

CITY OF FOUNTAIN

# UtiliNews

THE FUTURE OF OUR WATER

December 2017  
Special Edition



## Fountain Utilities

Customer Service Center  
101 North Main Street  
Fountain, CO 80817  
(719) 322-2010  
[customerservice@fountaincolorado.org](mailto:customerservice@fountaincolorado.org)

[www.FountainColorado.org](http://www.FountainColorado.org)



# Fountain Visits Washington, D.C.

I had the honor of representing our community on a trip to Washington, D.C. on October 23, 2017, accompanied by Mayor Gabriel Ortega; John Trylch, Community Engagement Manager; Troy Johnson, City Attorney; and representatives from Widefield and Security water districts. Congressman Lamborn and his staff facilitated a meeting with the Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon, followed by a meeting at Capitol Hill with our Congressional delegation to discuss financial assistance for groundwater treatment. The trip focused on conveying the challenges our communities face regarding groundwater contaminated with Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs) and the desire to work collaboratively on solutions to ease the significant financial burden the contamination has imposed on our water utilities.



*From left to right:*  
Troy Johnson, City Attorney  
Curtis Mitchell, Utilities Director  
Mayor Gabriel Ortega  
John Trylch, Community Engagement Manager

Our discussions at the Pentagon and Capitol Hill focused on our need for additional financial assistance, improved transparency, better communication, and written agreements that outline how we will work together to mitigate PFCs in our groundwater supply. We found the Air Force to be receptive and willing to explore ways to help and our Congressional leadership engaged and supportive. Our Congressional delegation was successful in guaranteeing funding for mitigation in the Department of Defense's Air Force Budget and they formally requested the Air Force provide Congress with a report related to the ability, or inability, to provide reimbursement for past expenses.

Over the past three months, we have held several meetings with Congressman Lamborn and his staff; Senator Gardner and his staff; Senator Bennet's staff; Colonel Dorminey, Vice Commander of Peterson Air Force Base's 21st Space Wing; and representatives from the Air Force Civil Engineering Center (AFCEC). There are a lot of moving parts related to this issue, and it isn't going to be solved in the short-term, but we will provide you with updates each step of the way as we work toward solutions.



*Fountain Library well house*

## Short-Term Solution

The Air Force delivered two sets of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters that were installed at well houses located by the Fountain Library and Aga Park. We are completing installation, construction of exterior buildings and testing of each unit before they are placed into operation next summer to meet peak water demands.

## Long-Term Solution

AFCEC has indicated some funding is available in 2018, and more funding will be available in 2019. Although there is a possibility for delays, we will continue working with them to ensure we have access to federal funding. The estimated \$4-6 million long-term solution includes pipelines to connect the four wells to a central treatment plant, additional GAC filters and a building to house the filters.

***"We are very appreciative of the support that we are receiving from the Air Force, our Congressional Delegation and our City Council as we make positive steps in addressing the water contamination."***

*Curtis Mitchell, Utilities Director*



# Save with Rebate and Exchange Programs



## Refrigerator Rebate

Receive up to \$130 bill credit, reduce your carbon footprint and save energy by replacing your refrigerator with an Energy Star certified model! Energy Star models use 20% less energy than standard models.



## Toilet Rebate

Replacing your old toilet? Fountain Utilities offers a rebate on the purchase of high-efficiency toilets, valued at up to \$100 per toilet. Each qualifying customer can receive up to two rebates.



## Showerhead Exchange

Exchange old showerheads for high-efficiency models at our Customer Service Center or Fountain Recycling Center. Replacing one standard showerhead will save the average four-person household up to 18,000 gallons a year!



## Fountain Recycling Center

301 E. Iowa Avenue  
Fountain, CO 80817

### Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from  
10:00am-1:00pm

1st Saturday every month from 9:00am - Noon

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



Nicole gathers data for Fountain's Keeton Reservoir pipeline located west of Fort Carson

## Fountain Faces

### Nicole Burns

A Geographical Information System (GIS) lets us visualize, analyze and interpret data to support the needs of our growing community.

Nicole Burns has been the City of Fountain GIS Technician since February 2015. Her primary responsibility is to gather and maintain data related to city assets. Her experience and knowledge of this technology ensures the most recent information is available, allowing staff to operate efficiently day-to-day and during emergencies, such as water and power outages. For more information about Nicole, and other ways the GIS Department supports our community, visit the GIS department page at [FountainColorado.org](http://FountainColorado.org).



# Project Updates

## Converting Overhead to Underground



Fountain's Electric Department is collaborating with Fountain Fort-Carson School District 8 to convert overhead power lines to underground near the newly constructed Fountain Middle School. As part of the conversion, neighboring utilities that currently have infrastructure on overhead power lines (such as fiber, cable and phone) will also convert to underground. Thanks to the partnership, each entity will share the cost of the conversion, saving money throughout our community.

Fountain's Electric Department anticipates this project will be 80% completed by April 2018. When the old school is demolished, the remaining 20% will be installed by October 2018.

## News & Notices

The Customer Service Center  
will be closed on :

Friday, December 22nd at Noon

Monday, December 25th (All Day)

Friday, December 29th at Noon

Monday, January 1st (All Day)

FROM ALL OF US AT THE CITY OF  
FOUNTAIN

*Happy New  
Year!*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNERS

The Fountain Sanitation and Widefield Water & Sanitation Districts would like to remind customers that the billing calculation period for wastewater is upon us. Rates will be adjusted during the first quarter of 2018 by evaluating the average water usage during the months of December, January and February.

For more information about the wastewater calculation or rates, please contact your wastewater provider:



(719) 390-7111

[www.wwsdonline.com](http://www.wwsdonline.com)



(719) 382-5305

[www.FountainSanitation.com](http://www.FountainSanitation.com)