



BUSINESS

Connections

Nominations due by July 14

Here is your chance to honor local service

Groton Utilities is now accepting nominations for The Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award for 2006. The purpose of the award is to honor a member of the community who has contributed his or her time, energy and resources to make the community a better place in which to live and work.



Groton Utilities named the award to commemorate Mrs. Nixon's service to her community. Jackie, as she was known to most, operated a food pantry at her home for 24 years. She distributed food on a regular basis to many needy families. Jackie passed away July 6, 2004 after a brief battle with cancer.

The nominee's contributions to the community should make other citizens describe the nominee as generous, committed, and other similar admirable qualities that exemplify service.

Persons eligible for the award should live in Greater Groton, which encompasses the City, the Town, and any of the subdivisions or fire districts. The person should exemplify all the qualities suggested by Groton Utilities' slogan of "Giving back to the community."

We will honor our third annual winner of this award during City of Groton Day on August 4 at Washington Park. Past winners have included Earle A. Williams in 2004 and Robert "Bob" Leeney in 2005.

The closing date for nominations is July 14. Applications are at the Groton Utilities Customer Care Center at the City of Groton Municipal Building, 295 Meridian St. You may also call us at 446-4000 and request an application be mailed to you. The application is also available on our website at www.grotonutilities.com.

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Education breakfast set for June 8

The Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce will honor high school valedictorians at their seventh annual Education Breakfast in June.

The youth will discuss “The Importance of Community Interaction with the Public Schools” on Thursday, June 8



at 7:30 a.m. at the Groton Inn & Suites. Groton Utilities and people’s bank are the breakfast sponsors. Invited speakers are the valedictorians from the senior classes at Robert E. Fitch High School, the Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School, Ledyard High School and Stonington High School.

One junior class member

from each school who has exhibited a strong sense of community involvement has also been invited to receive a “Community Spirit Award” certificate.

The cost for the breakfast buffet is \$15 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members and at the door. For reservations, call the Mystic Chamber at 572-9578 or fax your application to 572-9273 or the Eastern Chamber at 464-7373 or by fax 464-7374.

Step up to the plate and be a sponsor

Fall Festival will promote businesses

Groton has a new town-wide event. It’s Groton’s Fall Festival, sponsored by the Groton Business Association (GBA) of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce. The festival will take place—rain or shine—on Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Poquonnock Plains Park in the heart of Groton.

This day-long event is designed to attract all ages including families, seniors and children. Activities will include an extensive arts and crafts show, business displays, a farmers’ market, a car and motorcycle show, displays of Town equipment, senior events at the library, food stations, a pumpkin contest, a skating exhibition, a battle of the bands by young musicians and a band concert. Any net proceeds will be used to support GBA events and projects throughout the year.

GBA Co-Chairs Bud Fay and Lorraine Sanborn have announced that Thames Valley Communications, Groton Utilities’ cable division, has signed up as the first Gold Sponsor. Your business can be a sponsor, too. Call Groton’s

Fall Festival number at 860-445-0341 on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit www.grotonbiz.com.

Sponsorship levels:

Platinum – \$5,000+

Designation as a Prime Sponsor.
Sponsor name and/or logo on all advertising.
Prominent sponsor recognition at site.
Post-event sponsor recognition and thanks.
Placement of company name and logo on our website.

Gold – \$3,000

Sponsor name and/or logo on all advertising.
Prominent sponsor recognition at site.
Post-event sponsor recognition and thanks.
Placement of company name and logo on our website.

Silver – \$2,000

Prominent sponsor recognition at site.
Post-event sponsor recognition and thanks.
Sponsor’s name listed on our website.

Patron – \$1,000

Sponsor name on event site map.
Post-event sponsor recognition and thanks.
Sponsor’s name listed on our website.



Sign up and be part of the parade!

Don’t miss the annual Fourth of July parade, sponsored by the Town of Groton. The parade is scheduled for Tuesday, July 4 at 10 a.m. This year’s theme is to trace the history of Groton along the famous Post Road, known today as Route 1.

Make plans now to create a float for this

year’s parade. Everyone is invited – merchants, businesses of all kinds, non-profit community organizations, marching groups and bands.

To participate, return a Notice of Intent to Participate form by June 16. Don’t forget to include a short biography for your marching unit to be used by the

announcer on the viewing stand

Invitations and forms have been sent to those who participated in recent Fourth of July or Holiday Lights parades. If you need forms, call the Town of Groton Parks and Recreation Department at 536-5680. Forms are also available at www.grotonrec.com.

Our low rates are no accident

Meeting the challenges of today's markets

The combination of electricity and energy markets has produced an unsettled condition in today's electric utility industry. Volatile oil



markets continue to significantly impact the stability of wholesale electricity costs, with no end in sight.

Yet despite this negative climate, we at Groton Utilities continue to operate in the most efficient and fiscally prudent manner possible. Our management of fixed costs through the years has resulted in low rates that compare very favorably to the state's largest investor-owned electric utilities.

PRUDENT PLANNING SAVES MONEY

Groton Utilities has been among the lowest cost providers of electricity in New England for many years. Our low electric rates are no accident—it takes good planning and management.

We work diligently to keep expenses as low as possible, while retaining a highly skilled work force. Our employees are very qualified and skilled in their positions. They are highly productive and respond to customer needs with superior customer service.

Power supply is the most costly element of electric service. We plan years ahead to ensure that the odds are in our favor in the battle to have access to the lowest cost power. We do this

through our wholesale supplier, the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC).

We are working especially hard with CMEEC to reduce our debt related to purchased power so that we will be better positioned to meet the challenges of future power costs.

A STRONG, RELIABLE SYSTEM

We also work to keep on top of system maintenance. Delaying repairs to the electric distribution system only leads to higher costs down the road that can destabilize rates. That's why we finance normal maintenance through our operating budgets on a year-to-year basis.

We review our entire infrastructure on a timely basis, compile a list of the most needed actions, and then seek bonding to finance the necessary major system improvements. This allows us to finance big expenses over a longer period of time and provides for a stable rate environment.

For example, consider Groton Utilities' upgrade at our Trails Corner substation. This critical substation supplies power to most of our large industrial customers and others located in the southern portion of our service territory. The goal of the project is to increase capacity for

future demand and increase reliability by retiring aging equipment.

Similarly, Groton Utilities has completed construction and begun testing an upgrade to the Poquonnock River substation. The goal of the project is to improve system reliability, provide better system protection and enhance system operations.

Currently, Groton Utilities has begun construction of the North and South substations at the Electric Boat Shipyard. This project is a joint venture between Groton Utilities and Electric Boat. Its purpose is to improve the reliability and increased capacity at Electric Boat.

GU DELIVERS TAX SAVINGS

Not only are our rates traditionally low, but they also provide a rate of return to our investors, who are the residents and taxpayers of the City of Groton. These funds help the City maintain stable tax rates for its residents and its businesses.

The Electric Division provides the City of Groton annually with a return on the electric business in an amount greater than \$2 million in cash and services. These dollars help keep the City's taxes low. For example, the \$2.1 million a year that Groton Utilities contributes to the City of Groton equates to more than two and a half mills that the City does not have to add to the tax bills of its residents and taxpayers.

Holiday Closings

Our offices at the City Municipal Building, including Customer Care and Thames Valley Communications, our Cable Television Division, and Project Management and our Operational Sections, located at The Julio H. Leandri Operations Complex on Poquonnock Road, will be closed for these upcoming holidays:

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day

Our operations crews for both water and electric are available on an emergency basis during holidays. If you experience an electrical outage or a water main break, call us at 446-4000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Normal business activity for all three Groton Utilities' Divisions, including electric, water and cable television, is conducted weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Customer Service is also open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Groton Utilities hopes you and your family have enjoyable holidays. But, please drive safely.

And, yes, don't forget to buckle up!



GROTON UTILITIES

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Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement
Federal and State law prohibits employment discrimination. It is the policy of the City of Groton to comply with the laws which prohibit discrimination as to race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, history of mental disorder, mental retardation or any other legally protected class.

Our digital products can stretch business dollars

Groton Utilities, through its newest business division, Thames Valley Communications (TVC), can help you stretch your business dollars with a broadband package that includes high-speed Internet services, cable television and music.

These services are now available in the City of Groton and most parts of the Town of Groton served by



Groton Utilities' Electric and Water Divisions. We will be completing our build-out of our state-of-the-art cable system to other parts of the Town of Groton throughout 2006 and will let you know when we reach your area.

You can choose:

- High-speed Internet service through a state-of-the-art ISP for security and reliability.
- Cable television service to monitor

fast-breaking business news or as an amenity to customers who are waiting patiently for service. TVC also has a very competitive product for taverns and restaurants.

- Commercial music for a productivity enhancing environment without the headache of license fees to ASCAP and BMI. Our 45 commercial-free music genres can fit any business need.

We have flexible packages to meet your needs, and you can even choose from among three speeds of Internet service. The entry-level Internet package offers dial-up customers a great alternative to experience always-on access.

For more information, call 446-4009, visit www.tvconnect.com, or stop by TVC's Customer Care Center at the City of Groton Municipal Building, 295 Meridian St.

GBA sets schedule

The Groton Business Association (GBA) of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce will continue its Spring on the Road Business Tour on May 18 at 7:30 a.m. at the Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School.

The spring tour will conclude with a June 15 meeting at a site to be determined. The summer tour will start July 20. The August meeting will be held on Thursday, August 17.

Interested in hosting a future GBA meeting at your business? Contact

Bud Fay at 625-2323,
Lorraine Sanborn
at 448-2243
or Tricia
Barkley at
536-9578.



All members of the business community are welcome whether or not they are members of the Chamber. In fact, bring a friend and let them network and experience the advantages of joining this active group of Greater Groton business leaders.