



THE

# Gill Newsletter

April 2009 Issue

## CONTENTS

Town Hall News . . . . . 1

Friends of Gill . . . . . 3

Gill Fire Dept . . . . . 4

Gill Senior Citizens . . . 5

Gill Police Dept . . . . . 6

Gill Agricultural Com . 8

Slate Library News . . . 8

Gill Students . . . . . 8

Gill Historical Com . 10

Disclaimer . . . . . 12

Business Ads . . . . . 12

News Deadline . . . . . 12

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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- Barbara Elliott
- Joe Elliott
- Ronnie LaChance
- Gloria Holmes
- Pam Shoemaker
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- Barbara Watson

## Town Hall News

### Memorial Day Ceremonies

Gill's Memorial Committee is planning a Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday, May 24 at 10 A.M. starting at the Gill Congregational Church and then continuing across Main Road at the veterans' monuments.

The Memorial Committee purchases flags and flowers for veterans' graves every year, as well as cleaning the monuments. Donations to support this honorable work are gratefully appreciated. Checks, made payable to the Town of Gill, may be sent to Chet Kuzontkoski, 25 River Rd, Gill, MA 01354.

### Mid-Year Budget Cuts

It would be nice to have just one issue of the newsletter this year that did not include a budget update, wouldn't it? We're not there yet, I'm afraid.

In late January, Governor Patrick instituted another round of mid-year budget cuts. Where last time he spared local aid, this time it was unavoidable, and Gill's state aid was cut by \$25,793.

On February 9, the Selectboard met with all town departments to ask for their help in determining how to absorb the cut with minimal impact to town services. Departments were generous and worked as a team to give what they could back from their already reduced budgets to make ends meet.

### Annual Town Meeting May 4

Annual Town Meeting will be held on the first Monday in May (May 4th), as always. The Gill Montague Regional School

Committee is not expected to have a final budget until May 6 and rumor has it the Commonwealth will not have its budget settled by May 4, making it difficult for the Town to determine its own budget. Therefore, the May 4th meeting will concentrate on matters other than budget, of which there are several, including declaring two parcels of town-owned land as surplus (see next segment). A further meeting dedicated to the budget has been scheduled for June 15th. The warrant for town meeting, which will be posted no later than April 27, may be found at Town Hall, the Northfield Mount Hermon School post office, the Gill Store and Tavern, the Riverside Municipal Building, and on the town website at [www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org). A pre-town meeting information session is also scheduled for April 27 at 7 P.M. in Town Hall.

### Two Town-Owned Properties on Annual Town Meeting Warrant

In this deepening recession, the Selectboard is looking at every angle to raise revenues. There are two properties currently owned by the Town—the Riverside Municipal Building and the Boyle property—that the



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Gill Website  
[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)  
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announcements and  
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Board will put before town meeting voters to declare as “surplus” this year, which would enable the Board to sell the properties and get them back on the tax rolls.

The Riverside Municipal Building, also known as “the old green school”, is located at 54 French King Highway. It currently houses the Gill Historical Commission and the Four Winds Charter School—both of which would have to find a new home if the property were sold. A preliminary energy audit conducted by Siemens Building Technologies in the fall of 2008 recommends approximately \$8,000 in upgrades be made to the building including replacing the boiler, insulating the building envelope, and replacing the windows. The building, and its accompanying 1.5 acres of land, is valued at \$480,200 according to FY09 assessors’ records. If it were to sell at its estimated value, it would bring in an additional \$6,000 annually in tax revenue for the Town. If the new owner improved the parcel, a prime piece of commercial real estate, it could bring in substantially more.

The “Boyle property” is a 2.9-acre piece of land at the corner of Center Road and Lyons Hill Road. This parcel was donated to the Town by William Boyle in 1935 to be used “as a school site and Community play ground.” At this time, the Selectboard does not see the need for the property to be used for either of those purposes and will ask Town Meeting to declare the property surplus. If the property were to sell at its estimated value (\$71,800), it would bring in an additional \$900 annually in tax revenue. Again, if this lot were improved, perhaps by the addition of a house, revenues could increase substantially.

## Commission for Education

The Commission, created to study educational options for Gill students, is hard at work gathering and analyzing data. Commission members are studying the impact of improving the Gill Montague Regional School District, leaving the District and going it alone, and joining another district. Members are considering demographics, transportation issues, curriculum, extracurricular activities, and costs.

At Gill’s Annual Town Meeting, the Commission will propose two articles for voters. The first article will request that the Gill Montague Regional School Committee draw up amendments to the District agreement that would allow Gill to leave the District. The Commission wishes to make clear that **this does not mean it is recommending that Gill leave the District.** It is the only mechanism in the regional school agreement, however, that would allow the Town to get answers to questions about leaving, such as how outstanding debt would be handled, etc.

A second article would request that voters create a Regional Planning Committee to explore joining another district or reorganizing the current district. This step is required by law if the Town were to pursue such actions.

A public hearing to report the Commission’s findings will be held during a pre-town meeting information session April 27 at 7 P.M. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Associate Commissioner, Jeff Wulfson, is scheduled to attend the hearing as well. To read minutes from the meetings, go to [www.gillmass.org/documents.php](http://www.gillmass.org/documents.php). The Commission’s full report will be available online once it is completed.

## Seeking Donations of Time and Money

The Building Committee is recommending that real walls and locking doors (as opposed to cubicle dividers) be installed around the collector-treasurer’s office and the town clerk’s office. In light of the break-ins a couple of years ago in area town halls, this would provide some security for town documents and monies collected by the tax collector throughout the day. It would also provide some privacy for residents discussing their financial transactions with the collector.

With the town’s ongoing budget limitations, we have no money in the budget to purchase the necessary materials or hire the labor necessary to build the walls. Anyone wishing to make a financial donation to support this effort may send a check made payable to the Town of Gill, 325 Main Rd, Gill, MA 01354-9758, ATTN: Office Walls. Anyone willing to donate their skills for a weekend to help build the walls should contact Tracy Rogers

## Mariamante Parcel

The Mariamante Steering Committee held a project kick-off meeting on March 19 with Tighe & Bond. The Town hired Tighe & Bond, through a state grant, to provide a market study and conceptual designs for the Mariamante parcel in the hopes that these documents will make the site more appealing to potential developers. Potential designs will be presented at a public hearing sometime in August and the entire project will be complete by September 30. Tighe & Bond will present their progress on the project during the second half of the annual town meeting on June 15.

*Tracy Rogers*



## From the Town Clerk:

The Gill Annual Town Election will be held on May 18th from 12-8 PM at the Fire Station.

If you have not yet registered to vote in the Town of Gill, the last day to do so and be able to vote in the Election is Tuesday April 28th. Open registration of voters will be held that day from 2 to 4 PM and 7 to 8 PM.

Just a reminder that after June 1st, anyone who has not licensed their dog in Gill will be fined an additional \$10 at the time of licensing.

I am also continuing to work on the Street List and Census and request that if you have not delivered that information, that you please do so.

I would like to thank Carrie Stevens who just collected and formatted a list of Town Meeting Votes on Massachusetts General Laws so that we can easily access them. We used to have to scan through pages of old minutes every time someone wanted to know how the town voted on the laws.

I also want to remind you that the last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting is April 14th from 2 to 4 PM and 7 to 8 PM.

*Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk*

## From the Town Treasurer and Tax Collector:

Just a reminder to homeowners that your 2009 Actual Real Estate and Personal Property payments are due on or before May 1st. The Assessors add that any abatement applications or exemption application must also be in by that date.

I also want to remind residents that if you move from the Town of Gill, it is very important that you notify your insurance company that your vehicle is no longer garaged in the Town of Gill. You also need to notify the registry of the change of address.

Don't forget Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

*Veronica LaChance, Tax Collector and Treasurer*

## FRIENDS OF GILL

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Pancake Breakfast on March 29th was very well attended. At one time every seat in the room was occupied. The air was filled with the lively chatter of friends and neighbors as our many volunteers cooked and served a delicious breakfast to what was a record turnout.

### PICNIC ON THE COMMON

We are presently making plans for our annual Picnic on the Common to be held on Sunday, June 14th. With our experience with inclement weather and past thunderstorms in mind, we have set Saturday, June 27th, as a rain date. We will publish more details in the June issue of the Newsletter

### FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Plans for the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival are well underway and, as usual, we will be seeking volunteers to help with the setting up and operation of the Festival. If you can't donate your time at the Festival perhaps you might consider joining one of our current planning committees.

For further information, call Barbara Elliott at 863-9708.



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## Gill Fire Department

### Seeking New Members

The Gill Fire Department could always use a few more members, especially during the work day. The Department provides the necessary equipment and training for new firefighters, who must be at least sixteen years of age. Preliminary training includes personal protective equipment, fire behavior, basic firefighting skills, first aid, and CPR and defibrillation. More advanced training opportunities in pump operation, hazardous materials response, rope and water rescue, emergency medical technology, and other areas are available throughout the year. Remember, a community's volunteer fire department is as good as the people who make it work. If you live in Gill and you are physically up to the challenge of serving as a firefighter, we may be looking for you. The Town of Gill is an equal-opportunity employer and its emergency services personnel are subject to criminal background (CORI) checks. The Gill Fire Department meets each Thursday evening at the fire station from 7 to 10 PM. For more information, call the fire station at 863-8955.

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### Gill Firemen's Association Annual Scholarship

The Gill Firemen's Association Scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Firefighter Stanley Ambo, Sr., who gave his last full measure of devotion in the line of duty. The annual scholarship of \$200, funded each year by the firefighters of Gill, is available to a town resident who will graduate from an accredited area secondary school and plans to attend college. The scholarship is awarded to a member of the senior class who demonstrates scholastic ability, need, character, and participation in extra-curricular and community activities. Applications are available in the guidance departments at local high schools. Completed applications must be returned to the Gill Firemen's Association by May 15, 2009. Instructions for mailing are included in the application packet.

**Renaissance Builders**

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 President

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### Brush Permit Season

Brush burning season runs from January 15 to April 30, 2009. 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

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begin before noon and be completely extinguished before 4 PM. Call the Fire Department at 863-8955 if you need further information on brush permits.

### Outdoor Cooking Fires And Fireplaces

Residents eighteen years of age or older may, without a permit, set a reasonable fire for the purpose of cooking as long as the fire is enclosed within rocks, metal, or other non-flammable material and safely away from residences and vegetation. The fire chief or his representative may issue orders to immediately remedy any dangerous condition, including extinguishing the fire, if the conditions of an outdoor fire are likely to cause a risk of greater fire. The Gill Fire Department appreciates the right of citizens to conduct reasonable and safe outdoor cooking fires and asks that residents take into consideration the potential effects of smoke or other fire-related nuisances upon their neighbors.

### Visible House Numbers Reduce Emergency Response Time

The Fire Department urges residents to make sure their house numbers are visible from the street. Winter weather and snow plows may have damaged some numbers. House numbers that are missing or difficult to read can increase response time in an emergency.

### Gill Senior Center News

#### Enhance Your Memory While Having Fun

Thursday, May 7 at 11 A.M.

Wanda Landry, Director of Alzheimer's Center at Quabbin Valley Healthcare will be at the Senior Center to speak on activities that you can do to enhance your memory and learn how your lifestyle can affect your brain.

#### Estate Planning and MA Health Regulations

Wednesday, May 20 at 11:15 A.M.

Attorney Jennifer Schnider from the American Bar Association will speak and stay for an informal question and answer session during lunch.

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## Broadway Calvacade

Monday, June 8 at 1:30 P.M.

Ruth Harowitz will perform show tunes from the 40's and 50's

Refreshments to follow. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a Massachusetts agency.

## Balance And The Elderly

Wednesday, June 17 at 11 A.M.

Learn how aging affects your balance and what you can do about it. At the end of this presentation you will be able to:

- Identify three physiological changes that affect your balance.
- Better understand your statistical risk for falls.
- Gain knowledge on how to prevent falls in the future.
- Develop "talking points" to review with your own health care provider.
- Identify your own personal risk for falling by having your balance tested

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## Gill Police Department

### Rash of Recent Car Breaking and Enterings:

Recently the department has been receiving reports of breaking and enterings into vehicles at various locations in town. We suggest taking these simple but important steps to maintain your car's safety:

Don't leave valuables in your car. That sounds like "common sense", but drivers/passengers do leave items of value in plain view every day. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target.

If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously. This includes packages, backpacks, gym bags, GPS units, MP3 players, and so forth. Someone may be watching when you put items under a seat or throw something over them. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for trunk-packing, and can break into your car the minute you're out of sight.

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If you can't take them with you, at least lock the items in your glove compartment or your trunk.

Once home, unload your valuables immediately. Do not store valuables in your car any longer than necessary, and certainly never overnight.

Don't leave any "sign" that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle, such as docking stations or connector cables. Leave nothing in "plain sight" that might make your vehicle worth "investigating" by a thief; not even loose coins or a CD.

Just leaving an empty docking station in plain sight, even if you've taken the high dollar component with you, may end up costing you hundreds of dollars to replace a broken window because the thief wanted to check your car for "hidden" valuables. Very few auto break-ins are "random"—the thieves see "something" in plain sight that's valuable, or hints of possible hidden valuables.

If you have an after-market stereo/CD-player with a removable faceplate, remove it. Just covering a valuable radio (or ANY valuables in your car) with something (like a blanket or towel) to hide it will probably only draw thieves' attention.

Lock ALL your vehicle's doors even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every year, we have items stolen from unlocked vehicles where the owner was only going to be gone "just for a second". It only takes seconds to steal your stuff! It's not at all uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles and check vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked. Don't leave any window open or even cracked open, including vent/wing windows and sunroofs.

Set any alarm or anti-theft device. If you have one, use it! If a thief has two cars to choose from, one with an alarm and one without, they will likely burglarize the one without

### Is Your Driver's License Expired?

Due to state budget constraints, please note that the Registry of Motor Vehicles no longer sends the following mailings to residents:

- Driver's License or ID renewal notices
- License or registration reinstatement letters
- Vehicle inspection reminder letters  
7D renewal notices
- Driver's education certificates

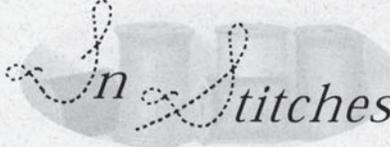
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### Census Worker in Area

Starting in April and continuing on until July, Census workers will be in town canvassing.

In most cases, census workers will knock on residents' doors to verify addresses and inquire about additional living quarters on the premises. It will be during daylight hours, seven days a week, They will carry official identification and GPS units and will enter your address information.

Using Global Positioning System coordinates for most of the housing will reduce the number of geographic coding errors caused by using paper maps in previous counts, according to the US Census Bureau.

"The goal of the census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place," The census - conducted every 10 years - is used for reappor-



tioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the distribution of federal funds to state and local governments. Data will be released in 2010.

If you are unsure it is an actual worker, please call the station (413) 863-9398 and an officer will be dispatched to assist you.

*Sgt. Christopher J. Redmond*  
Gill Police Department

**Emergency 911**

(413) 863-9398 - Station  
(413) 625-8200 - 24 Hour Dispatch  
(413) 863-0157 - Fax  
GillPolice @ aol.com - Email

**Gill Agricultural Commission**

The Gill Agricultural Commission is seeking agriculture-based businesses in Gill who would like to be included in a brochure we are creating to promote Gill Farms. Anyone who sells produce, dairy products, Christmas trees, syrup, honey, or any other ag-based products or services can be included. If you are interested, please call Bridget Logan at 498-0061.

**Slate Library News**

Exciting things are happening at the Slate Library this spring. Come visit and play in the sandbox, climb a tree and check out a few good books!

Pre-school story hour continues through the month of June with lots of new stories and art projects. Come hear fish tales, fairy tales and stories about the awakening of Mother Earth, there is always yummy popcorn and good company and we invite new families to visit us, Fridays at 10 AM.

April is National Poetry month and Slate library will host a reading by two valley poets on Sunday April 26 at 6 PM. Dianne Bilyak and Glenn Johnson are members of "The Worlds Best Writers". The group focuses primarily on the humorous side of life in their works of creative non-fiction, fiction and poetry. Come join us!

We also have several new titles available for our patrons. *Handle with Care* by Jodi Picoult, *The Piano Teacher* by Janice Lee, *The Associate* by John Grisham as well as *Snark* by David Denby and *The Survivor's Club* by Ben Sherwood. For our teenage audience we have Neil Gaimans' *The Graveyard Book* and *Madapple* by Christina Meldrum, and for our youngest patrons the Caldecott winner of 2008, *The House in the Night* by Susan Marie Swanson as well as several other books.

Slate library is already planning for this years Summer Reading program "A Starship Adventure at Your Library". We welcome comments, suggestions, and donations! All of which will help make our summer reading program an enriching experience for the children of Gill.

**Gill Students**

**HONOR ROLL  
Third Quarter**

**Turners Falls High School**

- Grade 12**  
First Honors: Amber Henry  
Second Honors: Eric Dumas, Jodi Hallett, Angela Marguet, and Jeremy Tetreault
- Grade 11**  
First Honors: Mackae Freeland  
Second Honors: Danielle Dolhenty, Matthew Garber, and Sarah Underwood  
Third Honors: Kathleen Rinaldi

**Grade 10**

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

**Grade 9**

- First Honors: Christopher Gordon
- Second Honors: Colton Hallett, Brittany Rawson, Todd Richardson, Samantha Shaw, and Kaleb Warren
- Third Honors: Katelyn Phillips

*Note: Gill has 39 students attending Turners Falls High School; 31 students were on the honor roll for the 1st quarter and 26 students on the honor roll for the 2nd and 3rd quarters.*

**Great Falls Middle School**

**Grade 8**

- First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Shawn Englehardt, and Timothy Meyer
- Second Honors: Leslie Kozma, Nala Vaughn, and Brittany York
- Third Honors: Ceara Dolhenty, Bethany Laramie, and Jeremy Peffer

**Grade 7**

- Second Honors: Shelbi Williams
- Third Honors: Tyler Richardson

**Grade 6**

- First Honors: Nicholas York
  - Second Honors: Zachary Demars, Jessica Gaines, Spencer Hubert, Stephanie Robertson, and Cole Tognarelli
  - Third Honors: Tristan Kostanski
- Note: GFMS has 29 students from Gill; 17 students on the 1st quarter honor roll, 13 on the 2nd quarter and 18 on the 3rd quarter.*

**Franklin County Technical School**

**Grade 9**

- High Honors: Haley Laramie

**Grade 10**

- High Honors: Joseph Lafleur

**Grade 12**

- Honors: Kyle Demers

**Turners Falls High School**

**Awards Assembly - February 2, 2009**

- Academic Excellence in Accounting I: Amber Henry, and Angela Marguet
- Academic Excellence in Business Law: Jodi Hallett, and Angela Marguet
- Excellence in Microsoft Office: Jodi Hallett
- GCC Articulation Certificates, Microsoft Office: Jodi Hallett



Academic Excellence in Honors American Literature: Danielle Dolhenty  
 Excellence in Health: Andrew Turban  
 Excellence in Competitive Sports: Eric Dumas  
 Academic Excellence in Advanced Placement Psychology: Amber Henry  
 Most Improved Artist: Corey Hescocock  
 Academic Achievement in Algebra II: Sarah Underwood  
 Academic Excellence, Leadership & Curiosity in Honors Earth Science: Mackee Freeland  
 Skill, Loyalty & Productivity in the Greenhouse: Eric Dumas  
 Excellence in Honors Biology: Todd Richardson  
 Academic Excellence in Chemistry I: Eric Dumas  
 Above & Beyond Award: Christopher Gordon  
 Excellence in Graphic Arts: Amber Henry, and Kathleen Rinaldi  
 Excellence in Mechanical/Architectural Drawing: Angela Marguet  
 Academic Excellence in French I: Todd Richardson  
 Academic Achievement in Life Skills Coffee Corner: Jeremy Tetreault  
 Academic Achievement in Life Skills Life Science: Emily Robertson

## Skills Award

Students recently competed in the Western District Skills USA Competition in North Adams, MA. Junior Joseph Lafleur earned a bronze medal for Industrial Motor Control.

## Kentucky Trip

Seniors Brooke Hastings, Joey Rinaldi, Charlotte Parody and sophomore Julie Thompson along with 10 other TFHS students took a week's trip to Elliott County, Kentucky to help it's residents. The students picked up trash on the highways and landscaped new homes for low-income residents with a non-profit housing group. They also cheered for the rural high school basketball team who reached the semi-finals, only losing to a much larger school. The student traveled by van and slept on air mattresses in the gymnasium while they worked for the community. Teacher Christopher Klosson helped

chaperone the students. A good article on their trip is in the April 9, 2009 Montague Reporter.

## Music Man

If you missed the Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School presentation of *The Music Man*, you missed five very good performances by Gill students. Performers were junior Sarah Underwood as Mrs. Squires, sophomore Natasha Vaughn as Mrs. Paroo, freshman Christopher Gordon as a Salesman and member of the Barbershop Quartet, freshman Seth LeMieux as Constable Locke, and 6th grader Spencer Hubert as Winthrop Paroo. They left us with smiles on our faces as the musical ended and very proud. Charlotte Parody helped on the Artistic Design & Painting Crew and Jessica Gaines on the Stage Crew.

## Turners Falls High School Basketball

Turners Falls High School, Franklin Technical School and Pioneer basketball teams all qualified for the Division III Western Mass Tournament this year. Turners and Pioneer tied for first place in the Hampshire West Division III. Turners had a bye in the first round. Pioneer beat Franklin County Tech to reach the quarterfinals. That set up a game between Pioneer and Turners at Turners Falls High School. The bleachers were packed with fans plus those standing and sitting on the sidelines. Fans were waving 'hi' to friends rooting for the opposing team as they came into the gym. Everyone knew this was a game to see since each team had a win during the regular season. Both teams were playing against friends, Turners Tony

Denofrio, Jake & Tom Field, Eric Dumas along with Pioneer's Zach French had gone to Gill Elementary School together and continued to play against each other during the spring and summer months. Turners won the quarterfinal game by a score of 81-73 setting them up to meet New Leadership Charter School from Springfield, MA at Curry Hicks Cage, Amherst for a MIAA sectional semi-final game on March 5th.

Montague and Gill fans, wearing their blue t-shirts filled the Cage to support their team. Fans of Pioneer and the Tech School encouraged the TFHS players also. A hard fought game, TFHS lead 38-32 at halftime. New Leadership finally took the lead with less than 2 minutes left in the fourth quarter. Turners tied the game again with Eric's two free throws. New Leadership took the lead again but Jake Field came back with a basket with 16.4 seconds left to come within one. The final score was New Leadership 75-70. Gill seniors Jake Field scored 31 points, Tom Field 15 points and Eric Dumas 9 points. Tony Denofrio came in off the bench and played well. We were all disappointed for the team, and they definitely earned the standing ovation from their fans. While Jake, Tom, Eric and Tony finished their basketball season at TFHS, Mackae Freeland has another year ahead of him.

Jake and Tom Field were chosen to play on the Franklin County boys' team against Hampshire County for a seniors game at the end of the season at Hopkins Academy. Hampshire County won 100-84. Angela Marguet was chosen for the Franklin County/Hampshire County girls' senior game. Franklin County won in overtime.



Jake Field was then chosen to play at the Basketball Hall of Fame on the Western MA Boys' All-Star Div. III team against the Div. II All-Star team. Division III won 85-70 with Jake scoring 19 points.

## 1000+ Points

During his basketball seasons at TFHS Jake Field scored 1063 points. That was quite an accomplishment, since he broke his wrist in his junior year and missed more than half the season. Jake will have his name inscribed on the 1000 point banner in the TFHS gym along with Artie Burke (before 3 pointers), Chris Bray and Marc Cournoyer of Montague.

## Spring Sports

Baseball, softball, ultimate frisbee, soccer, crew, tennis and field and track have begun at our local schools. Check the schedule, and take a few hours to relax and enjoy our students at surrounding schools.

## Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside School on Route 2. 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.

This month we share a view of April as written in Chandler S. Munn's diary in 1873. With appreciation for the work of Joel Fowler in Northfield and the genealogical notes of Frances Munn

and her family, we have this information on the Munn family:

**Lorenzo Patrick Munn**, son of Seth (*Seth, John, Benjamin, John, Benjamin*) & Gratia (Wright) Munn, was born Gill, 3 Sep 1815, and died Gill, 6 Oct 1901, age 86-1-4, of pneumonia. He married first Vernon, Vt, 31 Oct 1838, Ruth Severance, dau. of Oren & Chloe (Munn) Severance, born Gill, 6 Nov 1816, died Gill, 1870. He married second Gill (also recorded Bernardston), 10 Dec 1872, Sarah Clafin of Gill, dau of Luther Marble & Orpha (Andrews) Clafin, born Burritts Rapids (or Oxford), Ontario, Canada, died Gill 1897.

Lorenzo's great grandfather John Munn was an early settler in what is now Gill about 1739-42, and part of his land remained in the family for nearly 200 years. Lorenzo's maternal lines included the Northfield families of Wright, Janes, Belding, Field, Holton, etc. Lorenzo's father Seth resided near Henry Bascom and the site of what would become Munn's ferry in 1825, which he operated as late as 1864. The ferry ran to upper Northfield Farms near the Gill station, until 1935. Lorenzo seems always to have farmed in near proximity to his father's place. His grandson Lewis C Munn appears to have succeeded to his farm. Most of the Munn farms and land was sold off by Lewis in the 1930s.

Children:

**Mary Sophia Munn**, b. Gill, 3 Dec 1840; d. Gill, 3 Aug 1914; m. 26 Mar 1856, John Carter Delvy of Gill, s of Peter & Ruth (Carter) Delvy

**Charles Seth Munn**, b. Gill, 16 May 1844; d. 4 Oct 1921

**Chandler Severance Munn**, b. Gill, 31 Jul 1846; d. Gill, 24 Jan 1913.

**Sarah Ruth Munn**, b. Gill, 1853; d. Gill, 1882

**Chandler Severance Munn** married, Brattleboro, Vt, 4 July 1876 (a centennial event!), Ellen Augusta "Nellie" Moore, dau of Timothy and Fanny Wheeler (Shepardson) Moore, born Warwick, Mass, 17 June 1855, died Gill 28 July 1936, or 27 Jul 1938. Their children were Lucy Sophia and Lewis Chandler Munn, m. Lena Foster, and their children were Frances E. Munn and Dorothy F. Munn. Chandler farmed in Gill in near proximity to his father, his brother Charles, and the Delvys.

# Chandler Munn's Diary

## April 1873

**MONDAY, March 31, 1873.**

*Cloudy. I cleaned the kitchen, & the back room. . Albert Frenches house was burnt last night*

**TUESDAY, April 1, 1873.**

*A pleasant day. Father went to mill. Henry Hayden bought 6 bu corn & 1 of Rye. Mother and I cleaned the milk room, and papered the kitchen.*

**WEDNESDAY 2**

*Misty and Raining  
Diped (sic) 20 dozen of Candles.  
River is rising.*

**THURSDAY 3**

*Cloudy thawing  
We broke a new road through the lots  
snow is "deep" Made map*

**FRIDAY, April 4, 1873.**

*Very Pleasant  
. Aunt May came down visiting here.  
Also Mrs Chester Delvy. Father  
carried a calf to Woodard 6 weeks  
old wt 144.09 13.60*

**SATURDAY 5**

*Cloudy Father went to mill  
Whitewash butery (sic) & Chambers*

**SUNDAY 6**

*Cloudy & Foggy Did not go to  
meeting to day*



**MONDAY, April 7, 1873.**

*Foggy. Father and I looked over accounts. How many changes are in life. 15 new boys less one (a girl) came to town.*

**TUESDAY 8**

*Cloudy.*

**WEDNESDAY 9**

*Cloudy Scotts white face cow calved the 10th (?) And our Young Whitaker this morning*

**THURSDAY, April 10, 1873.**

*Pleasant Sarah came home has been gone 10 months.*

**FRIDAY 11**

*Warm up to 60. Chester Deloy raised an addition to his tobacco shed some 25 feet.*

**SATURDAY 12**

*NO East wind Sawed wood A.M. Went to Town P.M. Rained some.*

**SUNDAY, April 13, 1873.**

*Cloudy I went down to Johns Walter was there*

**MONDAY 14**

*Cloudy & Windy Horace commenced work for us We cut up wood Sarah and I went up to Millie Deans evening.*

**TUESDAY 15**

*Cloudy. Warm. I went to mill A.M. We killed a heifer Wt 513 pounds Sold 2/3 of it.*

**WEDNESDAY, April 16, 1873.**

*Pleasant. The family all came home to dinner s Sarah is at home*

**THURSDAY 17**

*Cloudy & Squally (sic) Jonnie (?)*

*& I went to Greenfield with Sarah & Nellie They have gone to Florence Sold, Hide, Butter & Eggs. Mansion*

**FRIDAY 18**

*Pleasant, Cloudy Sawed wood in the woods. Father and Horace cut a large Oak some two feet at the but. The Modock Indians have killed Gen Combs (?) Grant, says extra*

**SATURDAY April 19, 1873.**

*Pleasant Horace and I threw manure out of the east end of the pig pen. Split corn hills. New minister here*

**SUNDAY 20**

*A sunny day. The Congregational people were here and heard Bro Mitchell discourses on "Came not with excellent speech" A very good sermon Willie Coolidge here*

**MONDAY 21**

*A very nice day Harrowed and Plowd over Oats cut wood & c. Syllas Scott is very sick, and so is Charlie Nettleton, has hemorages. His mother has little hope of his recovering it is sad*

**TUESDAY, April 22, 1873.**

*Sunny A.M Windy P.M Clouds in evening. Ploughed ground, sowed and harrowed in Oats sowed some grass & clover seed. Horace chopped (sic) Read a piece in the paper on "Tying Calves legs."*

**WEDNESDAY 23**

*Very Pleasant Wihy Cool North Wind The Thornton heifer calved yesterday Our sow piged (sic) had 10, eight living. Harrowed, cut wood, and Father helped right up the Parsonage*

**THURSDAY 24**

*Warm and pleasant harrowed & c. Father and Mother went to Greenfield P.M. Scotts last heifer calved. Bought ? and ? (Bopes & Teakles?)*

**FRIDAY, April 25, 1873.**

*A cool windy day Sowed our Tobacco (sic) bed and rolled it and the wheat and Rye ground*

**SATURDAY 26**

*Pleasant Cool Sawed and chopped wood Father went to mill Took of Charlie and Old Whitaker to Prince Hales Syllas Scott died last night*

**SUNDAY 27**

*Very Pleasant Heard Bro Mitchell They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength Organized Sunday School. Bro Miller Supt.*

**MONDAY, April 28, 1873.**

*Warm and Pleasant Cut wood ploughed picked over apples. Elvin Lyon came up and got 11 lb Hay. I went own and selected books for the Library \$10 worth with Bro Miller*

**TUESDAY 29**

*Warm and Pleasant Fixed up fence Ploughed & c. Martha Avery and Mrs Kosley came here visiting had a nice visit with them*

**WEDNESDAY 30**

*A beautiful day Laid over our fence west little orchard Willie Bliss brought over Maria visiting Carried her down to Bro Miller*





## Business Advertisements

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

## Disclaimer:

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

## Next Newsletter Deadline

May 15th for the June Issue.

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