



Griswoldville Preservation Association

June 20, 2002

GPA ANNUAL MEETING

June 25th at 7pm @ Griswoldville Chapel

Special Interest Articles:

- GPA ANNUAL MEETING June 25, 2002?
- Park or Athletic Field? Will Mill Woods Park change to serve the needs of the whole town or should it be transformed into an athletic facility
- 'Map of Griswoldville Where to find them.
- Peter Gardow
- Join the GPA

Dates to Remember

(Subject to change):

GPA Meeting
June 25th, 2002 7pm

Mill Woods/Town Meeting
Community Center
June 27th 7pm

Map of Wethersfield Unveiling
Mill Woods Park
Griswold Rd Entrance
June 7pm

Pumpkin Carvin' Contest
Griswoldville Chapel
Friday October 25th
5pm to 8pm
Rain Date Oct 26

GPA Flower & Plant Sale and Swap
Griswoldville Chapel
May 17th

The Griswoldville Preservation Association has evolved into more than just a citizen's action group dedicated to maintaining the nature of Griswoldville. The GPA has donated money and time to issues affecting residents in Griswoldville and other neighborhoods in Wethersfield. Several very beautiful signs grace both ends of Griswold Road and the end of Highland Street.

GPA picnics were held in the past. The GPA 'Annual Flower and Plant Swap & Sale' started 4 years ago. The Pumpkin Carvin'

Contest is now held annually at the Griswoldville Chapel the Saturday before Halloween. The first year we had 6 carved pumpkins, the second year 15. Prizes were donated from radio stations, Ski Sundown, Blockbuster and other local businesses. Kids from 5 to 30 found themselves with movie premiere passes, free video rentals, ski lessons and rentals, candy, toys music CD's, hats and more. Mostly, the GPA

has provided a way for us to meet our neighbors while working together to preserve the quality of residential life we value in Griswoldville. Please join us on June 25th at 7pm.

- Election of 2002-2003 Officers
- Unveiling of Griswoldville sign
- Park discussion
- Cookies, Coffee & Conversation

MILL WOODS: Park or Athletic Facility?



This week some 200 households surrounding Mill Woods will receive mail packets on changes to Mill Woods Park. The revised plans for major changes & additions to the use, look and topography of Mill Woods include new baseball fields, removal of green space to add over 300 additional parking spaces, stadium lighting, removal of mature trees and 3 new bathroom facilities. Parks & Rec. Department has had ongoing meetings with official personnel and persons promoting the

needs of sports leagues at Mill Woods and are ready to move forward with a final proposal to the town. The GPA **urges** you to attend our annual meeting on June 25th to discuss your concerns regarding the park. You do not have to be a member of the GPA to attend this meeting (however you do need to be a member to vote on officers for 2002-2003).

GPA's promotes the historic character of Griswoldville. Mill Woods does not belong to

Griswoldville, but the fact that the park is a jewel can only be true in part because its neighbors had and have respect for its well being. The multiple uses the park fosters are all valuable, from organized sports (kids & adults) to tennis, swimming, toddler play-scape and just plain walking in a green field or the woods. We need to work with town neighbors and visitors who use Mill Woods to help form a plan that enhances the park.



"The town passed an ordinance so we couldn't burn our leaves anymore in the Fall. So for a few years Judge Woodhouse would rake all his leaves near the street and then stop to smoke a cigarette. He'd throw that cigarette away and walk inside. 20 minutes later his leaves were on fire."

MAP OF GRISWOLDVILLE

A REALLY IMPORTANT HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF GRISWOLDVILLE.

Special 'thanks' to **Martha Mayer** for her work in planning, creating and finding the funds for the public displays on Griswoldville mills. There are 4 displays. They can be found next to the town library desk, in the Wethersfield Museum at the Keeney Memorial, on

Griswold Rd and next to the concession stand in Mill Woods Park.

Take some time to learn more about Griswoldville. The locations identified on the display provide evidence of the mills (foundation stones, mill dams) that can be seen from public roads and sidewalks. Dense vegetation marks the spot where Capt Williams' millpond was. The dam at

Bell Pond is a beauty.

Plans for future GPA activities include producing a brochure (already drafted by Celia Goodale) for a self-guided driving tour of Griswoldville, Maple St - Thornbush Rd, and work with local grade schools re: the industrial archaeology of Griswoldville. GPA has discussed producing posters of the new display for sale.

Peter Gardow on the Town Council

Peter Gardow has left the GPA executive board. As many of you now know, Peter, a former Chairman of the GPA, left us to serve on the Town Council. Peter was asked to fill a vacancy

created by the resignation of a town official. While we will miss Peter's hard work ethic, his insight and his ability to put out this newsletter on time, it's nice to finally have someone on the town

council and working with the planning and zoning board that actually knows the boundaries of Griswoldville and is cognizant of our needs. Good Luck, Peter

BECOME A GPA MEMBER

YES! I'd like to become a member of the Griswoldville Preservation Association. Suggested Donation: \$10

- I'm interested in being on the board.
- I'd like to be contacted for emergency issues only.
- Donation.....don't contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Send to: GPA 51 Merriman Rd Wethersfield, CT 06109

Have a story you'd like to share about 'Growing up in Griswoldville? Funny, Historical, Weird, Urban Legend? Please

mail to 65 Griswold Rd or e-mail to: latinoexpo@snet.net

Your story may be part of the planned Web Site for the GPA or as part of future editions of this newsletter.