



THE

Gill Newsletter

Winter 2025 Issue

Disclaimer:

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From the Town Administrator:

Beaubien's Retirement: Besides being his 70th birthday, January 27, 2025 was Fire Chief Gene Beaubien's last day as chief and last day as a member of Gill's Fire Department. He will be missed, and we wish him a very happy and much deserved retirement! The next time you see him, be sure to congratulate Gene and tell him thank you.

Beaubien has known the fire services all his life, having grown up across the street from a fire station in Turners, and having a grandfather who served as Turner Falls' fire chief along with an uncle and cousins who were firefighters. His first stint with Gill's Fire Department was brief, from 1977 to 1978. After moving to Gill in 1984, he rejoined the department in 1992 and has been with us since then. Beaubien became chief in 2001 and holds the distinction of being the longest serving chief since the Fire Department was established in March 1950.

The Selectboard issued a certificate of recognition to Beaubien: "This certificate is presented to Gene M. Beaubien on the occasion of his retirement and in recognition of more than 32 continuous years of exemplary service to the Gill Fire Department as a Firefighter, Engineer, Lieutenant, and Deputy Fire Chief, and including more than 23 years as Fire Chief. Throughout his career, Chief Beaubien demonstrated unwavering dedication to protecting his community and has consistently exemplified

leadership and expertise in the field of firefighting. We are deeply grateful for his contributions and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement." In addition, Beaubien has received commendations from Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, the Massachusetts Senate and the House of Representatives, and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Well-deserved thanks are also due to Dorri Beaubien, Gene's wife of many years. In the Selectboard's certificate of appreciation to her, Dorri was offered "heartfelt appreciation for the many years you and your family shared selflessly shared your husband with the Town of Gill ... While we can never give back all the missed and interrupted days and nights, meals and dinner dates, holidays and family gatherings, please know you have the sincere and deepest thanks of your Town."

Welcome Chief Kimball: The Board of Engineers is the governing body of the Gill Fire Department, and at their



Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org

for up to date news, announcements and contact information!





January 16, 2025 meeting the Board elected Deputy Chief Bill Kimball to take over as Fire Chief upon the retirement of Chief Beaubien. Congratulations on your promotion, Chief Bill! Kimball first joined the Fire Department in 2008 as a Junior Firefighter, having learned about the opportunity from Stu Elliott, a Greenfield High School teacher and Gill Deputy Fire Chief. Firefighting became a passion, and he loved his adopted hometown. He became a Firefighter in 2009 and was appointed to the Board of Engineers in May 2013. He had to resign from Gill in 2014 when he accepted a full-time position with the Greenfield Fire Department, but was able to rejoin Gill Fire, and the Engineers in 2019 when he purchased his home in Gill. Kimball is currently a Lieutenant for the Greenfield Fire Department. He graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy, has an Associate's Degree in Fire Science/Firefighting, and is certified as an Advanced EMT. Kimball is also a part-time officer in Gill's Police Department and has worked for the police departments in Deerfield, Erving, Leverett, and Northfield. Public safety is much more than just a career to Kimball, and Gill is fortunate to have such a well-qualified and experienced individual as its new Fire Chief. Chief Kimball will remain the contact for fire department permitting and inspections. He can be reached by phone

or email at 413-949-7022 or WKimball@Gillmass.org .

Gill Fire Department Chiefs:

1951-1955 Kenneth Greene
1955-1968 Stanley Kozik
1968-1975 John St. Germain
1975-1977 Stanley Kozik
1977-1982 George Hastings Jr.
1982-1992 Michael Hastings
1992-1992 Bradford Stone
1992-1998 Timothy Masloski
1998-2001 Kenneth Sears
2001-2025 Gene Beaubien
2025- William Kimball

Happy Birthday Barb!

The Town wishes Barbara Elliott a very happy belated birthday. Barb celebrated her 93rd birthday in January. She has been awarded the Town's Bicentennial Cane by the Selectboard, recognizing her as the Town's oldest resident.

Fred W. Wells Trust Scholarship:

Applications for 2024-2025 Fred W. Wells Trust scholarships are now available on the Town's website, www.gillmass.org , in the News section. Printed application forms are also available in the lobby at Town Hall. Scholarships are available to graduating seniors and full-time college students who have resided in Gill (and other eligible towns) for at least two years immediately before application. The completed

applications must be postmarked on or before March 20th. For more information about the scholarship, visit <https://www.wellstrustscholarship.com/>.

"Stop the Bleed" Class: The Gill Police, Fire and Emergency Management departments have announced a free "Stop the Bleed" class to be held Saturday, February 22nd, at 6pm at the Gill Fire Station in the training room. Parking will be in the back of the complex.

This 1-hour class focuses on teaching the public basic skills to stop traumatic bleeding using a variety of techniques and equipment. Uncontrolled bleeding remains the No. 1 cause of preventable death.

The class is open and appropriate for residents ages 16 and older, with first preference given to Gill residents. All supplies are provided and students will be sent a certificate following the class. There is a limit of 20 people, but if there is sufficient interest, they' will schedule another class.

To sign up or with questions, email Gill Police Sgt. John Richardson at: jrichardson@gillmass.org

From the Fire Department:

Keep Warm. Keep Safe.

Heating is the second leading cause of fires in the home in Massachusetts. Home fires peak from December through February when the cold weather drives



people indoors, heating systems are in regular use, and people turn to alternatives such as space heaters and wood or pellet stoves.

No one thinks fire will happen to them, but it is more important than ever to consider safety when heating your home. Give furnaces an annual check-up because efficiently running furnaces save money and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Certified professionals will check chimneys for cracks in the mortar and clean accumulated creosote to prevent chimney fires.

Heating is also the leading cause of carbon monoxide poisoning in homes, so make sure you have both working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on each floor of your home. Carbon monoxide is an invisible killer because it has no color, taste, or smell, and the symptoms are just like getting the flu. Test all the alarms once a month and change alkaline batteries twice a year. Replace smoke alarms that are older than ten years and CO alarms older than seven years. When replacing alarms, look for models with a ten-year, sealed, non-replaceable, non-rechargeable battery.

Store wood outdoors and pellets for stoves indoors, but away from heat sources. Dispose of the ashes in a metal container, with a secure lid, away from the house. A single ember can stay hot for days without being detected and easily fanned back to life. So many fires have started when ashes were placed inside cardboard boxes, paper bags or plastic containers, and

then stored inside the garage, the breezeway, or under the porch.

Have a safe, comfortable heating season. For more information on winter heating and fire safety, visit www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe.

Ice Safety Tips

Ice on moving water in rivers, streams and brooks is never safe. The thickness of ice on ponds and lakes depends upon water currents or springs, depth, and natural objects such as tree stumps or rocks. Daily changes in temperature cause the ice to expand and contract, which affects its strength. Because of these factors, no one can declare any ice surface to be absolutely safe.

For your safety, never go out onto the ice alone. A companion may be able to rescue you or go for help if you fall through the ice. Always keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue your pet, go for help. New ice is usually stronger than old ice. As the ice ages, the bond between the crystals decays, making it weaker, even if melting has not occurred. Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it strong, but can also insulate it to keep it from freezing. Snow can also hide cracks, weak, or open ice. Slush is a danger sign, indicating that ice is no longer freezing from the bottom and can be weak or deteriorating. Ice formed overflowing water is generally 15% weaker than ice on still water. Finally, ice seldom




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freezes or thaws at a uniform rate. It can be one foot thick in one spot and be only one inch thick only ten feet away. Stay safe and think twice before you step out on the ice.

Open Burn Season

Starting this year, Gill residents must apply online for a single-day burn permit. Phone applications will no longer be accepted by Shelburne Control. Online burn permit applications must be submitted at <http://www.fcburnpermits.com> between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the day you wish to burn.

Open burning is allowed from January 15 until May 1 with a permit. State fire wardens determine each day whether conditions are safe for open burning. Weather and air quality can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and fire departments can rescind permits when that happens.

Open burning must be done between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from January 15 to May 1. Fires must be tended at all times by a responsible adult and at least 75 feet from all dwellings. You are allowed to burn brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris (but not from commercial or industrial land clearing), agricultural materials including fruit tree and bush prunings, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for

disease control, trees and brush from agricultural land clearing, and fungus-infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available. You may not burn leaves, brush, trees, cane or driftwood from commercial or industrial land clearing, grass, hay, leaves, stumps or tires, construction materials or demolition debris, or household trash.

Visible Street Numbers

Gill's street number signs make it easier for first responders to find you in an emergency. Please try to keep your signs visible this winter. Try to fix any signs that are bent or damaged by plows this winter. If you are unable to repair a number sign, please call the fire station at 413-863-8955 and firefighters will fix it for you.

Join Your Community Partners at the GFD

The Gill Fire Department is always looking for community-minded members who want to help their neighbors. Our members receive training in all aspects of firefighting and basic first aid, including CPR and defibrillation. If you are interested in becoming a member, please call the fire station at 413-863-8955 for more information, or stop by the station at 196A Main Road on any Thursday evening during our weekly drill sessions. Check it out. It's one of the most rewarding ways a citizen can help

our community.

From the Town Clerk:

Elections: The Town Clerk's office is looking forward to a very quiet Election year, with only our Annual Town Election at this point. Election Day is May 19th. The offices on the ballot this year are: Assessor for 3-years, Cemetery Commissioner for 3-year term, Library Trustee for 3-year term, Board of Health for a 3-year term. At press time none of the incumbents in the previous mentioned positions has expressed a desire to leave their seats. There is also a Selectman seat for a 3-year term on this ballot and after 15 years of service on the Gill Selectboard Randy Crochier will not be running for re-election. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's Office for anyone who would like to run for this position or any of the other positions on the ballot. This is an opportunity to serve your community in a very impactful way. If you have any questions about how to get your name on the ballot for the May election, please reach out to the Town Clerk at www.townclerk@gillmass.org or 413-863-8103. The last day to take out nomination papers is Thursday, March 27th, 2025.

To register to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Gill and at least 18 years old on or before the town meeting/election. You may register in person or by mail (postmarked no later than the final



registration date). Vote-by-Mail applications are available online at www.sec.state.ma.us, and at the Town Clerk's office. Once you receive your ballots in the mail, please follow all instructions to avoid rejection of your ballots. Return your ballots as promptly as possible all ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's by 5PM election day.

Annual Town Meeting: Part 1 is Monday, May 5th, 2025 at 7pm □ Last day to register to vote is April 25th, 1-5pm

May 19 2025 Annual Town Election 10am - 6pm □ Last Day to Register to Vote is May 9th, 2025 1-5pm **THERE IS NO EARLY VOTING FOR THIS ELECTION**

Census: Please remember to send back your census/street list forms and make any changes necessary. Making sure your census is up to date is so important to keep your voter status active and making sure 911 has all the information about number of people in your home, this is so important in case of fire or other emergencies.

Dog licenses: Licenses for our best friends are available in the Clerk's Office, remember you must license your dog by March 31st, 2025 to avoid a \$20.00 late fee per license.

Doreen Stevens, Town Clerk,
Notary Public, Justice of the Peace

Office hours: Monday 9am-4pm;
Tuesday 9am-1pm; Wednesday

9am-3pm; Thursday 3-5pm. Other times by appointment. 413-863-8103

Gill Cultural Council

Winter Greetings from the Gill Cultural Council.

We hope everyone is staying cozy and warm!

We have two exciting news items we hope are of interest; A Gill Artist Showcase to be held as part of the Gill Harvest Festival next Fall, and the list of cultural programs we have chosen to fund in 2025 with the monies we receive from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. We hope you will find programs of interest to you in the funded programs.

GILL ARTIST SHOWCASE AT THE FALL HARVEST FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 28

The population of Gill includes a treasure trove of artists- both professionals and those who create work for the love of the process.

In conjunction with this year's Harvest Festival we are planning a showcase of Gill artists and crafters in all media; painters, photographers, potters, quilters, printmakers, needleworkers of all kinds, collagists, weavers, woodworkers, and those who pursue other creative endeavors- whether they do it professionally or just for the love of it. This will simply be a celebration of the creative work done in our town.

We encourage you to tell us if you would like to be part of this celebration, or if you know

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Jon Miller Carolann Zaccara



someone, we might contact to let them know about it. This is not meant to be primarily a sales event, though we expect sales may be arranged privately where appropriate. If you have any questions feel free to contact Karen Larsen, the chair of the event at KarenLarsen@earthlink.net, or send a message to the Cultural Council email address: lcc@gillmass.org.

We look forward to a vibrant showing of Gill Talent!

CULTURAL PROJECTS FUNDED FOR 2025

Shea Theater Arts Center, Inc.: Shea's Lounge: The Shea's Lounge is a performance art series that features local artists sharing music, art, theater, and variety acts in a casual and laid-back atmosphere in and around the Shea Theater lobbies, various dates.

Local Access to Valley Arts: Festival of Play Readings in 2025: January-June, 2025

The LAVA Center, 324 Main Street, Greenfield, MA: Cheli Mennella, In Silhouette Shadow Theatre; "A Winter Day" during Greenfield Winter Carnival, February 2025 and "Butterfly Dream" during Greenfield Arts Walk, Summer 2025

The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.: Full Snow Moon Gathering and Social Dance, Feb. 8, 2025 at the Greenfield Community College Dining Commons

Montague Shakespeare Festival: Montague Shakespeare Festival at the Shea Theatre, Turners

Falls, March 26 through April 6, 2025

Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.: "Peer Gynt" - 2025 Education Concert, Thursday, April 10, 2025, 10 am, Greenfield High School Auditorium, 21 Barr Ave, Greenfield, MA

Nick Kachulis: Life with Bill, April 25, 2025, 90-minute performance featuring stories and music by local author, storyteller and musician Nick Kachulis, about his experience as primary caregiver for his father as he struggled with dementia the last four years of his life. Musical friends join the show, and a talk back follows, Montague Senior Center 62 5th St, Turners Falls

Musica Franklin, Inc.: Fun Fest, May 10, 2025, Unity Park, Turners Falls

Anna Hendricks: Gill School Dance Residency, April or May 2025, Gill Elementary School, in school event

Franklin County Pride, Inc.: Franklin County Pride Parade and Festival 2025, June 2025, Parade downtown leads to Energy Park, Greenfield, MA

Antenna Cloud Farm, Inc.: Antenna Cloud Farm Music Festival, Artist Retreat, and Institute 2025, July through September, www. antennacloudfarm.com

The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.: A Celebration of Native American Art, Music, and Cultures, August 2-3, 2025, Unity Park, Turners Falls/Montague, Mass
Town of Gill Agricultural

Commission: Gill Harvest Festival, September 28, 2025, Gill Town Hall Green

Town of Gill: Community Square and Contra Dance at the Gill Town Hall, last weekend in September in conjunction with the Town of Gill Harvest Festival

Gill Energy Commission

Check out the Gill Energy Commission Facebook page which we have maintained since 2013. It is stocked with links to information about energy saving programs workshops, webinars and products.

Please consider joining the Gill Energy Commission. We are looking for new members to join us to work on town projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonize our town infrastructure.

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. We are a small, informal group with no fees and no membership requirements.

For those of us over 75, we can provide rides to medical appointments, the Montague Senior Center, pharmacies, and visits to friends or family who are at local healthcare facilities. We can also pick up pre-ordered groceries, food from the Food Pantry, and medications from



pharmacies. Call Emily at (413) 863-9446 and leave a message.

Also, Kim the librarian will bring books to you! Call her at (413) 325-4053.

Gill Historical Society

From the Gill Town Clerk,
Saturday morning April 16, 1865:

“Assassination of the President
of the United States!

News was received in this town
of the assassination of Abraham
Lincoln, President of the United
States, at Ford’s theater,
Washington, last night -(April
15th)- at about 10 o’clock.

The event has cast a deep gloom
over the minds of the people, and
shrouded the loyal country in the
habiliments of deepest sorrow.

It appears that a plot was laid to
murder the whole cabinet, also;
and Secretary of State Seward, is
now very low from the murderous
assault of another villain.

This news, at the dawn
of Peace, from the Great
Rebellion, after the surrender
of Lee and Johnson’s armies
to our victorious generals, - is
astonishing; and a spirit, not of
revenge, but of stern retribution,
we hope is awakened in the cold-
blooded North.

Fiat Justitia, ruat caelum!
[translates to “Let justice be done
though the heavens fall!”]

We’ll pity our misguided foes,
their errors we deplore, But death
to traitors to our flag, now and
forevermore!”

Josiah D. Canning, Gill Town
Clerk, 1855-1865 and 1883-1889

Josiah D. Canning, who wrote
about the assassination of
President Lincoln, played an
important part in the history of
Gill.

“Josiah Dean Canning received
his education in the Gill Public
Schools and in the private
classes of his learned father.
Although he lacked the benefits
of college training, he was well
versed in the classics, and early
displayed a bent for a literary
career.

“Mr. Canning was a farmer by
occupation during the major
portion of his life, the Gill
property of his father having
come to him in the settlement of
the Reverend Josiah’s estate.
He was post-master at Gill
Center for many years, town
clerk and treasurer, and active
in the promotion of many civic
enterprises. In between these
duties and the attention to the
demands of his farm, he found
time to compose his verse. Mr.
Canning made no claim to the
role of poet, but strove merely
to recite befittingly the fast
disappearing simplicities of rural
life, the changing forms of nature,
and the Beneficent Divine Power
above all. Many of his poems,
to the few who have made their
acquaintance, have a particular
charm for those who live in the
vicinity, or have experienced life
in the country.

“A volume called ‘Connecticut
River Reeds,’ made up of poems
selected by Mr. Canning, was
issued as a commemorative
volume soon after his death in
1892.”

-----Excerpts from Ralph
Stoughton, History of the Town of
Gill, 1978, pp. 144-147.

Gill Historical Trivia Questions:

The area known as Gill belonged
first to a) Deerfield; b) Greenfield;
or c) Both before Gill became a
separate town?

Where did King Philip’s War of
1676 take place?

Artist Robert Darr Wert sold a)
silkscreen textiles, b) drawings, or
c) glassware?

Slate Library News

Slate library continues to get
the books you need to keep you
occupied during the chilly winter
months. Stop by and check
out some of our newest fiction
including “The Life Cycle of the
Common Octopus” by Emma
Knight, “Swift River” by Essie
Chambers, “Playworld” by Adam
Ross and “Black Butterflies”
by Priscilla Morris. In the non-
fiction section you can find “How
Sondheim Can Change Your Life”
by Richard Schoch, “The Anxious
Generation” by Jonathan Haidt,
as well as “What an Owl Knows:
The Science of the World’s Most
Enigmatic Birds” by Jennifer
Ackerman. For young adults there
are new titles by Sarah Maas and
Rick Riordan and we’ve jazzed
up our early reader section with
new serial books including Sophie
Mouse, Nate the Great, Zoey
and Sassafras, The Adventures
of Princess Black, Mercy Watson
and Cornbread & Poppy. There is



something for everyone at Slate library.

Please join us for our Valentine Making Drop-In on Saturday, February 8 (10am - 2 pm). If you enjoy playing with beautiful paper, scraps of ribbon, foil and glitter stop by for a merry card making session. This event is open to all ages.

Our annual seed library will open at the end of February and we have many new gardening books to inspire you for the upcoming growing season. We'd love to hear your ideas for future programming and events at the library - please stop in and say hello!

Council on Aging

Senior Tech Tuesday: Come to the Gill Montague Senior Center any Tuesday, 12:30 - 2:00pm with questions about your cell phones, tablets and laptops. Students and faculty from the Franklin County Tech School Programming and Web Development Program will be available to help you. No question is too small and very few problems are unsolvable. These help sessions are free and no appointment is necessary. Call the GM Senior Center at 413-863-9357 if you'd like more information. This program is funded through a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Montague Wood Bank: The Montague Wood Bank has extra wood this year and is making half cord bins of split and dry wood available to low-income Gill residents. You

automatically qualify if you receive fuel assistance, SNAP, Social Security Disability, or MassHealth. The gross income guidelines are the same as for fuel assistance. (\$45,392 one-member household; \$59,359 two-member household; \$73,326 three-member household; \$87,294 four-member household). Exceptions may be made in emergency circumstances. Recipients are encouraged but not required to apply for fuel assistance. Delivery is not available and the wood must be picked up at the Town of Montague transfer station during normal operating hours. Application is through the Gill Montague Senior Center at 413-863-9357. Income documentation is not required but participants must attest to their household composition, their annual income from all sources, and what income related benefits they may already be receiving.

Regular Exercise Programs at the Senior Center: Are you feeling as though you've had a bit too much winter? Spending a little bit too much time alone? Come to the Senior Center Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings for aerobics at 10:15 am or chair exercise at 11:00 am. The classes are fun, and the exercise level is as easy or hard as you decide to make it. There is no sign up and you don't have to commit to coming to every class. Linda Allis is our instructor and she makes the classes fun, safe, and beneficial. The classes include low impact aerobic movement, stretching, and strength training. Call the Senior Center if you'd like more information, 413-863-9357.

AARP Tax Prep: AARP tax prep volunteers will be available at the Senior Center on three dates in February and March by appointment to complete free tax returns for seniors. Please call the Senior Center at 413-863-9357 to make an appointment. Even if your income would not ordinarily require you to file a return, if you are a homeowner, you may be eligible for a Massachusetts Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. If you were 65 years old or older before December 31, 2024 and your Massachusetts property tax payments, together with half of your water and sewer expense exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income, you may be eligible to receive up to \$2,700 in a refund. If you are a renter, 25% of your annual Massachusetts rent must exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year to qualify.

Kitchen Club: Grayson Funk, Manager of Strength and Conditioning at the Greenfield YMCA will join the Kitchen Club on Monday, February 17, 2025 from 1-2:30pm at the Gill Montague Senior Center to discuss "Understanding the Why Behind Fitness and Nutrition for Seniors." Topics will include: different types of fitness, the importance of strength training, an interactive small weight demonstration, the role of nutrition in the fitness journey, how to optimize food intake for sustained energy, and pre- and post-workout snacks. Healthy Heart Ambassador and Nurse, Kathie Curnick will be there to take blood pressures for those interested.



All are welcome, no registration required.

Gill Conservation Commission

The Gill Conservation Commission is holding a public hearing on February 4, 2024 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall, to gather input for our final comments on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Draft 401 Water Quality Certification. This is part of Firstlight's hydropower relicensing process. Anything that Massachusetts DEP requires in their certificate will automatically be included in the final Federal Energy Commission (FERC) license. The Gill Conservation Commission provided initial comments on erosion at the start of the 401 Water Quality Certification process, and to the FERC relicensing deliberations. At the February 4th hearing the Conservation Commission will review this process and solicit additional comments from the public on the state of the river and its banks.

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Proposed Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program for Gill Residents

The Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is gauging public interest in a housing rehabilitation loan program. The program would offer zero-percent interest, deferred-payment, 15-year forgivable loans of up to \$70,000

to income-eligible residents to correct building deficiencies and improve the safety and energy efficiency of their homes. Eligible improvements may include: roof repair/replacement, electrical and plumbing upgrades, septic repair/replacement, insulation and weatherization, accessibility modifications, heating and hot water system repair/replacement, wells, replacement windows, lead paint abatement, and more. For more information or to get on the waiting list, please contact Jen at jmorrow@fcrhra.org or (413) 223-5203.

Income limits based on household size: 1 - \$61,350, 2 - \$70,100, 3 - \$78,850, 4 - \$87,600, 5 - \$94,650, 6 - \$101,650, 7 - \$108,650, 8 - \$115,650.

Gill School News

Fall is over and winter is in full force here at GES. The gardens are now resting but we are preparing and planning for a spring of planting. Our Farm to School program is thriving and our students have access to fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the week and are trying new varieties of well-known favorites through our monthly taste testing program. We are in the process of applying for a number of grants to further the program and develop it into a first-rate operation.

After approval by the Gill Fire Department, the PTO was able to host its annual bonfire night on the Winter Solstice. It was a magical night with just enough snow to give the appearance

of a winter wonderland. The PTO wants to thank everyone for helping and supporting our recent fundraising efforts with the selling of the mums in the fall, the selling of the wreaths during the holiday, and with our recent new endeavor, the holiday raffle card. Be on the lookout for the plant sale in May. We are also collecting cans and bottles for next year's annual Nature's Classroom trip. There is a container by the front door where you can deposit those cans and bottles that can be redeemed. All funds are helping to support events at GES such as: buying new recess equipment, paying field trips, contracting with a local author visit with Astrid Sheckles, and many other activities throughout the year.

The school community was sad to learn of a former teacher/principal of GES who passed away this January. Beatrice (Beaty) Blain was a 4th grade teacher from 1978-1984 and then principal from 1984-1994. We remember her as "the core of the ideal that was the Gill School...the ideal of what a school should be." Although many at GES now did not know Mrs. Blaine, personally, her legacy still lives on.

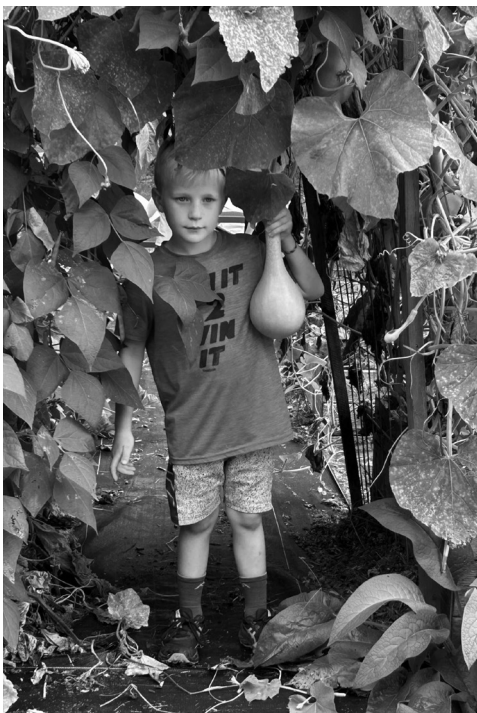
After School Community Theater program ("Act 2025"): Act 2025 has started up again at the Gill Elementary School. Twenty-three 4th and 5th graders signed up to participate and will be preparing from now until mid-March to perform "Robin Hood" on the Gill Town Hall stage. Amy Gordon, long-time drama teacher,



resumed her role as director and is being assisted by talented Gill residents, Emily Samuels and Isaac Bingham. The goals of the program include fostering self-confidence and community –building– as well as an opportunity for kids to just have fun. Performances will take place March 12, 13, 14. Don't miss it!

Gill School Garden: The Gill School Garden Club had a great 2024 season! We grew an awesome school garden and revitalized the fruit trees, flower gardens and nature trails. Faith Rand and Sorrel Hatch are gearing up to launch the Garden Club as an official after-school program 3:15 Tuesdays April-June, and then continue through the summer with families and volunteers. Email sorrel@upinngil.com or faith.rand@gmrdsd.org if you'd like to help.

“Wilder Bingham in the Gill School Garden”:



Honor Rolls:

Once again, many of Gill's youngest residents earned places on their schools' honor rolls for the first quarter of the school year. Congratulations all!

Frontier Regional High School: Grade 9 - Sophia Kwader

Turners Falls High School: Grade 12 Second Honors – Sheni Ovalle Roblero; Grade 11 First Honors – Ella DeLorenzo and Lily DeLorenzo; Grade 11 Second Honors – Rojelio Galvez Mendez, Caleb Lincoln, Miles Riley, and Kainen Stevens; Grade 9 First Honors – Madison Haight and Jocelyn Ovalle Roblero; Grade 9 Second Honors – Jakhia Williams

Great Falls Middle School: Grade 8 First Honors – Santiago Buri Rosales, Allison Raymond, and Bristol Stevens; Grade 8 Second Honors – Owen Zilinski; Grade 7 First Honors – Kaelynn Dudek; Grade 6 Second Honors – Carter Greene; Grade 6 Third Honors – Evelyn Galves Mendez

Pioneer Regional School District – no Gill Students in attendance this year

News from the Gill Church

The church is replacing the old, vintage horsehair pew cushions and would like them to have a new home. There are about 25, 64”X18”X2”, maroon cushions, some sun faded, but others still with good original color. None are torn or tattered. If interested in all or some, go into the church at any time and take a look. Call Gary Bourbeau at 413 768-9543.

Gill Historical Trivia Questions: Answers

- 1. Both.
- 2. In Riverside, on the Gill side of Turners Falls.
- 3. Silkscreened textiles



Gill, Saturday morning, April 16th, 1865.

Assassination of the
President of the United States!

News was received in this town of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, at Ford's Theatre, Washington, last night, - (April 15th) - at about 10 o'clock.

The event has cast a deep gloom over the minds of the people, and shrouded the loyal country in the habiliments of deepest sorrow.

It appears that a plot was laid to murder the whole cabinet, also; and Secretary of State, Seward, is now very low from the murderous assault of another villain.

This news, at the dawn of Peace, from the Great Rebellion, - after the surrender of Lee and Johnston's armies to our victorious generals, - is astounding; and a spirit, not of revenge, but of stern retribution, we hope is awakened in the cold-blooded North.

Fiat Justitia, ruat cælum!

We'll pity our misguided foes; their errors we'll deplore,
But death to traitors to our flag, now and forevermore!

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Where in Gill do you think this is? ...we'll let you know in May



by the Roving Gillbilly