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WELCOME!

If you're new to the Town of Griswold, we're glad to have you as a neighbor! Remember that the best way to meet your neighbors is to get involved in your community.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the Gazette, please contact Keleigh Baretincic in the First Selectman's Office @ 376-7060 ext 201

Letter From Your First Selectman

Dear Residents,

I hope that you enjoy this very first issue of the Griswold Gazette newsletter! My goal is to have the publication come out quarterly to keep you up to date and informed on the various happenings in our wonderful Town. My term in office serving you has been filled with milestones and

accomplishments that I'm very proud to share with you. This newsletter is filled with some of the exciting things that have been checked off of our Town "to do" list, along with items that the Board of Selectman and I continue to address. We recognize that the challenges that you face every day are many of the same that we face

as a municipality. By working together to build upon the history of our Town, we can forge a bright future and we can truly continue "Growing on Strong Foundations".

Respectfully,
Philip Anthony, First Selectman
P.A./kb

School Construction Moving Right Along

With school underway and our youngsters back at their desks, the Griswold School System is on the verge of a new era. The Griswold Middle School renovations are complete and an exciting new chapter in our Town's history has begun. Students in grades four through eight returned to the newly renovated Middle School and its brand new state of the art addition. Teachers, students, parents and residents alike were wowed when touring the completed project during a week long open house the first week of January. The Elementary School construction is underway and is

expected to welcome students by the summer 2012. Take a moment to drive by the school campus to see for yourself the beautiful commitment that we are building for our children. Thanks to our School Building Committee & our amazing teachers & staff for their hard work and dedication throughout this endeavor!



The Freshly Renovated Griswold Middle School Welcomed Students in January

Triangle Wire Remediation Update

The Town recovered \$203,856.38 in back taxes from the owner of the former Triangle Wire site & gained title to the smaller (2.3 acres) portion of the property located at 226 East Main Street. Grant monies received from the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development funded the remediation at the site; allowing it to once again begin to be a viable contributor within our community.

kb

Legal Update

As many of you are aware, the Town of Griswold has recently begun to move forward from a difficult and trying time in our Towns' history. On December 21, 2009, the Board of Selectmen voted to agree to a settlement between the Town and a former employee. The decision was the result of a lengthy mediation session attended by the Board of Selectmen, and



Town attorney as well as the plaintiff and her attorney. The mediation was followed by an informational meeting for our residents held on December 16, 2009.

The Town has begun to explore payment options that will least impact our residents financially.

Although the settlement may not be pleasant, it allows the Town to move forward; focusing on issues that are integral to our community.

kb

Board of Selectmen News

The Board of Selectmen welcomes Theresa Madonna as their 3rd Selectwoman. Together, as a full board, Phil, Steve and Theresa are looking forward to creating and expediting the movement forward for Gris-

wold. Despite the recession, the Board of Selectmen efforts are in place to create a commercial expansion for Griswold. The following are being discussed and actions will be implemented as the year progresses: a

blight ordinance for Griswold, a decision as to what our residents want to do with the 2 acre parcel known as the old town hall site, revisions to the capital improvement list to reflect our most current needs and a

potential tax relief policy for our senior citizens to name but a few. As always, Phil and our finance director Barbara will continue to aggressively pursue state and federal grants on behalf of Griswold.

PA

First Selectman: Griswold Bond Rating Improves



Exciting news for Griswold! I received word on January 11th that Griswold's financial ratings have not only retained an A+ designation per Fitch Financial Analysts, but we have been upgraded per Standard & Poors to AA- grade. These are the

best and strongest ratings that Griswold has ever achieved and will translate into hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer savings per bonds and loans. While most other Connecticut cities and towns were downgraded, Griswold has displayed the conservative and responsible financial

policies to warrant the favorable rating designations. We will continue to strive to achieve an even stronger local economy per commercial development, expansion and smart spending policies.

PA

Senior Center Scoop

The Senior Center is open to all citizens age 55 or older.

Ongoing Activities

- **Aerobics** - Tues & Thurs mornings 8:30 - 9:30am
- **Walking Club:** Friday mornings 8:30 am
- **Chair Aerobics:** Mon & Wed 9:15am
- **Line Dancing:** Tuesdays, 1pm - 2:30pm
- **Art Classes:** Wednesday, 12:30pm - 2:30pm
- **Quilting:** Monday 1pm - 3pm
- **Swedish Weaving:** 9:45am - 11:30am
- **Card Stamping:** 3rd Tuesday of each month

Get Your Game On!

- **Cribbage** - Daily at 8:00 am
- **Wii** - Wednesdays, 10:00am
- **Pitch** - Wednesdays, 1:00 pm
- **Pokeno Group** - Friday's at 1:00 pm

Upcoming Events

- **February 8th** - demonstration of the Cap-Tel captioned phone system for the hearing impaired, 11am - 12pm
- **February 9th** - Foot Care Clinic, please call to set up your appt.
- **February 18th** - Blood Pressure Clinic, 11am - 12pm
- **April 10th** - Life Line Screening 5 screenings offered. Call: 1-888-653-6441 to register for this

Around Town

What's going on in your neighborhood?

The Around Town column in our quarterly newsletter will be devoted to you, our residents. Does someone special to you have a birthday or anniversary coming up? From block parties to veterans gatherings, let your neighbors know what might be new with you. New baby in the family - share the good news! Space is limited, so please be aware that we'll do our

best to fit it all in. To let us know what's going on Around Town, please contact the Editor of the Gazette, Executive Secretary Keleigh Baretincic in the First Selectman's Office at: 376-7060 ext 201 or: kbaretincic@griswold-ct.org

Please let us know if you are Active Duty Armed Forces; we'd like to honor you in the Town Hall Lobby!



Parks, Recreation & Youth Services

The Skate Park is open! Passes are required to enter the park & to qualify for tournaments. Download an application on our website or pick one up from the Youth Center.

Youth Center Hours: Mon - Thurs 2:30pm - 6pm, Fri 2:30pm - 7pm (Ages 12 & up). Our new playground will open by the end of April. Thanks to the G.E.S PTO for donating the equipment! Also ready in April will be the Jewett City Little League's T-Ball Field! **Summer Rec. 2010:** Enrolling in late April at a discounted rate& in June at full price.

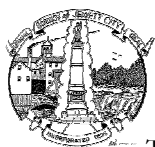
Programs & Events:

- Adult Basketball League/Feb
- Multi-Sport International Program - August
- Youthtopia - May 22nd
- Classic Car Show - June
- Polka-fest - September
- Harvest Festival/Community Appreciation day - October 2nd

Check out our website: www.griswoldyfs.com for info

on these programs, Bubbles to Butterfly, Music Therapy & more!

Borough Bits



The Borough of Jewett City is a 1 square mile portion of the Town of Gris-

wold that is a separate tax district and is governed by a Board of Warden & Burgesses elected by the residents of the Borough. The Borough is home to the largest commercial section of Griswold, as well as numerous parks and restaurants. The Board of Warden & Burgesses hold their regular meetings on the first Monday of every other month at 6:15 pm at the Griswold Town Hall, 1st floor meeting room. kb

Economic Development

Commercial development is expected to increase this spring with the following projects underway:

- 5,000 sf to include Professional Offices, Beauty Salon, & misc. retail, to be located at 1071 Voluntown Rd.
- 4,050 sf retail rope facility adjacent to 1071 Voluntown Rd
- Work will begin on the Medberry Place Travel Center on Rte 164, with a gas station, Dunkin Donuts and Car Wash, with a Hotel & Restaurant following later
- The Borough will see a new Beauty/Tanning Salon utilize existing retail space on Mathewson Street
- Planning & Zoning has made several revision to the Zoning Maps to further encourage commercial development.
- Various business incentives in place are being marketed to promote key commercial sites for maximum growth
- A Municipal Development Plan is being finalized and will assist greatly in acquiring grants!

Highways & Byways

- Stone Hill Road: Phase I (final layer of pavement) is complete. Phase II (application of gravel & base asphalt to improve contour) has begun.
- Various catch basins & drainage pipes have been replaced.
- Paving repairs have been completed on Brewster Rd, Lily Pond Rd, Geer Rd, Sam Chickan Rd, Colonel Brown Rd, Old Voluntown Rd & Richardson Hill Rd.
- All Town road signs are being replaced to meet Federal standards.

\$ BUDGET SEASON

- **April 6th, 7pm** - Annual Public Hearing (Place TBD)
- **May 3rd, 7pm** - Annual Town Meeting, Griswold Town Hall Meeting Room

CAPITOL NEWS

Updates & Information from State Representative Steve Mikutel

Things are grim in Hartford, as the State's budget crisis continues to deteriorate. This year's budget deficit is estimated at \$500 million, with multibillion deficits predicted through 2014. A substantial part of the State's fiscal woes are due to the economic recession, which has caused revenues to plunge. Another reason for the defi-

cit is the legislatures unwillingness to rein in the growth of State government. So where do we go from here?

- It's time to challenge the status quo by putting some bold ideas on the table.
- It's time to restructure State government to make it more efficient and cost effective.
- It's time for legislators to

say no to the many well intentioned special interest groups that have an insatiable appetite for tax payers dollars.

- It's time to stop the partisan politics and work together for the good of our State.
- It's time for legislators to finish the job that they failed to do in 2009 – pass an honest and balanced

budget. That is our constitutional duty and our responsibility to the people of Connecticut.



"As legislators grapple with the State's deficits, I will work to ensure that your concerns are addressed."

Transfer Station Hours & Info

Wednesdays

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

AND

1st & 3rd Saturday's of the month

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

*Should these dates conflict with a holiday,
the Transfer Station will be CLOSED.*

Please call 376-7060 ext 201 for information.

*The transfer station will close during inclement weather to allow Public
Works to insure the roadways are clear*

The Transfer Station is located at:

1148 Voluntown Road (Rte 138)
Griswold, CT 06351

BOARD & COMMISSION VACANCIES

*Griswold is looking for volunteers to serve on the following Boards or
Commission. Please send letter of interest to the Office of the First Select-
man, 28 Main Street, Griswold, CT 06351.*

Ethics Commission: Alternate Seat Vacancy

Commission on Aging: Regular Vacancy

Minority representation rules may affect eligibility depending on party affiliation.

TOWN SERVICES

Available at the Senior Center

- **Municipal Agent:** Information & assistance with Medicare, supplemental insurances, housing, prescriptions & more
- **Notary Public:** Call Judy @ the Senior Center
- **Energy Assistance Application:** We'll help you with your Energy Assistance Program applications
- **AARP Tax Preparation:** Call for your appointment. Service is FREE through AARP
- **Choices Counselor on Site**
- **Senior Transportation:** Senior transportation is available with a minimum 24 hour notice & 48 hrs is preferred. This is available for doctor appointments, hair appointments & shopping trips. Call the Senior Center for suggested donations for this service

The Senior Center is located at: 22 Soule Street

Phone: 860-376-2604 Hours: 8:30am 3:15pm Mon-Friday

Town Hall Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday

8:30 am - 6:30 pm

Friday

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

*The Town is pleased to offer you extended hours
of operation every Thursday for your convenience.*

The Griswold Town Hall is located at:

28 Main Street

Griswold, CT 06351

Adjacent to the Slater Library & across the street from Rite Aid pharmacy

We're on the Web!

www.griswold-ct.org

CONTACT NUMBERS

MAIN NUMBER: (860) 376-7060

Extensions:

Town Hall Hours: 4

Bulky Waste/Transfer Station Hours dial: 3

Municipal Information Line: 2

Office of the First Selectman: 201

Town Clerk's Office: 101

Tax Collector's Office: 104

Tax Assessor's Office: 103

Finance Department: 206

Health & Building Departments: 110

Planning and Zoning Department: 112

Registrar of Voters: 208

Fire Marshall's Office: 107

Probate Office: 213

Borough of Jewett City Offices: 211

Senior Center: 376-2604

Public Works Garage: 376-7080

Youth Center: 376-7026