coaches at 3:45 PM for a 7 PM game. This year, the Commission chose Chad Galipault to go down on the field before the start of the game to represent the Town of Gill. He did a great job and when Chad and the Town of Gill were announced, all of Fenway knew we



were present. Even though the Sox lost, we had a great time. We watched a movie on the coach on the way there and back and shared a lot of laughs. We got back pretty late this year, but it was a Saturday night so no one seemed to mind. Next year we will try our hardest to do two Red Sox trips. You can purchase your tickets from the Recreation Commission as early as the last week of January of next year to guarantee your seats. Go Sox!!!

On Sunday, July 1st, we held our end of the season gathering at the Gill School for all our baseball and Softball players. We started out with a potluck meal, followed by an awards ceremony where the coaches handed out certificates and medallions to all of the players, and ended the day with a friendly game of softball where the kids played the coaches and parents. We had such a great time that the parents decided to start a pick-up softball game to be held on Tuesday nights at 6 PM at the Gill School. All ages are welcome. You can show up with the whole family and the Commission will supply all of the safety gear, bats and balls.

This year we were blessed with the most coaches Gill has ever seen in one season. At the T-Ball level we had Tony Zager introducing the joy and fundamentals of baseball to our pre-K and K kids. This is his first year coaching in Gill but it looks like he's been coaching for years. At the Farm level (K to 2nd grade) we had Gary Parzych, Mark Almeida, Rose Levasseur, and Alex Urgiel. At the Pee-Wee level (2nd to 4th) we had Charlie Malcolm, Greg Leeds, Nathan Duda, Paul Nicolson, and David Shutta. At the Youth level (4th to 6th) we had Tom Levasseur, Eric Levasseur, Fred Bezio, and Brian Bodell. Our softball coaches were Brian Bodell with assistance from his wife Dawn, Rolie Weld, Katherine Weld, and Mike Phillips. Returning for another year of umpiring our home games was Gill's very own Iron man of Umpiring Tom Bergeron. This was his eighth season behind the plate and we hope to see him again next year. John Duda filled in behind the plate for some of our home softball games. Brandon Rawson covered the bases hoping to someday become the next Iron man in Gill.

I would also like to acknowledge the Girls Softball team for their tie in second place in the Small Town Softball league, Gill Pee-Wee with their 10 and 2 record and Gill Youth for making it to the play offs in the Tri-County League. All of these teams had a great season and have shown the other towns that Gill is very hard to beat. I am very proud to see all of the great sportsmanship in all levels of our baseball and softball program and am looking forward to next season already.

Our summer program has been running since the last

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week of June and we are very pleased to have Patricia Shilo and Lori Rinaldi running the program this year. Their many years of teaching experience have been a wonderful benefit to the program. The program runs for seven weeks each summer and is for incoming Kindergarteners thru 6th graders. This year the program will end on August 10th. There are still spaces available for half day and full day. We offer mornings from 8 AM - Noon and afternoons from Noon - 4 PM as well as all day 8 AM - 4 PM. The cost for half day is \$35 per week and full day is \$70 per week. Anyone who is interested in checking it out can stop by the Gill school during these times and talk with Pat or Lori.

As always, if anyone has any questions, comments or concerns, or if you are interested in volunteering or sharing any ideas you may have, please stop by the Town Hall during our monthly meeting time which is held on the second Friday of each month at 6:30 PM or you can call Nathan Duda at 522-3209.

## News from The Brick House

**SAVE THE DATES!** Arts & Leaves Turners Falls Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour ~ September 29th & 30th, 10 AM - 5 PM.

**HEALTHY START!** Back-to-School event @ The Brick House ~ August 18th, 10 AM - 4 PM.

### Common People Concerts 2007

The Concerts continue on the Gill Common at 7:00 PM on the following dates. In case of rain they will be held in the Gill Congregational Church.

**July 31:**

Western New England Double Bass Society ~  
"Big Strings Attached"

**August 7:**

Barry Higgins ~ Native American Flutes

**August 14:**

Denise Gendron ~ Folk singer with Guitar and Cello

413-863-2897

### Cross Road Farms

( Est. 1980 )

Blueberries  
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15 Cross Rd.  
Gill MA. 01354

Timothy G. Vielmetti  
Timmy Tomato  
Proprietor

### TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

Duseau Trucking will run ONE day late following these holidays in the same week only:

\* New Years Day \* Memorial Day \* July 4th  
\* Labor Day \* Thanksgiving \* Christmas Day



## Business Advertisements

The Gill Newsletter will include business card size advertisements of local businesses for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$50.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$50.00 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

September 15th for the October Issue

Gill Fire Dept.  
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Gill, MA 01354

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