



connections

Marcia Gipstein is Nixon award winner

Marcia R. Gipstein is the recipient of the 2017 Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award for her many years of giving back to the community. The award was presented at the annual City of Groton Day celebration on Aug. 4.



Photo by Andrew Bell

A \$1,000 check from Groton Utilities was donated to the Ledge Light Foundation Inc. in her honor, as a charitable symbol of the award.

The annual Nixon award was created by GU in 2004 during our Centennial year to honor a member of the community who has contributed his or her time, energy and resources to make our area a better place in which to live and work.

The award's name recognizes the late Jacqueline B. Nixon's service to the community, which included operating a food pantry for needy families from her home for 24 years. Since then, each award winner has echoed Jackie's spirit of selfless giving.

Since 2008, Gipstein has been a major force and volunteer in the community

effort to keep Ledge Light local. In nominating his wife for the award, Todd Gipstein, who is President of the Ledge Light Foundation, said that while she is a transplant to Groton, Marcia has embraced the community, helped Eastern Point, and been one of the driving forces behind the restoration and use of Ledge Light, a beloved local landmark.

MANY HOURS OF SERVICE

"For eight years, she has often put in 40 hours a week (all volunteer) helping restore the light, create the museum inside the lighthouse, and run tours," he explained.

In 2009, Marcia was the driving force behind the lighthouse's Centennial gala, which drew 220 people and raised enough money to commission important studies

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Gipstein honored for service (from page 1)

to start the museum and begin serious restoration work.

For the past nine years, she has been on the Ledge Light Foundation Board of Directors, serving as its treasurer. Her involvement has also included all the preservation work on the light, writing grants, and creating the gift shop. She has also been in charge of tour guides, tour scheduling, and been a guide herself.

Marcia co-wrote the application for ownership of the light when the federal government offered it to a nonprofit. This was a joint effort with the New London Maritime Society to keep Ledge Light local. The result was successful.

Her other volunteer efforts include serving as co-president

of the Eastern Point Property Owners Association from 2007-2012, and contributing her time and energy helping on various projects such as the annual block party. She has been a member of the Eastern Point Historical Commission since 2009, helping to keep the Eastern Point neighborhood an historical gem.

Earle A. Williams was the recipient of the first annual Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award. Other winners of the award are: Robert "Bob" Leeney, Mimi Orkney, Lillian "Lil" Hansen, Sarah Stanley, William "Bill" Welsh, Jr., Alfred Restivo, Robert "Bob" Austin LaFrance, Archie C. Swindell, Mildred "Milly" Carlson, Lian Obrey, James "Jim" Streeter and Charlie Ebbinghaus.

It's easy to smooth out your bills

Have you ever thought about signing up for Groton Utilities' Budget Plan? All residential customers can take advantage of this easy way to smooth out your utility payments. Here's how it works:

Sign up for the plan, and you'll pay a predictable monthly utility bill based on an average of your last 12 months'

usage. During the budget plan period, we will monitor your payment to ensure that your budget amount remains accurate, and will make adjustments as needed. In the twelfth month, your bill will be either credited or debited, based on the difference between what you paid during the 11 months and what your actual cost was, based on your usage.

If you think this would be right for you, call us at 860-446-4000 or stop by our Customer Service Department for more information. **Customer Service 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.**

Fall Festival has fun for all



during Columbus Day weekend in October. The festival takes place Saturday, Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Groton's Annual Fall Festival is a special community event created and hosted by the Groton Business Association (GBA) of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce (GMCC). Sponsors for this year's event include Groton Utilities and the Groton Parks and Recreation Department.

Groton's Annual Fall Festival, Greater Groton's annual celebration of community, will mark its twelfth year

The main Festival site at Poquonnock Plains Park will feature artists and crafters, exhibits by local businesses and organizations, food, entertainment and more. There'll be fun for all, so don't miss out!

A complete list of participating artists, crafters, food vendors, businesses and organizations is online at grotonbiz.org, the official Groton Business Association (GBA) and Groton's Twelfth Annual Fall Festival website.

The GBA, a coalition of representatives from the local business community, the educational sector, the nonprofit and governmental units, is an affiliation of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce.

Local streetlights set for LED conversion

Plans are in place to bring state-of-the-art LED technology to local streetlights, a project that will save energy, cut costs, and improve area lighting.

Phase 1 of the project, scheduled to begin in early fall, will convert 2,000+ existing streetlights on public ways throughout the Groton Utilities service area to LED lights. This first phase should be completed by the end of this year. Phase 2 will convert some 1,400 ornamental lights in our service area.

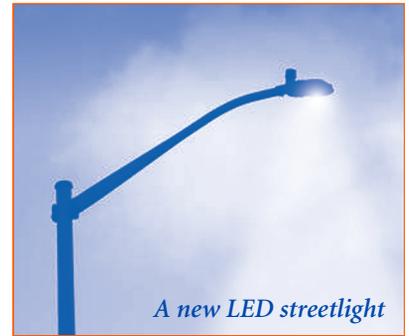
The cost to complete Phase 1 of the project is an estimated \$850,000, to be funded through Groton Utilities' conservation fund.

LED lights use 60-70 percent less energy than older technology, which saves money

and is also a greener option as lower energy use means fewer emissions associated with power plants.

In addition, LED lights last three to four times longer than older lights, which helps hold down electric rates by cutting maintenance costs. And the improved light quality provided by LEDs – closer to a daylight spectrum – improves local safety. They also offer reduced light pollution with a more focused beam that lessens excess light spreading to unneeded areas.

What makes LED technology so efficient? LEDs – light-emitting diodes – are solid-state devices that convert electric energy directly into light of a single color. Because they employ “cold” light generation



A new LED streetlight

technology, in which most of the energy is delivered in the visible spectrum, LEDs don't waste energy in the form of non-light producing heat. By comparison, most of the energy in older types of lamps is in the infrared (or non-visible) portion of the spectrum. As a result, older lamps produce a great deal of wasted heat.

You can get a preview of the new LED streetlights outside the City of Groton Municipal Building. We've installed them throughout the complex, so feel free to drive through and check them out.

Public Power is working for you

**PUBLIC
POWER
WEEK**

OCTOBER 1-7, 2017

Powering Strong Communities

the official Public Power Week celebration across the country.

Each October, more than 2,000 public power utilities in the country pause to celebrate the low rates and superior service delivered by community-owned electric utilities like Groton Utilities. This year, October 1-7 is

The history of our utility dates to the beginning of the last century when the leaders of the Borough, the early name for the City of Groton, decided to buy a private electric company and operate it as a municipal business. As a result, the City of Groton has been a public power community since 1904.

Today, that foresighted decision has led to low cost electric power not only for the City of Groton, which owns the utility, but also for residents in most of the rest of the Town of Groton, including the West Pleasant Valley Fire District, Poquonnock Bridge, Center Groton, and Groton Long Point.

Groton Utilities Electric Division provides its customers with some of the lowest electric rates in both Connecticut and New England. Not only that, these revenues make it possible for the Electric Division to provide the City of Groton annually with a \$3.8 million return on the electric business, which helps keep the City's taxes low.

Essentially, this reduces the amount of money that the City needs to raise in taxes. Without the utility revenue, The City would have to increase its taxes another two to three mills.

Public power is indeed powerful!

Holiday Closings

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

Monday, October 9
Columbus Day

Friday, November 10
Veterans Day

Thursday, November 23
Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 24
Post-Thanksgiving 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 860-446-4000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Customer Service 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. 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.

This free service will cut your costs

The Home Energy Savings (HES) program is a free service from GU aimed at helping our residential customers save energy and money on their utility bills. Whether you heat with electricity, oil, or propane, you can use HES to make your home more efficient.

Request an appointment, and an HES technician will visit your home to perform a free on-site assessment of your home's energy use. You'll get:

- Four free LED lights, if you are a new HES program participant,
- Up to 25 additional high efficiency light bulbs,
- Blower door testing and on-the-spot air sealing to eliminate drafts,

- Duct sealing to reduce duct loss (if you have a central system),
- Domestic hot water measures such as showerheads and aerators, and
- Health and safety testing.

This service, worth about \$1,000, is fully funded by Groton Utilities through an existing charge on your utility bill. Once HES has been completed, the savings on your utility bills are estimated to be approximately \$250 per year for the life of the measures.

In addition, there are attic insulation rebates that can help cover a significant portion of the cost for increasing the insulation in your home. For more details, visit grotonutilities.com, or call Customer Service at 860-446-4000.

School bus safety rules

As your children head out to school this fall, be sure to remind them about school bus safety rules:

- Follow the instructions of your school bus driver.
- Always make sure you can see your driver's face when you cross in front of the bus. If you cannot see the driver's face, then he or she cannot see you.



- If you drop something in front of the bus or near it, don't pick it up. Ask an adult to get it for you or wait until the bus leaves.

- Do not walk along the side of the bus. If you can touch it, you are too close.
- Don't run, play ball, fight or horse around at the bus stop, and don't stand or play on snow banks while waiting for the bus.
- Take your seat promptly and remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.
- Remain quiet and orderly.

- Be alert to traffic when approaching or leaving the bus.
- Never use the back door except for emergencies or bus evacuation drills.