

## IN THIS ISSUE

*New Rates Help to  
Improve Water Utility  
Infrastructure*

*Celebrating Earth Day  
at the Recycling Center*

*811- Call Before You Dig*

As Utilities Director, one of the most frequent questions I get asked is, "What does Fountain do to keep its water and electric rates low?" Our rates remain low compared to others in the region, not because of one big decision we made, but because our daily focus is driven by our core vision – being easy to do business with, offering competitive rates and providing safe, reliable utility services.

One of the ways we succeed in our vision is by improving our aging water infrastructure to meet the growing needs of our community. We are in the second year of a two-year water rate case which includes a 4.3% rate increase for 2018 implemented on April 1st. The rate increase was initially focused on water main replacements, new water mains and other facilities. When our community was faced with

the need to address the Perfluorinated Compounds contamination found in our groundwater supply, we shifted our priorities to ensure we addressed the treatment of our water. This postponed planned infrastructure improvements that were approved by City Council in the two-year rate case.

We are very pleased that the Air Force will be providing financial assistance to address the water contamination because we can use existing funds for infrastructure improvements, and it will reduce the amount of needed future rate increases.



Fountain receives over 70% of its water supply from surface water stored in Pueblo Reservoir.

We will continue to partner with the Air Force toward a comprehensive groundwater treatment facility to meet our long-term needs, and we will certainly keep you informed.

## Our Water Supply

As for our water outlook in 2018, we are preparing for our peak demand season.

Beginning June 1st, we will encourage our community to participate in voluntary water restrictions. This year we do not anticipate the need for mandatory water restrictions, though we are experiencing warm and very dry conditions lending to a 30-year low for snow-pack conditions (which makes up the majority of our water supply). The good news is that our water storage in Pueblo Reservoir is full and we will focus on keeping it that way in case we are faced with a multi-year drought.

**Curtis Mitchell**  
Utilities Director



CELEBRATE

# Earth Day!

April 22, 2018

In honor of Earth Day, people and organizations across the globe are bringing awareness to plastic pollution, one of the greatest environmental issues of our time. Did you know that 8.3 billion metric tons of virgin (non-recycled) plastics have been produced world-wide to date, generating 6.3 billion metric tons of plastic waste? Nearly 79% of that waste ends up accumulating in landfills and the natural environment.

## How You Can Help:

**Recycle, Recycle, Recycle!** Recycle paper, plastic and glass. Reducing your household garbage by 10% can reduce your carbon footprint by 1,200 pounds a year.

**Eliminate the use of disposable plastics.** Stop using disposable plastics, especially single-use plastics like bottles, bags and straws.

**Re-purpose/Upcycle.** For some fun ideas, visit the Fountain Recycling Center and speak with one of our volunteers to find out ways you can re-purpose unwanted items.

Visit [FountainColorado.org/RecyclingCenter](http://FountainColorado.org/RecyclingCenter) for more information!



**Join us in thanking our friends and volunteers at Fountain's Recycling Center!**



From left to right: Bill, Fred, Rey, Rhonda, Tom, Dave and Hugh.



## Know what's below.

No matter the type of project – installing a mailbox, putting in a fence, planting trees or shrubbery, building a patio or deck, or excavating a new garden area – **always call 811!** The service is free and it's the law. Calling 811 a few days prior to digging gives representatives time to mark the appropriate utility lines prior to starting your project, which keeps you and your neighbors safe.



## FOUNTAIN UTILITIES

Customer Service Center  
101 North Main Street  
Fountain, CO 80817  
(719) 322-2010

[customerservice@fountainutilities.org](mailto:customerservice@fountainutilities.org)  
[www.FountainUtilities.org](http://www.FountainUtilities.org)