



BUSINESS

# Connections

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*Register now*

## Groton Business Update scheduled for May 18

What's ahead for the Greater Groton Business Community? Find out on Thursday, May 18, from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Annual Groton Business Update, presented by the Groton Business Association (GBA) of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce (GMCC).

This annual event, held each May, offers a current overview and future plans for the Groton business environment. Sponsored by Groton Utilities and hosted by Groton Inn & Suites, the event will feature five speakers from the local business community, who will focus on the local economy and its future prospects.

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 eight-seat corporate tables for \$180. Prospective attendees are encouraged to register in advance. You can register on line at [grotonbiz.com](http://grotonbiz.com), at [Kristin@mysticchamber.org](mailto:Kristin@mysticchamber.org), or call the GMCC at 860-572-9578.

The Annual Groton Business Update will feature a presentation and discussion by a panel of local business leaders, influential and significant to the Greater Groton business community. They are:



Robert "Bob" Ross, Executive Director of the Connecticut Office of Military Affairs; Tom Plante, Director of Strategic Planning, Electric Boat Shipyard; Timothy "Tim" Tylaska, President of the Mystic Business Park; Stephen Clemente, Chair of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) Board of Directors, and owner of the Extra Virgin Olive Oil Company, the Semolina Pasta Shop, and Sticky Situations; and Hannah Gant, Director of Strategy and Innovation at Spark Makerspace.

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

*Register by July 14 to save*

# Groton's Twelfth Annual Fall Festival



Now's the time to register as a sponsor for Groton's Twelfth Annual Fall Festival, the "event of the year," created and sponsored by the Groton Business Association (GBA) of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce.

This year's festival is Saturday, October 7 at Poquonnock Plains Park in the

heart of Groton. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. The site will host an arts and crafts show, business displays, exhibits, food vendors, entertainment and more.

**Register and pay by July 14 to save \$25 off the registration fee.**

Register online at [grotonbiz.com](http://grotonbiz.com), where the GBA has complete information for participants and food vendors. For convenience, the GBA now accepts online payments. You can also call the Chamber at 860-572-9578.

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

Don't miss your chance to invest in the community and demonstrate your commitment to local life. This Columbus Day weekend, discover Groton's Fall Festival.

## Sub Base to save millions on energy

Substantial energy and cost savings are set to take place at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, thanks to a \$15 million energy services contract arranged by Groton Utilities.

Planned energy system improvements at the Sub Base are expected to produce an annual operating cost reduction approaching \$1.2 million, while EPA calculations predict annual greenhouse gas emission reductions equivalent to the energy consumed by 650 homes per year.

These extraordinary reductions are possible due to the fact that the project will reduce annual utility consumption by 51,000 MMBTU per year.

Groton Utilities competitively awarded CCI Group the Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC) for the construction, upgrade, and modernization of outdated energy-consuming systems and equipment at the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton.

This project is a continuation of a U.S. Navy-funded energy conservation project involving Groton Utilities, the CCI Group and the Navy. The initial \$10 million contract was awarded to Groton Utilities in 2010.

"The Navy's long-term vision is to continue to be effective in reducing energy costs not only now, but also in the future," said Capt. Paul Whitescarver, Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base, New London.



"Groton Utilities is proud to assist the Navy in reaching both their short-term and long-term energy goals," said Ron Gaudet, Director of Utilities. "As a public power utility, we realize that it is important to strengthen the Sub Base as a highly viable military facility and as a most important economic driver for Greater Groton and Southeastern Connecticut."

The project includes the replacement and modernization of Base-wide outdated centralized heating systems, HVAC equipment and controls, interior and exterior lighting, pier/waterfront high-masted security/safety lighting, compressed air equipment and distributions, and potable water fixtures.

"CCI Group is honored to be selected by Groton Utilities and by SUBASE to provide mission-critical facility infrastructure improvements – upgrades that will also save millions," said Duncan Morrison, President and CEO of CCI Group.

# GU Update: 2017 projects and initiatives

Here are brief summaries of some key projects and initiatives Groton Utilities is working on in 2017:

- **Drought Management:** With proactive management of our robust water supply, GU was continuously able to be a regional provider throughout the state's Drought Advisory. GU's water supply is currently at  $\pm 100\%$  of capacity.

- **Water Treatment Plant:** The \$54 million reconstruction and rebuild of the water treatment plant continues to move forward. On Feb. 22, the Utility Commission unanimously approved the proposed Bond Fund Improvements. Action moves forward to City Council.

- **Walker Hill Water Tank:** Project to replace the existing tank with a new larger capacity tank moves forward. Project is estimated to begin in the spring.

- **Water Main Replacements:** Project involving the replacement of a section of water main and 15 hydrants in the Midway Oval/Poquonnock Bridge area has been completed.

- **Next Gen Science Project(s):** The American Eel migrates from the Sargasso Sea all the way to the GU reservoirs. The eels are attracted to the active motion of the GU waterways. GU is working with area schools on a Next Gen Science Project to limit/catch the eels before they become problematic for GU infrastructure.

- **Meter Replacement/Enhancements:** GU continues to invest in a meter replacement program for both the Water and Electric Divisions.

- **2016 Outage Statistics Released:** In 2016 GU's service territory saw 99.98% reliability. The average GU customer saw only 3.2 interruptions throughout the year with an average restoration time of only 32.77 minutes.



- **Crystal Lake Road Pole Replacement:** GU is working in conjunction with the state on a project that involves street enhancements to Crystal Lake Road near the Sub Base entrance. As part of the project, GU is working to set poles and infrastructure further back off of the road.

- **Streetlight Replacement Program:** GU has been actively working with the Town of Groton on the replacement of streetlights. The Town is nearly finished with the replacement of streetlights within Eversource's service territory. GU expects to begin in our service territory in the upcoming months. The goal of the collaborative effort is to have seamless transitions of lighting for the entire town/city.

## Protect the environment

# Be careful with hazardous materials

Most of the residents who live in the City of Groton reside within the watershed of the Thames River and Long Island Sound. Proper use and disposal of household chemicals and hazardous materials is



very important to preserve the quality of the Sound. Travelling north along the Routes 12 and 117 corridors, residences are within the watershed for the drinking water supplies that serve Groton and the Region.

Again, proper use of chemicals and hazardous household materials is paramount. Please visit [www.SCRRA.org](http://www.SCRRA.org) or call 860-381-5948 for the 2017 collection schedule of chemical and hazardous household wastes. Thank you for protecting the environment.

## 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:

**Friday, April 14**

Good Friday

**Monday, May 29**

Memorial Day

**Tuesday, July 4**

Independence Day

**Monday, September 4**

Labor 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!**



**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.

## Key Accounts

# What's new for 2017?

What's new in the Greater Groton business world? How is Groton Utilities working to make that world better for everyone in our service area?

Here's a look at some of the projects in the works as the Groton Utilities Key Accounts Team continues to pursue new ways to be at your service. This is our way of making you part of our energy team.

### MICRO GRIDS

A new way or idea to provide our local businesses and critical customers with reliable power and service is with a micro grid. This service is essentially using existing, local, dedicated power units to serve critical customers during major outages.

By directing existing power to essential services such as medical facilities, public service customers, gas stations, and grocery stores, most critical customers can continue to have services available until full power is restored.

Groton Utilities is now applying for a

grant from the State of Connecticut for micro grids in our service area. This financing is needed to provide the infrastructure changes necessary to coordinate the separate electric units so that they can direct electricity to critical facilities.

Current plans are to create two major micro grids. This would ensure that critical facilities such as the Groton-New London Airport, police and fire facilities, gas stations, grocery stores and emergency medical facilities are all able to function during a major electrical system outage.

Groton Utilities will keep you updated on this project as major milestones are reached.

### IMPORTANT REBATE CHANGE

Groton Utilities in 2017 will be providing commercial & industrial (C&I) rebates of 35% of the total project cost with an annual cap of \$100,000 per FED ID#. All rebates are at the sole discretion of the governing utility and can be modified without prior notice.

## Our Key Accounts team

*Have a question or need help with your electric service? It's easy to reach us:*

**Len Mediavilla,**  
*General Manager, Key Accounts*  
Call: 860-446-4054  
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