



THE

# Gill Newsletter

March 2014 Issue

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## Town Hall News

### Annual Town Meeting

This year's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 5 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall. Please save the date on your calendar. We hope to see you there - your thoughts and ideas, opinions and votes are all important!

Warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting need to be submitted to Ray Purington by April 3 at Noon. A form for petitioned warrant articles may be downloaded from the Town's website ([www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)) and is also available at Town Hall.

### Save The Date for Bulky & Hazardous Waste Collections

The two "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste collections are set for May 17 and October 18. For more information, see [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html)

This year's Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for September 20, with collection points at the GCC Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station. For more info, visit [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/haz-wasteday.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/haz-wasteday.html)

### Openings on the Conservation Commission

Two places are still open on the Conservation Commission, which is

Gill's local environmental agency.

The Commission is responsible for protecting the land, water, and biological resources of this community. Interested in learning more? Any Gill resident who is curious about joining the Conservation Commission is encouraged to contact one of its three members to learn more about the work they do. You may find their names on the website, [www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org). Or, contact Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, and he will put you in touch with the right people. Ray's phone number is 413-863-9347; his email address is [administrator@gillmass.org](mailto:administrator@gillmass.org).

### Burning Brush

Burning season runs through May 1. Burning brush requires a permit and may only be done during burning season. On the day that you would like to burn brush, please go to the website for Franklin County Burn Permits ([www.fcburnpermits.com](http://www.fcburnpermits.com)) and complete the simple online permit. If you do not have



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



computer access, please call 625-8200, and Shelburne Control will assist you. Please note that permits are only issued between 8:30AM and 1:00 PM.

*Ray Purington,  
Administrator Assistant*

## Town Clerk News

### Census forms

I would like to remind everyone to send the census papers back to the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible. The response so far has been wonderful, and I hope to have all of the forms soon. Please do not forget your signature at the bottom of the page. Thank you.

### Rabies Clinics

Yes, the Town of Gill will participate in two rabies clinics this year. The first one will be held at the Riverside Municipal Building on the French King Highway, Sunday, March 23 from 9 AM to Noon. The cost is \$18.00 per pet.

The second clinic will be located at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Shelter at 10 Sandy Lane, Turners Falls, MA on April 12 from 10 AM to 2 PM. The cost will be \$17.00 per pet.

Dogs should be on leashes, and cats should be in carriers.

I will be at both clinics to license dogs. No late fee will be charged at the clinic on April 12.

## Town Election

The Town of Gill's Annual Town Election is Monday, May 19, this year. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's office and may be obtained until March 27, 2014. Twenty signatures from Gill registered voters are required.

The last day to submit the nomination papers to the Clerk is March 31.

Offices on the ballot this year are:

### Selectboard and Sewer

**Commissioner**, three-year term, vacant.

**Assessor**, three-year term, currently held by Ray Purington.

**Cemetery Commissioner**, three-year term, currently held by Carrie Stevens.

**Cemetery Commissioner**, two-year term, vacant.

**Constables**, three positions, three-year terms: Craig Gaudry, Fred O. Chase, II, and Fred O. Chase, III.

**Board of Health**, three-year term, currently held by Edward Galipault, Jr.

**Library Trustee**, three-year term, currently held by Megan Bathory-Peeler.

**Tax Collector**, three-year term, currently held by Ronnie LaChance.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 863-8103. The Town Clerk's office hours are Monday through Thursday, 1PM to 4PM and 5:30PM to 6:30PM on Monday evenings.

## Board of Assessors

All Form of Lists have been sent out to Personal Property accounts. If you have a business or second home in Gill, these forms should be submitted to the Board of Assessors by March 1.

## Reading Recommendations

In this issue, Pamela Shoemaker offers some of her favorites.

**Kathleen Grissom**  
*The Kitchen House*

**William Landay**  
*Defending Jacob*

**Ami McKay**  
*The Birth House*

**Louise Penny**  
*How the Light Gets In*

**Amity Shlaes**  
*Coolidge*

**David Tudor**  
*Korea: The Impossible Country*



## Energy Commission

### 2014 Workshops

To register, contact Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or email [jmasucci@msn.com](mailto:jmasucci@msn.com)

### Solar hot water systems

March 15, 9AM–12, Peter Talmage  
FREE – Learn how to use the sun to heat water. This workshop will review the wide variety of different solar systems that can combine with your existing water heating system to make clean and green hot water. It will also review simple systems to heat pools. Finally, we will assemble an outdoor solar shower to be used six months of the year.

### Composting made easy – Save \$ and improve your garden and/or lawn

April 5, 10AM–12, Amy Donovan  
FREE and for all ages – Learn how to set up inexpensive and easy indoor or outdoor composting systems. Composting saves money and water, creates a valuable soil amendment, and mitigates climate change. Workshop includes an indoor worm bin demonstration and how-to, outdoor compost bin how-to, local resources, and educational handouts. Amy Donovan, Program Director at Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, will lead the session. The

Solid Waste District manages recycling, composting, and hazardous waste programs for 22 member towns, including 17 transfer stations and 30 public schools.

### Electrify your bicycle

May 10, 9AM–12, Peter Talmage

FREE - Transportation is a large part of everyone's budget. Riding that bike you have hanging in the garage will save you lots of \$, but the hills are numerous in Gill. This workshop will explain the different types of ways a bicycle may be converted to electric power as well as the costs and the sources of products. As part of the workshop, we will convert a bike.

### Solar hot air heating

September 27, 9AM–1PM,  
Peter Talmage

FREE workshop but with a cost for materials - We all know how warm it feels to stand in the sun on a clear winter day. This workshop will show you how to build a simple collector to capture that heat and warm up the air in your house. We will learn how these collectors work and will build working units for participants to take home.

### Weatherize your home

October 25, 9AM–12,  
Peter Talmage

FREE - There are many ways to improve the efficiency of your home to save lots of fuel. Many of

these measures cost little to nothing. Learn these simple methods as well as some of modest cost and make your home easier to heat and more comfortable. Sources of funding and available rebates will also be discussed.

### Make your own Winsert

November 8, 9AM–12,  
Peter Talmage

FREE - "Winserts" are reusable transparent panels that fit snugly inside window jambs to add two extra layers of glazing. The workshop will be presented by Peter Talmage, who has been teaching people in the Renewable Energy field at GCC and elsewhere for many years. A properly-constructed winsert will reduce heat loss from a typical single- or double-glazed window by up to 50%, thus more than paying for the cost of the winserts in less than one year. During the workshop you will assemble a winsert for a window in your own house. Please give the size of your window when you register so materials are available. The participant will pay for the cost of materials at approximately \$1 per square foot. Class size is limited to 15.

More information at: <http://gill-mass.org/energy.php> and the Gill Energy Facebook page.



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## **TRIVIA QUESTIONS**

These questions come from Peter Jenkins who served as Trivia Master at the Gill Tavern in February 2014. Have fun sparking your mind!

1. Who was the creator of the iconic Peanuts character, Charlie Brown?
2. How deep is Lake Superior at its greatest point?
3. List these state capitals in order from East to West: Indianapolis, Detroit, Birmingham
4. The noble gases are in the far right-hand column of the Atomic Table with Helium at the top. Which noble gas is first alphabetically?
5. This is the 50th anniversary of the Beatles "invasion." On which album was the song 11
6. List these composers in chronological order: Beethoven, Bach, Brahms
7. This past Super Bowl was number 48. What is that number in Roman numerals?
8. If a kilo watt is one thousand watts, what is a giga watt?
9. It is called a pod of whales and a school of fish. What is a group of porcupines called?
10. Asta is a famous movie dog from the 1930's in the Thin Man series. What kind of dog was Asta?
11. Name one of the three mascots for the Sochi Olympics.
12. What common spice today was once used as currency?
13. If you went to test drive a Soul, what dealership would you be visiting?
14. What is the February birthstone?
15. Which famous revolutionary helped Venezuela, Peru and Colombia find their independence?
16. Name the guest comedian who appeared as Jay Leno's first guest 20 years ago and then appeared on Leno's last show.

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## Friends of Gill's 2014 Pancake Breakfast

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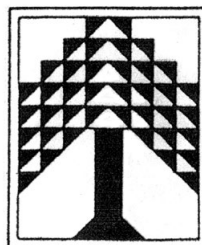
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17. The bitter cold temps in January had a weather "name." What was the effect that has led to our bitter temperatures?
18. Name the decade when the Tiffany lamp first appeared. Was it in the 1890's, the 1910's, or the 1930's?
19. If you are an arachnophobe, you have a fear of spiders. What is it if you are an agoraphobe?
20. In Monopoly, the "greens" are a set of properties that are the second most expensive on the board. Name a green property.

## Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 PM in the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. The Commission is charged with planning for the preservation of historical sites and records within Gill. The GHC 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.

While the GHC continues to gather materials for the historic register projects and to complete the digital inventory of gravestones in the three town cemeteries, we have been thinking about how the Civil War intersected with the residents of our agrarian town. The records of town meetings list the volunteers who filled Gill's quotas, and the first volume of Stoughton's *History of Gill* also gives enlistments and discharges. Simon Cady Phillips' diaries for the war years mention filling quotas, seeing off recruits in Greenfield, welcome-home parades, and funerals of those who died in Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, and other battles. Given some years ago to Slate Library, we have the engraving that shows the encampment of volunteers at Brightwood near Washington, DC. George Barney Hale's backpack is in the town's collection of artifacts as is a letter written home to his mother. William Glenn Boyle wrote descriptions of the memorial services for the town's veterans; conducted at both Gill churches, they included a sing-



ing canary suspended in a cage from the lighting fixture. We also note the veteran's monument in the center of town. At one point, a hand-carved flagpole and home-made flag were carried in memorial parades. During the war, the Ladies Benevolent Society knitted socks and sent large shipments to Union hospitals, particularly in St. Louis. The list of connections between Gill, its soldiers, and the war efforts continue.

If you have a letter, a diary, a family story, or any other artifact or information about Gill residents in the Civil War, the GHC would like to have you share them. We can transcribe or copy documents that may certainly stay in your possession. We are very interested in photographs of Gill's soldiers and will also copy them for our inventory.

Here are some excerpts of George Barney Hale's letter home from Baton Rouge on 26 March:

*Dear Mother, Your letter found me day before yesterday, well as usual but a little ugly and the news from town meeting did not make me feel any more pleasant. . . . I have plenty of money yet buy nothing but tobacco that is two dollars and fifty cents per pound. . . . Never have fired my gun yet. There is some sick and one died last week. . . . I have had a good position offered me if I will go in for three years. The pay would be better than one hundred dollars per month. I will answer now – if it was ten times as much, I would not take it. . . . Our living while in camp is very good, salt beef and bacon rice beans potatoes and about one half of the time soft bread, plenty of tea and coffee. We get it raw and have to cook it or eat it raw.*

## TRIVIA ANSWERS:

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 11. Polar Bear, European Hare, | 1. Charles Schultz         |
| Amur Leopard                   | 2. 1300 feet (credit given |
| 12. Pepper corns               | between 1270 and 1430)     |
| 13. Kia                        | 3. Indianapolis, Detroit,  |
| 14. Amythest                   | Birmingham                 |
| 15. Simon Bolivar              | 4. Argon                   |
| 16. Billy Crystal              | 5. The White Album         |
| 17. Polar Vortex               | 6. Bach, Beethoven, Brahms |
| 18. 1895                       | 7. XLVII                   |
| 19. Fear of open spaces        | 8. One billion             |
| 20. North Caroline, Pacific,   | 9. A prickle               |
| and Pennsylvania               | 10. Wire hair terrier      |



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## 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.

The costs of mailing the newsletter have increased so that our budget is very tight. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses, we would appreciate your sending a check, payable to "Town of Gill", to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354.

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