



connections



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Be wise. Analyze before you invest in solar!

- * Thinking about solar, but not sure you can afford the investment?
- * Will you get a good return on your solar investment?
- * Are solar vendors overwhelming you with offers they claim are too good to pass up?
- * How do you compare a vendor's proposal to another's?
- * Trying to balance the contractor's proposal with Groton Utilities standard tariff?

answers about your potential solar investment. **And it's FREE!**

Most importantly, the evaluation results will be confidential. The results will not be shared with Groton Utilities unless you, the customer, want to provide **Groton Utilities** with the results.

Groton Utilities wants you to make the best financial decision when it comes to investing in solar. The investment in a solar system can be substantial – a nice way to say expensive - so it is important that you review all the information before making the right decision for you.

Groton Utilities has the best way for you to get the answer to all your solar investment questions.

What you need is an unbiased, third party, Solar Energy Financial Evaluation. Groton Utilities has arranged for an independent consultant to help you get all the right

If you are ready to start an evaluation, visit our web site at **grotonutilities.com**. Point and click on "Latest News". Then select the "Happy Sun" icon,

and you will be ready to start your **FREE Solar Energy Financial Evaluation**.

Groton Utilities is, as always, at your service.



GU water rates increase January 1

Groton Utilities Water Division's rates will increase four percent on Monday, January 1, 2018. This is first of three four (4) percent increases over the next two-and-a-half years. The increase applies to all classes of customers – residential, commercial and industrial.

The typical household using 800 cubic feet of water per month will see a monthly increase of approximately \$1.90 on January 1, 2018.

The new rate structure was initiated in order to support

the \$54 million water bond issue approved in 2017, which will finance the renovations at the Water Treatment Plant.

The project is expected to take three (3) years.

Groton Utilities Water Division serves more than 6,000 water customers in the City of Groton, the Town of Groton, the

Bel Air section of Mystic, Noank, and Groton Long Point. Water is also sold on a sale-for-resale basis to the Towns of Ledyard and Montville via the regional water distribution and transmission system.



City Cabaret celebrates thirteenth concert season

The schedule for City Cabaret 2018 has been finalized. The thirteenth season kicks off in January. The concerts are free and open to the public.

All City Cabaret 2018 concerts are held in the City of Groton Auditorium at 295 Meridian Street in the City of Groton on Sundays at 3:00 p.m., January through March.

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

Andy Sherwood's Dixieland Jazz Quartet will kick off the City Cabaret 2018 season on **Sunday, January 28.**

The quartet, an annual performer in the series, includes Andy Sherwood, playing the clarinet; Ian Franke on the piano; Tom Briggs on drums; and Bryan Rizzuto on bass.

Clarinetist and saxophonist Sherwood displays a style deeply rooted in the clarinet playing of Benny Goodman, "the King of Swing," and Pete Fountain, "the King of Dixieland." Andy grew up listening to these great clarinetists, eventually leading him to audition and



win the position as jazz clarinetist for the U.S. Coast Guard Band. He retired from the band in 2009 after 24 years.

The OBrien String Trio will be featured **Sunday, February 18.** This versatile ensemble will be playing innovative arrangements of all styles of music, appealing to all ages in the audience, including everything from "Bach to Rock and back to Broadway."

The trio consists of Kate O'Brien on the

violin, Lydia Leizman on the viola, and E. Zoe Hassman on the cello. The group will also play Kate O'Brien's original arrangements of popular, ethnic and fiddling styles.

The Cartells Quartet will get you into the swing of things, musically that is, on **Sunday, March 11.** The foursome will be feature Karin Barth and three of her other regular members of her bigger band, The Cartells. The group will offer all your favorites in an intimate musical atmosphere.

Dessert, coffee and bottle water will be available for purchase from the Fitch High School Alcohol and Drug Free Party Committee.

No alcohol is allowed. The concert info line is (860) 446-4129.

George Scully begins term as City Utilities Commissioner

George Scully, a retired Groton Utilities employee, has begun a new career as a policy maker for the City's electric and water businesses.

Scully attended his first meeting as a member of the five-person City of Groton Utilities Commission in October. He was appointed October 2, 2017 to fill the unexpired term of former commissioner Ed DeMuzzio. His term will expire May 31, 2020.

The City of Groton Charter empowers the commission to set policy for both of Groton Utilities two major

businesses – electric and water services. Together their annual sales are about 85 million dollars.

A lifetime resident of Groton and a graduate of Fitch Senior High School, Scully retired in June after 42 and 1/2 years of service. All of this service was in the Electric Division except for the first three years when he worked in the Water Division. His last position was General Foreman in the Electric Division, where he was responsible for both line and substation crews.

Asked about his new role as a

commissioner and utilities' policy maker, Scully said, "I consider this experience as an opportunity to give back to the City of Groton."

Scully has lived in the south end of the City of Groton with his wife, Mary Ann, for 32 years.

The last Groton Utilities employee to serve as a member of the City of Groton Utilities Commission was Manager of Utilities Julio H. Leandri. He was appointed a member of the Commission June 2, 1986 and served until April 2005.

Groton Utilities crews in Virgin Islands to help restoration

Groton Utilities sent three crews to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands to help with the restoration of electrical services to that storm torn Caribbean island during October and November.

The first crew included three electric linemen and a manager for about three weeks. Crews continue to be rotated out every few weeks. Two vehicles, one digger truck and one pickup truck, plus a pole carrier, are being used by the crews during their restoration work.

The first crew members traveling to St. Thomas were Lead Lineman Jeffrey Lyon, and Linemen Matthew Cook and Keith Lemoine. Brian Roche managed the crew. This crew was in St. Thomas from October 13 to November 6.

A second crew deployed to St. Thomas to replace the first crew. They were Lead Lineman Matt Lyon and Linemen Kurt Collelo and Jeremy Doucette. Randy Suprenant is the manager for this crew.

A third Groton Utilities crew left for St. Thomas on November 6, consisting of lead Lineman Chris Coale and Lineman Jeff Sherman Jr. Another line truck was also barged to the island in support of this group.

Groton Utilities is one of two Connecticut public power systems to commit to the St. Thomas electric restoration effort. Norwich Public Utilities is also involved in the restoration efforts. Crews from other municipal electric utilities in New England joined Groton Utilities in the effort, which was coordinated by the New England Public Power Association (NEPPA), the organization representing municipally owned and operated electric companies in New England.

Groton Utilities has been a municipally owned and operated electric utility since 1904 and serves a population of more than 35,000 in the greater Groton area, including Pfizer, Electric Boat and the U. S. Naval Submarine Base.

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, December 25
Christmas Day Observed

Monday, January 1
New Year's Day Observed

Monday, January 15
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

Monday, February 19
Presidents 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 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. 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.

Thank you for caring

Groton Utilities' customers have donated several thousand dollars to the Energy Assistance Fund since it began. Thank you for caring! You have helped many families who are less fortunate and needed assistance in paying their utility bills.

We are entering that time of year when some of your neighbors will be finding themselves in a money squeeze as their energy usage increases in the cold months ahead and their cash decreases.

If you're in a position to give again or perhaps you're thinking about giving for the first time, we urge you to donate to the fund. This is the season for giving, that time of year when people seem more likely to help others.

The year is ending. A New Year is in sight. Let's help some of our neighbors get off to a better New Year. Send your donation to:

GAP C/O Groton Social Services
2 Fort Hill Rd., Groton, CT 06340-4723

Make checks payable to GU/EAF. Please do not send cash through the mail. On behalf of those who benefited from your generosity, Groton Utilities says, "Thank you for caring."

Snow removal around fire hydrants

As the winter season begins and the chances for big snowfalls increase, Groton Utilities Water Division is asking for your help. Please keep fire hydrants on the sidewalks near your property free of snow and ice.



firefighters have access to them.

If you were one of our many thoughtful customers who helped keep the fire hydrants free of snow and ice in the past few years, Groton Utilities appreciates your cooperation and thanks you.

With frequent winter snowstorms, we cannot always clear all of the more than 700 area fire hydrants as quickly as we would like. And, in the case of fire, it is vital that firefighters have access to the fire hydrants. And remember, don't shovel or plow snow on top of or around fire hydrants.

Local fire chiefs have requested that we also ask you to keep the hydrants clear of vehicular parking so that their

If you have a contractor for snow removal for your business or apartment complex, we ask you to remind your contractor to keep snow away from the fire hydrants.

Simply keep in mind that there is no sense like common sense. Keep fire hydrants free from snow. It will be a safer winter for you, your family, your neighbors and the entire community.