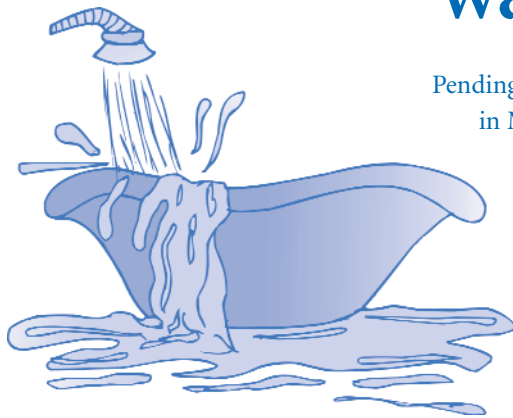




connections

Pending final approval

Higher expenses push water rates up April 1



Pending final City Council approval in March, Groton Utilities' water rates will increase on April 1. All bills issued on or after this date will be at the new rate.

Under the new rate, the average water customer using 800 cubic feet of water a month will pay \$29.02. Typical customers will see their water bills increase an average of only \$4 per month.

Higher revenues are needed to eliminate the Water Division's operating deficits caused by increased expenses and costs to comply with stricter state and federal water regulations.

"It is important that we maintain the financial integrity of our Water Division," Director of Utilities Glenn M. Wilson said. "While we pride ourselves on the highest quality water at the lowest possible price, we

are faced with the economic realities of today's water industry.

"Looking to the future, our sale of surplus water in connection with the regional water initiative will help slow the financial impact of future operating expenses," he added.

Groton will sell surplus water to surrounding communities through the water transmission line constructed under the Thames River as a result of the regional water initiative.

Wilson explained that the Water Division has saved substantial dollars through the years by applying innovative solutions to potentially expensive water quality problems. "I cannot emphasize enough how the employees in our Water Division have been creative, committed and successful in their approach to water quality problems. Without their initiatives, we would be facing even higher costs of doing business," Wilson said.

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Employee profile

Energy management is his specialty

Herbert “Herb” D. Cummings was recently appointed GU’s General Manager–Energy Services. Herb comes to us with 32 years of federal service, including 26 years in various power production and utility management positions at the U.S. Naval Base in Groton.

When he retired from the federal service, Herb was the Region Utilities Manager for the Commander, Navy Region Northeast. The Region covers seven major military installations and 17 reserve centers in New England and New York State. Prior to this assignment, Herb was the Sub Base Utilities Director.

His current major responsibility at GU is investigating energy projects such as wind power. He is trying to locate a place in the City’s watershed for a test wind tower to determine wind velocities. New technologies also come under his duties, and he has been studying

“all climate heat pumps” that are effective to a temperature of 19 degrees below zero.



*Herb Cummings,
General Manager–Energy Services*

“Using one of these all climate heat pumps could cut a residential electric bill in half,” he explained. “We are presently developing a demonstration project with this type of heat pump in a residence in our Bozrah Division.”

He is also heavily involved with GU’s rebate program, which provides rebates to residential, commercial and indus-

trial customers who implement specific electric conservation measures as outlined in the program.

Herb was born in St. Albans, Vt. and grew up in Adams, Mass., where he graduated from high school. He spent six years in the Air Force where he was a lineman instructor and specialized in power production and distribution. He is a Vietnam veteran.

He holds an Energy Management Diploma from North Carolina State University and is certified by the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) in energy procurement.

Herb lives in Griswold with his wife, Toni. They have four children and two grandchildren. His favorite recreational activity is freshwater fishing, and he recently started a term on the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Save water and money with these tips

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.

- Check toilets for leaks, too. Put 10 drops of food coloring in the tank and wait 15 minutes. If colored water shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.



- Make sure the taps in your home have aerators or spray taps.

- Install low-flow shower heads in your bathrooms – they use just 2.5 gallons per minute, compared to 50 gallons for the average bath.

- Don’t let the hose run when you wash your car. Instead, wet the car, then turn off the hose while you wash the car from a bucket. Use the hose for a final quick rinse.

- For any small area of grass, water by hand to avoid waste. On steep slopes,

try a soaker hose to help prevent wasteful runoff.

- Consider low water-use plants and mulch beds when planning landscape design. For lawns, consider drought resistant grass.

- Repair all broken sprinkler heads to make sure they are working properly and do not spray driveways, roads, walkways etc.

- Use a rain shutoff device with all underground sprinkler systems to prevent unnecessary watering.

Nominate your candidate now

Nixon award honors local service

Groton Utilities is now accepting nominations for The Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award for 2007. 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."

The nominee's contributions to the community should make other citizens describe the nominee as generous, com-

mitted, and other similar admirable qualities, which exemplify service.

We will honor our fourth annual winner of this award during City of Groton Day 2007 on August 3 at Washington Park. Past winners have included Earle A. Williams in 2004, Robert "Bob" Leeney in 2005, and Claire Orkney in 2006.

The closing date for nominations is July 13, 2007. 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 online at grotonutilities.com.

Mark your calendar for summer concerts

Concerts in the Park will be held again this summer in Washington Park in the City of Groton. There will be Friday night concerts in June, July and August. All concerts start at 6:30 p.m.

The concert series is co-sponsored and co-produced by Groton Utilities and the City of Groton Parks and Recreation Department.

The Cartells, a local favorite band for

more than 20 years, will open the six-concert series on Friday, June 22. The second concert on June 29 will feature the **Dick Campo Big Band**.

9Teen will kick off the July schedule on Friday, July 6. On Friday, July 20, **The Black Burns** will perform, and **High Times** will end the month's schedule on Friday, July 27.

The Friday, August 10 concert con-

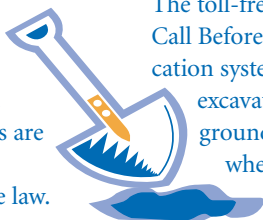


cludes the season concert series when the **Rock 'n' Soul Revue** will be featured. Rain dates, if needed for any of the concerts, are August 17 and August 24, both Fridays.

The complete Concerts in the Park 2007 schedule is also on our website at grotonutilities.com and the City's website at cityofgroton.com. For concert information or cancellation notices, call the concert hotline at 446-4128.

Always call before you dig

Before you begin any project that includes digging, you must first call 1-800-922-4455 to find out where underground utilities are located. It makes sense for safety's sake and it's also the law.



The toll-free number connects you to Call Before You Dig, a one-call notification system aimed at trouble-free excavating by locating underground utility pipe and cable anywhere in Connecticut.

The law requires you to call at least two working days before you begin. Don't take chances – some underground lines are just a few inches below the surface. Call 1-800-922-4455 before you dig!

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 6

Good Friday

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day

Wednesday, 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

295 Meridian Street
Groton, Connecticut 06340
T 860-446-4000
F 860-446-4098
www.grotonutilities.com

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 will end on April 15

The annual winter shutoff moratorium for electric service ends April 15, 2007. 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 bal-

ance, 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 about your rights or our obligations as they relate to the winter moratorium ending, please call us immediately at 446-4000.

TVC expands in 2007

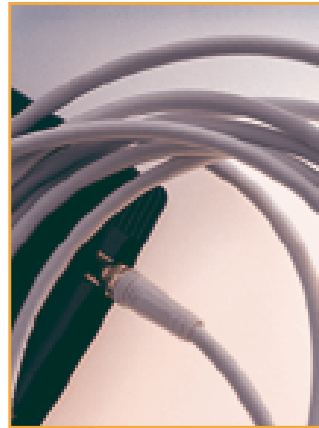
Now that Greater Groton is fully wired, Thames Valley Communications (TVC), Groton Utilities' cable division, will extend its reach in 2007 to sections of Ledyard and areas in Stonington south of Route 95.

TVC is in the third year of building a state-of-the-art fiber cable television network in Southeastern Connecticut.

"We want to thank all our future customers in our franchise area who have been so patient as we continue to expand our state-of-the-art fiber optic system," said David Lee, TVC's Chief Operating Officer. "We are building as quickly as possible without sacrificing our ability to provide the very highest quality service."

TVC has three levels of Internet ser-

vice to meet a variety of customer needs. The entry-level package offers dial-up customers a great alternative to experience the always-on feature of Internet access for as low as \$19.95 per month. If you are a Greater Groton business or resident and have not yet signed up for our reliable and low-cost cable and high speed Internet services, you can get service immediately.



For details about all the services available, including how to sign up if you are in Greater Groton, Ledyard or Stonington, call 446-4009 or stop by TVC's Customer Care Center in the Municipal Building at 295 Meridian St. in the City of Groton. Customer Care hours are in the directory at left.

You can also get information by visiting TVC on the web at tvconnect.net.