



BUSINESS

Connections

Sewer costs will now be fee based

Groton Utilities will be gaining a new business on July 1, when sewer services become part of the Groton Utilities mix of business enterprises.

City residents and businesses will start getting sewer bills in July, when sewers become fee based and not tax based.

Sewer bills will be determined on the amount of water consumed each month of the year. Bills will be calculated at a specific rate per cubic foot of water used.

Essentially sewer will be using the same cost of service approach to rates as water and electric have been using for years. Sewer becomes an enterprise account.

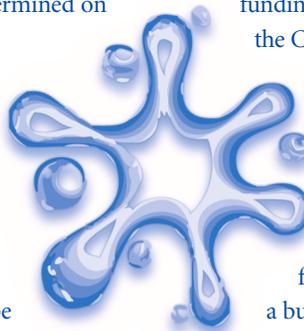
The sewer rates are designed to be revenue neutral, meaning most customers would not see any major change in costs due to the change of how sewers are financed. However, there are exceptions, because the volume of water used by various businesses can vary. Non-profits will also now be paying sewer fees, because the new rate system is based on water use volumes.

Prior to this change, sewer costs were part of a property owner's annual tax bill. The City of Groton was one of only four or five municipalities in the entire state who continued to use taxes to finance sewer costs.

The switch from tax funding to fee base funding for sewer services will allow the City of Groton to apply for special state grants, which it could not do, because of the tax based sewer-financing system.

The new method of paying for sewer services will allow for a business model approach. A sewer use fee will also allow for a more realistic approach to providing financing for upgrades to the city's wastewater system, which includes 32miles of piping, nine (9) pump stations and a treatment facility.

Groton Utilities understands that it is important to maintain the environmental integrity of the Thames River estuary and Long Island Sound. We contribute to that integrity by releasing quality effluent from the sewer treatment plant. A fee based sewer system will enhance our historical support of meeting or exceeding that goal.



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Water treatment plant renovations and improvements underway

Spring may have been late, as winter lingers, but the renovations and improvements to Groton Utilities water treatment facility are underway. Neither snow, nor sleet, nor rain or ice, could stop the start of the improvement project.

Long in planning, the four-year project began in December. R. H. White Construction Co., the low bidder, is the general contractor for the project.

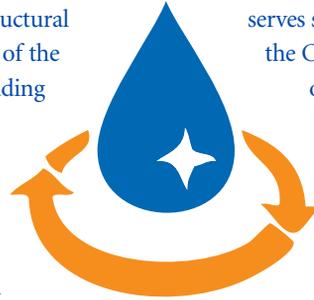
The project is designed to meet emerging and future standards for quality drinking water, improve fire protection, and provide advanced technology and process control, allowing Groton Utilities to continue the tradition of providing the highest

quality product to our customers.

The renovations include upgrades to mechanical, electrical, structural and process components of the water treatment plant, adding two water storage tanks to improve fire protection distribution services, as well as physical improvements to the facility, and energy conservation measures.

Funding for the renovations includes a grant from the State of Connecticut and low interest loan from the federal government. Water rate increases of about four (4) percent during successive years will complete the

financing mixture.



Groton Utilities Water Division serves some 6,500 customers in the City of Groton, the Town of Groton, Noank, Groton Long Point, the Mohegan Tribal Authority, the Towns of Montville and Ledyard, and the Aquarion Water Company's Mystic Division.

Special note: To view project in-progress photos and time-lapse video, go to Groton Utilities web site at grotonutilities.com. Click the link: Water Treatment Plant Project on the left side of the homepage.

Register now for Groton's Fall Festival and save

You can invest in your community by becoming a sponsor for **Groton's Thirteenth Annual Fall Festival**. Your sponsorship demonstrates your commitment to the Greater Groton community. **Groton's Annual Fall Festival** is the local event of the year. Columbus discovered America. It is time for you to discover Groton's Annual Fall Festival.

Now is the time to act, if you want to save on the registration fee. If you register and pay by July 13, 2018, you can save \$25.

The festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2018 and runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is a rain or shine event.

Groton's Annual Fall Festival is a special community event created and sponsored by the **Groton Business Association (GBA)** of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce (GMCC).

You can obtain full information on how to register for a booth by going to the GBA web site at grotonbiz.com or calling the Chamber at (860) 572-9578.

Poquonnock Plains Park, centrally located in the middle of Groton, is the festival's official site. This will be the site of an arts and crafts show, business displays, exhibits, food vendors and entertainment.

For businesses, this is an opportunity to connect with your current customers and attract new ones. For artists and crafters, it gives you access to thousands of new customers. For non-profit organizations, it is an opportunity to promote your message to thousands in person.



Congressman Joseph Courtney featured speaker at Annual Groton Business Update

Congressman Joe Courtney, who serves Connecticut's Second District, will be the featured speaker at the **Annual Groton Business Update** on Thursday, May 31, at 7:30 a.m. at the Mystic Marriot.

The **Groton Business Association (GBA)** of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) hosts the **Annual Groton Business Update**.

The cost is \$30 per person when you purchase the ticket in advance. The walk in price is \$35 the day of the event. Businesses may purchase 10-seat corporate tables for \$270.

Prospective attendees are encouraged to register in advance on line at www.mysticchamber.com/GrotonBusinessAssoc.

Attendees requiring an invoice will be charged a \$5 fee. For registration information, contact lauren@mysticchamber.org, or call the GMCC at 860-572-9578.

The **GBA**, a coalition of representatives from the local business community, the educational sector, the non-profit community and governmental units, is a part of the **Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce**.



Congressman Joe Courtney

New electric rates in effect

New electric rates for Groton Utilities' customers became effective with all bills rendered on or after April 1. This is our first rate redesign and change in nine and one-half years.

Two additional rate changes - one April 1, 2019 and the other on April 1, 2020 - will affect customer bills. Depending on their energy use patterns, business customers could experience a higher bill or a lower bill.

The new rate design includes a lower Purchase Power Adjustment (PPA) from our energy supplier, the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC), due to its efficient operation of delivering the energy supply.

The new electric rate schedule affects all classes of business customers. The

actual bill will vary for each business class.

There are two major changes in the rate design.

- The readiness to serve charge, i.e. customer service part of the bill, will increase slightly. The purpose of this change is to recover fixed expenses more evenly throughout the year.
- The energy component will decline each of the next three years, helping to offset any increase in the readiness to serve charge.

A recently conducted cost of service study formed the basis for Groton Utilities new electric rates. The factors



included the higher costs of doing business, the reality of providing the necessary capital to improve the entire electric distribution system, and the

need to insure proper maintenance of the electric distribution system. A case in point: recent doubling of the tree maintenance efforts shortened the multiple "Northeastern Winter Storm" power outages.

Groton Utilities business customers will continue to be competitive and have one of the lowest electric rates in the State of Connecticut even with the new rate schedule.

Holiday Closings

Our offices at the City Municipal Building, including Customer Service 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 28
Memorial Day

Wednesday, July 4
Independence Day

Groton Utilities' 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 860-446-4000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Customer Service lobby hours are Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and until 7 p.m. on Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Groton Utilities hopes you and your family have enjoyable holidays.

Please drive safely. **And, yes, don't forget to buckle up!**



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Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement
The City of Groton is an Equal Opportunity Employer in accordance with Federal, State and local laws. Discrimination because of an individual's race, color, religious creed, age, gender, marital status, national origin, ancestry, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status or any other protected class is prohibited.

Chamber to honor best and brightest at education breakfast

The Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce will honor the best and the brightest area high school students at the **Annual Education Breakfast on May 24 at 7:30 a.m. at the Groton Inn & Suites.**

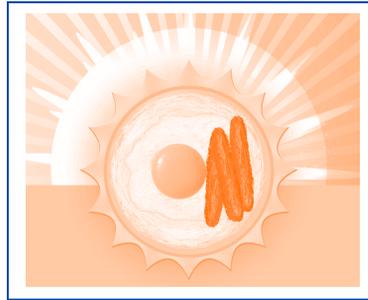
The youth will speak on the topic, "*The Importance of Community*

Interaction with Educational Institutions".

Sponsors for this special annual event

are Groton Utilities, Peoples Bank, Perkins Murphy and Kumon Tutoring.

The Chamber has invited one junior and one senior from eleven (11) high schools in Southeastern Connecticut to share their views and visions.



The cost for the breakfast buffet is \$15. For reservations, call the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce at 572-9578.

Key accounts team ready to serve you

Questions about rates? Looking to save dollars by taking new conservation measures? Wondering what Groton Utilities can do to help your business? If you are a business in the Groton Utilities service area, our Key Accounts Team is ready to serve you.

Heading our team is Len Mediavilla, General Manager, Key Accounts. Other team members are Hollis McKee, Energy Engineer, and Aaron Brooks, Utility Analytics Specialist.

Mediavilla can be reached at 860-446-4054 or mediavillal@grotonutilities.com.

McKee can be reached at 860-440-9932 or mckeeh@grotonutilities.com.

Brooks can be reached at 860-440-9933 or brooksa@grotonutilities.com.

Groton Utilities has been a municipally owned and operated electric and water utility since 1904. We live up to our motto: ***At your service.***