



THE

# Gill Newsletter

Fall 2023 Issue

## 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.

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## Town Hall News

### Special Town Meeting

There will be a Special Town Meeting on Monday, November 27th at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. As of the Newsletter deadline, there are three articles expected to be on the meeting's warrant. The first article seeks the Town's approval of a Solar PILOT Agreement (Payment In Lieu Of personal property Taxes) with Kearsarge Gill, LLC, and is a repeat of an article that was passed over at the June 12th Annual Town Meeting. Another article is financial housekeeping and asks voters to rescind borrowing authorization for projects have already been completed. (For example, voters authorized borrowing up to \$300,000 to replace the floors at the Gill Elementary School. This work was completed using ARPA funds and no borrowing was necessary. The authorization can be rescinded.) The third article will ask if the Town wants to expand the makeup of the Sewer Commission from the three elected members of the Selectboard to five members, of which three members shall be the elected members of the Selectboard and two members shall be appointed by the Selectboard. A number of interested Riverside residents have been discussing this idea with the Selectboard for more than a year, and the Town Meeting vote is the next step in the process. If the expanded membership is approved by Town Meeting, there will be a similar question on the ballot at the next Town Election in May 2024.

## From the Tax Collector:

### Gill Real Estate Tax Delinquency List

Property tax status in MA is classified as public knowledge; the following list contains taxpayers who owe the town of Gill in excess of \$50 in real estate taxes from fy 2021 &/or 2022 &/or 2023. This informal listing is a precursor to the Town of Gill initiating formal tax taking proceedings.

Adboo, Salim  
Ballou Irrevocable Trust  
Billiel, Linda E  
Cosette, Wil  
Czuj, Mark E  
Dargis, Deborah & Neil F  
Duda, Nathan  
Franseen, Elizabeth Bertini  
Gaines, Gary M  
Gates-Tetreault, Patricia M  
Gexler, Michael J  
Goodwin, Timothy J  
Hale Custom Signs  
Hayward, Robert J  
Hwu, Sheue Ying  
Johnson, Veronica  
Johnson, Wesley E  
Kelly, Julie K  
Melchior, Alan  
Namngis LLC  
On, Gong Hyun



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Check in with the Gill Website

**[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)**

for up to date news,  
announcements and  
contact information!





Plante, Steven L  
Pratt, David  
Reade, Derrick  
Ruggiano, Nick  
Sandri, Lisa L  
Sangor, Richard H  
Sleiman, Elie  
Striebel, Stephen P  
Vining, Michael  
Waldron, Scott A  
Warren, Rae Gene

### Winter and Snow Reminders

While almost nobody is ready to hear those dreaded words, this issue of the newsletter is when we need to put out the annual reminders for the colder months ahead.

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 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."

### From the Town Clerk's Office

It has been a quiet election year, and a Town Clerk could get used to this. However, 2024 will be a very busy year, kicking off with the March 5th "Super Tuesday" Presidential Primary. Here is a list of our elections next year:

#### March 5, 2024

Presidential Primary

#### May 20, 2024

Local Town Election (In-person early voting not available)

#### September 3,

2024 State Primary

#### November 5,

2024 Presidential Election

Early Vote by Mail is now available in Massachusetts. Starting on January 2, 2024 the Town Clerk will have Vote by Mail Applications. To get your application contact the Town Clerk at 413-863-8103. Applications can also be obtained at [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us) by following the prompts for Early Voting, and Vote by Mail. The State will also be mailing out postcard applications to Vote by Mail, and there is no way to opt out of receiving these postcards. Please follow all the instructions on your application and

don't forget to sign the application before you submit it.

If you do not wish to Vote by Mail, the three Presidential and State elections will each have days and times when you can vote early in person at the Town Hall. In-person early voting times will be announced as we get closer to each election. And lastly, you may still choose to vote in person on the day of the election.

Additional important dates and deadlines pertaining to elections will be in the February issue of the newsletter. Stay tuned!

The holidays are approaching quickly, and the Agricultural Commission has Gillbilly tee shirts in all sizes in both blue and green. Certain sizes have limited quantities, so stop by the Town Hall soon to avoid being disappointed. Tee shirts are \$15.00.

Town Census forms and dog licensing forms will be mailed in January. Please fill them out and return within 10 days of receipt. Remember, dog licenses expire on March 31st, so send them in early or pop by the Town Clerk's Office to get your pup registered and avoid the late fee. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk 413-863-8103

### Slate Library News

The library recently hosted a concert by local resident Bob Veronelli and his band Awesome Possum. It was a fun event that was rescheduled due to the cancellation of this year's Harvest Festival. Library guests enjoyed cider and donuts while listening to classic tunes played on a variety of instruments. We had many local families in attendance and we feel fortunate that our library



community has members willing to share their talents with us. Let us know if you have an idea for a fun performance or event at Slate Library. We are happy to host.

Now that it is autumn, consider curling up with a good book. We have many new titles, including *Crook Manifesto* by Colson Whitehead, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, *The Fraud* by Zadie Smith and *Bright Young Women* by Jessica Knoll. Our new book shelf is overflowing with mysteries, crime novels, adventures and narratives for every armchair traveler to enjoy. Our children's collection has new picture books and a delightful holiday collection. Stop by our children's table for coloring activities and simple crafts to make and take home. On Saturday, December 16, the library will host our annual Card and Gift Tag making workshop. Please join us and play with paper, glitter, ribbons and glue. We look forward to seeing you in the coming season!

Jocelyn Castro-Santos  
Director, Slate Library

## Four Winds School

Happy fall! We've had a great start to our school year here at Four Winds School. In science class this year we'll be studying physics, and we've started off with a unit on simple machines. In humanities we will be studying the 1750s – the present and spent some time at Historic Deerfield in the beginning of the school year. More recently we have been discussing industrial history, and were able to weave our science and humanities topics together last week by doing a walking tour of Turners Falls (with some help from the Great Falls Discovery Center), followed by a trip to

the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage in Greenfield. We love being able to take advantage of these amazing local resources. We have an Open House coming up on Tuesday, November 14th from 3:30 to 5pm at Four Winds School and will be accepting applications for mid-year transfers in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Please reach out to us at [teachers@fourwindsschool.info](mailto:teachers@fourwindsschool.info) and visit our website ([www.fourwindsschool.info](http://www.fourwindsschool.info)) to learn more!

## 2024 GMEF Annual Gala

### Piano Men: Double Bill -- "Billy & Elton!"

The Gill-Montague Education Fund (GMEF) is excited to welcome the **Piano Men: Double Bill -- "Billy & Elton!"** They will perform at the TFHS Theater on **Saturday, April 27, 2024 @ 7:00PM.** Anton Doran and The Tampa Bay All Stars will re-create the music of Billy Joel & Elton John with material from all eras of each artist's career, presenting their biggest hits along with new generations of fan favorites, including: "Benny & the Jets," "Tiny Dancer," "Movin' Out," "You May Be Right," "I'm Still Standing," "Piano Man" and many more.

**Advance tickets are \$30** and are available November 1st on the GMEF website – [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org).

The GMEF goals are to support public education and to provide resources that will enrich the educational opportunities for students. At one time, the 'enrichments' were part of the day to day learning environment. They were included in the school budgets, but no longer!

Our only fund-raiser is our Annual Gala. It is a collaborative effort: underwriters, corporate sponsors & major advertisers help to defray the

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costs of the Gala. With our general advertisers, tier-givers and ticket sales we are able to sustain the enrichment grants. We know with your support we can continue our work of providing educational enrichment for students.

## News from Gill Neighbors

Gill Neighbors is a group of volunteers who came together to help the oldest folks in town remain in their homes, if their preference is to age in place. Now that the worst of the pandemic is over, we are again offering rides – and more - to seniors over the age of 80. (See our info box in this newsletter). When you contact us, we will check to see if a volunteer is available to help you with whatever you need.

Note: in case there is any confusion, Gill Neighbors is not part of the Village Neighbors groups you may have read about being organized in other communities. We are a small, informal group with no fees and no membership requirements.

We will list resources for elders in each newsletter. This month's "Senior Resources" handout is about food, fuel assistance, and renovating your home to make it accessible. At the top of the handout, you will see how to contact LifePath, a local organization that offers a wealth of information for independent living. You will also see contact information for the Gill-Montague Senior Center. Check out their website to find out the many ways they enhance the life of seniors. If you are a senior who could benefit from some financial assistance, the center has an outreach worker who can help you sort through your options and help fill out applications.

Call Matt at 413 768-1323 to set up an appointment.

## Gill Historical Commission

### Gift-Giving

The Historical Commission (GHC) has two books that make thoughtful gifts for all occasions. *Life Along the Connecticut River* covers the Riverside part of Gill from geology and dinosaurs to building the French King Bridge in 1938. The second book spans life in Gill from 1860 to 1930 with Jennie Williams Bardwell's family letters, two 1870s diaries and many pictures. Both are available for a donation of \$50 each at the Town Hall and on the GHC website. Copies of *The History of Gill*, vol. 2 are available for \$10 each.

### Historical Trivia: Civil War Tax Stamps

The popular mid-19th century photograph, known as carte de visite or CDV, usually has a stamp on it. These stamps date from 1864 to 1866. The Union used these tax stamps to raise revenue for the Civil War.

### Digital Research Site

[Hathitrust.org](http://Hathitrust.org) - This site contains hundreds of journals, publications, books, and vital records. Search the entire library for a single family name or town. We recently found a digital copy of Ralph Stoughton's family genealogy there.

### Historical Items At Riverside Robert Darr Wert Collection

GHC continues to receive contributions of Country Prints textiles. Some collectors and researchers have also asked help in identifying pieces in their collections. One was from The Vintage Tablecloth Lovers Club.

### Maple Lawn Farm

Main Road north of Upinngil

May 9, 1895: "The old Asa Stoughton homestead remodeled by Henry Hayden and known as Maple Lawn Farm, was destroyed by fire."

Asa Stoughton (1785-1865) and his wife Anna (Stevens) (1784-1873) are buried in Gill's North Cemetery. Her spinning wheel, yarn winder, hetchel, and other sewing items are part of Gill's historical collection.

### Reverend Herbert E. Buffum

(1874-1934) of West Northfield, resided on the state line at South Vernon, VT. He worked as a storekeeper with his father and as postmaster. A Baptist minister, he preached locally and held evangelical meetings. His Gill connection is preaching at the Gill Church in September 1926, January of 1927, and as supply pastor for March and April 1927.

The Gill Historical collection has memorabilia given by Rev. Buffum's wife. Some items come from a relative who was an early missionary in China. The Buffum collection includes a scrapbook of photos showing an auto and camping trip to Chicago in the 1930s that he chaperoned with Gill's Ruth Blake and a friend.

### Post-Civil War Drum

Research identifies Gill's bass drum by an interior badge from John C. Haynes in Boston. A paper with a cursive signature of Hollis M. Slate is also inside. Hollis' (1839-1909) estate gave the money for Slate Library in his father's honor in 1921.

**Former Slave, Scholar, And Minister**  
Reverend Thomas Nelson Baker, Sr.



graduated from Mount Hermon Boys School in 1889. Born into slavery, he earned a degree from Boston University and was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in philosophy from Yale. He preached at the Gill Methodist Church on Boyle Road. After years of research, former Gill resident Linda Batty has written a book about Rev. Baker that will be available in spring 2024.

### Help Wanted!

Volunteers and Potential Members are always encouraged to talk with a GHC member to find out more. Interest in Gill history and a willingness to help with assorted projects are very welcome.

### Gill "Complete Streets" Project

The Town of Gill is currently working with staff from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to develop a Complete Streets Project Prioritization Plan. The goal is to identify projects to improve bicycle and pedestrian access throughout the town. Completion of a Prioritization Plan will make the Town of Gill eligible to apply for funding to implement the projects identified in the plan through the MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program. Examples of potential projects include creating new or improving existing crosswalks, developing new sidewalks or bicycle paths, installing pedestrian crossing signals, improving bicycle safety/mobility with new bike lanes or wider shoulders, or installing bicycle parking. FRCOG staff will be conducting field work to evaluate existing conditions and identify potential areas for projects this fall. The FRCOG is also gathering input about specific areas where

improvements are needed through an online survey. A link to the survey is here: <https://shorturl.at/qCGZ7>

In addition, community members who have specific concerns or ideas for projects can email Laurie Scarbrough at [lscarbrough@frcog.org](mailto:lscarbrough@frcog.org) or mail them to Franklin Regional Council of Governments, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA 01301.

### Gill Cultural Council News

The council met at the Library on Monday October 23rd. We officially and cheerfully welcomed two new members to the Cultural Council: Steven Budd and Amy Gordon. They join current members Anna Hendricks, Eve Brown-Waite, Lynda Mayo, and chair Patricia Crosby.


The meeting was a lively one as we discussed the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) grant applications submitted for funding by Gill for 2024. We cannot reveal the names of the funded individuals and organizations until the MCC has notified those who submitted successful and unsuccessful applications, but we will include descriptions of the granted projects in the next Gill Newsletter.

Of the Gill-granted projects for 2023, there is one event remaining. The Deerfield Valley Art Association- based at Fiddleheads Gallery in Northfield received a grant to help support a series of lectures/presentations on the intersection of Art and Other

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Disciplines. The last in that FREE series will be held Sunday November 5 at 2 PM at Fiddleheads Gallery, 105 Main Street in Northfield. Barry Deitz-Library Director of the Conant Public Library in Winchester, NH will present *Nightmares and Dreamscapes: Art, Literature, and the Creative Imagination*.

The Cultural Councils hopes to set up a few casual gatherings in 2024 where artists, musicians, performers, writers, historians, anthropologists, and other cultural practitioners who live or work in Gill can get together informally with those who share their interests and skills. As a fairly new member of the community I am interested in meeting other Gill artists, and I expect there are others who would also like to meet kindred spirits within their fields. We hope to help make that happen. Watch this newsletter for details and dates.

*Submitted by Karen Larsen,  
GCC Member*

## Honor Roll

**Turners Falls High School  
Fourth Quarter, June 2023**

### Grade 11

Second Honors: Noah DeLorenzo and Owen LaValley

### Grade 9

First Honors: Ella DeLorenzo, Lily DeLorenzo, Christopher Halla and Vaughn LaValley

Second Honors: Miles Riley and Kainen Stevens

**Great Falls Middle School  
Fourth Quarter, June 2023**

### Grade 7

First Honors: Jonathan Holmes  
Second Honors: Madisin Haight

### Grade 6

Second Honors: Allison Raymond

### College Graduation

Ethan Shilo-Draper of Gill graduated on May 7th, 2023 from New England Institute of Technology in Greenwich, R.I. Magna cum Laude with a 4.0 grade point average. He earned a B.S. in software engineering.

## Free To A Good Home

### Old Books At Town Hall

At the Town Hall, we have been working to go through items that are located and stored in the basement, especially since the flooding in the Town Hall back in February.

During this process, we have located old Law & Reference Books in the basement. Some of these books have sustained some minor damage to their character from being stored in the basement through the years as well as the flooding event.

We are looking to see if these old books could find a new home. If any of them interest you, and you would like to add to your collection, please contact the Town Hall at: 413-863-2119, or email at: [clerical@gillmass.org](mailto:clerical@gillmass.org).

### Mass. Appeals Court Reports

1972 – 1991

### Acts And Resolves of Mass.

1947, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1957-1959, 1962 1964, 1965, 1967-1982

### Mass. Reports (Supreme Court)

1870-1933, 1971-1980

### Massachusetts Special Laws:

1806-1804, 1822-1881, 1902-1908

### Acts And Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay

1692-1756

### Laws & Resolves of Massachusetts

1780-1787, 1804-1805

### Acts & Resolves of The Province Massachusetts Bay Appendices

1692-1780, 1703-1780

### Supplement To the Public Statues of Massachusetts

1882-1888, 1889-1895

### General Laws of Massachusetts

1921 Ch. 128-282, 1921 Index

### Massachusetts Public Document

1879 (Nos. 10-16)

### Agriculture of Massachusetts

1896, 1910-1912, 1914

If we cannot find a new owner(s) we will recycle them. Thank you for considering adopting one or more of these books of the past to bolster your home library. The books can be viewed at the Town Hall. We look forward to meeting you.

## Welcome Yule

### 39th Annual Midwinter Celebration

December 8, 9, and 10, 2023

*Welcome Yule: A Midwinter Celebration - Music, Dance, Songs and Stories to Drive the Dark Away* returns to the Shea Theater Arts Center in Turners Falls, MA on December 8, 9 and 10. When we move into the dark time of the year, we keep our spirits alive through community, connection, and tradition. This year, in *Welcome Yule*, we are focusing on that recurring cycle of dark and light, Sun and Moon, life, death, and rebirth as the wheel of the year marks its repeated turning. Our village is drawing together in this dark time, maintaining itself and its sense of community, through song, dance, story-telling and a mummer's play. Join us in singing; touch the Yule Log





for good luck; feel a chill with the eerie Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, and join us in laughing away the dark.

Welcome Yule will be held at The Shea Theater Arts Center, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA, Friday December 8 and Saturday December 9 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults ages 17 to 64, \$12 for seniors and children ages 5 to 16, and FREE for children under 5. Tickets can be purchased at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, MA, at the door and in advance at [sheatheater.org](http://sheatheater.org). Tickets can be reserved at [reservations@welcomeyule.org](mailto:reservations@welcomeyule.org).

Learn More: [WelcomeYule.org](http://WelcomeYule.org) · Tickets: [SheaTheater.org](http://SheaTheater.org)

## Departmental Revolving Funds

Passed June 12, 2023 Establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½. The wording of the by-law is as follows:

**Purpose:** This bylaw establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½.

**Expenditure Limitations:** An authorized department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this bylaw without appropriation subject to the following limitations:

Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund (except for those employed as school bus drivers).

No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.

The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by this by-law, or by town meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the Selectboard and Finance Committee.

**Interest:** Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by-law shall be credited to the general fund.

**Procedures and reports:** Except as provided in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and this by-law, the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law. The Town Accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the town accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.

**Authorized Revolving Funds:** The following table lists the authorized revolving funds of the Town of Gill and establishes:

Each revolving fund authorized for use by a town department, board, committee, agency or officer.

The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund.

The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant.

The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used.

Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund.

Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund.

The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this by-law.

Approved by the Attorney General September 19, 2023

## Article 8: Table of Authorized Revolving Funds

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Other Requirements / Reports	Fiscal Years
Oil Burner Inspections	Fire Chief	Oil burner inspection fees	Inspector stipend, supplies, equipment	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years
Energy Commission Programs	Energy Commission	Workshop and program revenue	Energy conservation activities; workshop & program expenses	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	ZBA, Administrative Clerk	ZBA fees	Legal notices, postage, mailings, hearing expenses	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years
Dog	Town Clerk, Selectboard	Dog license fees and fines	Dog licenses & tags, Animal Control services, dog care & control	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years
Conservation Commission Project Review	Conservation Commission	Fees paid by applicants or advocates	Consultant fees and expenses related to project review	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years
Cemetery Opening Fees	Cemetery Commission	Fees from opening graves for burial or interment	Caretaking and maintenance of cemeteries	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years
Agricultural Commission Programs	Agricultural Commission	Farmers' market and agricultural event fees	Agricultural programs	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years
Solid Waste & Recycling	Board of Health, Town Administrator	Sale of scrap metal, recyclables, recycling bins & etc.,	Solid waste & recycling programs, Solid Waste District membership, recycled-content office products, disposal fees for Town-generated waste items	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station	Selectboard, Town Administrator	User fees from use of EV charging station	Operating & maintenance costs for EV charging station	None	None	Fiscal Year 2024 & subsequent years

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Rides to the Montague Senior Center

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Rides to visit friends or family at local healthcare facilities

Pick up pre-ordered groceries

Pick up food at Food Pantry

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Also, Kim the librarian will bring books to you!

Call her at 413.325.4053