

# A Message From Our Partners!

Fountain Sanitation and Widefield Water and Sanitation Districts are teaming up with City of Fountain Utilities to remind you that the billing calculation period for wastewater is upon us. Wastewater rates are determined by evaluating the average water usage during the months of December, January and February.

The monthly billing rate will be adjusted during the first quarter of 2022 and reflected on future utility bills. For more information visit our partners online, or contact the City of Fountain Utilities Department.



# City of Fountain

## Your Community Owned Electric and Water Systems

[FountainUtilities.org](http://FountainUtilities.org) | 719-322-2010



## 36" Water Transmission Main installed under Fountain Creek

Since early August, you may have noticed a buzz of activity going on next to Fountain Creek by Link and Old Pueblo Road. This work is related to the extension of a 36" water pipe next to Link Road, which is the largest pipe in the City's drinking water system. The current phase of the project involves boring a hole beneath Fountain Creek and installing the pipe to connect the water system from Old Pueblo Road to South Santa Fe Avenue. In the coming years this pipe will be extended even further to the west, going under I-25 all the way up to the water tank on Charter Oak Ranch Road.



This project is being performed to move water from the Charter Oak storage tank to the southeast end of the City and, once completed, will benefit water pressure and help flows for firefighting in the southern half of the City.

## Celebrating Wins - Introducing the City of Fountain's Green Power Initiative.

Following a competitive application process, the City is excited to announce that it has been awarded \$1,350,000 in grant money to fund a solar array installation. This installment will offset 100% of the electricity used at all ten of its municipal operations buildings and all of its streetlights. That's 2,926,116 kWh annually! The City of Fountain was one of several organizations that applied for funding assistance to support renewable and clean energy infrastructure projects.

The City strives to provide safe, reliable, efficient, and cost-effective utility services. We achieve this by being proactive in system maintenance, supply-side resources and efficiency programs, while minimizing impact to the environment. This project will increase the diversity of the City's electric power supply, improve long term electric rate stability, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and reduce emission of hazardous air pollutants and greenhouse gases.

The solar array will be installed in the same area as the City's electric substation on the southeast side of North Santa Fe Avenue and Duckwood Road. We anticipate the project to be complete in summer 2022. By incorporating more renewable energy into its supply portfolio, the City is able to keep rates lower while finite energy resources become scarce and costly. The City is thrilled to continue to serve as a regional leader in sustainability.

### There's more

The City is receiving just over \$7,000 to upgrade the irrigation heads in Fountain Mesa Park. In Fountain approximately 40% of water is used outdoors, and most of that water is used for watering turf landscapes. This results in very high peak seasonal usage and high water demands. The newly installed heads will save water by operating more efficiently than the existing models. This project will help reduce water demand during our peak season, which is especially important as Colorado regularly experiences periods of severe drought. This project will begin in 2022.



## UtiliNews

DECEMBER 2021

- Grants- Solar and Irrigation
- 36" Transmission Main
- Overloading Indoor Circuits



## Emergencies happen Let us help Lighten the Load.

Scan this code with your smart phone!



Lighten the Load helps neighbors throughout our community, who experience a financial hardship or emergency, by providing short-term payment of their utility bill.

To learn how you can receive assistance, or help a neighbor in need by making a donation, contact the Customer Service Center during normal business hours, or email us at [customerservice@fountainutilities.org](mailto:customerservice@fountainutilities.org).



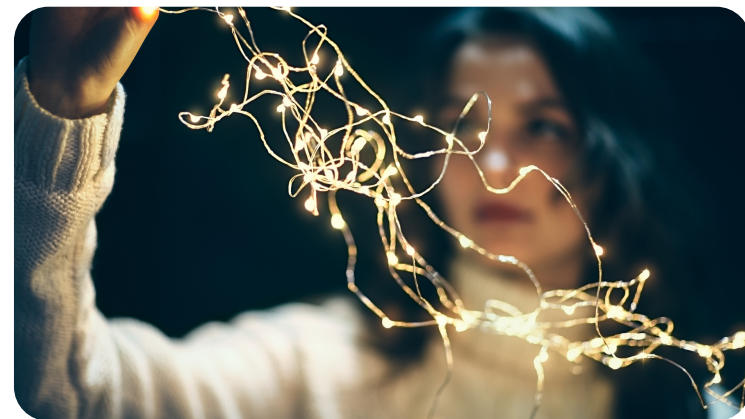
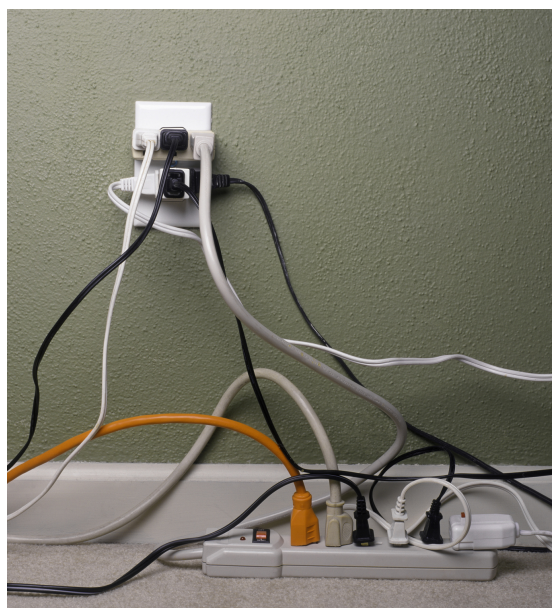
# Welcome Winter! Stay Bright, Stay Safe

Planning on decking the halls with holiday lights this winter season? Here are a few tips to keep your home safe and your utility bills low!

- Before plugging in last year's holiday lights, inspect the condition of each light. Check for sockets without bulbs, frayed cords and/or wires poking through the installation. Damage to the cord or light bulb could cause an electric shock when plugged in, or worse, an electric fire.
- Dispose of any damaged or frayed strings of lights, and consider making the switch to LEDs. Compared to traditional incandescent holiday lights, LEDs use less electricity, are cool to the touch, and have a reduced chance of overheating.
- Use outdoor lights outside, and indoor lights inside. Indoor lights are not insulated like outdoor lights and may become hazardous if exposed to moisture.
- Ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets are equipped to cut power to an outlet if it is overloaded or it is exposed to moisture. If your power has gone out at a single outlet, it was likely the GFCI feature doing its job! Once the risk has been resolved, GFCI outlets can be reset using the red button.

The most important part about decorating for yourself or for the holidays, is doing it all safely. Knowing how to properly install and maintain your decorations or holiday lights could be the difference between a beautiful display, or an electrical hazard that could have been easily prevented.

The City of Fountain wishes you a happy and safe holiday season!



## Bringing you the Water Master Plan 2021

There is nothing that is more important to sustaining the life of a community than water. Without water, life ceases to exist. The City of Fountain owns and operates a municipal water system that has provided reliable and high-quality water service to the community for more than a century. It is our desire to continue to meet the community's needs and expectations for water service for another century and beyond. Water Master Plan 2021 is a roadmap and guide to meeting those needs and expectations.

### The Plan

Water Master Plan 2021 is a directional document. Adoption of the plan does not provide new water resources, but implementation of the plan will ultimately, not immediately, result in the creation of additional capacity to expand the City's water system and serve new customers. The Plan provides the knowledge that is needed to make appropriate, strategic (data driven) and financially sound decisions on how to operate, maintain and expand the City's water system. The Plan includes a comprehensive evaluation of each element of the water system, a detailed evaluation of the future needs of the existing customers and the growth to fully buildout the system within current service area boundaries, alternative means to meet the identified needs, and recommendations of potential new policies and revisions to existing policies that may be needed to achieve the objectives of the Plan.

### Critical Points

At present time, the City's water system has a more than adequate supply to meet the demands of the existing customers even in a dry year with reductions in deliveries from the Colorado River basin. The water system incurred a significant amount of debt to achieve this position, which limits the City's ability to finance system expansions over the next couple of decades. The ultimate goal is to balance all elements of the water system with the resources needed to provide service to all properties located within the current service area, while allocating the costs of the improvements to those who directly benefit from the improvements.

City Council voted to approve the Water Master Plan 2021 at the October 26, 2021, City Council Meeting. The Water Master Plan 2021 can be viewed at: [www.fountaincolorado.org/WMP](http://www.fountaincolorado.org/WMP)

## Keep Old Man Winter Out of your Home

Over time it's natural for drafts to develop at doors and windows in a home, losing the snug fit they originally had. But there are easy, inexpensive ways to keep the warm air in and the cold air out. Try replacing weather stripping, install door sweeps, apply foam tape, window film, or caulk to eliminate drafts this winter season.

