



BUSINESS

# Connections

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### Earns national recognition

## GU honored for reliable electric operations



Groton Utilities has earned a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)<sup>®</sup> designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service.

GU received the RP3 honor during the Association’s recent Engineering & Operations Technical Conference held in San Antonio, Texas. Our utility was one of 110 municipal electric utilities to receive the RP3 designation and one of 42 to receive the Platinum Designation.

“Utilities that have earned an RP3 designation demonstrate public power’s emphasis on achieving leading practices and providing a high level of service to communities,” said David Lynch, chair of the Association’s RP3 Review Panel.

The RP3 designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

“We’re honored to be recognized as a Reliable Public Power Provider,” said GU Director of Utilities Ron Gaudet. “Our staff at Groton Utilities works hard to provide reliable service and RP3 recognizes our commitment to serving the community.”

This is the fourth time in 12 years that Groton Utilities has received RP3 recognition, including Platinum Level and Gold Level awards. RP3 designations are in effect for three years.

“This recognition is a testament to the quality work our employees do every day. It emphasizes our employees’ commitment to excellence and performance,” said Gaudet.

# Water treatment – the next generation



The next generation of water treatment is upon us. City voters have approved the necessary funding to finance \$54 million in

improvements to Groton Utilities water treatment facility. Long in planning, the four-year project will begin shortly, when R. H. White Construction Co. breaks ground.

The project is designed to meet emerging and future standards for quality drinking water, allowing Groton Utilities

to continue the tradition of providing the highest quality water to our customers.

The renovations include upgrades in the water treatment process, adding two water storage tanks to improve distribution services, and physical improvements to the facility.

Funding for the renovations includes a \$15 million grant from the State Department of Public Health and \$40 million in municipal bonds. Higher revenues helped by water rate increases during the next few years complete the financing mixture. Increased water sales to communities outside of the Greater Groton Community are expected to improve revenues and add to GU's role as a regional water supplier.

## Water quality report available online

GU's Annual Water Quality Report summarizes water quality results from the previous year and contains information about the source and treatment of your drinking water.

The 2016 Water Quality Report is now available online at

[grotonutilities.com/waterqualityreport/?year=2016](http://grotonutilities.com/waterqualityreport/?year=2016). For the fourth consecutive year, we have taken this environmentally friendly means of distributing the report instead of printing and mailing it out.

We encourage you to read this

important information. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, call us at 860-446-4000 to request a copy. Please share this important water quality information with other water users at your location who do not receive a bill.

## Become a Fall Festival sponsor

Here's your chance to invest in the community by becoming a sponsor for Groton's Twelfth Annual Fall Festival, to be held Saturday, October 7 during Columbus Day weekend.

Sign up for sponsorship now, and just as Columbus discovered America, you can discover the many benefits of demonstrating your commitment to the Greater Groton community at this popular annual festival.

Created and sponsored by the Groton Business Association (GBA) of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce (GMCC), Groton's Annual Fall Festival is the local event of the year.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine, at Poquonnock Plains Park. Centrally located in the middle of

Groton, the site will host an arts and crafts show, business displays, exhibits, food vendors, entertainment, and more.

Fall festival sponsors are also promoted and listed as sponsors for the annual Groton Holiday Lights Parade, scheduled for December 2.

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 nonprofit organizations, it is an opportunity to promote your message to thousands in person.

Find full information on how to become a sponsor on the GBA web site at [grotonbiz.com](http://grotonbiz.com) or call the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce at 860-572-9578.



# GU and Doncasters partner for progress

Partnerships produce progress. That's the bottom line when two companies find that working together makes all things both positive and possible.

Doncasters Precision Castings on Poquonnock Road had reached a significant milestone in the company's history that called for a major expansion. Groton Utilities Key Account team had one of the answers to make that expansion more successful.

Meeting with the company's key decision-makers, the GU team explained that it would be most beneficial for their company to switch from their old fluorescent and HID lighting to the more energy-efficient LED technology.

And as the cliché goes, "The rest is history." The installation

of new LED lighting at the casting company's factory resulted in \$49,000 in energy savings annually.

Now that is a real saving when you are investing

\$188,000 in a major lighting upgrade. Groton Utilities assisted Doncasters in their LED upgrade by providing a \$93,000 incentive. The life of LED lighting is estimated to operate between 80,000 to 100,000 hours compared to the HID and fluorescent technologies of 30,000 hours.

As we like to say at Groton Utilities, "At your service."



## Always call before you start to dig

Planning a project that includes digging? Before you begin, call 811 to find out what's buried underground. Make sure any contractors you use call, too.

You'll be connected to Call Before You Dig (CBYD), a statewide system that will notify participating utilities to mark the locations of their underground lines. Don't think a small project won't matter – buried lines can

be located just a few inches below ground, often where you least expect them. Damaging one could be very costly. Even worse, someone could be seriously hurt.

CBYD is aimed at ensuring trouble-free excavating by locating underground utility pipe and cable anywhere in Connecticut. The law requires individuals who use power

mechanized equipment for the purpose of disturbing the sub-surface of the earth to provide advance notice of at least two full working days to the CBYD clearing house before beginning proposed excavations.



Call 811 before you dig. It's smart, it's FREE, and it's the law.

## Warm weather energy-saving tips

- **No cost money savers.** Here are a few no-cost ways to save energy right now: open shades to take advantage of natural sunlight, turn off lights that aren't needed, remove unnecessary light bulbs, raise your air conditioning settings, and turn off all equipment when not needed.

- **Tune up your cooling system.** Although hot summer weather is already here, it's not too late for a cooling system tune-up. If you didn't do it at the beginning of the season, you should have a qualified technician inspect, test and clean your system now. Also, make sure to turn off air conditioning in unoccupied areas, and check to see if thermostats are at proper levels. For individual air conditioners, clean or change

filters once a month during the cooling season.

- **Turn off your HVAC earlier.** You may be able to shave your heating, ventilation and air conditioning costs by turning your HVAC system off earlier. Most buildings stay relatively warm or cool for at least a half hour after the HVAC is turned off or the settings are adjusted for the night.

- **Consider installing fans.** Window fans or ceiling fans cost less to run than air conditioning, and they can lessen or even eliminate the need for AC. Also, put up blinds, shades or draperies to block the sun during the hottest part of the day to hold down air conditioning costs.

## 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, September 4**  
Labor Day

**Monday, October 9**  
Columbus Day

**Friday, November 10**  
Veterans Day

**Thursday, November 23**  
Thanksgiving

**Friday, November 24**  
Post Thanksgiving Holiday

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.

*August 19*

# Airport open house



Celebrate National Aviation Day on Saturday, August 19, at the Groton-New London Airport annual open house and walking tour. Here's your opportunity to get an insider look at your regional airport. It all happens from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This is a free event sponsored by the Groton Business Association (GBA), an affiliation of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA).

You can view aircraft up-close and speak with actual pilots. There will be displays, tours and demonstrations at various sites and businesses at the airport.

Visit the New England Air Museum, CT Aero Tech School, Lamar Maintenance & Repair Hangar, the 1109th TASMGM Helicopter Repair Facility, Survival Systems USA, the Mystic Jet Center, military aircraft and the International Comanche Society of New England.

## Be careful outside

If warm weather has you thinking about outside projects at your business, please be careful. Make sure that all employees – as well as outside contractors – follow these safety practices to minimize the risk of accidents and injuries:

- **Look around your business.** Before beginning any outside project, take a few minutes to visually locate the outside electrical equipment serving your facility. Then tell all employees to avoid both overhead lines and ground-level equipment such as pad-mounted transformers. If something changes or doesn't look right, call us at 860-446-4000.

- **Keep clear of power lines.** Plan jobs carefully to avoid contact with overhead power lines. Keep equipment such as

booms, ladders and antennae at least 10 feet away from overhead lines and never use metal poles or ladders near power lines. Stay clear of substations and transformers, too.

- **Never touch or go near a fallen power line.** Always assume all downed lines are live and dangerous. Downed power lines can hurt or kill you, even if they do not spark, hum or move. Stay away from anything touching a downed line, too. Call us for help at 860-446-4000.

- **Check electric cords for wear.** If you're outside or in a wet location, be sure tools and extension cords are rated for outdoor use. Don't use equipment that gives off mild shocks, unusual heat or strange odors.