



THE

# Gill Newsletter

February 2008 Issue

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## Town Hall News

### Override Election Cancelled in Gill

The Gill Selectboard announced on January 23rd that it is cancelling the override election scheduled for February 5 because it is no longer necessary. The two information sessions scheduled to explain the necessity for the override have also been cancelled.

The lengthy recollection process resulted in a new growth figure that was much larger than anticipated due to a large piece of commercial property that the town had not previously taxed. This larger figure is enough to offset the \$93,000 in extra expenses that made a Proposition 2 ½ override necessary.

While the good news allowed everyone in town hall to let out a sigh of relief, the Selectboard cautioned that the new growth figure only gets the town through FY2008. The Board will be asking all departments to submit FY2009 budget requests based on maintaining the current level of services in an attempt to prevent the necessity for a Proposition 2 ½ override election next year.

### Local Musicians Wanted

Now that PEG Access (the bulletin board on channel 15 on Comcast Cable) is up and running, we'd like to spice it up a bit by playing local music while the announcements go scrolling by. If you are a local (preferably

Franklin County) resident and have a recording of your music you'd like to share with us, please let us know. We will thank you publicly by listing your name on the bulletin board. Please contact Tracy at town hall for more information, 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

### Free Calendars and Emergency Radios

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant has provided extra calendars and emergency radios to residents. Both items are available on a first come-first served basis and may be picked up at town hall Mon–Fri 9:30AM–4:30PM.

### Broadband Survey

Broadband matters! We all agree that access to broadband (high speed internet) is an absolute necessity. If Western Massachusetts wants to spur economic development, increase quality educational opportunities, and enhance emergency communication, broadband is



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



essential. Berkshire Connect, Inc. and Pioneer Valley Connect (the Connects) are working with legislators, local broadband groups, state agencies and the Governor's Administration to bring broadband services to our underserved region.

What efforts are underway? The region currently awaits legislative approval of Governor Patrick's \$25 million bill targeted to bring broadband infrastructure to the unserved communities of the Commonwealth. At the same time, the Connects are working on both short and long-term projects to facilitate the deployment of broadband in Western Massachusetts.

How can you help? Completing a short survey (less than 5 minutes) will provide the Connects with a more accurate definition of the unserved areas of our region and determine current broadband market potential.

Please submit only one survey per household and/or one survey per business address.

All survey responses are completely confidential. We will only use responses about your physical location to identify unserved areas of your community and to avoid duplicate survey responses. We welcome responses online at [www.bconnect.org](http://www.bconnect.org) or [www.pioneervalleyconnect.org](http://www.pioneervalleyconnect.org) (the survey works with dial-up and satellite). If you are unable or prefer not to respond

online, please complete the downloadable survey (1 page, double-sided) and mail it to:

Berkshire Connect, Inc.  
75 South Church Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

**Deadline date: March 1, 2008.**

Thank you for your time. Your response will help support investment in broadband deployment in your community and in the greater Western Massachusetts region.

For more information about broadband deployment efforts in Western Massachusetts, please go to [www.bconnect.org](http://www.bconnect.org) (Berkshire County) or [www.pioneervalleyconnect.org](http://www.pioneervalleyconnect.org) (Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties).

## Fifth Grade Essay Contest Winners

On November 1, Ms. Rabideau's fifth/sixth grade class took a field trip to Town Hall. The students participated in a mock town meeting, complete with a town moderator, selectboard members, and finance committee members. They argued whether the town should vote to raise and appropriate funds to build a new playground structure at Gill Elementary. Selectboard members Ann Banash and Nancy Griswold hosted the event. The students asked great questions and fun was had by all. The visit was a precursor to the class's participation

in the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Sixth Grade Essay Contest. Last year's sixth grade class, which also participated in the essay contest, was featured in the November issue of the Beacon (the MMA's newsletter) as a shining example of community participation!

While the sixth graders in the class were busy participating in the MMA's contest, the fifth graders participated in our very own Gill Essay Contest. Students were asked how they would describe Gill to someone from Alaska; what do they like about Gill; and what would they like to see improved. The Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, Collector/Treasurer, and Town Clerk all enjoyed reading through the essays and judging the contest. It's amazing and inspiring to see the world through the eyes of the community's youth.

The judges chose three winners (listed in alphabetical order): Craig Bodell, Zach Demars, and Spencer Hubert. Honorable mention goes to: Ryan Bezio, Malcolm Crosby, James Elliott, Tristan Kostanski, Alex Morin, Luis Olmo, Julia Paulin, Stephanie Robertson, Cole Tognarelli, and Nick York. Congratulations to all of you!

### Craig Bodell's Essay

If I were to describe Gill to someone from Alaska I would tell them that Gill is [a] small quiet town with nice people. People help each other



with disabled problems to just needing to help with building something or cleaning up around our houses. Gill is like a big happy family. It is good for very friendly people.

The things I like about Gill is the elementary school that I go to because there are nice teachers and good food and good education.

That is very important if you want a good job. As a community we have town craft fairs, concerts, and more. Our library has lots of fun activities for all ages.

There isn't anything in my opinion that could make Gill better. All the things I like to do like soccer and basketball. I also like to ride my go kart on the many trails in Gill. I like that we live so close to the Connecticut River so my family and I can swim, fish and go boating.

That's why I think anyone from Alaska or anywhere else would love to live here.

### Zach Demars' Essay

I would start off describing the town of Gill, MA to someone from Alaska by saying it is a very small peaceful country town of just 15 square miles. There are about 1,700 residents who mostly live in single family homes.

Gill has many great qualities and attractions. Some of the things you will see when coming to the town of Gill is restaurants, stores, and two big bridges.

## FRIENDS OF GILL

During the Holiday Season the Friends of Gill distributed poinsettias and baskets of fruit to seniors living alone in Gill. We also made significant contributions to four charitable agencies that provide assistance to needy families in the immediate Franklin County area.

In early February we will be making plans for this year's **Fall Arts and Crafts Festival**. The Festival, held each year in October, is our biggest fund raiser and growing each year. We welcome ideas, suggestions, or help on any of our fair committees. Give Barbara Elliott a call at 863-9708.

On Sunday, March 30th, we will sponsor our annual **Pancake Breakfast** in the basement of the Gill Congregational Church on the town common from 8:00 to 10:30AM. This bountiful 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. Adults: \$6.00; Seniors: \$5.00; and children under 10: \$3.00. Proceeds help support Gill projects, scholarships, and community events throughout the year.

**The Farm and Garden Tour** of 2006 was so well received that the Friends of Gill is making plans to do it again. We are looking for people who would like to open their farm and/or garden for a one day tour this summer. If you are interested, please call Kathleen at 863-9288.



Connecticut River from the French King Bridge.

Photo by Nick Chase.



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Some of the fun things to do is visit the Stacy Mountain Preserve. The Stacy Mountain Preserve is a scenic mountain preserve that provides habitat for the rare Jefferson salamander, the rare spotted turtle and threatened plant species. There are also vernal pools to see in the Connecticut River between the towns Gill and Erving. When you go over the bridge you can see the big French King Rock in the river.

The next place to visit is Barton's Cove Campground. At Barton's Cove you can go boating, camping, and having a picnic. You can also watch the two Bald Eagles who have been nesting for the past five years.

Then there's the Songline Bird Farm to visit. They raise emus for meat, oil, feathers, and eggs. If you visit in April or May you may be lucky enough to see chicks hatching. They are amazing animals to see.

If you want to you can go to Oak Ridge Golf course. It has nine holes of fun. After you're done playing you can go into the clubhouse to get something to eat.

Gill Elementary is a good school for kids. It has good food, people, classrooms, and teachers. The grades are pre-k till sixth grade or you could go to Great Falls Middle School in Turners Falls after fifth grade.

As you can see, Gill has lots of things to see and to do.

### Spencer Hubert's Essay

If I were describing the town of Gill to a person from Alaska I would say I like it for many reasons. Gill is like a countryside because there are a lot of farms with a lot of cows and horses on them. In the fall the leaves on the trees change beautiful colors like orange, red, yellow and brown. Another thing I like about the town of Gill where I live is right next to the Connecticut River. There are a lot of things you can do in the Connecticut River like fishing, swimming, boating and kayaking. I have had experiences with fishing and kayaking. For fishing I caught a 19-inch fish. For kayaking I was kayaking in Barton's Cove and it was really hard because the current



was against me. The place in Gill where I live is called Riverside. In Riverside there is very little traffic, so it is a perfect place to bike, run, skateboard and scooter. In Gill we have a restaurant called the Wagon Wheel, a library and a school.

The school is Gill School. I go there. It is a great school. Gill school has great teachers like Mrs. Rabideau and Mr. Silverman. The school has a lot of fun subjects like math, science, history and handwriting. There are a lot of helpful things to use like flashcards, markers, crayons, colored pencils and pencils, eraser and cap erasers, desks, chairs and books. The school has a great playground. It has two soccer fields, structure, a bouncy thing, a swing set and a kickball field. That is why I like the town of Gill. I think someone from Alaska would like to visit the town of Gill because it is very different from Alaska.

*Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard*

## Gill Montague Education Fund

### GMEF Board Presents Gifts to Gill-Montague Teachers

TURNERS FALLS—Members of the Gill-Montague Education Fund Board of Directors were in district schools Friday, Dec. 21, to pres-

ent classroom teachers with gifts of appreciation.

These 107 gifts were made possible by the success of a Dec. 9 Christmas concert. The Gill-Montague Education Fund and radio station WIZZ-AM 1520 sponsored “A von Trapp Christmas,” a holiday concert starring Elisabeth von Trapp accompanied by cellist Erich Kory. A portion of the proceeds from the concert and monies earned from the Greenfield Savings Bank Civic Action Program were used for the teachers’ gifts.

“‘Tis the season’ for recognition, giving thanks and celebration!” said Joyce A. Phillips, producer of the concert, noting that the gifts are a way for the GMEF to celebrate teachers’ professionalism, support, and commitment to the students of Gill-Montague.

“Teachers are often expected to reach unattainable goals with less than adequate tools. The ‘miracle’ is that more times than not, you accomplish this impossible task,” the board members wrote in a letter to the teachers. “We recognize that teaching is one of the most complicated jobs today. It demands a broad knowledge of subject matter, curriculum and standards, enthusiasm, a caring attitude and a love of learning, knowledge of discipline and classroom management techniques, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of young people.”

The Gill-Montague Education Fund is a non-profit organization established to raise funds for students’ enrichment. It has awarded more than \$37,000 in grants during the last three and a half years to enhance learning in various fields including science, music, art, athletics, language, and reading.

To learn more about the Gill-Montague Education Fund and how to get involved, go to the GMEF website at [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org).

## Gill Fire Department

### Open Burning Season

Open Burning Season Starts January 15 and Ends May 1. Residents may call Shelburne Control at (413)625-8200 to obtain a burning permit. Permits are valid for one day. The open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings and must be conducted between the hours of 10AM and 4PM. Burning must take place on the land closest to the source of material to be burned, according to Department of Environmental Protection regulations (310 CMR DEP 7.07).

Weather conditions can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and fire wardens will determine on a daily basis when it is safe to conduct open burning. If winds kick



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up or other atmospheric conditions change suddenly, making it unsafe to burn, permits can be rescinded.

Burning, with a permit for the following materials is allowed:

- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
- Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture, such as fruit tree prunings, dead raspberry stalks, blueberry patches for pruning purposes, and infected bee hives for disease control.
- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

Burning of the following materials is prohibited statewide:

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps, and tires.
- Construction material and debris.

## Burn Season Safety Tips

An adult should always be present during open burning and children and pets should be kept a safe distance away. Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood. Parts of a Christmas tree may also be used.

Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high. Burn one small pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control. Select a location away from any utility lines.

While the fire is burning, an adult must attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.

Have fire extinguishment materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes.

The water supply could be a pressurized water fire extinguisher, a pump can or garden hose, and be sure to test it



out before igniting the fire. You do not want to find out that the water is still shut off at the house faucet or that the hose is cracked when you need it most.

Be prepared to extinguish your fire if the winds pick up or weather changes. Use common sense and don't wait for the fire department to contact you that it has become unsafe to burn. Sudden wind change is how most open burning gets out of control. If for some reason, the fire should get out of control, call the fire department immediately. Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself or family members or any damage by fire to your home.

April is usually the worst month for brush fires. When the snow pack recedes, before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be stronger and more unpredictable during April. Prevent permit fires from becoming wild land fires by burning early in the season. Wet and snowy winter conditions, hinder the rapid spread of fire on or under the ground. Weather conditions and increased fire danger may lead to many days when burning cannot be allowed to take place.

People conducting illegal burning, or who allow a fire to get out of control, may be held liable for costs of extinguishing the fire, fined and even imprisoned.

## 2007 Fire Alarm Log

The Gill Fire Department answered 186 alarms in 2007. Medical emergencies (89) topped the list since Gill's firefighters are also First Responders in town. Fortunately, there were no major building fires in town this year, though the Department provided mutual aid for adjoining towns, including major mill fires in Turners Falls and Erving. The alarms by categories are as follows:

Alarm Sounding .....	18
Appliance Fire.....	2
Assist Police .....	1
Brush Fire .....	4
Chimney Fire .....	2
CO Detector .....	3
Flooded Basement .....	4
Life Flight .....	2
Medical Emergency .....	89
Motor Vehicle Accident .....	17
Motor Vehicle Fire .....	3
Mutual Aid .....	12
Public Service .....	11
River Emergency .....	1
Smoke Investigation .....	12
Wires Down .....	5

## Gill Students

### HONOR ROLL

#### Turners Falls High School

##### Grade 12

**First Honors:** Abbey Daniel-Green, Amanda Golembeski, Andrew Turban

**Second Honors:** Jeremy Tetreault

**Third Honors:** Zachary Little  
Chelseigh St. Peter

##### Grade 11

**Second Honors:** Allison Giknis

**Third Honors:** Eric Dumas,  
Amber Henry,  
Angela Marguet,  
Joseph Rinaldi III

##### Grade 10

**First Honors:** Kathleen Rinaldi  
Sarah Underwood

**Second Honors:** Danielle Dolhenty  
Matthew Garber

**Third Honors:** Scott Brown  
Mackee Freeland

##### Grade 9

**First Honors:** Makayla Dolhenty

Brooke Hastings  
Kysten Hawkins  
Julie Howard-Thompson  
Andrew Turban  
Natasha Vaughn

**Second Honors:** Rachel Arial  
Jack Hubert

## Great Falls Middle School

### Grade 8

**First Honors:** Jane Booth  
Christopher Gordon  
Lily Kane  
Malik Odeh  
Todd Richardson

**Second Honors:** Colton Hallett

**Third Honors:** Samantha Shaw

### Grade 7

**First Honors:** Katelyn Dodge  
Shawn Englehardt  
Timothy Meyer  
Jeremy Peffer



**Second Honors:** Ceara Dolhenty  
Bethany Laramie  
Jonathan Marguet  
Nala Vaughn  
Brittany York

#### Grade 6

**First Honors:** Tyler Richardson

### Pioneer Valley Regional School

#### Grade 11

**High Honors:** Nils Albert Johnson

#### Grade 10

**High Honors:** Nicholas Duska

**Honors:** Jared Towne

#### Grade 8

**Highest Honors:** Mary Duska

**High Honors:** Jacob Levin

**Honors:** Chad Galipault

#### Grade 7

**Highest Honor:** Emily Messer

**High Honors:** John Arena

Jaclyn Lafleur

Kaylyn Tognarelli

Raleigh Yates

**Honors:**

Aaron Milewski

### College

Julia Blakeney-Hayward, a junior science major was studying abroad in Zagreb, Croatia during the fall semester. Julia is a student in the Gender, Transformation & Civil Society program at St. Michael's College.

### Greenfield Center School

Leylee Botkin helped her class poll people in Greenfield last September to gather data for the Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) asking what they want most in their fruits and vegetables. The students at Greenfield Center School are trying to eat more locally grown foods. We don't have to worry about Leylee as she eats fresh fruits and vegetables from her father's farm in Gill.

### TFHS Community Atlas Project

Sixteen honors earth science and Microsoft Office students mapped out their community by using geographic information system maps listing population density, scenic views, governmental services, environmental challenges and other important features. This project is being completed by students and their teachers across the county to define their community. Gill students involved in the project were Eric Dumas, Charlotte Parody and Angela Marguet.

### SPORTS

Jodi Hallet, Angela Marguet and Chelseigh St. Peter played volleyball again this fall for Turners Falls High School. The play of these three Gill students took the team to the Western Mass Div. III semi-finals. The Republican newspaper ranked all three as the team's

top players. Jodie and Angela were named to the Republican's All-Scholastic Division III Volleyball First Team this year. Angela and Chelseigh are now playing varsity basketball and Jodie is the score-keeper for the boys JV basketball team and on the dance team. Amber Henry and Natasha Vaughn are on the JV basketball team.

Erika Loomer was also a star on her volleyball team at Northfield Mount Hermon School. She is now teamed up with Harriet Booth on the NMH basketball team and both are having a great season.

There was a very interesting article on Erika in the Recorder's sport section in December that stated she was named to the Boston Globe All-Scholastic Team and the Western New England Girl's Volleyball League All-Star Team. Remember her mom, Debbie, used to coach the TFHS volleyball team and Erika learned to love the game by just watching the practices as a child. Erika plans to attend Adelphi University, Garden City, N.Y. next September.

Jeremy Peffer, a seventh grader at Great Falls Middle School, helped the TFHS golf team have a good season this year.

Cross country runners for TFHS were Danielle Dolhenty and Scott Brown.

Brandon Rawson and Andy Turban played varsity soccer for TFHS



while Malek Odeh, Todd Richardson, Jon Marguet and Jane Booth played on the co-ed middle school team. Molly Perry played well in midfield for the girl's varsity soccer team. Molly is now on the swim team with Abbey Daniel-Green.

Brothers Nathan Towne and Jared Towne were also on soccer teams though for different schools. Nathan played for Franklin Tech and Jared for Pioneer.

Rynn Dintaman played in the midfield for the NMH soccer team this season.

Ashleigh St. Peter played goalie during the field hockey season at Stoneleigh-Burnham School and Emily Arena for Northfield Mount Hermon School. Ashleigh has moved on to Stoneleigh's volleyball team. Abbey Daniel-Green and Kate Rinaldi played field hockey for TFHS's varsity team while Abby Cichanowicz played on the JV team.

This fall Joey Rinaldi played goalie with a F.C. Hockey Association team and is now goalie for the TFHS hockey team this winter.

Jake Field, Tom Field, Zach Little, Matt Garber, Mackae Freeland and Tony Denofrio helped the TFHS football team. Tom Field was named to the Division III Football Second Team Offense in the Republican All-Scholastic team. Eric Levasseur played for Franklin County Technical School and Jake Galipault on the Pioneer team taking over the quarterback position for a few games. Matt Garber is now on the TFHS swim team.

Tom Field, Jake Field, Eric Dumas and Tony Denofrio are now on the TFHS varsity basketball team. Jake was injured in December, but continues to support his team until he is able to return. Alex Tufano plays both the JV and varsity while Jack Huber and Mackae Freeland play on the JV team under coach Maurice Dumas. Colton Hallett, Matt Gibson and Luke Poulsen play for the Great Falls Middle School basketball team.

The TFHS cheerleaders have Sarah Underwood and Julie Howard-Thompson urging their teams on.

Zack French, Jake Galipault and Jared Towne are now

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having one of the best basketball seasons Pioneer has had. As of January 17th the Panthers were undefeated. Chad Galipault and Aaron Milewski are playing basketball for Pioneer's 7th/8th grade team and Jackie Lafleur plays on the girl's 7th/8th grade team.

Spencer Hattendorf helped the NMH team win the New Hampshire Championship Regatta on the Merrimack River this fall.



## Recreation Committee

Hello. My name is Candy Vaughn. I grew up here in Gill, disappeared for a few years, and then moved back to Gill where we live in my grandmother's former home. Raised three children, one who goes to the Gill Elementary School, one who goes to Turners Falls High School, and my other one is in the Great Falls Middle School. I am writing to introduce myself and to let you know that I am a part of the Gill Recreation Committee. I have been a part of this team for just about three years now. Nate Duda has given me this wonderful task of helping out in the Gill Newsletter. Wish me luck.

I will start by talking about the Red Sox Trip. Tickets were very hard to get but we have managed to get some. The game will be on Saturday, April 19, 2008, at a starting time of 7PM with Boston versus the Texas Rangers. The tickets are being sold at \$75.00 each which includes the ticket and the coach ride.

Due to Travel Kuz being in such high demand, we are going through Five Star Transportation. We will be leaving from the Green School. We are selling the tickets on a first come first serve. Checks can be mailed to: Town Hall, 325 Main Road, att: Rec. Dept. Please have phone number in the memo

section so that we can call you a few days before the trip to remind you. If you should have any questions, please call Nate Duda at 413-522-3209

We have the Wacky sliding party approaching us on Sunday, February 10th, from 12 Noon until 3PM, at the Oak Ridge Golf Course in Gill. The Fire Department will be there with the rescue truck. We will have hot dogs, hot chocolate, and cookies. Bring your sleds and lets have fun.

Family swim, ice skating, shooting hoops, and wrestling are taking place at the Northfield Mount Hermon Gill Campus on Sunday afternoons from 1PM until 3PM. Please come. Nice family afternoon. There is a flyer which has gone out. If you didn't receive one, you can call Nathan Duda 413-522-3209 concerning the basketball, skating or swimming. If you need information on the wrestling program, please call Beth Buyea at 498-4509.

In sports there are three basketball travel teams, 5th and 6th grade boys coached by Jim Poulsen, and 5th and 6th grade girls coached by Brian Bodell. We also have the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade coed team coached by Nate Duda with help from David Shutta and Mark Almeida. We have K-1, which is a skills program, run by Chad Gailpald and Luke Poulsen. We still have room for more. Come on up to Gill NMH Gym on Sundays

from 1-2PM to play and practice.

We want to give a special thank you to our Refs, Chad Gailpald and Luke Poulsen. Also want to give a special thank you to Angela Marguet who runs the score board for all the home games. Thank you to Jim Poulsen and NMH for the use of the Basketball Gym on the Northfield Campus. I want to give everyone a warm thank you for reading all the way through this.

*Candy Vaughn  
Gill Recreation Committee*

## Slate Library News

Winter is upon us at Slate library and it is the perfect time of year to curl up with a book.

We have many new books as well as videos and audiotapes, so please stop by and explore your local library.

For children we have many lovely new pictures books. Some titles include: "Vera Gratch and the way Cool Butterfly" by Alan Madison and Kevin Hawkes, "The Adventures of Odysseus" adapted by Hugh Lupton, "Red Butterfly: How a Princess Smuggled the Secret of Silk out of China" by Deborah Noyes, as well as "Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal" by the award winning author Paul Fleischman.

The children's audio collection has many new additions also. Try



out "Grandmother Tales" read by Olympia Dukakis, or "Tales from Shakespeare" narrated by Jim Weiss. These are excellent for listening in the car during a family trip or on a blustery day at home.

Adults can explore a wonderful selection of new books in both fiction and non-fiction. For mystery lovers we have the new Sue Grafton "T is for Trespass" as well as the latest Dick Francis. We also have new additions by Bill Bryson, Faye Kellerman, and Tom Perotta.

The book mobile arrives at our door every other month bringing a wealth of circulating materials into our community. Through use of the Western Massachusetts Bookmobile we have a changing selection of DVDs, videos and books on tape. Please come in and avail yourself of this incredible resource. We are always happy to meet new patrons!

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

## **Historical Commission**

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside School on Route 2. The Commission maintains the Gill Museum in an effort to preserve the history of Gill; the Museum is

frequently open on Thursday afternoons. The Commission continues to appreciate the memorabilia, stories, and photographs that many people share or donate in the interest of documenting and preserving the history of Gill. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Dick French, Bob Perry, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, or Pam Shoemaker.

In the fall the Commission received a diary kept by Loring Hale for the year of 1868. We are working to transcribe the complete diary with additions of family history. The following entries occur during the winter of 1868. The original spelling and punctuation are maintained. Anyone who has information on the Loring Hale family is invited to share that with the Commission.

The Commission continues to appreciate the memorabilia, stories, and photographs that many people share or donate in the interest of documenting and preserving the history of Gill.

### **LORNING Hale DIARY • 1868**

#### **Friday, January 31, 1868**

Fare (fair) all day pleasant  
S and I made a box to cary some pigs  
to Greenfield tomorrow. John Banks  
and wife was here a visiting. James  
Lyman came here and bought our  
oxen paid 296 dollars for them ...  
Andrew here

#### **Saturday, February 1, 1868**

Fare pleasant cold  
S and I went to Greenfield sold four  
pigg to Wodard Andrew staid here  
all day we have got four pigs left cleer  
cold day Andrew is here to night

#### **Tuesday, February 4, 1868**

Fare cleer cold day  
S and Edson went over to  
Bernardston after ice tongs and to  
get my cutter that Ed brock a one of  
... off last night when a coming ...  
Loring went to Gill got a leas of farm

#### **Wednesday, February 5, 1868**

Fare all day pleasant til evening then  
it snowed hard at eight oclock Loring  
and Seth helpt get four lodes of ice  
the Spragues folks was here a visitng  
to day and evening

#### **Thursday, February 6, 1868**

Cloudy snow some all day it fell four  
inches deep last night and to day Seth  
and I got the last lode of ice to day We  
was surprised by a large party to night  
from Bernardston and Northfield

#### **Monday, February 10, 1868**

Fare cleer cold all day  
I stayed in the house and helped wash  
in the fore noon, and then S and I  
went over to Bernardston carried  
home the saw and tongs that we had  
to get ice ... very cold to night



## Business Advertisements

The Gill Newsletter will include business card size advertisements of local businesses for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$50.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$50.00 payable to 'Town of Gill' to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses in a very tight budget, we would also welcome such contributions mailed to the above address.

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

## Disclaimer:

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## Next Newsletter Deadline

March 15th for the April Issue

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