



THE

# Gill Newsletter

October 2012 Issue

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## Town Hall News

### Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, at 6 PM upstairs in the Town Hall. Eight of the nine articles on the warrant are to finish the spending appropriations for FY13, so that a tax rate may be set later this fall. The ninth article seeks to establish a revolving fund for the revenue the Town receives from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for the sale of recyclables. If approved, the revolving fund will be used pay for the Town’s membership in the FCSWMD, the purchase of recycled-content products, and to defray the costs of our solid waste and recycling programs. Information on the warrant articles and motions will be uploaded to the town website as it becomes available.

### Facebook... Have You “Liked” Us Yet?

The Town of Gill now has an official page on Facebook. Find it by going to Facebook and searching for “Town of Gill” or by following the link from the Town’s website.

There are two inspirations for establishing the Town’s presence on Facebook. First and foremost is emergency communications. During last year’s Tropical Storm Irene, residents in the West County were using

Facebook as one means to keep in touch with family and neighbors and to share experiences, needs, and resources. Notices of emergency shelters and other disaster resources were privately posted to Facebook. While Gill was largely unscathed by that disaster, and while we hope to be equally lucky in the future, a “next time” may happen. By establishing a Facebook page now, during a moment of calm, the Town will be better prepared for the future with one more method to communicate timely information to its residents.

Second, a Facebook page will provide a way for residents to opt in or out of receiving electronic updates on Town events like Annual and Special Town Meetings and Elections, debt exclusion votes, new content on the Town’s website, et cetera. Perhaps this increased flow of information will attract more of our residents to participate in the government of their town—voting in elections, attending Town Meetings, or serving on a committee.



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



## Committee Openings

Speaking of serving on a committee, there are still openings that desperately need to be filled.

If you are interested in serving on any of the following, please contact Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, 413-863-9347 or [administrator@gillmass.org](mailto:administrator@gillmass.org).

- Cable Advisory Committee
- Composition of School Committee Study Committee (created at this year's Town Meeting)
- Conservation Commission
- Energy Commission
- Recreation Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate Members)

## Gill Elementary School Energy Efficiency Improvements

As the final component of the Town's \$150,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant that was awarded in 2010, the Town is required to communicate to its residents the highlights of the energy efficiency project performed at the school last year. Because it is too long to fit in the newsletter, this summary is available at the Town Hall and on the *What's New* page of our website.

## Meals on Wheels Program

As part of the Town's 2012

application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Franklin County Home Care Corporation was awarded funds needed to offer their Meals on Wheels program to nine additional elders in Gill. Meals on Wheels delivers a hot noon-day meal five times per week, along with two frozen meals for each weekend. Trained volunteers deliver the meals, and this acts as an extra set of eyes checking in on our elders, many of whom live alone. To learn more about the program or to enroll, call the FCHCC at 773-5555.

## Housing Rehabilitation Program

Another component to the Town's successful CDBG application is a \$179,000 award for a program that will rehabilitate at least five housing units in Gill. Administered for the Town by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the program provides income-eligible homeowners with a 0% interest, deferred payment loan for a maximum of \$35,000 per housing unit to correct code violations and do needed repairs and weatherization. The loan is secured by a mortgage on the property, and 50% of the loan is forgiven over the next 15 years. The other 50% is repaid when the property is sold or transferred.

Although the current waiting list for Gill has enough names to utilize all of the available funds, the HRA will continue to accept names to the waiting list for funding from future CDBG applications and/or the revolving loan fund. Interested homeowners or tenants may call the HRA at 863-9781 for more information.

## Recycling for Businesses

The Town's new 2-year curbside collection contract with Alternative Recycling allows them to offer recycling services to any in-town commercial entity at a competitive, fair market rate. This could mean your business's recyclables could be collected on Fridays as part of the regular collection route through town. To learn more, contact Alternative Recycling at 413-587-4005. *(The cost of collecting recyclables from a business is paid by the business, not by the Town.)*

## Fall "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Collection

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding its fall "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on Saturday, October 20, from 9 AM to 12 noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South, the Northfield Highway Garage, and the Whately Transfer Station.



District residents and businesses may bring a wide range of items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, monitors, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other bulky items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

You do not need to pre-register for the bulky waste collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees, in cash only, will be collected at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items will be available at town halls, town transfer stations, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and on-line at: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html).

*Ray Purington,  
Administrator Assistant*

## Board of Assessors

The new valuation figures for Real Estate and Personal Property for fiscal year 2013 have been approved by the Department of Revenue. Those values are available for viewing at the Town Hall. The Tax Rate will be set later this fall.

## Town Clerk Calendar

### Special Town Meeting

Open Voter Registration for new voters in the Special Town Meeting

Location: Gill Town Hall

Time: October 5, 2012

2-4 PM and 7-8 PM

### Special Town Meeting

Location: Gill Town Hall

Time: October 15, 2012 6:30 PM

### Election Registration

Registration for new voters for the Presidential Election

Location: Gill Town Hall

Time: October 17, 2012

2-4 PM and 7-8 PM

### Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots are available to be filled out at the Town Clerk's office until noon of the day before the election or November 5, 2012

### Presidential Election

Location: Gill Fire Station

Time: November 6, 2012

7 AM-8 PM

## Tax Collector's Office

**Preliminary real estate and personal property taxes are due on November 1, 2012.** The

Collector's Office will be open that day from 9 AM to 5:30 PM.

Payments received after that day are subject to interest at the rate of 14% per annum, which will be charged on the unpaid and overdue amount. You will also be required to pay charges and fees incurred for collection if payments are not made when due.

**Payments are considered made when received by the collector.**

To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payment.

Please call the Collector's office at 413-863-2105 with any questions.

## Health News

### Flu Shots

Plan to get your Annual Flu Vaccine during the Special Town Meeting, October 15. Franklin Regional Cooperative Health Inspection Service (and Gill Town Nurse), Lisa White, will be offering flu vaccine to all ages (injectable and Mist formulas available) from 5 PM until the meeting begins.

Call Lisa at 413-665-1400 x114 for more info.

## Open on Veteran's Day

The Gill Historical Commission will open the Riverside historical collection for visitors and researchers on Veteran's Day from 1 to 4 PM. The Riverside Municipal Building is on Route 2.



## Mosquito Bites

*Residents urged to take precautions against mosquito bites until first hard frost*

In late September, the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) announced the sixth human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in a MA resident. Initial symptoms of EEE are fever (often 103° to 106°F), stiff neck, headache, and lack of energy, and in severe cases can progress to confusion, disorientation, and coma. EEE is a serious disease in all ages and can even cause death. There have also now been 16 human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in MA, one of which resulted in death. Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms. When present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. In rare cases, more severe illness can occur.

Known to be transmitted to horses and humans through the bite of an infected mosquito, the significant increase in both EEE and WNV underscore the fact that mosquito-borne illness remains a serious threat. *This threat will continue until the first hard overnight frost.*

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

**Avoid Mosquito Bites** **Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors.**

Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)], or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

### **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito**

**Hours** The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities during evening or early morning.

### **Clothing Can Help Reduce**

**Mosquito Bites** Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

### **Mosquito-Proof Your Home**

**Drain Standing Water.** Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.

**Install or Repair Screens** Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. If an animal is diagnosed with WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results from 2012, may be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at [www.mass.gov/dph/wnv](http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv) or by calling the DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

## Energy Commission Report

At a State House ceremony on July 24, Gill was one of 17 communities designated by Governor Deval Patrick as a Green Community and now joins the ranks of 86 previously designated cities and towns. Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant for the Town of Gill, attended as a representative of Gill. Once officially designated as Green Communities, cities and towns are eligible for awards to fund local renewable



power and energy efficiency projects that advance both municipal and state clean energy goals. Grants awarded so far assist an array of projects across the state, including the installation of solar panels on town office buildings, weatherization at schools and municipal buildings, installation of high-efficiency street lights, and a host of energy efficiency upgrades. Gill's grant award is \$139,900, and Gill's Energy Commission will be developing a list of projects in town for the Selectboard to review and submit to the State for approval and funding.

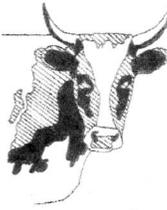
Representatives from Gill's Energy Commission and the Selectboard attended a ceremony in Amherst on August 14 at which the Town was again recognized for its commitment to the goals of the Green Community program, and received the symbolic "Really Big Check" for \$139,900! You may see the Big Check at Town Hall when you stop by.

One of the Energy Commission's current projects is an Energy Conservation Education Campaign aimed at helping residents reduce energy costs. Households are encouraged to sign up with Western Mass Saves.com to track energy use and help reduce Gill residential energy use by 13% in 2013.

According to Western Mass Saves statistics, Gill ranks 34 out of 63 communities in Western Mass in reducing energy use. Check out [www.westernmasssaves.com](http://www.westernmasssaves.com) for great tips on saving your energy dollars and to sign up to get a monthly email on how well you are doing.

## From The President of the Friends of Gill

The successful Gill Arts and Crafts Festival had local crafters, jugglers, music, iron forging, Gill Tavern soup, Farmers' Market, Gill Firemen's hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and their famous hand-cut French fries as well as the Friends of Gill's "APPLE PIE". I would like to THANK EVERYONE on the Friends of Gill Committee for all their dedicated hard work in making this festival's success. To all the volunteers who gave



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## Just Things

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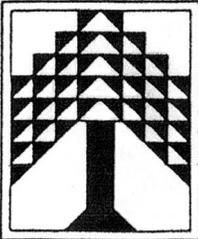
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# The Gill Tavern

The Tavern serves fare made from fresh ingredients (mostly locally produced) in an atmosphere that fosters friendship, community, and respect for our environment. Full Bar ♦ Great wine list ♦ The People's Pint beer on tap!

[www.thegilltavern.com](http://www.thegilltavern.com)

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their time to park, face paint, make hot cider, tend the coffee and donuts, take lunch orders for the vendors, make apple pies, run errands, pick up recycling, and clean up. The Firemen put up our banner and helped with tables. The Highway Department supplied saw horses and cones. A thanks to the Historical Commission for opening the town's collection. A special thanks to Randy Crochier who baked the pies at the Farren Care Center. I hope that I did not leave anyone out. We have a great community, and I am proud to be part of such a caring, helping, thoughtful group of people.

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## Gill Arts And Crafts Festival

The 20th Annual Gill Arts and Crafts Festival was a wonderful time for all. Gorgeous autumn weather with sunny skies gave a big boost on both days. Many folks from all around the area came by to appreciate local artists, local produce, homemade apple pies, musicians, and food. All 140 apple pies made by The Friends of Gill and community volunteers were sold out by noon on Sunday. (Thanks to all who helped to make and bake pies.) Wonderful music drifted throughout the festival. Hammering at the iron forge as well as juggling on the ball field, delighted many young fair-goers Thanks also go to the Gill Firemen for their delicious food, and the Gill Historical Commission for opening the museum with its new displays. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the festival so successful. If you have suggestions for next year's Festival, please send them to Claire Chang or Ronnie LaChance at the Friends of Gill.



Stephen Greenwald  
President

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

stephen@renbuild.net

A special note: Compared to last year, trash production was lowered. Seven bags of compostables, three bags of recyclables, and one bag of trash were taken away. The trash represents only 9% of the total this year as opposed to 11% last year.



Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald

REALTOR, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR

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Home Fax: (413) 863-0218  
bedson1@comcast.net

www.PamVeithRealEstate.com

## Cable Advisory Committee

The Cable Advisory Committee is looking for volunteers to help work on video projects for the town, such as



town meetings, energy conservation education, and town events. Knowledge of camera operation and post production appreciated but not as important as enthusiasm and availability.

Finished projects may be seen on Montague Cable TV as well on the internet on Vimeo.

Contact Janet Masucci 863-8694 or Rick James 863-9192

## Slate Library News

As schools have started, game boards have been put away and another successful summer reading program has come to a close. This year the library theme of “Dream Big at Your Library” provided hands-on workshops in a variety of art media, a creative poetry writing workshop, and a special visit by reptiles from the Boston Museum of Science Traveling Programs.

Pre-school story hour has begun for the season and continues every Friday morning at 10 AM. We look forward to welcoming new children and their caregivers. Come curl up on the rug for stories and popcorn, followed by conversation and a fun craft for the kiddies. There are always new picture books to explore and share. Some recent additions to our collection include *Foxy* by Emma Dodd, *Machines Go to Work in the City* by William Low, and *Sky Color* by Peter Reynolds.

For our Young Adult readers, we have several new graphic novels including the latest title in the Amulet series by Kazu Kibuishi. We also have *Pinch Hit* by Tim Green for sports fans and lots of great nonfiction titles too. Let us know your requests. We are always looking for exciting titles to add to our collection.

Please stop by the library if you have ideas for the upcoming winter months. Plans are under way for a sewing series, but a knitters circle or a book group would be a wonderful addition to our scheduled events. We welcome everyone and all ideas. Stop by soon!

## New Book from Local Author

Rob Buyea’s second middle grade novel, *Mr. Terupt Falls Again*, is scheduled for release on October 9, 2012. *Because of Mr. Terupt*, his first novel and the companion to *Mr. Terupt Falls Again*, was selected as an E.B. White Read-Aloud Honor Book, a CYBILS finalist, and has been named to numerous state award lists. Rob taught third and fourth graders in Bethany, Connecticut, for six years before moving to Northfield Mount Hermon in Massachusetts, where he lives with his wife and three daughters, teaches biology, and coaches wrestling. You may visit him at [www.robbuyea.com](http://www.robbuyea.com).

## Words from the New Head of NMH

Dear Neighbors,

As I’m the first Head of NMH to have an infant since the passage of Massachusetts lead paint laws, the head’s house on campus (Ford Cottage, and certainly no cottage!) is currently being lead abated and renovated. So, Rachael, Sofia, and I are living the good life with you all in Gill: walking across the street to Upinngil to collect vegetables for dinner, meandering the two-tenths of a mile down to the Tavern for brunch, and taking bets on whether the black or white goat will be on the doghouse on our way to campus. Or is it technically a goathouse?

Rachael comes from a family of Ohio farmers, and I spent many good years up in Vermont, so we’re not technically city-slickers, but close. Thank you all for your hospitality thus far. And a hearty thanks to all of you who helped with the moving truck fiasco on Main Road, particularly the tractors that had to lift the semi out of the ditch. The guys from the moving truck were most definitely flatlanders.

We’ll spend the winter here below Renaissance and plan to move onto campus in March, but we hope to meet as many of you as possible while we’re living in town. We’ve enjoyed watching the ridge-




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line disappear behind the growing corn, and we very much look forward to this winter and the snow we have been promised.

I suspect we'll finally feel settled into this wonderful community just when it's time to move to campus, but do know you'll always have Gill residents in Ford Cottage.

Best, Peter, Rachael and Sofia Fayroian

**Gill Elementary School News**

Staff and students are settling in at Gill Elementary School as we venture into the new school year. We welcome our new staff and students to our community of learners. The year is beginning with a newly developed mission statement by the School Community Council. *Gill Elementary School inspires and nurtures curiosity, compassion and perseverance in each student within a community that promotes a love of learning.*

October is Anti-Bullying Month, and students will be participating in activities that include discussions and role-lays to increase awareness about bullying.

Along with learning in the basic curriculum, some students are participating in the Source to Sea Cleanup of the Connecticut River Watershed. On the last Saturday in September, volunteers will clean the River from its "Source" near the New Hampshire and Canadian border to the River's "Sea" at the Long Island Sound. The Clean-Up Project, called "The Source to Sea Clean-Up," reinforces the knowledge and experience gained in the Gill School's science classes.

Our art teacher, Nancy Meagher, also works the river into many of her lessons with students and writes: How can artists help the Connecticut River? This week in Art Class we are searching to find the LINES and SHAPES of trash items found in the River each year. Sofas, refrigerators, computers, tires, and shopping carts are gathered each year. Last year the Trash Tally for soda cans and bottles alone reached over 7,000. Items of clothing and shoes reached almost 100. We are both artists and environmentalists who show the world that children can make a difference.

Another connection to the river that has been fostered for



several years is poetry about the watershed. Last year sixth graders wrote epic poems based on historical events in the watershed area. In art they illustrated panels to represent their poems.

Gill School welcomes visitors and volunteers in classrooms, for special projects, PTO, and School Community Council. Each Friday at 2:30 we all join together in the all-purpose room to sing out the week. Please call 863-3255.

**The Beaver** By Seamus Garland

There once was a man,  
His name was Old Dave.  
He had a huge beard because he never shaved.

In Deerfield dwelled he.  
It was a great town.  
But there was no king and there was no crown.

One beautiful day he went for a hike on Mt.  
Sugarloaf.  
With his friends they came across the spirits of  
the Pocumtuck Indian tribe.  
They were not giving him and his friends any  
good vibes.

There was an Indian myth.  
It was about a giant beast.  
A beaver it was and on humans it feasts.

The spirits said, "Don't get killed by the beaver."  
The hikers took offense by the spirits' command,  
So a battle broke out hand on hand.

The hikers thought it was an easy win.  
The Indians gave them a surprise  
And fought them with angry eyes.

The hikers finally escaped.  
Up the mountain they went.  
No pencil, no paper, not a letter to be sent.

They came to a blind turn unaware of all.  
Then the beaver jumped out and fought the fight.  
And he killed most all as fast as light.

The damage was insane.  
Some suffered, some killed,  
But Old Dave escaped and for that he was thrilled.

When Old Dave returned to town he told what  
happened.

As he told he showed the few wounds he had.  
Then a little voice said, "I'm scared." The voice  
belonged to a young lad.

Right then Old Dave realized something.  
He must kill the blood thirsty beast.  
He then said, "I will go back and kill him and  
after we will have a great feast."

The next day he set out to kill the beast.  
He carried a pistol and a double sided knife.  
He then thought, "This might cost my life.

When he got to the top of the mountain,  
There is sat. Its giant teeth looking at him.  
They were ready to bite off a few limbs.

The beaver turned around to Old Dave.  
Old Dave quickly reacted and threw the knife.  
It hit the beaver in the eye but didn't take his life.

The beaver gave a great moan and charged Old Dave,  
But before the giant got close Old Dave shot him  
in the heart.

The beaver stepped back and fell off the side of  
the Mountain—the steep part.

When Old Dave returned, everyone cheered with glee.  
Old Dave gladly said, "I have killed the beast.  
Now let's have a great feast!"

The village was full of happiness.  
Everybody ate and drank all night  
Because that beaver could never fight another fight.

**Achievements**

**Amanda Golembeski** received  
a Bachelor's degree from the  
University of Massachusetts at  
Amherst this spring.

**Grace Booth** graduated Magna  
Cum Laude with distinction from  
Amherst College in May. Grace  
majored in theatre and dance.

**HONORS  
For Gill Students**

**Pioneer Valley Regional School  
Fourth Quarter**

**Grade 12**

Highest Honor: Jacob Levin

**Grade 11**

Honor: Kaylyn Tognarelli and Jennifer Tufano

**Grade 9**

Highest Honor: Malcolm Crosby and Gabriel  
Duska

Honor: Ellen Arena, James Elliott, and Cole  
Tognarelli

**Grade 8**

Highest Honor: Anna Messer, Simon van  
Baaren, and Julia Wallace

High Honor: Garrett Dintaman and Bradley  
Hastings

**Grade 7**

Highest Honor: Sophia Margola

**Turners Falls High School  
Fourth Quarter**

**Grade 11**

First Honors: Ceara Dolhenty, Timothy  
Meyer, and Brittany York

Second Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Bethany  
Laramie, Jonathan Marguet, and Nala Vaughn

**Grade 10**

First Honors: Elliot Bertini-Franseen

**Grade 9**

First Honors: Leylee Botkin, Lexi Griffin, and  
Alexander Griffin

Second Honors: Zachary Demars, Spencer  
Hubert, Stephanie Robinson, and Nicholas York

**Great Falls Middle School**

**Grade 8**

First Honors: Fallyn Adams and Mackenzie  
Phillips

Second Honors: Nadia Hasan

**Grade 7**

First Honors: Bryn Kruzlic, Kaili Lynch, and  
Kate Sprankle

Second Honors: Gabrielle Arzuaga, Tahner  
Castine, and Nicholas Morin



### Grade 6

First Honors: David Tricolici

Second Honors: Daniel Adams

Third Honors: Kylee Mason, James Vaughn

*If you are a Gill student who has not been included in this list, please let us know so that we may commend you in the future.*

## Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Riverside Building on Route 2.

The Commission is charged with planning for the preservation of historical sites and records within Gill. In addition to various projects, the Commission maintains records and artifacts of Gill history in the Riverside municipal building. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Pam Shoemaker, or Ivan Ussach.

Research on the Town Hall, dedicated in 1868 as a one-story building and in 1910 with a second story, is continuing. One question is about the importance of this building for community functions. Records for the Gill Ladies' Benevolent Society show that oyster as well as strawberry and sugar suppers were served in the Town Hall.

Another note of interest is that in 1897, the ladies' organization made 125 pies, which were then sold at the Mount Hermon School for Boys; apparently the pie-making skills of the current Friends of Gill have antecedents in a previous century. "This report would not be complete if we did not speak of our novel way of making money and that is the pie sale at Mount Hermon. It certainly was an easy way for those who only had the pies to make. But for our President (assisted by her husband) I'm unable to say that it was quite so easy a matter. Come to gather up 125 pies and then take them to Mount Hermon and start out in the bleak November day and sell them might not be one of the pleasantest things to do – but no great work can be done without some hardship and we hope she will feel somewhat repaid for the good she has done."

At the September Gill fair, the GHC welcomed visitors from as far away as Brazil. Many new and repeat local visitors shared memories of their families and friends; a number recalled their student days in the Riverside school. After being open on Thursday afternoons through the summer, the collection is now open on most Thursdays in October and on Veteran's Day from 1 to 4 PM. Several new exhibits are featured along with a Gill history trivia quiz

and pictures of the 1930 bridge. One new exhibit shows pictures of the old wooden dam on Fall River. Although currently on private property, the dam with spillway is being evaluated by the U.S. Fish and Game Bureau, and the Gill and the Greenfield Historical Commissions. The issue is how to take down the spillway to open the stream to trout and eels while preserving the abutments on either side.

Another major exhibit celebrates two Civil War volunteers, George Barney Hale and his brother Oscar. An important item on display is George Barney Hale's military backpack and pouch, complete with his name and unit, a recent gift from his descendents. A letter home, previously included in a newsletter, shows Barney's straight talk and humor. The texts of three letters home from Oscar detail a longer period of service, all the more precious because he died after imprisonment in Andersonville.

While many Gill men volunteered for service in the Civil War, the Gill women were busy at home with service projects. The members of the Ladies Benevolent Society knit many pairs of socks and sent them to Union hospitals in Washington, D.C., and in St. Louis. The minutes show their sending thirty pounds of home-knit socks in a package.



## Special Event

### Sunday, October 21

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) is pleased to announce that, in honor of October's designation as Massachusetts Archaeology Month, it is sponsoring a public hike on Sunday, October 21, to the old dinosaur track quarry at Barton Cove. In the mid-19th century, the site was one of several in the area where the fossil footprints and other trace fossils were quarried to sell to museums, universities, and scientists in major American cities and even in Europe. Starting at 1 PM, the hike will be led by Sarah Doyle, who has researched the history of the tracks' discovery and is director of Jurassic Roadshow, a project of Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association in Deerfield and co-sponsor of the walk.

The terrain is generally not difficult, but there are steep and slippery places in wooded areas, so hikers should wear good shoes and be prepared for moderate exertion. Space is limited to 20. Reserve a space by calling GHC member Ivan Ussach at 413-773-3830. The tour will take about one hour.

The GHC also invites people to visit Barton Cove on their own and follow the Quest to the quarry. Quest booklets are available from the kiosk in the Barton Cove parking lot located on the right side of the road on the way to Schuetzen Verein.

## Do you know the answers?

1. A Special Town Meeting in 1985 voted to save from destruction, these geological oddities found along the Connecticut River.  
(See *THE HISTORY OF GILL, Vol II, p. 19.*)
2. At 550 feet long, this suspension bridge—the 5th largest suspension bridge in the United States when built in 1878—was taken down 60 years later.  
(See *THE HISTORY OF GILL, Vol. II, p. 21.*)
3. This event drew 16,000 people to the Renaissance Community on Main Road in 1976.  
(See *THE HISTORY OF GILL, Vol. II, p. 17.*)
4. Until 1928, this family (father and son) toured internationally for many years with a trained pig act.  
(See *THE HISTORY OF GILL, Vol. II, p. 219.*)
5. Three boys pleaded not guilty and were placed on probation for bringing one of these animals into the First Congregational Church in 1936.  
(See *THE HISTORY OF GILL, Vol. II, p. 75.*)

*Congratulations if you got all of the answers correct! Need a copy of the town history?*

The Gill Historical Commission is selling copies from its stock of *THE HISTORY OF GILL 1943-1993, Volume II*. The cost of \$20 a book will be a donation to the project fund of the GHC. To purchase a copy, please see Lynda in the Town Clerk's Office. The first volume of this *HISTORY OF GILL* is available for reference only at Slate Library and at the Gill museum.



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