



THE

Gill Newsletter

Fall 2025 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.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Mimi Mayer & Joan Meyer
Co-Editors

Braden Chattman
Layout

Tracey Walsh
Advertising

Bev Demars

MAILING TEAM

Jeffrey Blomstedt

Betsy Evans

Lissa Greenough

Vicky Jenkins

Colleen Lilly

Emily Samuels

Anna Steele

Dorothy Storrow

Barbara Watson

Anne Wiley

New Faces at Town Hall

We are pleased to announce two new additions to the Town's financial team. Effective July 1, 2025 the Selectboard appointed Cathryn Thomas as the Town Accountant and Aimee Williams as the Tax Collector. Although she is a new employee of the Town, Cathryn is not new to the Town, having worked in Gill as the Accountant for the last two years through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments' Town Accountant Program. Cathryn brings 15 years of FRCOG experience to Gill, along with business office experience in a private school setting. She lives in Bernardston and is an owner/operator of CAT's Croft, a small-scale organic farm known for 50 varieties of Garlic. Aimee is no stranger to Gill, either. She is a life-long, 4th generation resident, and previously served as a member of Gill's Board of Assessors for two terms in the late 1990s. Aimee has extensive experience as a business office coordinator and customer service manager in healthcare settings and with a leading education training provider. Welcome aboard, Cathryn and Aimee. Office hours and contact information for both can be found on the Town's website.

From the Town Clerk: August 2025

Things are very quiet in the Town Clerk's office as we are not anticipating any elections until next May.18, 2026. It might be a good time to refresh everyone's

memory as to the things the Town Clerk's Office can provide. If you were born while your family was living in Gill the clerk can provide you with a birth certificate. If you took out your marriage intensions in Gill, the Clerk can provide you with a marriage certificate. Death certificates can be provided to the family of anyone who passed while living in Gill. The town clerk's office can provide business certificates (DBA), a voter registration certificate, and dog licenses are of course also available at the Town Clerk's office. A reminder that all dogs in the Town of Gill should at this point be registered for 2025, unless of course you are new to Gill or you have a new pup. License Fees: Spayed or Neutered dogs; \$15.00, intact dogs; \$20.00, late fee; \$20.00 per license. Residents over 70 get one dog license per household at no charge. Registered service dogs are licensed at no charge also. This year's dog license list will be sent to our Animal Control Officer by September 15th.

Office hours: Monday 9AM-4PM,



Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org

for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!





Tuesday 9AM-1PM, Wednesday 9AM-3PM, Thursday 3PM-6PM or call for an appointment 413-863-8103.

Doreen J. Stevens, Town Clerk

Tax Bills are in the mail

The semi annual Preliminary Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills were mailed on August 20, 2025. The due date is November 3, 2025. Tax Collector hours are: Monday 12 pm to 6 PM, Tuesday 9 am to 2 pm, Wednesday 12 pm to 5 pm, and Thursday 9 am to 1 pm. Additionally, I will be available on Thursday, October 30th from 3 pm to 6 pm. For convenience, there is a locked drop box by the back door of the town hall, and payments may also be made online through the Town of Gill website. I look forward to meeting all who stop by! Thank you, Aimee Williams, Tax Collector

Annual Harvest Festival

Join Your Neighbors at the 6th Annual Gill Harvest Festival!

- The Fire Department will offer food and drink
- Farm activities for all ages!
- Gill farms and farmers will display the fruits, vegetables and meats of their labors
- Tractors to climb, stock to pet, and hay wagons to ride
- Search for coins in the sawdust
- Coloring Contest
- Birds of Prey Presentation
- Live Music with the Falltown

String Band

- Visit with friends and neighbors
- Crafts to see and purchase
- Plus more, much more!

Sunday September 28, 2025 from 12-3 p.m.

Rain Date October 5, 2025

The Common, Town Center, Gill
All those interested in displaying crafts, farm or farm-related products please call an Ag Commission member or go to the town website. Ag Commission members are Roger Augustine, Tom Chalmers, Zoe Fox, Dick French, Ed Golembeski, Dan Flagg, and Gary Stevens.

Gill Artist Showcase at the Harvest Fair

**Sunday September 28
POSTPONED**

Due to a personal issue Cultural Council member Karen Larsen is not able to organize this event for the Harvest Fair this year. She hopes to be able to make it happen for next year's fair, so feel free to contact her at any time to talk about being part of the event. All Gill artists will be welcome to take part, whether you're a professional or create your art just for the love of it. All age artists are welcome, including our student artists!.

Gill Forest Committee Meeting

The Gill Town Forest Committee has a public meeting planned on

September 24, 2025 at the Town Office starting at 7:00pm. In June the Committee received the Bird Habitat and Climate Change Plan from a grant received by the Commonwealth in 2024. This Plan is posted on the Town Forest web page that can be found under the Conservation Commission. We are interested in hearing your comments and thoughts on the plan and its recommendations for the Blake Town Forest. In addition, the Mountain Road property now has a sign at the "Loop Trailhead" on the road behind the Town Garage. The trail is very well marked, in either direction, has some interesting habitat and ledge features and takes approximately 15 minutes to walk. Please contact Ken Sprankle with any questions 413-325-3069.

Cultural Council Grant Application Deadline October 16, 2025

It's that time again! The Gill Cultural Council looks forward to your applications for cultural events of interest to Gill residents, which will take place in Gill or nearby in 2026.

We encourage a broad range of applications from visual artists, writers, musicians, filmmakers, craftspersons, historians, dancers, playwrights, venues, theatre artists, presenters, documentarians, puppeteers, performance artists, book artists, lecturers, art teachers, and collaborators. Be creative! If your project involves



the arts and/or the humanities we will consider it for funding. We especially encourage projects that will occur in Gill, but will also consider projects that occur nearby and will be of interest to those who reside in Gill.

The application opens September 2, 2025

The Cultural Council will have a table at The Harvest Fair, which is two weeks before the application deadline. Come on by to say hi and we can answer any questions you have about submitting an application.

Grant decisions will be made public in January of 2026

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>

Want to be a Good Neighbor?

The FRCOG's Franklin County/ North Quabbin Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Network and Greenfield Community College invite you to celebrate Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day on or around the weekend of Sept 26-28. September 28 was declared National Good Neighbor Day during Jimmy Carter's presidency and has had a resurgence recently with increased awareness of the powerful positive impact social networks can have on individual and community health. In Massachusetts, the statewide Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness is rallying communities across the state to host Good Neighbor Day events this


year. There are lots of ways to organize an activity that strengthens connections between people who live, work, or play in a particular place such as a park, neighborhood, library, apartment building, or senior center. You don't have to start from scratch! The FRCOG can provide a Good Neighbor Day Toolkit and lots of other helpful materials forgetting to know your neighbors. Interested in hosting something to bring neighbors closer together? Fill out this form or visit bit.ly/GND-CHIP to sign up.

Our Public Health Nurses

Meg Ryan, and Lisa White, RNs serve Gill as Public Health Nurses through the Town's membership in the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS) of Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Besides the drop-in hours that they offer at community sites including at Stoughton Place the second Friday of each month from 10 am - 12 pm, Lisa and Meg: work directly for Local Boards of Health to monitor the occurrence of infectious illness throughout the 15 Town CPHS region assist health promotion activities offer flu and covid vaccine by appointment at nursing hours and in home visits provide community education about chronic illnesses, including Alzheimer's and dementia support communities to become more age- and dementia-friendly (assuring services are welcoming and available to people of all ages and abili-

COUTURE BROS.
Since 1900
Professional Painting & Decorating Contractors
Turners Falls Massachusetts
(413) 863-4346

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner
PRECISION REPAIRS
MA Reg. #RS2190
Ph: (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road
Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354


Patrick M. Cotter, D.V.M.
Diplomate, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners
53 Munns Ferry Road
Gill, MA 01354 (413) 203-4422

Neil Zilinski & Sons
Small Engine Repair
Owner
Neil Zilinski
413-498-2605
655 Main Road Gill MA 01354
Service for your small engines
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

 **Giving Tree School**
3 Wood Avenue, Gill, MA • (413)863-9218
www.givingtreeschool.org
Empowering children with conflict resolution and problem-solving skills since 1976.

 **Riverside**
Healing Body
Mind, Heart
and Soul
Aches & Pains, Allergies, Anxiety,
Arthritis, Boosting Immunity,
Depression, Headaches,
Insomnia, Low Energy, Stiffness,
Stress, & more...
Janet Masucci 413-863-8694 JanetMasucci.com
64 French King Highway, Gill, MA



ties). Their work also involves collaboration and connection with other community agencies, therefore being able to assist residents to connect with services they need. To learn more about CPHS nursing services, please see <https://frcog.org/project/public-health-nursing-program/> or call Meg or Lisa, FRCOG CPHS at (413) 774-3167.

Protect yourself from mosquitoes carrying disease

Throughout the summer, mosquitoes are routinely trapped and tested for diseases across the state. The prevalence of mosquitoes carrying disease tends to increase as the summer passes. As of early August, mosquitoes across the state have tested positive for two notable illnesses: West Nile Virus and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). In our region, we have had positive mosquito tests for West Nile Virus in a few towns, which has raised our risk level on the state map (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-arbovirus-update>). There have been no human cases of either disease in our region. Although only a small percentage of mosquitoes carry disease, the best way to prevent illness is to prevent mosquito bites. Take these steps to avoid bites: Use insect repellents when outdoors. Repellents that contain DEET, permethrin (for clothing, not skin) or picaridin work against mosquitoes. Oil of lemon eucalyptus can provide as much protection against mosquitoes as

low concentrations of DEET, but should not be used. Always read and follow the label's instructions carefully. Schedule outdoor activities to avoid the hours from dusk to dawn and wear long sleeves. Repair damaged window and door screens - many hardware stores offer this service. Remove standing water from plant pots, tire swings, kiddie pools, etc. This can disrupt mosquito breeding so you can eliminate future mosquitoes—and their bites!

Prevent Respiratory Sickness

Each year, respiratory viruses cause millions of illnesses and thousands of hospitalizations and deaths in the US. Flu and other types of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are spread mainly by airborne droplets released by talking, sneezing or coughing. There are actions you can take to help protect yourself and others: 1. Get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for all major fall and winter respiratory diseases. 2. Put physical distance between yourself and others in public spaces. 3. When you sneeze or cough, use a promptly disposed of tissue, or the crook of your arm. 4. Handwash regularly and use a hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available. 5. Clean surfaces such as door handles and railings. For more information see www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/

index.html or contact Franklin Regional Council of Governments Cooperative Public Health Service Nurses Lisa White or Meg Ryan at 413-774-3167.

Senior Center News

The Gill Montague Senior Center now has official memberships and we've installed a swipe card sign in. Membership is, of course, free and open to anyone over 60 or close in Gill and Montague or the surrounding towns. Stop in and register and get your card. This system will enable us to collect all sorts of data which will be useful in annual reports and grant applications. If you prefer not to become a member, you are still always welcome at the Senior Center and can attend any of our programs or classes as a guest. We still have lock boxes available for Gill residents who would like to have one installed at their house. These boxes are accessible by a code known only to you and emergency services and will contain a key to your door. Should you have an emergency and are unable to unlock the door, emergency services can access your key. The boxes and installation are free. All you need to provide is a spare key. You could also give the box code to trusted family members or use it when you've locked yourself out. To get a box, call Roberta at the Senior Center 413-863-9357. Tech Tuesday continues providing drop-in help with all things digital. This in-



cludes, computers, cell phones, lap-tops, and tablets. The service is free; there are no appointments necessary, and it is every Tuesday from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. The current experts are students, faculty, and graduates from the Tech School's Programming and Web Development Shop. Don't forget that we have free yoga (mat, chair, and outdoor chair) and Tai Chi classes every week. Relaxing, stretching, breathing, balancing, and focusing are all important skills to cultivate as we get older. Andrea Chesnes, Eileen Dowd, and Mari Rovang are the instructors and they are all gifted, patient, and lovely people. Their classes are welcoming to everyone regardless of experience. You don't need equipment and you don't need fancy exercise clothes. The class schedule is on our web site gillmontaguecouncilonaging.org or you can simply call the Senior Center at 413-863-9357.

Gillbilly Paddle held on Connecticut River

The first Gillbilly paddle of 2025 was held on Saturday, July 12. Six boats, eight paddlers, one passenger, and a dog put in at the docks owned by NMH School and paddled to a take-out below the French King bridge. Although the sky was overcast, conditions on the river were comfortable, after several days of heat and high humidity. Despite concerns about low water level, due to repair-work at the Turners Falls dam, the river was "back to normal". A

vintage signal cannon signaled the start of the event. Upingill provided support for boat returns, and a good time was had by all.

Upcoming Cultural Events

The last Cultural Council funded events of the 2025 cycle will be presented here in town.

Antenna Cloud Farm events

Saturday, August 30, 2025
Kinnen Azmeh and City Band
ACF Outdoor Stage in Gill,
MA6:00 pm Concert (grounds
open 4:30) Followed by a recep-
tion. Rain location: The Shea
Theater

Thursday, September 4, 2025
The Solomon Diaries
Clarinetist Sam Sadigursky
and multi-instrumentalist Nathan
Koci
Location: Temple Israel 27 Pierce
Street in Greenfield
7:00 pm Concert. FREE
Co-presented with Temple Israel

Sunday, September 7, 2025
Dreaming in Diaspora
A Hilltop Klezmer Mini-Fest
ACF Outdoor Stage in Gill,
MA1:00-7:00 (see schedule be-
low)
Rain location: The Shea Theater

Saturday, October 19, 2025
Coyote Makes A World
Featuring Storyteller/vocalist
Enaq'ymi' (Lone Eagle. &
Percussion Cooperative The For-
est
The Shea Theater Arts Center

INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316

RENAISSANCE BUILDERS

WWW.RENBUILD.NET • PO BOX 272, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

Follow the Sun Into the Future

GREENFIELD SOLAR
2 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield, MA 01301 (413) 772.3122

Master Lic. 4121701 Established 2013

FREELAND
Gill, Mass
EQUIPMENT SERVICES

Factory Certified **413-824-5140** Fully Insured
Tractor and Implement Repairs - FreelandEquipment.com

Therapeutic Massage

Abdominal Therapy
Prenatal Massage

Becca Mandel LMT
InTuneMassage.com

54 Wood Ave, Gill (847) 347-2029

NEIL A. ZILINSKI
ELECTRICIAN
RESIDENTIAL*COMMERCIAL
FULLY INSURED* FREE ESTIMATES
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
OFFICE: 413-498-2605 * CELL: 413-834-5780
GILL, MA LIC# 39553E
FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

THE WAGON WHEEL

39 French King Highway, Rt. 2
Gill, MA
(413) 863-8210

Jon Miller Carolann Zaccara



71 Avenue A in Turners Falls/
Great Falls
4:00 PM Show

Saturday, September 27
Community Square and Contra
Dance
Town Hall, 2nd Floor
See the town website for time of
the event

Come dance the night away with
your friends and neighbors!

Sunday, September 28
Gill Harvest Fair
Town Green
See the town website for the time
of the event

DEAN'S LIST

Mia Snedeker was named to the
dean's at the University of Mas-
sachusetts Amherst for the
spring semester.

GRADUATES

Levi Halla, Josiah Little and
Zachary Zilinski graduated from
the Franklin County Technical
School.

Sheni Ovalle Roblero graduated
from Turners Falls High School
and received the Global Seal of
Biliteracy in Functional Fluency
Spanish Award, the TFHS Class
of 1957 Scholarship, the
Doctor Sarah Kemble Scholar-
ship and the Harriet Tidd Schol-
arship.

Grace Bird, Liam Shea, Madigan
Pillsbury, Quinn Bathory-Peeler
and Rigel Velez graduated

from Northfield Mount Hermon
School. Grace Bird received The
Piscuskas Day Student Prize
Award.

HONOR ROLL

Franklin County Technical
School
Second Semester

Grade 12
High Honors: Josiah Little
Honors: Zachary Zilinski
Grade 11
High Honors: Emma Little and
Ella Vassar
Honors: Dylan Brunault and Ash-
lyn Chapin

Turners Falls High School
Fourth Quarter

Grade 11
First Honors: Ella DeLorenzo and
Lily DeLorenzo
Second Honors: Rojelio Galvez
Mendez and Kainen Stevens
Grade 9
First Honors: Madison Haight
and Jakhia Williams
Second Honors: Jocelyn Ovalle
Roblero

Great Falls Middle School
Fourth Quarter

Grade 8
First Honors: Santiago Buri Ro-
sales
Second Honors: Owen Zilinski
Third Honors: Allison Raymond
and Bristol Stevens
Grade 7
First Honors: Kaelynn Dudek and
Josephine Hayman
Grade 6

Second Honors: Carter Flagg
and Carter Greene
Third Honors: Evelyn Galvez
Mendez

Keeping Fats, Oils, and Grease out of the Septic and/ or Sewer System

This is a reminder that fats, oils,
and grease (FOG) items should
never be put down the sink. FOG
are natural byproducts of the
cooking and food prep process.
Common sources include food
scraps, meat fats, cooking oils,
lard, baked goods, salad dress-
ings, sauces, marinades, dairy
products, shortening, butter,
and margarine. In a warm, liquid
state, FOG can appear harm-
less since it flows easily down
the drain. However, shortly after
it enters the drain, it can quickly
cool and turn into a solid that
will cause problems in the pipes
in your home and in your septic
system or the town sanitary sew-
er system. As the FOG builds
up, it restricts the flow in the pipe
and can cause untreated waste-
water to back up into your home,
resulting in high costs for clean-
up and restoration. Most homes
in Gill are connected to a septic
system. FOG are detrimental
to septic systems because they
solidify and accumulate in pipes,
blocking the wastewater flow and
disrupting the system's natural
bacterial breakdown processes.
This buildup creates clogs, re-
duces the septic tank's capacity,
and can lead to costly backups,
foul odors, and severe damage to



the leach (drain) field, potentially releasing harmful waste into the environment. Most homes in the Riverside neighborhood are connected to the Town's sanitary sewer system. Over time, FOG will accumulate along the walls of the sewer pipes. This will restrict the flow of wastewater and can cause sewer backups not only into your property, but throughout your neighborhood. Manholes can overflow into yards, streets, and storm drains, allowing FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public-health hazard. FOG also contributes to operational issues for our wastewater utility such as obstructing flow in the sewers, causing foul odors, interfering with equipment and treatment processes, along with potentially polluting rivers and streams. More than \$8,000 was spent in 2024 to remove several FEET of accumulated grease from the wet well (large underground tank where incoming sewage is stored before it is pumped) at the sewer pump station on Riverview Drive. FOG has the potential to cost the Riverside Sewer System thousands of dollars for unplugging or replacing grease-blocked pipes, repairing pump stations, and cleaning up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Excessive FOG in the sewer system affects Gill's sewer rate.

Please do yourself a favor today by NOT flushing fats, oils and grease down the sink. The presence of FOG in septic systems and in the sewer system affects everyone in our community!

Town Hall
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354-9747

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

GILL, MA 01354



The last Roving Gillbilly picture was of the Riverside Building, taken through the center of the grist stone out front