

THE

PowerLines

REPORT



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OCTOBER 2020

Vote YES on Ballot Measure 2A

A message from Jasen Bronec, CEO

This November, City of Montrose residents have a chance to vote on a key issue that will have an impact on the City for years to come. Ballot Measure 2A relates to the contract (called a franchise agreement) between the City of Montrose and DMEA that governs DMEA's electric service within city limits. DMEA urges you to vote YES on Ballot Measure 2A on November 3, 2020.

Don't DMEA and Montrose already have a franchise agreement?

Yes. Our current franchise agreement with the City of Montrose began in 2001. But it expires next year. Over the past few months, the City and DMEA have worked hard to review, update, and renew our franchise. We've reached a new 20-year agreement, but the Charter for the City of Montrose gives City voters the final say on its adoption.

What is an electric franchise agreement?

Generally, electric franchise agreements are contracts between cities and utilities relating to electric service to city residents. Here, the City of Montrose franchise specifies how DMEA must operate its system within city limits; this includes things like safety, reliability, the use of public rights-of-way, and new construction requirements. It also provides that DMEA will collect and return to the City a franchise fee from sales to DMEA members.

What is a franchise fee? Is that fee going to change?

Every franchise agreement includes a fee that is assessed to the utility's consumers. The fee covers the City's cost for DMEA to operate in and occupy the public rights-of-way. DMEA collects this fee on behalf of the City and transfers 100% of the amounts collected back to the City. In our case, DMEA members residing within the Montrose city limits currently pay a 3% franchise fee. That fee does not change under Ballot Measure 2A.

Vote YES on 2A

City of Montrose ballots will be mailed October 13, 2020.

Polling Center: 320 S. 1st Street, Montrose, CO; beginning October 19, 2020, M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Election Day: November 3, 2020

Why does DMEA need a franchise agreement?

Our grid—the poles, wire, and equipment that bring reliable and safe electricity to your home—runs along every City street in public rights-of-way. DMEA uses this grid to deliver you the power you need and uses public rights-of-way for maintenance, construction, and repairs—day or night. DMEA and the City worked together to develop this new agreement for the benefit of our members and citizens.

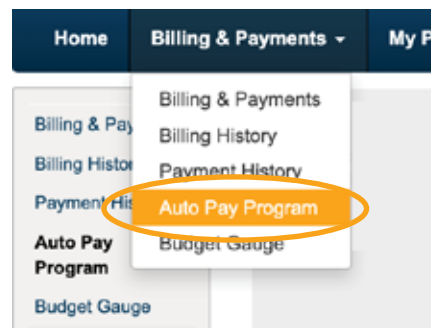
Continued on page 3

Setting up Auto Pay in SmartHub

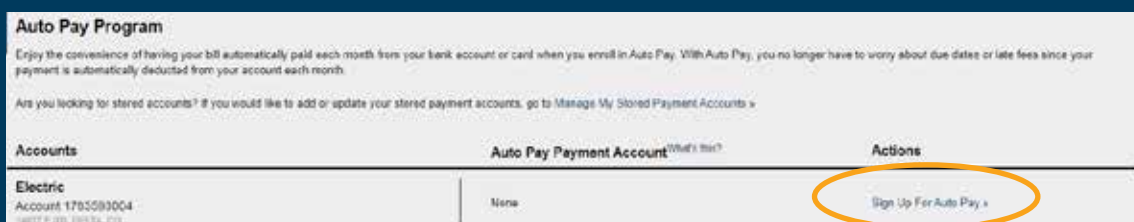
Enjoy the convenience of having your bill automatically paid each month from your bank account or credit card when you enroll in Auto Pay. With Auto Pay, you no longer have to worry about due dates or late fees since your payment is automatically deducted from your account each month.

1

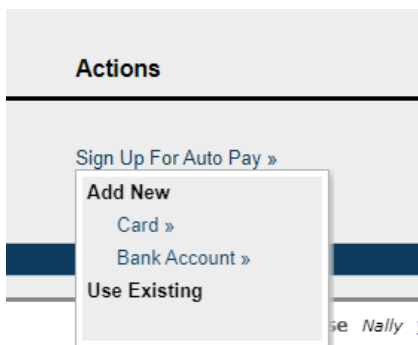
To enroll in Auto Pay, log into your SmartHub account. Click 'Billing & Payments' and select 'Auto Pay Program' from the dropdown menu.



2 Next, select 'Sign up for Auto Pay' under the Actions section.



3 Add a card or bank account in the dropdown menu.



4 A setup screen will appear. Enter your payment information and click 'continue.'



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Has the Montrose City Council approved the franchise agreement?

Yes. The Montrose City Council unanimously endorsed the franchise agreement on August 18, 2020, and voted to send the agreement to City voters for final approval in November. In doing so, the Montrose City Council said it “finds and believes that it is in the best interest of the City and the inhabitants hereof to grant a limited, non-exclusive utility franchise to DMEA for the provision of electricity.” The DMEA board has also voted unanimously to approve it.

Can I read the full franchise agreement?

Yes. Visit dmea.com/vote-yes-2a to download the agreement.

Does the updated agreement change the electric rates for DMEA members?

No. Our franchise agreement with the City of Montrose does not change your rates. It also does not increase the City's Franchise Fee on your bill. If you reside within city limits, you currently pay a 3% fee each month on your bill. Ballot Measure 2A includes that same 3% rate.

What if I have more questions?

For additional questions, please contact us at **877-687-3632** or email virginia.harman@dmea.com.

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KEEPING YOUR DOLLARS



These days it's easy to forgo the trip to a local store - we've all gotten used to free 2-day shipping, audio books, and out of season strawberries. We've also gotten used to sending our money out of state every month for internet service. However, more than 16,000 DMEA members can change that today - all because of Elevate, your only locally owned, 100% fiber internet company.

We're made up of hardworking employees who are your neighbors, family, friends, kids' coaches, parishioners, and hunting buddies. We're proud of the work we've done to bring truly high-speed internet to our local communities. We're also grateful for those of you who have chosen to keep your dollars local when it comes to internet. Because, by doing so, you're paying for more than just internet. You are an important part of what keeps our local economy thriving.

📍 **\$20K+**

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13 📍

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📍 **17,804**

8,161

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Montrose Office

11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

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:

Bill Patterson, District 1
Brad Harding, District 3
Chris Hauck, District 5
Enno Heuscher, District 7
Jock Fleming, South
Kyle Martinez, District 2
Ken Watson, District 4
Damon Lockhart, District 6
Stacia Cannon, 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 date, time, and location.

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 (269)598-9386 within 60 days.

DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

HOME COOKING



Pumpkin Cake

Pat Bennett, Crawford



Ingredients:

1 c shortening
3 eggs, beaten
1 c pumpkin
1 tsp vanilla
3 c sugar
3 c flour
1 stp baking soda
1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp allspice
1 tsp cloves
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp salt

Directions:

Cream together shortening, eggs, pumpkin, vanilla, and sugar. Combine remaining dry ingredients until mixed. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture and transfer to a 10" tube or bundt pan. Bake at 350° for one hour and fifteen minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

WE'RE IN NEED OF YOUR RECIPES!

Submit your best recipe, along with your name, address and photo of your dish, to communications@dmea.com

If we print your recipe, you win a \$25 gift card.

LIGHT TIMERS FOR A MERRY (AND SAFE) CHRISTMAS



Nothing provides an instant dose of holiday spirit like a well-lit home. Light timers not only ensure you get the most from your decorative efforts, but can keep your home safe during the holiday season. Follow these tips this season for improved indoor and outdoor holiday safety.

The Christmas Tree

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas lights cause 40% of Christmas tree fires. For this reason, Christmas tree lights should be turned off when you are not at home and while the household is asleep. Flipping the light switch can be an easy step to forget when heading to bed, so set a timer and go to bed worry-free.

Don't forget to replenish the water in your tree stand daily and feel the branches to ensure your tree is not drying out. If your tree does dry out before the holiday, be safe and discontinue the use of lights altogether.

Outdoor Lights

With dark evenings and long nights, a timer for your lights is the ideal solution to ensure your lights are on for all to enjoy, but off during hours when people are not awake to enjoy them. Not only will the limited time help keep your lights from overheating, but it will save money on your energy bill, too! And remember, replace your traditional incandescent strands with LEDs to save even more!

When Away

A well-lit house can deter potential criminals searching for an easy target. Indoor and outdoor lights on timers can give the impression that a home is occupied when you're away for the holidays as well as decrease the likelihood someone could approach your home unnoticed.

Keep your home safe, economical, and festive this year. Let light timers do the work and enjoy a merry and bright holiday season!