



THE

Gill Newsletter

July 2014 Issue

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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Town Hall News

Special Town Meeting— July 8 at 6:30PM

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall. There are two important articles to deal with year-end financial matters, as well as an article seeking money to purchase and install locks for the interior doors at the Gill Elementary School. We hope to see you there—your thoughts and ideas, opinions and votes are all important!

Article 1 seeks to transfer money from the Sewer Receipts fund into the Fiscal Year 2014 operating budget for the Riverside Sewer System. Without this transfer, estimated to be \$5,500–\$6,000, there will not be sufficient funds to pay all of this year's obligations. Most of the Sewer System's expenses this year were right on track with what was budgeted. The shortfall was caused by 1) a rate increase from Montague last August after our budget was set, 2) a very wet year (rainfall and snow-melt) that meant a higher volume of wastewater to pump to Montague, and 3) higher-than-expected costs for repairs and maintenance (including work on inflow and infiltration).

Article 2 would fund a school security project requested by the Gill-Montague Regional School District for the Gill Elementary School. An

estimated \$8,276 is being asked for to purchase and install locks on the interior doors at the school. A similar \$38,000 project was approved by Montague voters in May for their school buildings. The Education Stabilization Fund and/or the General Stabilization Fund are being considered as possible sources to fund this article.

Article 3 asks voters to take money remaining in the FY14 operating budget for Building Maintenance and transfer it to the Safety Complex Roof Replacement Project. The amount is approximately \$3,000. If the transfer approved, it will mean the Town will not need to borrow quite as much money for the roof. As approved by Gill voters, the \$158,000 roof project has available funding of \$82,766. The remaining \$75,234 will be borrowed, and if Article 3 is approved, the amount to be borrowed will be less.

To read or download the warrant articles, visit the Town's website: www.gillmass.org



**Check in with the
Gill Website**
www.gillmass.org
for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!



Composting in Gill

We are looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to help identify and investigate options for starting a composting program for Gill residents. You would be working with Jan Ameen and Amy Donovan from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. The project is just beginning, so the dates, times, and frequency of meetings have not been decided. We are looking for people with an enthusiasm for composting and diverting organics from the waste stream, and who are willing to spend time doing research, visiting existing composting programs, and listening to and sharing ideas. Interested? Give Ray a call at the Town Hall, 863-9347.

Gill's Regional School District Planning Committee

As part of this year's Annual Town Meeting on May 5, voters approved an article that establishes a 3-member regional school district planning committee. Members will be appointed by Gill's Town Moderator, John Zywna. Call John at 863-9184 if you wish to serve on this committee.

Gill's committee will work with identical committees from Montague and Erving to explore the possibility of Erving becoming a member-town of the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

Council on Aging

There are openings for two Gill residents to join the Gill-Montague Council on Aging. The Council provides referral, outreach, nutrition, and health services in cooperation with other town departments and area agencies, sets policy for the operation of the Senior Center, and enhances the quality of life for seniors in the community by providing health, education, and recreation programs and activities. The Council meets monthly, and members are encouraged to assist with and participate in Senior Center activities. If you would like to volunteer, or want to learn more, please call Bev Demars at 863-4792.

9-1-1 Disability Indicator

Does someone residing at your address communicate over the phone by a TTY and/or have a disability that may hinder evacuation or transport during a medical or other emergency? If so, you may want to consider filing a 911 Disability Indicator (DI) Form.

The DI Form is used to notify the State 9-1-1 Database that someone at a particular address: has equipment required to sustain their life; is bedridden, uses a wheelchair or has another mobility impairment; is legally blind; is deaf or hard of hearing; communicates via a TTY phone; has a speech impairment; or has a cognitive impairment.

In the event of a 9-1-1 call from your home, the DI codes will help the 9-1-1 dispatcher communicate with the caller and provide useful information to the responding public safety personnel.

The information you provide on the DI Form is confidential and will only appear at the dispatcher's location when a 9-1-1 call originates from your address. If you would like a Disability Indicator Form, please contact Ray Purington, Gill's 9-1-1 Municipal Coordinator, at 863-9347.

Regional Planning & Economic Development

Are you interested in regional planning and/or economic development? If so, perhaps you would like to serve as the Town's representative to the Franklin Regional Planning Board (FRPB) or the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Program.

Both of these bodies are supported by staff from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. They work with federal, state, regional, and local partners to assess economic development needs and issues, and support those initiatives that offer employment opportunities and investment in our communities.

The FRPB meets in the evening on the fourth Thursday of each month, except for July and August



(no meetings), and a combined November/December meeting on the first Thursday of December to avoid the holidays. The CEDS Committee meets only four times each year, generally on Thursday evenings.

If you would like to volunteer for one position or both, call Ray at the Town Hall, 863-9347.

Taxation Terminology – “Debt Exclusion”

On May 19, Gill’s voters approved a debt exclusion override to install a new roof on the front half of the Safety Complex building. Based on questions and comments received since then, we offer the following explanation in hopes that it will provide a clearer understanding of what a debt exclusion is.

What is important to understand is that a debt exclusion is a temporary override of the levy limit for a specific reason (in this case, the Safety Complex roof) that lasts only for the life of the loan. As the loan is paid off, the amount collected over the levy limit may decrease each year. It is **not** a permanent override that raises general revenue and more importantly it doesn’t add to the base of the levy limit. (The levy limit is calculated annually by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR), and is the maximum amount a town can levy in property taxes for the year.)

A debt exclusion is defined by the State of Massachusetts as follows:

“An action taken by a community through a referendum vote to raise the funds necessary to pay debt service costs for a particular project from the property tax levy, but outside the limits under Proposition 2½. By approving a debt exclusion, a community calculates its annual levy limit under Proposition 2½, then adds the excluded debt service cost. The amount is added to the levy limit for the life of the debt only and may increase the levy above the levy ceiling.” - DOR

The Town currently has four debt exclusions for project loans that are being paid off: Turners Falls High School/Great Falls Middle School (12 years remaining), Mariamante property (10 years remaining), police cruiser (2 years remaining), and the Town Hall roof (2 years remaining).

(Greg Snedeker and Ray Purington contributed to this article.)

Household Hazardous Waste and Clean Sweep Collection Days

This year’s annual Franklin County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is on Saturday, September 20. The next “Clean Sweep” bulky waste collection is on Saturday, October 18. Be sure to mark both dates on your calendar. More information about both

events will be in future newsletters, on the Town’s website, and in local newspapers.

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*

Gill Town Forest

The Town Forest Task Force has approved the Forest Stewardship Plan prepared by Mary Wigmore of Wigmore Resource Forest Management. We are now awaiting approval from the Mass. Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR). The plan provides flexibility, giving suggestions rather than directives for managing the forest. The plan includes three approaches to forest management:

1. Non-Working Forest—let natural dynamics occur
2. Working Forest Crown Thinning—remove trees from the upper canopy
3. Working Forest Low Thinning—remove trees from the immature hardwood and pine lower canopy layers.

The report also provides detailed and helpful descriptions of the various stands. For those interested, it will soon be possible to read the plan by following a link that will be posted on the Town of Gill website. A printed copy of the plan will also be available at the Town Hall.



Doug's Auto Body

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Memorial Committee

Another successful and meaningful Memorial Day ceremony was held this year. The service began at the First Congregational Church of Gill with Gary Bourbeau presiding. Accompanied by bagpiper Phelan Muller, the group walked across the Common to the Veterans' Monuments. Select Board Chair Randy Crochier and Marine Corp Commander Tim McCrory delivered addresses. A rose ceremony was conducted by Memorial committee members Doug and Elaine Smith with assistance from Steven and Traver Parkinson honoring those veterans who gave their lives during the wars of our country and who are buried in Gill cemeteries. The flag was raised by Chet Kuzontkoski and Doug Smith. The Marines fired a salute and taps were played by buglers Steve and Joyanna Damon. The Memorial Committee thanks all who participated. Everyone is always welcome at these services, and we encourage you to attend next year.

Attention All Gill Veterans

If you served in the United States military between 1976 and the present and were a resident of Gill upon entering the service, we need to hear from you. The Memorial Committee is currently studying the possible placement of a new Memorial monument or plaque. To determine the size, we need to know the number of veterans who will be on it. Please call on the Memorial Committee members with your information. Thank you,

Chet Kuzontkoski 863-9284

Doug and Elaine Smith 863-3115

Gary and Merri Bourbeau 863-8613

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Common People Concerts

July 1

Gillbilly Sing-Along, Led by Surprise Guests
Name says it all.

July 8

Dustin Patrick
Percussion: The Next Big Hit!

July 15

Monadnock Steel Drummers
Sounds of the Caribbean, à la Gill

July 22

Jason Koerber and Friends
Gill's Favorite Jazz Standards

July 29

American Harmony Octet
Music from 19th Century America

August 5

Sirius Coyote
Traditional Inca and Aztec Sounds, right here

Where? On Gill Common. If the weather is yucky, concerts will be held in Gill Congregational Church, except for June 24. On that date the concert would be moved to United Church of Bernardston

When? Summer Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM

Cost? None, but Friends of Gill will sell refreshments at each concert!

More info: Contact Steve at anaturalmusicschool@yahoo.com

*Thank you, Gill Cultural Council,
for funding this concert series!*

Friends of Gill

The Friends of Gill will be serving strawberry shortcake and a variety of desserts at the *Concerts on the Common* on Tuesdays.



Montague Dental Arts
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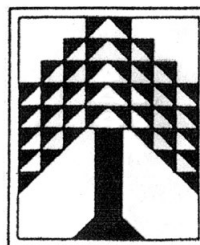
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HONOR ROLLS For Gill Students Third Quarter

Pioneer Valley Regional High School

Grade 11

Highest Honor: Malcolm Crosby
Honor: James Elliott

Grade 10

High Honor: Julia Wallace
Honor: Bradley Hastings

Grade 8

Highest Honor: Max van Baaren

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Audrey Corrigan
High Honor: Rylie Zager
Honors: Tyler Hastings

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

First Honors: Brittany Rawson & Kaleb Warren
Second Honors: Sarah McCune
Third Honors: Elliot Bertini Franseen and Morgan Marron

Grade 11

First Honors: Zachary Demars, Nicholas York and Lexi Griffin
Second Honors: Spencer Hubert and Stephanie Robertson

Grade 10

First Honors: Nadia Hasan and Mackenzie Phillips
Second Honors: Krystal Cloutier
Third Honors: Avery Riddle

Grade 9

First Honors: Gabrielle Arzuaga, Bryn Kruzlic and Kaili Lynch
Second Honors: Tahner Castine and Jeremy Wolfram

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8:

First Honors: Kyle Kucenski and David Tricolici
Second Honors: Branden Chapin and John Wheeler
Third Honors: Kylee Mason

Grade 7

First Honors: Emily Minor
Second Honors: Ethan Shilo-Draper
Third Honors: Reilan Castine

Grade 8

First Honors: Lilia Kocsis and Alyson Murphy
Third Honors: Mason Kucenski



Deans' Lists

James Billiel, Emily Bolduc, Tamara Grimard, Brooke Hastings, Kristina McComb, Jody A. Wallenius-Duda, and Tina M. Wileman were named to the Greenfield College dean's list for the fall 2013 semester.

Kathleen Rinaldi was named to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, dean's list for the fall 2013 semester.

Andrew Turban was named to the dean's list for the spring 2014 semester at the University of New Haven, CT.

Megan Foster was named to the dean's list at Emerson College for the spring 2014 semester. She is majoring in Writing, Literature, and Publishing.

High School Graduates

Franklin County Technical School graduated 115 students this year and among them were two Gill residents, Shelbi Williams and Mark Levasseur. Shelbi received a Cosmetology certificate and Mark received a Carpentry certificate.

Turners Falls High School had only 55 students graduated this year. Among them were Elliot James Bertini Franseen, Sarah Marie McCune, Morgan Alyson Marron, and Tyler David Richardson.

Sarah McCune was a National Honor Society Member. She received the Franklin County Bar Association Scholarship along with the Friends of Gill Scholarship, Gill-Montague Education Assoc. Scholarship, GMEF Enrichment Scholarship, and the Harriet A. Tidd Memorial Scholarship.

Awards

Alexander Morin, a Junior at Turners Falls High School, received the Rensselaer Medal Scholarship this year.

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.



UPINNGIL

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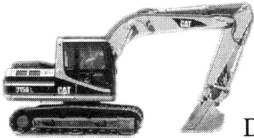
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Copy for the next newsletter should be
sent to pshoe27@gmail.com
no later than August 24, 2014

Business Advertisements

The Gill Newsletter will include business
card size advertisements of local businesses
for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$60.00.
Please send a copy of your business card and
a check for \$60.00 payable to 'Town of Gill'
to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road,
Gill, MA 01354.

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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 appreci-
ate your sending a check, payable to "Town of Gill", to
Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354.

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