



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.

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 2006 on August 4 at Washington Park. Past winners have included Earle A. Williams in 2004 and Robert "Bob" Leeney in 2005.

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, which exemplify service.

The closing date for nominations is July 14, 2006. Applications are at the Groton Utilities Customer Care Center at the City of Groton Municipal Building, 295 Meridian St. You may also call our Customer Care Center 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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Conservation program of the quarter

Appliance rebates make it easier to save

Energy Star-rated electric appliances are more efficient than standard models, which saves energy and helps lower electric bills. To encourage energy-wise purchases, GU now offers our residential customers rebates on certain Energy Star-rated appliances.

Rebates are available for six types of electric appliances. The rebate available per appliance is: refrigerators, \$60; dishwashers, \$60; front loading clothes washers, \$60; water heaters, \$60; and room air conditioners, \$50. When shopping, look for the Energy Star rating – it's usually found on the yellow Energy Guide label.

To qualify for a rebate, refrigerators, dishwashers, clothes washers and room air conditioners must be Energy Star-rated. These appliances are marked with a blue-and-white Energy Star logo like the one that appears in this story.

For water heaters, tank sizes of 59 gallons or less must have an energy factor of .93 or greater and tank sizes of 60 gallons or greater must have an energy factor of .91 or greater. You

can find the energy factor on the yellow Energy Guide label.

These rebates, which come in the form of an electric bill credit, cover products purchased and installed on or after January 1, 2006. The application form with proof of purchase must be received by Groton Utilities no later than December 31, 2006.



A sales slip itemizing the new appliance(s) purchased must accompany each incentive application form. It is important that the proof of purchase slip indicate the type, size, make and model number of the appliance and the date of purchase. You should also attach the yellow Energy Guide label (original or copy) with the Energy Star logo from each purchase.

Rebate applications are available at www.grotonutilities.com or at our Customer Service Center, 295 Meridian St. in the City of Groton. Return completed applications to the Customer Service Center or mail them to Groton Utilities, Attn: Conservation Program, 295 Meridian St., Groton, CT 06340. You can also fax them to us at 860-446-4098.

TVC heads east this year



Horace Greeley said, "Go west young man," but Thames Valley Communications (TVC), Groton Utilities' cable division, has a better idea. TVC is going east. In the second year of constructing a state-of-the-art cable television network, TVC is now moving into Mystic, Old Mystic and Groton Long Point.

Buoyed by the success of our first 20 months, TVC is working hard to meet the customer demand in the rest of geographic Groton, including Mystic. If you are a potential customer in these areas, we want you

to know that we are on our way and will be in your neighborhood soon.

If you are a City of Groton business or resident and have not yet signed up for our cable and high speed Internet services, you can obtain service immediately.

Call for more information at 446-4009 or stop by TVC's Customer Care Center in the Municipal Building at 295 Meridian St. in the City of Groton. Normal business hours are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except for Thursdays when office hours are extended until 7 p.m. Saturday hours are 8 a.m. to noon. Business is not conducted on Sundays and holidays. You can also get more information about TVC at www.tvconnect.com.

Summer Concerts in the Park return

A "Concerts in the Park" series will be held again this summer in Washington Park in the City of Groton. There will be concerts in June, July and August.

The concert series will be sponsored by both Groton Utilities and the City of Groton Parks and Recreation Department. In making the joint announcement, officials from both departments emphasized that making the concert series a joint venture has

allowed the series to grow in the number of concerts offered and the quality of the bands.

Watch for the 2006 concert schedule in our next newsletter and at www.grotonutilities.com.

The bands and concert schedule will be announced in this newsletter's summer edition in June, plus on both the City's and Groton Utilities' website. Watch for it.

The concerts are designed to be especially appealing to families for a fun, inexpensive night out. Spectators are encouraged to bring their families and perhaps a picnic supper, since all the concerts will be held during the early evening hours. The concert site also has sufficient room on the basketball courts for dancing.



Always ask for identification

Our employees wear photo IDs



We would like to alert our customers that, from time to time, there are reports from some area towns that persons dressed as utility workers have entered customer homes and robbed them. Don't let this happen to you. Always ask for proper identification.

at 446-4000 and ask if any of our employees are in your neighborhood.

Our meter readers also wear uniforms with their names and our company logo, which also appears on page one of this newsletter. Field personnel do not wear uniforms but are required to wear identification badges with their photo and the City of Groton seal.

All Groton Utilities employees have picture identification badges with the City of Groton seal on them. When in doubt, you can and should call our Customer Care Center

Play it safe! Do not let anyone enter your home without proper identification.

Your clean car will help others

Tired of winter's grime covering your car, your pickup truck or your van? You soon can clean up and spruce up those vehicles while helping to fund the local Oil for Heat Fund.

Your answer to reclaiming your vehicle is the Hearts to Heat Car Wash set for Friday, March 24 from noon to 4 p.m. at the City of Groton



Fire Department Station 2 (near Pfizer) in the City of Groton. The event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program.

The cost of the car wash is \$5. All proceeds will be used to help needy families with their heating bills. You can buy tickets in

advance at the City of Groton Municipal Building.

Three City employees are involved in this year's Chamber Leadership Program. They are Kevin Cini, Chief Operator at the City's Pollution Abatement Facility; Carl Smith, the City's Building Inspector; and John Cunningham, City Deputy Fire Chief. Make plans now to support them on March 24 by visiting the car wash – and help a local family in need.

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:

Friday, April 14

Good Friday

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day

Our operations crews for both water and electric are available for emergencies 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 Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Customer Care 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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Groton, Connecticut 06340
T 860-446-4000
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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.

Shutoff moratorium is ending April 15, 2006

The annual winter shutoff moratorium for electric service ends April 15, 2006. All hardship electric customers who had difficulty paying their bills during the November 1 to April 15 period are required to make arrangements to pay their balances and keep current with their monthly bill.

If you cannot pay your longtime balance, Groton Utilities is ready and willing to work with you to develop a payment plan for your unpaid balance, while keeping your account current. Call us at 446-4000 or come visit us at our Customer Care Center at 295 Meridian St.

Plan now to make your springtime an on-time bill paying experience. The clock is ticking – April 15 is nearly here. If you have any questions on your rights or our obligations as they relate to the winter moratorium ending, please call us immediately at 446-4000.

Check out our website

The Groton Utilities website is continually changing, especially our homepage. We update the site with new information as soon as it is available, so visit often to keep up-to-date with your utility.

This month features a letter from the Director of Utilities explaining the Purchase Power Adjustment and rising energy costs. There is also information on our new Electric Energy Conservation programs designed to help lower your electric bill. For example, one program offers

electric bill credits for the purchase of certain Energy Star-rated appliances. (See page 2 for more details.)



Announcements on the latest "City Cabaret 2006" series will be found on our site as well as the coming schedule for this year's "Concerts in the Park 2006" series.

If you're looking for a job, you'll want to check our web site frequently, because all new job openings are posted on the website, including the closing dates for applying. Check us out at www.grotonutilities.com.

Use water wisely

Conserving water will not only save you money on your water bill, but also helps preserve our water resources. Here are some tips to use this spring and all year:

- ◆ Check every faucet in the house for leaks, and fix any you find right away.
- ◆ Make sure the taps in your home have aerators or spray taps.
- ◆ Don't let the hose run when you wash your car.
- ◆ For any small area of grass, water by hand to avoid waste.
- ◆ Check toilets for leaks.