



THE

Gill Newsletter

Fall 2019 Issue

Disclaimer:

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Town Hall

Familiar Face Wearing a New Hat

Congratulations to the Highway Department's John Miner, who in September accepted the position of Highway Superintendent. John has worked for the Town of Gill since 2009, and moved into the top job following the retirement of Mick LaClaire. The next time you see John, please say hello and wish him well. Highway Superintendent is a demanding job, and we are glad to have him doing it.

Winter Reminders

Winter sand is available to all residents, for private use only, at the Safety Complex.

Gill's wintertime parking ban begins on November 1st and runs through April 15th. There is NO on-street parking allowed between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Residents are advised to secure their mailboxes against possible damage from snow removal operations. **The Town is not responsible for damage to mailboxes caused by snow removal operations.**

The Town's Snow Removal bylaw states the following: "No person shall throw or put or cause to be thrown or put any snow or ice from any privately owned property into any street, public way, or town-owned land. Whoever violates this bylaw shall be punished by a fine of \$25.00 for each offense.

The Town's Snow Plowing bylaw states the following: "The Highway Superintendent may, for the purpose of removing or plowing snow, or removing

ice from any way, remove or cause to be removed to some convenient place, any vehicle which interferes with such work, and in the event of the removal of any vehicle in accordance with the terms hereof, the actual cost of removing said vehicle and any storage charges that may be incurred as a result thereof, may be enforced by the Town in any manner provided by law for the collection of a debt based upon contract."

Memorial Committee 2020 Plans

Greetings from the Gill Memorial Committee. June 6, 2019 marked the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy, France. Numerous written articles and programs recognized the event, and memorials at home and in Europe noted the tremendous sacrifice of American lives. 2020 will mark the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. As most in our community are aware, an annual commemorative service takes place on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend beginning at the church at 10 AM and continuing across the road at the Veterans'



Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org

for up to date news, announcements and contact information!





Memorial. Participants include the Northfield VFW post 9874, the Oak Ridge Marine Corps League Detachment, buglers, a bag piper and others. As we anticipate the next Memorial Day event, the committee is planning a special recognition of the end of WWII by honoring those involved, often referred to as "The Greatest Generation." Preliminary ideas include contacting surviving veterans from Gill and the surrounding community and/or their families, and inviting them to attend as honored participants. The committee is also considering collecting photos, letters, memorabilia, uniforms, flags, medals, insignia, etc., and displaying them in the church for public viewing on that day. Our appeal is to individuals, families and others who are interested to contact us with ideas and suggestions that will assist us in making this a special event that will honor the men and women who sacrificed so much.

We would also like to invite the community to participate in the 2nd annual Independence Day reading of the Declaration of Independence from the church steps and the ringing of the bell (244 peals this upcoming 4th of July). Those wishing to participate in the reading should arrive a short time before noon in order to be assigned a portion the document to read.

Chet Kuzontkoski
(413) 683-9284

Doug and Elaine Smith
(413) 863-3115

Gary and Merri Bourbeau
(413) 863-8613

Scams

Scammers have taken their toll on some residents of our community. During the past three months, the department has investigated three separate reports involving the theft of over \$28,000.00. These scams involved different tactics but were universal in that money was sent or transferred to individuals lying about their intentions. In addition, during the scams, each victim made multiple transfers of money/valuables. The scammer told them the initial amount was insufficient, further exacerbating the loss.

The department has been involved with at least three informational meetings regarding the dangers of fraud events in an attempt to educate our residents of these scams.

If you are suspicious of a request for money by an unknown person, please contact the police department for verification or guidance on how to proceed safely. Our station # is (413) 863-9398.

From Chief Redmond:

Fire Department

The Gill Fire Department is planning to undertake a project in the spring of 2020 to put up reflective number signs at each address in town. These will be done with no cost to the residents as the project is being funded from a state grant and the Gill Firemen's Association. The signs will be placed on posts that we will supply or on existing mail posts. If you have any questions please contact the Fire Department at (413) 863-8955.

The People in Your Neighborhood

Gill Neighbors is a group of volunteers who are ready to help seniors in Gill who might need assistance with companionship, small tasks or transportation. The mission of Gill Neighbors is to enable Gill residents to stay safely in their own homes. We are happy to drive to an exercise class at the Senior Center in Turners Falls or to the library for the latest best-seller. We can drive to medical appointments or to the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions. We can get seniors to town events like the summer musical performances on the Common or town meetings. Perhaps a friend or loved one is in the hospital or a long term care setting, and a senior wants to visit but is not comfortable driving in the winter or on a rainy day. Gill Neighbors knows people who that can get seniors where they want to go. Transportation can be a one-time event, or we can schedule a weekly trip to the grocery store.



If you aren't sure, ask! Let us know what your needs are, and we will figure out a way to help. Call Emily Samuels at 863-9446 or Susan LaScala at 863-2435. Your Neighbors are here for you.

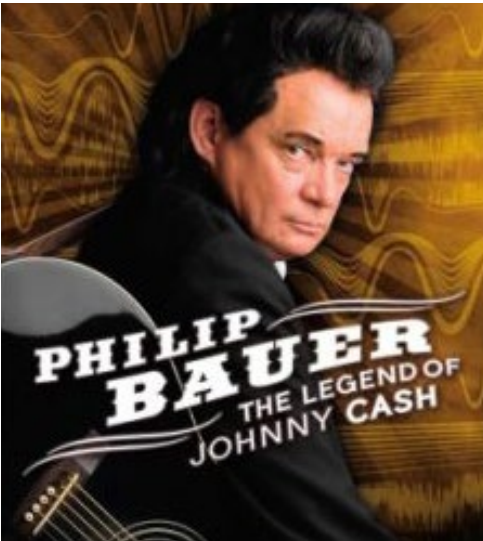


Gill Neighbors Committee –
Steve Bathory-Peeler, Barbara Elliott, Pat Hisz, Sue Kramer, Susan LaScala, Joan Pillsbury, Roberta Potter, Emily Samuels, Carol Smith, Anna Steele, and Barb Watson-Wallace

2020 GMEF Annual Gala

“The Legend of Johnny Cash”

Featuring tribute artist Philip Bauer



On Saturday, April 25, 2020 @ 7:00pm, at the Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala, Philip Bauer brings the sound and charisma of ‘The Man in Black’ to life with “The Legend of Johnny Cash.” In this 90-minute stage show, backed by his four-piece touring band, Philip Bauer performs Cash’s songs in the casual, seemingly-effortless way that made “the man in black” such an important musical icon. Some of the songs featured in the show are *I Walk the Line, A Boy Named Sue, Folsom Prison Blues and Ring of Fire*. Don’t miss this incredible opportunity to relive the music and magic of Johnny Cash.

Advance tickets are \$25, are available November 1st on the GMEF website – www.thegmef.org.

Visit our website to hear Philip Bauer, and discover the depth and variety of our \$121,850 Student Enrichment Grants.

Community Sing

It seems a bit far away, but now is the time to plan some music for your 2020 calendar.

Our 3rd annual community sing will be January 1, 2020, from 2–3 PM, at Town Hall.

Come join your neighbors in welcoming the New Year with song. We hope to see you at Town Hall and hear all your voices!

From the Gill Cultural Council

We are a town committee which distributes state grant money for projects in art, humanities, and science. We review applications each fall for projects that take place in the following year. Some past projects have included: concerts; Gill School theater, music, science, and writing projects; Slate Library enrichment programs; and Gill Historical Commission educational programs.

Thank you to everyone who filled out the surveys earlier this year. We value townspeople’s input about how we spend our money.

In the last few years, our council has received many more applications than can be funded with the limited pool of money we receive

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from the state. Each year, we set priorities in order to fund a small number of projects.

Here is a list of our present priorities:

- Projects and events that take place in Gill or one of the adjoining towns
- Community-wide gatherings, such as concerts or contra dances, that bring people of all ages together
- Projects that benefit the town's elementary school children
- A balance of fine arts, theater, dance, music, history, and writing projects
- Nature, science, and environmental education programs
- Applicants who seek diverse sources of funding and who clearly explain how their project will proceed without full funding.

We evaluate proposals based on how well they meet our local priorities as well as on the applicant's background, track record, and demonstrated planning. We give priority to projects generated by Gill residents, or those that display a partnership with an organization or venue in Gill or adjoining town. If you would like to see which projects we funded for 2019, or get information about joining the cultural council, go to the <https://gillmass.org> and find us under "Committees."

Norman Schell Concert at Gill Church

Renowned Pioneer Valley singer/songwriter and novelist Norman Schell will be appearing for a special pre-Thanksgiving concert at the Gill Church starting at 7:00 PM Saturday night November 23rd. The program will include sacred songs such as *Eternal Father*, *Amazing Grace* and *Green Pastures*, as well as Norman's original American historical ballads and love songs.

Norman is part of a great Massachusetts and New England musical legacy. He has been called a major artist, a world class songwriter, a treasure and a legend. His songs have been singled out as beautifully conceived, and gorgeous, timeless melodies, and his presentation and voice have been praised as world class, unique and moving.

Much of Norman's work is available on YouTube by searching his name.

Further biographical and personal details for Norman Schell are available at: www.maryreede.com

A contribution of \$10.00 will be asked to help defray the cost of building a handicapped access addition to the church, (though no one will be turned away for lack of funds.) For further information about the concert contact Gary Bourbeau at 413-768-9543

gryngill@yahoo.com

<https://gillchurch.wixsite.com/gillchurch>

Historical Commission

Riverside Book

Copies of the book remain for sale. Order forms for *Life Along the Connecticut in Gill, MA* are at the Town Hall, on the Town's website, or from Lstomb@gmail.com. The small profit from the sales helps fund projects like the historical signs in Gill.

Historic District Signs

GHC has placed historic district signs in Gill Center and at the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. Hale Custom Designs worked with GHC to produce and install the signs. In addition to some funding from the town and the Gill Cultural Council, the GHC donation account financed the signs. Donations for this and other projects are appreciated.

The Commission has applied to the William Pomeroy Foundation in Syracuse, NY, for a grant-funded historic marker to commemorate the Red Bridge anchorage on Riverview Drive. The Gill Selectboard has approved the placement. The Pomeroy Foundation provides free of charge metal markers for selected historic sites on the National Register. Additionally, the Gill Tavern will donate the proceeds from the Trivia game on Thursday, 12/5, to GHC's donation account.

Loring Hale 1868 Diary

Gill's collection of Gill diaries includes one kept by Loring Hale, a farmer in northwest Gill. Written in pencil that is now fading, the diary is being transcribed and



stored in our digital files. Thank you to Don Kruger for helping research the Hale family.

Excerpt from November 1868
Notes: Loring Hale (15 April 1799 – 26 Feb. 1891); his parents Daniel and Mary (Park) Hale. Married Rachel H. Aldrich (17 Sept. 1797 – 21 Oct. 1869); her parents Joseph and Tamar (Scott) Aldrich. Records show Rachel died of typhoid fever the year after this diary. Their children: Seth Hale, Allen Wrisley Hale, Benjamin Franklin Hale, Rowena T. Randall, Adolphus L. Hale, Andrew G. Hale, Mary Newcomb, Sidney C. Hale. Loring would have been 69 years old when he wrote this diary. His father Daniel died two years before the diary in 1866, and his mother, in 1867. N. B. Most of the spelling is original except where standard spelling helps in understanding.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1868 Fare all day cloudy at night wind south and looks like a storm SC [son] and i went over to Almon Newcomb [son-in-law] and brought home our steers to day they had been there thirteen weeks . . . payed . . . off . . . taxes

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1868 Hard rain all day vary hard we got all of our tubs full of water it is half past eight and it still rains hard . . . i am a going to bed

MONDAY 2 Snowed all day the ground is white to nite we have got all of our cattle up in the barn to night SC [son] has ben

scrapin Broom seed today Ed [son] sheld some corn i mended an old harness

TUESDAY 3 Cloudy morning the ground all covered with snow cold wind Ed and i carted two lodes of dong over the hill in the fore non SC scraped broom corn in the after non we all went to gill to town meeting in the wagon

WEDNESDAY 4 Fare clear frosty morning we went over to Newcomb stayed all day got home at eight oclock in the evening our hors got scard at the sawmill we came vary nigh a shipwreck Almon [Newcomb] was gone to greenfield Aldophus [son] has ben here to day

THURSDAY 5 Cloudy rainy til most nite then cleared off warm and foggy i went to mill Seth [] went with me we went to Loring [son] helped him . . . came home stoped at the store [probably Gill Center] bought some shuger tea stuff to[o]

FRIDAY 6 Fare cool som rainy SC scraped broom and went to mill Edson carted dong over the hill i helped him som helped SC som in the barn i pulled my turnips and cabesh [cabage] in the garden

SATURDAY 7 Fare all day cold went to greenfield in the after non bought som carets bought a pound of shugar for my wife bought som fresh pork SC cared home Miss Bordell [Bardwell?]




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SUNDAY 8 Cloudy all day som rain foggy Edson did not get home last nite Seth came here to day it has been a long day and a dark day we put all of our cattle up and feed every nite

MONDAY 9 Cloudy foggy all day warm did not rain much i banked up my house and did chores all day SC worked for Ralph Goodrich [West Gill farmer] striped tobacco Edson got home to nite from Amherst Avery and Lisander Sprague [Bernardston farmers] was here to nite borrowed som money



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TUESDAY 10 Cloudy rain most all day foggy rain to night very dark i helped SC fan thirty bushels of broom seed to night Edson would not help SC and Ed striped tobacco for Ralph Goodrich to day I went to mill and did the chors all day

raked one lode of leaves and put them in the hog pen

TUESDAY 17 Cloudy all day cold we got out dong all day most out my wife dipped candels to day . . . then went to carting dong and helped dip candels

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WEDNESDAY 11 Cloudy rainy in the fore non i and wife went over to Newcombs and went boiling cider for them pared apels in the evening . . . Almon was a making cider I helped him

THURSDAY 19 Cloudy in the fore non rain in the after non SC and I worked striping broom corn Ed went to mill SC bought som beef of O. Green [?Oliver Green?] . . . Mother and I pared som appels to night and made a [kettle] of appel saus this evening

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THURSDAY 12 Fare all day we had stayed there all nite we had a good visit mother worked for Mary to have her work on her dress

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its 2019 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 21 at GCC Main Campus and Orange Transfer Station.

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FRIDAY 13 Fare day pleasant cool we are to Newcombs yet i helped to cart wood into the sap house in the fore non then Almon and i went to greenfield in the after non i got som tobacco and got my wife som hens And paid thirty cents for mending we stayed all night

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 16. Online registration forms may be completed at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html.

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SUNDAY 15 Cloudy in the morning fare the rest of the day pleasant i went up to Seths to sea if he was going to have a pig of Allen or not SC has not got out any of the dong in the yard yet it is a good time to do these days

Paper registration forms are available at participating town offices and transfer stations, while supplies last. Advertisements that contain registration forms will also run in local newspapers. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; an appointment time will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

MONDAY 16 Fare all day som wind SC went to greenfield unkle Reuben Park [probably brother of Loring's mother Mary] came here with a box of butter but he was to[o] late Seth came here i cleaned out the hors shed and



The collection is free for residents of most member towns. Businesses must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, see: www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org/hazwast-eday.html.

Mercury-containing products such as thermometers, thermostats and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) should never be put in the trash. At the 2019 Hazardous Waste Collection Event, only mercury-containing items such as thermostats and thermometers will be accepted; fluorescent bulbs will not be accepted at this collection. CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs are accepted at all municipal transfer stations. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe's Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information, contact the District at (413) 772-2438; info@franklincountywastedistrict.org; or visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Fall "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day

The Fall "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day is Saturday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to noon. The three locations are Buckland Recreation Facility at 66 Ashfield Rd. (Rt. 112 South); Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Rd; and Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane.

Residents from any District town may bring tires, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, propane tanks, construction debris, and other large items. Fees apply. Bring bulky rigid plastics such as 5-gallon pails and plastic lawn furniture for special recycling program (\$5 per load: for acceptable bulky rigid plastic items, see website or call). Clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books accepted free for reuse or recycling.

A list of prices for the most common items is at: www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html

Did you know? Staples accepts computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call store for details. Various charities and non-profits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

For more information, contact the District at (413) 772-2438; info@franklincountywastedistrict.org; or visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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Energy Commission

The Gill Energy Commission is back in action. There are links to websites in this newsletter that you can access more easily by checking out the Gill Newsletter online - go to www.gill-ma.org and search for the newsletter under "Latest News".

Have you taken advantage of the no-cost MassSave energy assessment of your home or business? [This link](#) will take you to the page where you can learn how to have LED bulbs installed in your home for free! Power strips, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and programmable thermostats are all available free of charge. Just a quick phone call to 1-866-527-SAVE (7283) can get you started. Call today! Click on this link: <https://vimeo.com/157777138> for a video of an energy audit. MassSave also offers rebates and incentives on most heating systems. [This link](#) will take you to the MassSave page with exciting information on electric, gas, oil, and propane heating systems and rebates for upgrades. There are also opportunities for some discounted prices with no-cost installation. Check on the www.masssave.com website. The Gill Energy Commission also has a number of tidbits that are posted on the Gill Energy Commission Facebook page to help you with energy savings. [Click here](#) to access the page, and "like" us to assure that you'll receive future postings.

Here are a few tips for not only saving money but for enjoying a more comfortable home this winter - thanks to MassSave for the list below. Click on [this link](#) if you want to see their full list of tips for energy savings in the home or go to www.masssave.com to read so much more!

- Change your furnace air filter every three months.

- If you haven't gotten your free programmable thermostat through MassSave yet, be sure to turn down your thermostat 7-10 degrees at night or if you leave your home for more than 2 hours.
- Set ceiling fans to turn counter-clockwise in the summer to cool a room, but reverse them so that they turn clockwise in winter to push warm air back down into a room.
- In the winter, open window dressings during the day to capture warmth and close them at night to prevent heat loss.
- If your home has storm windows, check to make sure that they are closed properly for the heating season.
- Install weather-stripping on doors and caulking around windows and doorframes.
- If you have a sliding glass door, make sure to keep its track clean. A dirty track can ruin the door's seal and create gaps where heat or cold air escapes.
- Seal around the attic hatch or door with self-sticking weather-stripping. Put a piece of rigid foam board insulation on the back of the door. Pre-made insulated attic stair covers are also available from home improvement centers.
- If you have an unfinished basement or crawlspace, check for air leaks around the foundation walls by looking for spider webs. If there is a spider's web, there is a draft.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter - it allows warm air to escape right up the chimney.
- Remove window air conditioning units during the cold months to reduce drafts. If this isn't possible, cover the inside and outside of the unit with plastic.
- Turn off lights in any room that you're not using, and switch to LED bulbs that use up to 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 times longer.
- Use natural light whenever you can. Make the most of natural light by moving desks, reading chairs, and workbenches closer to windows. Keep in mind that lighter colors for walls, ceilings, and floors reflect more sunlight.
- Keep light bulbs and fixtures clear of dust and other particles. Clean bulbs give off more light than dirty ones.
- Install a motion detector for your porch light to save from keeping it on indefinitely. Use it when you're at home or away.
- Set your refrigerator to 35 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit and your freezer at 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Anything lower than that is a waste of energy. Keep your refrigerator and freezer full so they don't have to work as hard to stay cold.
- Leave a few inches between the wall and the back of the refrigerator for air circulation.
- Wrap the hot water pipes coming out of your water heater with insulation. Wrap those pipes nearest the heater first for greatest savings.
- A ten-minute shower can use less water than a full bath.
- Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible, and follow detergent instructions carefully - using too much soap makes the washing machine motor work harder.

The Myth about Plastic Recycling

by Alden Booth

Putting a bin of recyclable plastic containers curbside each week isn't really "recycling" any longer. Within the last year a big change has taken place in the U.S. regarding what actually happens to our plastic. For many years China was a major market for America's plastic. Despite the inherent inefficiencies of transporting so much plastic half way around the world, China actually bought much of our plastic, got what it could from sorting through it, and disposed of the rest either through incineration for electricity or by dumping it in the ocean. Within the last year, China has stopped taking U.S. plastic, causing a huge glut of plastic in our country and significantly increasing trash disposal costs.

For decades everyone has been buying food, cosmetics, and general goods either packaged in plastic and/or made out of plastic. It has become difficult to avoid buying plastic and because we think it is getting recycled, most people feel okay about buying it. Even when China was taking our plastic, in most U.S. communities a very low percentage of plastic was being truly recycled (meaning properly sorted and then actually turned into something useful). This has actually been the case for many years, which is one reason why billions of tons of plastic are circulating in our oceans and buried in landfills. Sometimes recycled plastic is even incinerated for electricity, an inefficient way of generating power.

What should we all be doing about this? First, stop assuming that what

you put in the recycling container is getting recycled, and cut back on the plastic you are buying. It takes a little bit of analysis and concern on the part of consumers to make some major reductions in everyday life. Here are some examples of actions you can take:

- **SOAP:** Bars of soap worked fine until people got sold on the plastic pump bottles of hand soap and sanitizer that now frequent most bathrooms. Stop buying them.
- **PLASTIC BOTTLES** of water, Vitamin water, juices, etc. are expensive and unnecessary. Bottled water is a waste of money. Carry a refillable water bottle with you and if you are buying coffee every day at a coffee shop, bring your own refillable mug. Your insulated mug will keep liquids hotter and you won't be discarding plastic lids and cups. Consider buying frozen juice concentrates instead of orange juice in plastic containers.
- **PLASTIC JUGS:** Switch to powdered dish and laundry detergents that come in cardboard, not the liquids that come in plastic jugs. Buy larger bottles of shampoo and conditioner. Look at the plastic containers on your bathroom shelves. Which products are essential? Keep asking yourself this question as you roam your house.
- **FOOD IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS:** Avoid buying them. Tell the grocery store managers what you are doing and why. This is difficult since even health food stores sell too much food in plastic clamshells and squeezable bottles, but make a commitment and see what you can do to reduce what you buy in plastic. Many stores now sell food in bulk so look into that and bring your own

containers and reusable carry bags.

- **TOYS:** With Christmas around the corner see what gifts you can buy that are not made of plastic — especially toys.
- **A WEED WHACKER** uses a coil of plastic string that has to be regularly replaced. That plastic goes straight into the soil and eventually into our water sources in tiny particles. Weed by hand, or just let the weeds grow!
- **REMOTE CAR STARTER:** Do you need to use it this winter? An idling car is bad for the air, the engine's components and your heart, lungs and allergies. The best thing to do is clean your windshield by hand, then start the car and go. Despite popular belief, idling your car or truck for more than 15 seconds is less efficient than turning it off and restarting it when you need to go.

You get the picture. Be thoughtful about what you need. Remember that plastic is made of oil, so it is not just a solid waste problem but a climate change issue as well. Consider raking your leaves and shoveling your snow instead of using a blower machine. Give those internal combustion engines in your garage a rest and use your arms, legs and lungs sometimes instead. Lots to think about, but it is easy to make some changes. Thanks for listening.

Alden is on the Gill Energy Committee and is happy to discuss any of these topics in more depth at your convenience. He can be reached at alden.booth@gmail.com.