



# Between The Lines

FISHERS ISLAND UTILITIES CO.

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## New Rates Enhance Water System for Next Generation

Enclosed with this mailing is a notice announcing new water rates approved by the New York State Public Service Commission. This represents only the third water rate increase in nearly fourteen years. The new rates will bring the estimated annual cost for 36,000 gallons of water for year-round residents to \$769 and \$989 for seasonal residents. Despite the adjustment, Fishers Island water rates remain well below local industry averages (see chart).

These new water rates give us the flexibility to work on

capital projects that will benefit the island community for years to come. Our current project includes the addition of a new water well and a new well water filtration plant.

Fishers Island water comes from two sources – surface water that is processed through the processing plant located adjacent to Barlow Pond and well water. Well water is the preferred water source as it costs 50% less to produce and requires fewer chemicals to convert to drinkable water. We have been operating with just two wells for many years. Later this fall, as part of this capital

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## Going Green With FIUC

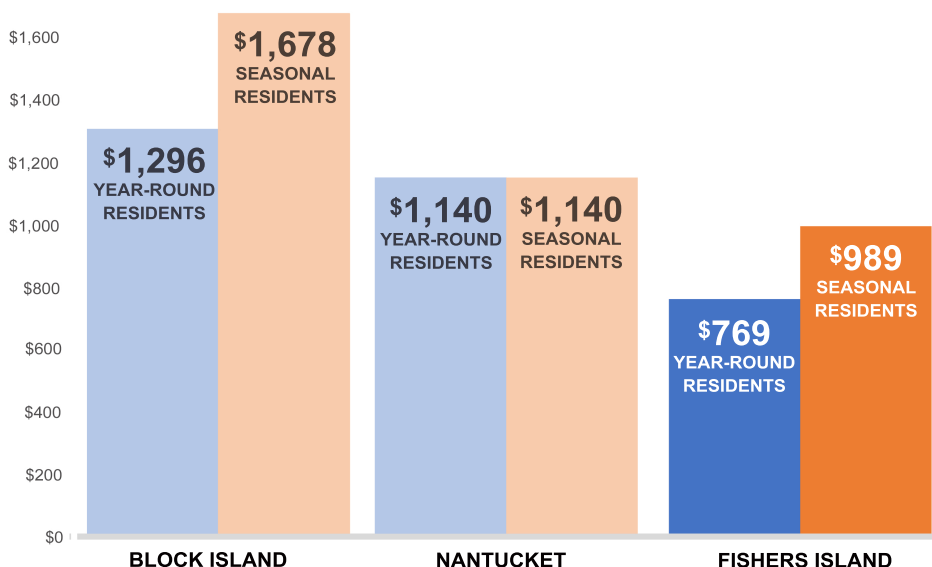
In 2016, FIUC explored the possibility of investing in solar and tidal power. While the “green” aspect of each project seems obvious, these projects were not economically viable in 2016. In reality, embarking on these projects would have increased FIUC costs and, as a result, increased consumer rates.

In addition, the success of these options depends greatly on our ability to sell excess power back to the mainland. Unfortunately, Fishers Island only has a single undersea power line connecting The island to the mainland and it doesn't have the capacity to send excess power back to the mainland.

FIUC appreciates our customers growing interest in “green” energy and electricity. Therefore, we plan to take a second look at these options in 2019. In conjunction with assessing solar, tidal and wind alternatives, we'll also investigate state and federal grants that could help us pay for an additional undersea cable.

We will continue to communicate our findings as we look into these green initiatives in 2019.

### ANNUAL COST OF 36,000 GALLONS OF WATER USAGE (Using New Fishers Island Rates)



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project, we'll bring on line a third well located adjacent to the driving range. This well is much stronger than the others and will more than double our supply of available well water. In addition, as part of this project we'll add a new state-of-the-art filtration system for all of our well water. This filtration system will greatly enhance the quality of the water that is delivered to each customer. When the new well and filtration plant are completed this fall, Fishers Island will have a more reliable source of clean, pure water than ever before.

We are excited about these new enhancements to our water quality and supply, but we also know that other important projects still lie ahead. They include the replacement of antiquated fire hydrants, repairing and replacing aging water mains and valves, implementing a remote

metering system (smart meters), and upgrading the surface water plant. The main goal of these projects is to ensure water quality and supply and reduce future operating costs.

In addition to these capital improvements, it is our hope that this new rate will help the company become financially self-sustaining. Fishers Island Water Works has incurred substantial losses for several years. In addition, owners have invested \$800,000 of new capital over the past two years to allow the water company to continue operations. The new water rates create the financial stability required to make necessary improvements to our water facilities and delivery systems. As a result, Fishers Island residents and businesses will have an ample supply of pure, clean water for years to come.

## Who's Who at FIUC

*Each edition, we'll introduce you to a FIUC team member, who provides you with electricity, internet, phone or water services.*



**BRYAN MARTEENY**  
*Plant Superintendent  
Fishers Island Telephone*

Bryan is a Fishers Island resident and, for the past 4 years, has overseen and implemented the transition of Fishers Island Telephone by modernizing the network and enhancing operations. Before moving to the Fishers Island, Bryan worked in Alaska as a telecommunications professional in charge of inside plant operations. Bryan has 22 years of accumulated experience in the industry.

Bryan is the proud father of 2 children. He enjoys live music, friends, family, travelling, biking, sightseeing and swimming.



### WATER WORKS

Water is a substance composed of hydrogen and oxygen.

It is the only compound that occurs naturally on earth in all physical states: Solid, liquid & Gas.

*Thank you Sarah Malinowski of "Tap FI into H2O" for the great idea of featuring a water fact in "Between the Lines."*



## Free WiFi?

Did you know that Fishers Island Utilities offers free wifi on the town green? Check it out next time you're out and about in town. It's year-round and it's totally free!



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