

Fall 1996



**Seasonal greetings from the
Honorary Mayor of Griswoldville:**

Greetings and salutations from your Honorary Mayor and Chairman of the Griswoldville Preservation Association. We've had a spectacular Autumn and are looking forward to a Winter wonderland in Griswoldville. I'll be seeing all of you again at our annual meeting for planning and electing new officers. Until then, keep in touch with me and each other.

Honorary Mayor- Dick Lasher

Griswoldville News:

- A new redwood painted sign to welcome visitors to Griswoldville was erected in the beginning of June at the corner of Griswold Road and Maple Street.
- Griswoldville's Honorary Mayor, Dick Lasher, was invited by the Town of Newington to march with his famous float in Newington's 125th Anniversary Parade. Within the last four years the Mayor has represented Griswoldville in two other towns' anniversary parades: Rocky Hill and Glastonbury. Now all three of the sister towns (all originally part of Wethersfield) anniversary parades have had participation by the Honorary Mayor of Griswoldville!

- There is a town wide event planned for May of 1997 called Wethersfield Weekend. Some of the plans for this weekend are to get the town spruced up and looking good. The Wethersfield Weekend Committee met to choose locations to plant perennials provided by Comstock & Ferre. Billie and Myron Baldwin thought that Griswoldville should not be left out of the mix. They suggested that our two welcome signs be spruced up with some new plants. Billie and Myron, along with Peter Gardow selected the following plants that have been planted at the base of each sign:

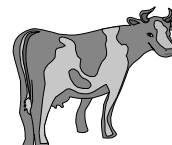
Coreopsis v. 'Moonbeam'

Houttuynia H. Cordata 'Chameleon'

Pigmy Barbary

**1996 Griswoldville Memorial Day
Weekend Picnic**

The First Annual Picnic at Mill Woods Park on Memorial Day weekend 1996 was a great success! There were approximately 15 families there with a total of about 40 picnickers. There were also guests from as far away as Seattle, WA! The weather was beautiful for the gathering.



Long Range Planning Item:

- The Association has formally requested the Town of Wethersfield to erect two brown stone bridge abutments at the Two Stone Brook bridge on Highland Street to mark the site of several historical water powered mills that date back to 1680. Incidentally, Highland Street was originally named High Street and there was a “Pest House” located near the corner of Griswold Road for the purpose of housing people with communicable diseases prevalent during the early 1700’s.

1996 Executive Board Members

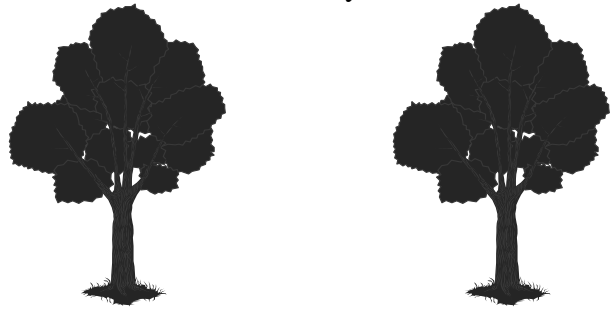
Chairman: Dick Lasher - 529-6158
 Vice Chair/Historian: Myron Baldwin - 529-0467
 Vice Chair/Publicity: Damon Herring - 563-6494
 Treasurer: Peter Gardow - 257-1925
 Asst. Treasurer: Barbara Frasca - 529-0062
 Secretary: Janet Zimmerman - 563-7853
 Asst. Secretary: Lucy Amato - 529-8002

The Association has donated \$50 to the Wethersfield Special Needs Fund. This Fund helps Wethersfield families and individuals during the Fall and Winter holidays.

If anyone would like a photograph of the Griswoldville gang at the Memorial Day Picnic, please contact Peter Gardow at 257-1925

The Great Elm Tree of Wethersfield:

The Great Elm Tree of Wethersfield origin was from Griswoldville! One John Amos Smith, age 15, while herding cows in Griswoldville pulled up a tree sapling on Hang Dog Lane to use as a switch to drive the cow herd back to his father’s farm on Broad Street Green. After finishing his chores he noticed there were good roots on the elm sapling so he planted the elm tree in the front of his fathers house in Old Wethersfield. During its 200 year growth history the tree became famous as the “The Great Elm Tree of Wethersfield”. In 1940 the dimensions were 12 feet in diameter. This tree, savaged by the 1938 Hurricane and the Dutch Elm Disease finally died in the later part of the 1950’s. There is a bronze plaque mounted on a large bolder marking the spot on the east side of Broad Street Green. This is just another historical fact that places Griswoldville in the history of Wethersfield.



Thanks To:

- The Association would like to thank Jim Peruta for his gift of the new letterhead and envelopes.
- The Association would also like to thank Rick Troutman and Peter Gardow for touching up the paint on the post of the new sign to match that of the first sign.

The object for which this Association shall be formed is to preserve the residential nature of Griswoldville’s historic area. To be watchful for the health and safety of all residents. We do mutually agree to associate ourselves, always having before our eyes our community. The Association shall not be engaged in politics in any way. The Association shall be a non-profit organization.

- All who contributed to the Association in the past year.