

## **TEAM GUILFORD**

**Data from 21 Community Conversations, 1 on-line survey, and two paper surveys**

**Total Number of respondents: approximately 300**

**November 2007 – February 2008**

### **STRENGTHS - ORGANIZED**

#### **Activities, Services, Groups**

##### Groups

- ◆ WFLC good resource for girls
- ◆ Top adult education offerings
- ◆ Libraries
- ◆ The library and their programs
- ◆ Churches
- ◆ VNA is excellent
- ◆ Churches work together
- ◆ Police officers – social, polite
- ◆ Police Department
- ◆ Great senior housing
- ◆ Transportation for seniors is good
- ◆ Good police and fire departments
- ◆ Mentoring program
- ◆ Active clubs-Rotary
- ◆ Playground
- ◆ Town organizations (i.e. police) supportive
- ◆ Newcomers is a great asset to the community
- ◆ Good library
- ◆ Medical facilities nearby
- ◆ Newcomers
- ◆ Good services/support/emergency services
- ◆ We recognize and assist all segments of the community – youth, elderly, etc.
- ◆ Good Community Programs
- ◆ Fantastic social services
- ◆ Social services
- ◆ Variety and that they are networked
- ◆ Guilford social workers moderating private support groups throughout community
- ◆ Meals of Wheels/Food Bank/Charlie's Closet-able to get what we need.
- ◆ Emergency services excellent
- ◆ Guilford Police courts (basketball?)
- ◆ Men's support programs, i.e. Soccer
- ◆ Pilgrim Fellowship
- ◆ Parks and Recreation experts with programs, personnel and field maintenance
- ◆ Parks and Recreation has excellent programs for seniors and a new, neighborhood outreach effort
- ◆ Rec center is so accessible
- ◆ Facilitates needs and provides services for all age groups (i.e. Yale Shoreline Medical)
- ◆ Convenience of delivery ie: food supplies.
- ◆ Seniors feel it has taken care of them.

- ◆ Faith community/ proximity to Yale University/ offering services to population

#### Community Center

- ◆ The Community Center
- ◆ Community Center offerings for all ages
- ◆ Wonderful for seniors, especially
- ◆ Community Center & Events
- ◆ Community Center

#### Community Events

- ◆ Great community activities
- ◆ The Green and the many events scheduled on and around the Green
- ◆ The Community Center
- ◆ Great activities for young population in the summer months
- ◆ So many diverse activities
- ◆ Kid-friendly activities are really great
- ◆ A lot of diverse activities
- ◆ Ritual events on the green and elsewhere
- ◆ Citizens day parade
- ◆ Music, arts-craft festival
- ◆ Community events (parades, concerts, fairs, etc.) of a wide variety and frequency to appeal to all ages/incomes
- ◆ Community events (fair)
- ◆ Community activities Activities/ Park and Rec for young people
- ◆ Community activities- Guilford Fair, Little Folks Fair, Tree lighting, July 4th
- ◆ Community events on the Green
- ◆ The Guilford Fair
- ◆ The Guilford Fair
- ◆ Road Races –Turkey Trot, Frosty 5K
- ◆ Relay for Life

#### Sports

- ◆ Good sports complexes
- ◆ Sports programs
- ◆ Support of sports
- ◆ Sports Program
- ◆ Guilford Basketball League is wonderful
- ◆ Youth sports and all the organizations that support it (volunteers)

#### **Strong sense of community - volunteerism**

- ◆ Dedicated group of individuals to make things happen
- ◆ Volunteering ethic alive and well
- ◆ Sense that people in Guilford pull together
- ◆ Commitment to community
- ◆ Sense of community
- ◆ Library holds the history – creating awareness for community
- ◆ Feeling of belonging
- ◆ Sense of community
- ◆ Admirable volunteer force
- ◆ Interesting dedication to community
- ◆ No. of people who live and work in the community
- ◆ People dedicated to give back to the community
- ◆ Give back to where they grew up
- ◆ Always wanting to improve community

- ◆ Parent commitment to volunteering is strong, K-6
- ◆ Volunteerism all over town is good
- ◆ Strong roots – generations of families continue to live here
- ◆ People in town like to live here and are willing to volunteer/work for non-profits
- ◆ Volunteer activities
- ◆ Caring community with many opportunities to connect
- ◆ Volunteerism & Stewardship
- ◆ Unity
- ◆ Everyone knows everyone- small town
- ◆ We work together
- ◆ Unified
- ◆ Community Service
- ◆ Community Feel/ Come together
- ◆ Friendly people
- ◆ Small enough and connected enough to weave the fiber of a community
- ◆ Volunteerism is a big thing in Guilford, but a small few are doing many jobs
- ◆ Spirit of community
- ◆ Incredible sense of community
- ◆ Sense of community
- ◆ People care about each other
- ◆ A strong volunteer spirit
- ◆ Pride in the community
- ◆ People are nice
- ◆ Sense of community pride
- ◆ Feeling of pride in community/enthusiasm
- ◆ Pride in our community
- ◆ People willing and interested to come together for community conversation
- ◆ Sense of community
- ◆ Incredible sense of community
- ◆ People are generous by helping families with low income

### **Small Town Feel**

- ◆ Small town
- ◆ Close-knit community atmosphere, knowing many neighbors
- ◆ Warm and neighborly
- ◆ Everyone knows everyone- small town
- ◆ Quaint small town stores.
- ◆ Small town
- ◆ Small town feeling
- ◆ Small town feeling/things don't change
- ◆ Strong sense of community
  - Maintains certain "small town" attitude
  - Sense of belonging
- ◆ Smallness of the town.
- ◆ Like a family town.
- ◆ "Feels like home"
- ◆ Small enough to meet someone you know on the street
- ◆ Warm and neighborly
- ◆ Suburban – not urbanized
- ◆ Small town feeling – get to know families
- ◆ Small town atmosphere- NEIGHBORLY
- ◆ People know each other
- ◆ Sense of neighborhood and non-commercialism

### **School system**

- ◆ Calvin Leete has been a big hit with our 8-yr-old
- ◆ A nice school system
- ◆ Strong school system
- ◆ Nice school system
- ◆ School system
- ◆ Top education offered by school system
- ◆ Support of school system for disabled children
  - Good special education programs
  - Stresses inclusiveness within school that extends to extracurricular activities
- ◆ Praise for urban/suburban program at some schools
- ◆ The schools
- ◆ High quality of Education
- ◆ Commitment of school faculty and staff-low turn over rate
- ◆ Focus on education of students(look for initiatives, brain storm for ideas to continue to improve quality of education)
- ◆ Strong school system
- ◆ School system is good
- ◆ Really good schools
- ◆ Good Schools
- ◆ Schools and Teachers
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Superior school system
- ◆ Teachers in GPS
- ◆ New schools superintendent advocates for positive communication and is willing to tackle issues in a holistic and complete manner
- ◆ Schools donate regularly to the Guilford Food Band, which is an authentic learning experience and generates enthusiasm and supports citizenship
- ◆ Good education system
- ◆ Good education system
- ◆ Academics
- ◆ School system
- ◆ Good learning environment
- ◆ Positive effort for communication and collaboration between schools and town
- ◆ Education system
- ◆ Students get treated well
- ◆ Care about students
- ◆ Consistency – former teachers now colleagues
- ◆ Good school system
- ◆ Teachers make an impact
- ◆ Supportive, nurturing folks in school system
- ◆ Positive parental involvement
- ◆ Smaller school, can build relationships
- ◆ Strong public schools/extracurriculars
- ◆ Most parents supportive of education
- ◆ Financially support education
- ◆ Good parent involvement

### **Quality/behavior of citizens**

- ◆ People with experience (leaders)
- ◆ Strong quality of life, sense of community pride and positive feedback

- ◆ People are generous by helping families with low income
- ◆ The friendliness and openness of the community
- ◆ Makes me feel warm and welcome
- ◆ Strong commitment to those less fortunate
- ◆ Friendliness, openness
- ◆ Politeness
- ◆ Home grown talent
- ◆ Unpretentious
- ◆ Yankee reality – non-materialistic
- ◆ Children seem polite
- ◆ Lots of nice people
- ◆ Friendliness – locals welcome newcomers
- ◆ Feeling of pride in community/enthusiasm
- ◆ Liberal, accepting town
- ◆ People have deep ties
- ◆ Polite, friendly people
- ◆ Blue-collar “roots”
- ◆ Famous People Live Here – TV Actor, Baseball Player
- ◆ Will Farrell’s house is in Guilford
- ◆ Nice People
- ◆ Environmentally aware community
- ◆ Talented, diverse skill sets of inhabitants
- ◆ Board members sense of compassion
- ◆ Good balance between natives and newcomers
- ◆ Seniors is the largest growing group in town
- ◆ Eclectic mix of people who work/play together on a level playing field
- ◆ Highly educated
- ◆ Diversity of talents including variety of artists
- ◆ Still a lot of “lifers” around.
- ◆ Guilford is appreciated by young people who chose to come back here to live
- ◆ Sense of ethical responsibility to keep things intact, i.e. not selling out to industry
- ◆ Dedicated group of individuals to make things happen
- ◆ Ideas spring up and quickly there is a plan
- ◆ Capable people/resources
- ◆ A lot of respect for people in public office/schools
- ◆ Optimistic
- ◆ Town has a pool of professional talent
- ◆ Well-educated, decent citizens
- ◆ Affluent and well-educated
- ◆ Not overweight- healthy community
- ◆ Tolerant
- ◆ Friendly
- ◆ Down to earth people
- ◆ Quiet/Privacy
- ◆ A sense of affluence, yet middle class vales (not exclusionary to the middle class)
- ◆ Creative community with creative minds/lends us to process
- ◆ Friendly place to live
- ◆ Guilford has held on to its roots of common sense – e.g., Farmer Values
- ◆ The majority are educated, and tend to discuss and analyze before doing anything
- ◆ Great administrators in Board of Selectmen and other town boards

### **Physical beauty - geography**

#### Physical beauty

- ◆ Wildlife
- ◆ The physical beauty of community and diversity of it
- ◆ Shoreline scenery
- ◆ Geography (lakes, open space, trails)
- ◆ Rural environment (country town)
- ◆ Taken care of- looks good
- ◆ Beautiful shoreline waters
- ◆ Quiet
- ◆ Preservation of land and trail system
- ◆ Natural beauty
- ◆ Beautiful, clean town
- ◆ Varied geography
- ◆ Natural historic beauty/ shoreline
- ◆ Shoreline/recreational fishing.
- ◆ Physical beauty of the town/beaches, sound.
- ◆ Lots of open spaces
- ◆ Hidden beautiful spots
- ◆ Mill Pond
- ◆ Beautiful and well-kept town
- ◆ Not over developed
- ◆ Physical beauty of town
- ◆ "Hidden treasures" (natural beauty, historic landmarks, etc.)
- ◆ Shoreline
- ◆ Long Island Sound
- ◆ Location near water
- ◆ Physical location of town is good, i.e. Sound, North Guilford, lakes,
- ◆ Physical beauty, amount of open land
- ◆ Beautiful town
- ◆ You are doing well by keeping the town clean
- ◆ Rustic beauty
- ◆ Beautiful, beautiful, storybook green
- ◆ Geographic diversity (shoreline, farms)
- ◆ Shoreline
- ◆ We are tidy
- ◆ Peaceful and quiet

#### Access to activities in nature

- ◆ Trail system
- ◆ The hiking trails
- ◆ Access to water
- ◆ Good Hiking
- ◆ Hiking trails
- ◆ Lots to do in Guilford with the environment – hiking, beaches, scenic roads etc.
- ◆ Emphasis on preserving green spaces (Land Trust)
- ◆ Great Fishing
- ◆ Numerous outdoor opportunities, trails, etc.
- ◆ Nice Surroundings

#### Specific Places

- ◆ Beach
- ◆ Lake Quonnipaug
- ◆ Faulkners Island
- ◆ Bluffs Head

- ◆ Organizations working to preserve beauty of town, balancing that with commercial development
- ◆ No venomous animals

### **The Town Green**

- ◆ Community events on the Green
- ◆ The Green is family oriented
- ◆ The "Green" and the way the community uses it
- ◆ Guilford Green – Calm, comforting
- ◆ Guilford Green
- ◆ The Town Green and the Fairgrounds
- ◆ The Green – Center/Anchor of the community
- ◆ The Green is center/focus for events
- ◆ creation of small town feeling
- ◆ The Town Green belongs to no one / everyone – gathering/focusing place – Green contributes to sense of community.
- ◆ Green provides a place for people to go for community
- ◆ The Green – a metaphor for community (yet fragile)
- ◆ Helps draw people to come here to live
- ◆ Town Green (center for community)
- ◆ Nice Green
- ◆ Festivities on Green – bonding through community
- ◆ Green
- ◆ Biggest Green in Ct.
- ◆ Like the feel of the Green, it's central,
- ◆ The Green
- ◆ Town Green (center for community)
- ◆ The "Green"
- ◆ The Green/ integrity of town/ sense of history
- ◆ The Green = the heart of the town
  - Expresses small town/neighborhood feeling, with shops and churches and town services (Town Hall, Library) around the Green
  - Great forum for variety of town events

### **Sense of history**

- ◆ Very historic
- ◆ Historical sites
- ◆ Historical
- ◆ Sense of history
- ◆ Historical Background
- ◆ Sense of history
- ◆ Rich history throughout Guilford
- ◆ Preservation of historical district & character as well as town history
- ◆ History of the town
- ◆ Historical part of Guilford
- ◆ Pre-Civil War architecture of houses
- ◆ Historic preservation
- ◆ Historic preservation
- ◆ So many historic places/ open to public

### **Safety**

- ◆ I like living here because it is quiet and safe
- ◆ Safety

- ◆ Quiet and safe
- ◆ Safe place
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Safe
- ◆ Safety of community
- ◆ Low crime
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Low Crime rate
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Safe
- ◆ Physical environment safe for kids
- ◆ Safe, secure feeling
- ◆ No Natural Disasters
- ◆ Low crime rate
- ◆ Safeness, charm
- ◆ Safe feeling on road\
- ◆ Feeling of safety
- ◆ Safe small town feel
- ◆ Low crime rate
- ◆ Safe place to live
- ◆ Feels safe here.

#### **Proximity to urban center**

- ◆ Close proximity to NYC/Boston/New Haven
- ◆ Our location between NYC and Boston
- ◆ Near NYC
- ◆ Access to New Haven, Hartford & other cities
- ◆ The proximity/geographic location of town to cities
- ◆ Proximity to Yale University and all that it has to offer
- ◆ Mid-point between Boston and NYC
- ◆ Large town nearby
- ◆ Proximity to Long Island Sound, Boston, New York, Rhode Island, Tweed Airport and train station
- ◆ Proximity to New Haven and New York
- ◆ Not too far from Boston-NYC
- ◆ Close to New Haven

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- ◆ Quiet/Privacy
- ◆ A sense of affluence, yet middle class vales (not exclusionary to the middle class)
- ◆ Creative community with creative minds/lends us to process
- ◆ Accessibility of elected officials

### **Businesses**

- ◆ Positive involvement of business people
- ◆ Local businesses feel like part of the community and are community-based and community-oriented
- ◆ like businesses around Green
- ◆ Strong economics
- ◆ Increased commercial
- ◆ Good business owners, restaurants
- ◆ Local Small Stores
- ◆ Strong commitment from business community to invest / give back to the community
- ◆ Locally owned shops
  - Wonderful to have small, independent (not chain) stores where you know and are known by the shopkeepers and that they're involved in the community

### **Family-friendly**

- ◆ Great place to raise children
- ◆ Family-oriented
- ◆ Opportunities for youth to be involved
- ◆ Child-friendly
- ◆ Great place to raise kids
- ◆ Resources for families (library, recreation, social services-i.e. GYFS, good police and fire)
- ◆ Family programs
- ◆ Focus on family
- ◆ Wonderful place for young children

- ◆ A lot of kid-friendly activities

### **Arts**

- ◆ Culture – arts, library
- ◆ Art Center
- ◆ Commitment to the arts
- ◆ Arts are well-represented
- ◆ Support the arts
- ◆ Large number of artists, craftsmen and writers
- ◆ Arts community/ active/ outreach to schools/ children/ give kids a vehicle
- ◆ Shakespeare on the shoreline

### **Agricultural focus**

- ◆ Agricultural flavor (first established Agricultural Commission)
- ◆ Preservation of working farms
- ◆ Agricultural community
- ◆ Agriculture connection (preservation) and working farms
- ◆ Agricultural flavor with interest in preserving and protecting open space and farmland

### **Land use**

- ◆ Genuine concern re: land use and preservation
- ◆ Strong ethics as pertains to land use and development
- ◆ Land Trust – protecting open space
- ◆ Strong connection to the land (land trust)

### **Transportation**

- ◆ Train station
- ◆ Good transportation
- ◆ Railroad
- ◆ I-95 and the Shoreline railroad

### **MISC**

- ◆ I have “roots” here – grew up in Guilford
- ◆ There’s money, so people can get what they want
- ◆ Perpetuating the illusion of Mayberry
- ◆ Lots of political creative activity. The spectrum is wide
- ◆ Town responds to needs
- ◆ Land values and real estate
- ◆ Best town for seniors – voted by a journal
- ◆ Layout is good
- ◆ Excellent restaurants
- ◆ Feels like a sturdy town
- ◆ Changes are slow and thoughtful
- ◆ Guilford Courier
- ◆ Great cultural diversity
- ◆ Good basic larger group of people who belong to the community
- ◆ Support Programs for Recovery from substance abuse, etc.
- ◆ Opportunities for alternative health options –i.e. holistic
- ◆ Fast food joints
- ◆ Charlie Palace
- ◆ Environmentalists
- ◆ No gangs

- ◆ Wal Mart
- ◆ Bryants ?
- ◆ Job opportunities
- ◆ 76th Best Town in the US (according to \_\_\_\_/CNN report)
- ◆ State Legislators
- ◆ Connected to friends who live here
- ◆ Coaching
- ◆ Some residents were connected to the Guilford community through work and/or religion then decided to move here
- ◆ Citizen action – open process to make community changes
- ◆ Good Jobs/felt at home here.
- ◆ Lived 30-50 years here.
- ◆ Activity/commitment that churches make.
- ◆ Right moves to make in older years.
- ◆ Location/closeness to family.
- ◆ Like the community of the churches.
- ◆ size of town
- ◆ Open spaces for young people.
- ◆ Good neighborhoods.
- ◆ Sense of “comfortable affluence”