

and the National Weather Service will continue to monitor weather and fire danger conditions and may enact additional restrictions as needed.

If you any issues with residents using fireworks,

please call our non-emergency number at (719) 390-5555. Reserve calling 911 for emergencies only.

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Condensed from: <https://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com/news-releases/clarification-on-the-rescission-of-the-fireworks-ban-for-unincorporated-el-paso-county>.

com/news-releases/clarification-on-the-rescission-of-the-fireworks-ban-for-unincorporated-el-paso-county.

## Area code requirement for local 719 and 970 calls coming soon

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved 988 as the three-digit abbreviated dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline starting July 16, 2022.

For 988 to work, customers in many area codes across the country with seven-digit local dialing, including 719 and 970 in Colorado, must be transitioned to 10-digit local dialing.

The FCC ordered that any area code that has the 988 prefix assigned as telephone numbers and has seven-digit local dialing be transitioned to 10-digit local dialing to ensure everyone is able to reach the suicide prevention line using the three-digit 988 code.

As of April 24, 2021, Colorado customers with numbers in the 719 and 970 area codes should have started dialing 10 digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. This is known as a permissive dialing period because if you forget and dial just seven digits, your call will still be completed.

Beginning Oct. 24, 2021, customers in the 719 and 970 area codes must dial 10 digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. On and after this date, local calls dialed with only seven digits may not be completed.

Important safety and security equipment, such as medical alert devices, and alarm and security systems must be programmed to use 10-digit dialing. Many systems operate on 10-digit dialing by default,

but some older equipment may still use seven digits. Please contact your medical alert or security provider if you are not sure whether your equipment needs to be reprogrammed to accommodate the upcoming change to 10-digit local dialing. Any needed reprogramming of alarm and home security equipment must be done during the permissive dialing period through Oct. 24, 2021 to avoid interruption of services.

Some other examples of services that may need to be reprogrammed are:

- Life safety systems or medical monitoring devices
- Private branch exchanges (PBXs)
- Fax machines
- Internet dial-up numbers
- Fire or burglar alarm and security systems or gates
- Speed dialers
- Mobile or other wireless phone contact lists
- Call forwarding settings
- Voicemail services and other similar functions

Be sure to check your website, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business checks, contact information, your personal or pet ID tags, and other such items to ensure the area code is included.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including current area

code, will not change.

- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the dialing change.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- You will continue to dial 1+ the area code + telephone number for all long-distance.
- You will continue to dial a prefix (such as "9") when dialing from a multi-line telephone system (e.g., in a hotel, office building, etc.) as required.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services).
- If 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 are currently available in your community, dial these codes with just three digits.
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can still be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255) even after the 988 code is in effect.

Beginning July 16, 2022, dialing "988" will route your call to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022.

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Condensed from <https://dora.colorado.gov/press-release/new-local-dialing-procedure-for-customers-in-719-and-970-area-codes-begins-april-24>.

## MVEA planning broadband for rural Colorado

On June 24, Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) announced plans to provide reliable, affordable, high-speed fiber broadband service to its 51,000 members.

Within the next six years, Conexon Connect will deploy a 5,800-mile fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network to MVEA members, providing high-speed internet access to portions of Arapahoe, Crowley, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Lincoln, Pueblo, and Washington counties. The project will reach all MVEA's co-op territory with fiber internet upon completion.

The fiber network will offer members access to symmetrical gigabit internet capabilities—among the fastest and most robust in the nation. Also, it will enable the benefits of smart grid capabilities to the electrical infrastructure, including improved power outage response times, better load balancing, more efficient electricity delivery, and others.

Together, MVEA and Conexon Connect are committed to build the approximately \$190 million network, which is expected to be completed within five to six years. Construction is expected to begin in late 2021, with the first members connected in early 2022.

"El Paso County has a broadband strategic plan. When I started to look at what Mountain View Electric is going to be offering to its membership, I realized they are literally going to nearly complete the plan we thought would take considerably longer, but in a



**Above:** Mountain View Electric Association recently announced plans to provide high-speed fiber broadband service to all its members in the next six years. From the left: Jim Riggins, Board Member, MVEA; Errol Hertneky, Board Assistant Secretary, MVEA; Barry Springer, Board Vice President, MVEA; Milton Mathis, Board Member, MVEA; Joe Martin, Board President, MVEA; Rep. Tim Geitner (R-Dist. 19); Ed Dills; Commissioner Carrie Geitner (El Paso County, R-Dist. 2); Sen. Paul Lundeen (R-Dist. 9); Commissioner Holly Williams (El Paso County, R-Dist. 1), and Sen. Dennis Hisey (R-Dist. 2). *Photo courtesy of MVEA.*

much shorter amount of time," said county Commissioner Carrie Geitner (R-District 2).

The MVEA and Conexon Connect teams are now designing and mapping the network—ironing out the path the fiber will take and making sure the footprint follows a logical and efficient path along MVEA's electric infrastructure. It hasn't been determined which

areas and neighborhoods will be included in the first phase, but members will be updated as those decisions are made.

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For more information about MVEA and Conexon Connect's fiber-to-the-home project, visit [www.mvea.coop/broadband](http://www.mvea.coop/broadband).

### Northern El Paso County Home Owners Associations (NEPCO), May 8

## Land use and growth

By Marlene Brown

The General Membership meeting for the Northern El Paso County Home Owners Associations (NEPCO) on May 8 was held by Zoom. The purpose of NEPCO is to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas and to facilitate communication and interaction among member homeowners associations and develop collective responses to the county on issues affecting the quality of life in Northern El Paso County. The Transportation and Land Use Committee continues to be the Tri-Lakes area point of contact with the Monument and El Paso County Planning Commissions.

Greg Lynd, president, opened the meeting by welcoming several representatives of the 49-member Home Owner Associations (HOAs) in the area. The area includes the northern border of El Paso County at County Line Road that borders Douglas County. The southern border is North Gate Boulevard and Shoup Road. The eastern border of the area is Merid-

ian Road, and the western border is where the county borders Teller County along the foothills including Monument and Palmer Lake.

Matthew Nelson, chairman of Wildfire Preparedness Committee for NEPCO, represents Woodmoor, Covenants and Forestry Administrator, updated information regarding a \$245,000 Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) grant for the Black Forest area. CSFS may ask NEPCO to assist with program awareness and education. CSFS will review work plans, project completions, and reimbursement submissions. Contact Nelson at [matthew@woodmoor.org](mailto:matthew@woodmoor.org) for more information.

Transportation and Land Use Committee Chairman John Lewis and Vice Chairman Paul Pirog gave updates on several projects in the area. Projects that have been in the pipeline and approved since the last meeting in March include Sanctuary of Peace PUD Preliminary Plan, Falcon Commerce Center Phase I,

Maxa Extended Family Housing, Winsome Filing 1, Jackson Creek North Filing 3-6, Dancing Wolf Estates Replat, UPS Distribution Center Final Site Plan, Eagle Rising Preliminary Reconsidered, and Rolling Hills Ranch Filing 2 Final Plat.

### Noteworthy transportation issue

NEPCO will join with the El Paso Safe Street Alliance, a group of homeowners, to meet with the county engineer and staff to discuss potential Furrow Road extension calming measures. The proposed extension of Furrow Road could reach 5,000 vehicles a day in the next 10-20 years. For more information and to sign a petition, go to the Board of County Commissioners at <http://ceds.org/epssa/>.

### Guest speakers

Guest speakers Terri Hayes, executive director of the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development and Visitor Center, Mike Foreman, Monument town manager, and Mike Gebhart, deputy di-