



# Fountain Utilities

Your Hometown Utility



FountainUtilities.org | 719-322-2010

## Movie Night in the Park is BACK!

The City Parks Department hosts another summer of family-friendly movies at Metcalfe Park!  
Visit FountainColorado.org or follow us on Facebook for movies and dates!

## Free Water-Wise Landscape Seminars

What You Need to Know to Make Your Landscape Thrive!

## UtiliNews

JUNE 2019

Recommended Watering Schedule  
Broadband in Fountain  
Water Rate Increase  
Upcoming Events

## June's Watering Recommendations

To best support your lawn during the month of June, we recommend watering two days a week, between the hours of 7pm and 10am to reduce moisture loss caused by evaporation.

Each segment of your landscape that has different watering needs (based on plant material) is called a "zone." Water each zone for the number of minutes associated with the type of sprinkler head you are using. This should be done three times a day, allowing the water to soak in for at least one hour between watering cycles.



## Register Today!

Fountain Utilities is partnering with Resource Central to provide customers with two free courses designed to educate and assist with transforming your lawn into a water-wise oasis. Visit FountainUtilities.org to register - seats are limited!

July 29th

### Transforming Your Lawn Into a Xeriscape Garden

When done well, xeriscaping can result in a beautiful landscape that includes flowers, trees, shrubs, mulch and even some turf. In the end, you'll learn the keys to unlock the beauty of your landscape and save water along the way!

July 30th

### Building a Pollinator Friendly Landscape

Choosing the right plants for your landscape can do many things: add beauty, create food and habitat for wildlife, and attract a crucial part of our ecosystem - pollinators! You'll learn how easy it is to create a habitat that provides food, water, shelter and space for pollinators.



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# Save the Date!

On September 21, 2019, the City of Fountain Electric Department will Celebrate a Centennial of Service to our community! Join us at Metcalfe Park starting at noon for activities, food and fun!

## How Fast is Your Internet?

Learn how the City of Fountain is evaluating access to broadband throughout the community!

In November 2018, an overwhelming majority (73%) of Fountain voters approved a ballot measure that allowed Fountain's City Council to regain authority over telecommunication services, such as high-speed internet. The City strongly believes that Improving access to these services will help to improve quality of life and support the economic vitality of our community.

Earlier this year, the City of Fountain partnered with an engineering firm to produce a Broadband Feasibility Study. The study analyzes two business models for the potential creation of a new broadband utility; City own-and-operate, and a public-private partnership. Several items will be considered, including (but not limited to) results of a market survey, associated costs and financial modeling, competition, and the economic development impacts of a broadband utility.

A market survey is currently being conducted to gauge residents' interest in a community-owned broadband utility. The survey will be conducted throughout the electric service territory, which includes Fountain proper, and unincorporated areas of El Paso County. Residents may be contacted by phone and asked to participate in a brief survey regarding their current service.

The study is expected to be completed this fall and presented to City Council for their consideration and guidance on how to proceed with this initiative.

For more information, visit [FountainColorado.org/Broadband](http://FountainColorado.org/Broadband).

Take our Speed Test Survey online!



## Water System Improvements Planned with Rate Increase

Fountain Utilities performs an extensive water rate study every two years, which evaluates various components of operating and maintaining a water utility. Most importantly, the study considers existing rates and the projected expenses associated with providing reliable and safe water to our community.

The most recent study indicated the need to adjust the current water rate structure in order to support operations and make several improvements to Fountain's water utility. City Council recently passed an Ordinance authorizing a 4% increase in water rates, which goes into effect June 10, 2019. For a residential customer who uses 6,000 gallons of water a month will experience an increase of approximately \$2.65 on their water bill. This increase helps to support a variety of capital improvement projects, including:

### Water Treatment Plant

In partnership with the United States Air Force, a new water treatment plant will be constructed at Aga Park and connected to all four City-owned wells. This partnership includes funding from the Air Force, and Fountain sharing the cost to purchase right-of-ways, perform well rehabilitation, and construct a new building.

### South Santa Fe Road Water Main

The existing water main located underneath South Santa Fe Road is undersized, prone to breaks, and requires extensive maintenance due to its age. Replacing this main will increase water flows and enhance water pressure to the southern region of the community.

### Southwest Link Interconnect

A new 36" water pipeline will be installed and connect the southeast region of the City to existing infrastructure in order to enhance reliability and support future growth. The project will also include repaving a portion of Old Pueblo Road, south of Link Road.

### Joint Operation Center

In 2016, the Water Department vacated a property located on Alabama Avenue, which is now home to the newly constructed Fountain Middle School. The Water Department's temporary operation in downtown Fountain will be joined with the Electric Department at a new Joint Operation Center, located in an industrial zoned region in southwest Fountain. The new facility will remove utility operations away from residential neighborhoods and provide a facility that is secure and more suitable for commercial activity.

### Pavement of Fountain Mesa Road

The Water Department has been improving water service connections along Fountain Mesa Road due to aging infrastructure. In collaboration with the Streets Department, the Water Department will fund the repaving of Fountain Mesa Road, in phases from Lake Avenue south to Ohio Avenue starting this summer.

