



THE PowerLines REPORT

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February 2017



2017 Welcomes Elevate Fiber

Jasen Bronec, CEO

2017 is here and Elevate Fiber continues to be delivered to our members. I want to thank all of our members for their continued support and patience. Every day brings different successes and new challenges, especially with the winter season, and we appreciate every member and our employees for making Elevate Fiber a reality.

Recap—Why Elevate?

Elevate Fiber is a true representation of the cooperative spirit—driven by our membership for our membership. You, our members, came to us with an all too familiar story; one we heard 75 years ago. Although we have a variety of internet service providers in our two-county region, many people say the speeds are abysmal, customer service can be poor, and there seems to be a lack of investment in infrastructure for reliability and growth. Our area is suffering from a lack of quality high-speed internet—something that is no longer just a luxury. DMEA had the option to expand our fiber network to serve the homes and businesses in our communities. By listening to and working with you, our members, Elevate Fiber launched in 2016.

Elevate Services

Elevate is the most reliable, fastest internet in town delivered via fiber. Fiber is the latest technology available and considered future-proof. Speed packages of 100 Mbps and 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) will be available. The majority of our members only have access to speeds around 10 Mbps—so 1 Gig is 100 times faster! For example, at 1 Gig you can download a 2-hour HD movie in just 25 seconds. We also plan to offer a local telephone option in the near future.

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Are you signed up for the fastest, most reliable internet in town?

Preregister for Elevate Fiber—speeds up to 1,000 Mbps—today! Don't trust us, take a peek at what a fellow member said about Elevate Fiber.

"I have had Elevate for 10 days now and could not be happier; I didn't realize how much time poor internet was costing me—until Elevate's great service! Tell your friends and area merchants!"

Preregister today

» visit join.elevatefiber.com

» call 877-687-3632

» or stop by your local DMEA office

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Elevate Process and Construction

Member interest, cost to build, permitting, and other factors, are driving the construction process. We appreciate all of the members who have preregistered for Elevate Fiber to date at join.elevatefiber.com. By preregistering and having your neighbors preregister, we can gauge the areas where fiber is most desired, this then helps us move on to the next: final design, financial analysis, and construction.

With any build, there are obstacles and at times the project does not move as fast or as smooth as we would like. We will continue to communicate with all of our members as we face these challenges and also welcome questions. We ask that if you have questions to give us a call at 877-687-3632 or stop by one of our local DMEA offices during normal business hours.

Paonia was the first area where construction began and we were pleased that member interest allowed us to provide live service so quickly. The first round of a project of this magnitude can be frustrating, slow, and yet still very exciting. The majority of installations are complete in Paonia and we are ready to move on to the next areas. Starting in quarter 1 of 2017 our crews will finish the build plans and begin installs in Orchard City 104 and Montrose 721 (Cobble Creek area of Montrose). As those areas approach completion, we will use preregistration levels and financial evaluations to plan our next step. You can follow us on our Elevate Fiber Facebook page and also visit "Updates" at join.elevatefiber.com to know what is happening next, including our great community events.

For construction, every community is quite complex. Once we have determined that an area will be getting Elevate Fiber we then have to look at the fiber framework (make-ready efforts) and how much fiber will need to be installed aerial vs. underground, what type of trench work will need done, consider supply needs, setting up crews to get fiber from the curb to the outside of the home or business, and then getting the install set up. This is a very high level description of what the construction process looks like on our side and can take upwards of 3 months. During all of this, our customer service team has to contact preregistered members to get service contracts completed. If you are in an area where construction is or will be happening soon, make sure to work with our customer service team as soon as possible to complete the process.

In 2017, our goal is to install Elevate to more than 2,100 members and continue outreach efforts so that all members, although they may not have service right away, know the plan. As a reminder, this is a multi-year project and the continued success will be based on our member support and patience. Thank you in advance for helping DMEA take our communities into the future.

WANT TO EXPERIENCE ELEVATE?

Stop by our Montrose office Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and test out the latest WiFi gadgets on Elevate's 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) network. Learn about streaming movies and TV shows over the internet, home WiFi technology, and much more in our customer experience center. You're welcome to just come enjoy the fastest internet connection in town or learn about how you can utilize awesome internet speeds in your very own home. Our customer services representatives are here to help!

Energy Audits: Your Plan for Saving

Think about it, we make plans for almost everything in life. We plan for retirement, birthdays, and even our weekly meals. But, do you have a plan for saving energy?

You read about a lot of ways to reduce your electric bill in this newsletter—from appliances to insulation to air sealing to changing behaviors. But like most things, making efficiency upgrades without a plan may not produce significant savings.

Our recommendation: spend a few hours on a home energy audit. An energy audit is an assessment of how your home and the people that live in it use energy. It also identifies potential culprits of wasted energy in your home. This helps ensure that you'll spend your money wisely, making the upgrades that will have the biggest impact on your bill.

For example, investing in added insulations in your attic might have little impact on your heating bills if your windows, doors, and exterior penetrations are poorly sealed. Weatherization improvements, such as air sealing and insulation, can reduce heating bills considerably. To make sure you reap the full benefit of that improvement, you'll want to start with an energy audit.

DMEA offers interactive energy audits, free of charge to its members. They are conducted by our trained and certified energy services staff members. Our advisors, along with you, the homeowner, will conduct a thorough evaluation of your home, your electric appliances and equipment, and your family's behaviors. They'll help you lay out your plan for saving energy, identifying what improvements or upgrades will help you save the most. You can find numerous DIY home energy audits online at www.touchstoneenergysavers.com or www.ase.org.

Additional assistance is available for middle and low-income families through our Free Home Weatherization program. Thanks to a partnership with the Colorado Energy Office and Housing Resources of Western Colorado, DMEA is able to provide eligible members with free home weatherization services. Recipients receive a comprehensive energy audit on their home to determine all necessary energy and safety upgrades. These improvements are made free of charge and can include insulation, duct sealing, appliance replacements, lighting upgrades, furnace replacements, windows, and doors. For more information about the Free Home Weatherization program and to determine your eligibility contact Debra Lueck with Housing Resources of Western Colorado: (970) 417-3436 or debral@housingresourceswc.org.

Schedule Today!

Energy Services

(970) 240-1273

www.dmea.com



Join us for great conversation, coffee, and food at The Morning Buzz with DMEA.

What we talk about is up to you—rates, efficiency, Elevate, or renewables—the topics are endless. DMEA and Elevate representatives will be available to answer questions.

There is no formal presentation. Come and go as you please. Whether you just swing by before work to say hi or spend time asking questions, all are welcome. Plus, we'll be picking up the tab for the coffee and pastries.

Friday, February 17
Backstreet Bagel
127 N. Townsend Ave.
Montrose

Friday, March 17
Apple Shed
250 S. Grand Mesa Dr.
Cedaredge

Friday, March 3
Coaltrain Coffeehouse
328 W. Bridge St.
Hotchkiss

Friday, March 31
Busy Corner White Kitchen
318 Main St.
Olathe

Ringing in the Holidays

DMEA employees participated in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Program. You may have spotted them around Montrose ringing the bell and collecting donations the week before Christmas. Thank you members for your generous donations!

To learn more about the services offered by The Salvation Army visit <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/> or stop in to their local branch in Montrose.



STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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DMEA is conducting random customer satisfaction phone surveys throughout the year. We appreciate your help in completing these surveys, as they will help us better serve you in the future.

Thank you for participating!

Months of surveys:
March, June, Sept., Dec.



The DMEA PowerLines Report is printed on paper that has 10% post consumer waste and is Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative Certified.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
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Read Office

21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M & W: 9:00am-4:00pm

Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632 | www.dmea.com |

Your Board of Directors:

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Kyle Martinez, *District 2*
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Terry Brown, *District 6*
John Gavan, *North*

DMEA board meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday monthly, beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call (970) 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times, and locations.

Recipes Info:

Submit recipes, including your name, address, and phone number to:
DMEA Newsletter
PO Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402
Or email your information to communications@dmea.com.

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.

Home COOKING

Chicken in Green Chili & Pumpkin Seed Sauce

- 2 full chicken breasts, skinned and de-boned, approximately 2 lb.
- 3 tbsp olive oil for sautéing chicken
- 2 cup green chilies, roasted and peeled, about 8 chilies
- ½ cup raw plain pumpkin seeds, hulled
- ½ cup raw plain almonds, shelled
- ¼ tsp cumin seeds
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled
- 2 cup basic chicken broth, salt free or homemade if available.
- salt and pepper to taste.
- slivered almonds for garnish

Preheat oven to 350° F. Cut the chicken breasts into bite size pieces, about ½" - 1" cubes. Sauté the pieces in the olive oil until they turn white on the outside. Arrange in a 9" x 12" glass baking dish. Season to taste with salt and pepper. In a heavy cast iron skillet, toast the pumpkin seeds, almonds and cumin seeds until they are golden brown, stirring often, remove just before the cumin seeds begin to pop. Remove from heat and place in blender when they have cooled, about 3 - 4 minutes. Grind until they are a light powder with a few large pieces. Reserve one chili for garnish next to the slivered almonds. Add the garlic and remaining chilies and blend. Add chicken broth and blend until well mixed. Pour over the partially-cooked chicken. Slice the reserved chili into eight strips. Garnish the top of the chicken dish with almonds and the chili strips. Bake for 35 minutes or until the chicken is done. Serve over steamed rice with a green salad.

- H. Cedar Keshet, Paonia

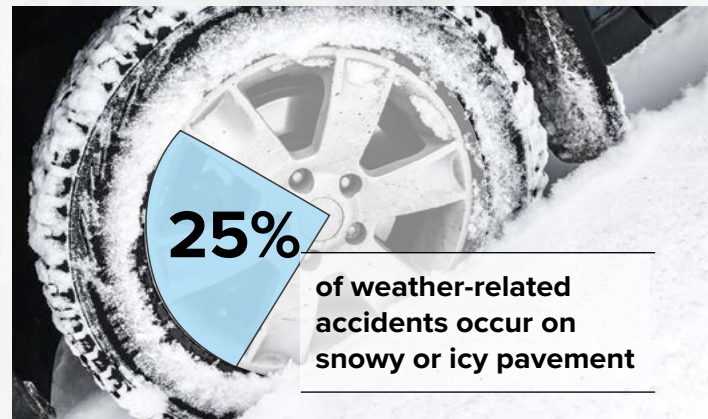


Keep Me!
Tear off this tab every
month & keep your
tips and recipes handy

Stay Safe on Winter Roads

Winter months can bring snow, ice, and windy conditions, creating additional hazards for drivers. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, 24 percent of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy or icy pavement. While automobile crashes always present danger, when electricity is involved, the decisions made in the moments after the accident are especially crucial. Use these tips from Safe Electricity and stay safe on winter roads.

Pack an emergency car kit that includes blankets, flares, a flashlight, and a window scraper. It's also a good idea to include extra water and high-calorie snacks. If you are stranded in your car after an accident, watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. Do not stay in one position for too long, make sure to stay awake, and do not overexert yourself as this could strain your heart.



Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines, individuals should only venture outside if absolutely necessary. Slow down when driving in icy conditions, and always keep your eyes on the road to look out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also watch for debris near down poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.

If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help. Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until power has been shut off. Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.

Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down the pole and other equipment, causing additional hazards. If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside the vehicle. Contact 911 and DMEA immediately to report the issue.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.