

# THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

## Celebrate National Co-op Month with MVEA

BY RUTH MARKS CEO | RUTH.M@MVEA.COOP



RUTH MARKS

Fall is a busy time. October is a particularly eventful month with school, community, and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month. When I say Mountain View Electric Association celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you, our co-op members. After all, our electric co-op wouldn't exist without you.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share. And, at MVEA, these principles are more than words — they are the foundation for our success. "What's best for the members?" is the question that we often ask ourselves.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions, because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor. MVEA works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board, which is composed of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We are proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour, leadership camp, and scholarship programs. Additionally, with your help, we offer Operation Round Up® grants to assist charitable organizations, communities with special needs, and individuals who have suffered from loss, personal disaster, or medical emergencies. Through the Operation Round Up® program we are able to partner with and support local charitable organizations that provide vital services to members in need of a helping hand.

I am also proud to share that MVEA's fiber broadband expansion is deeply rooted in the co-op's dedication to concern for community as

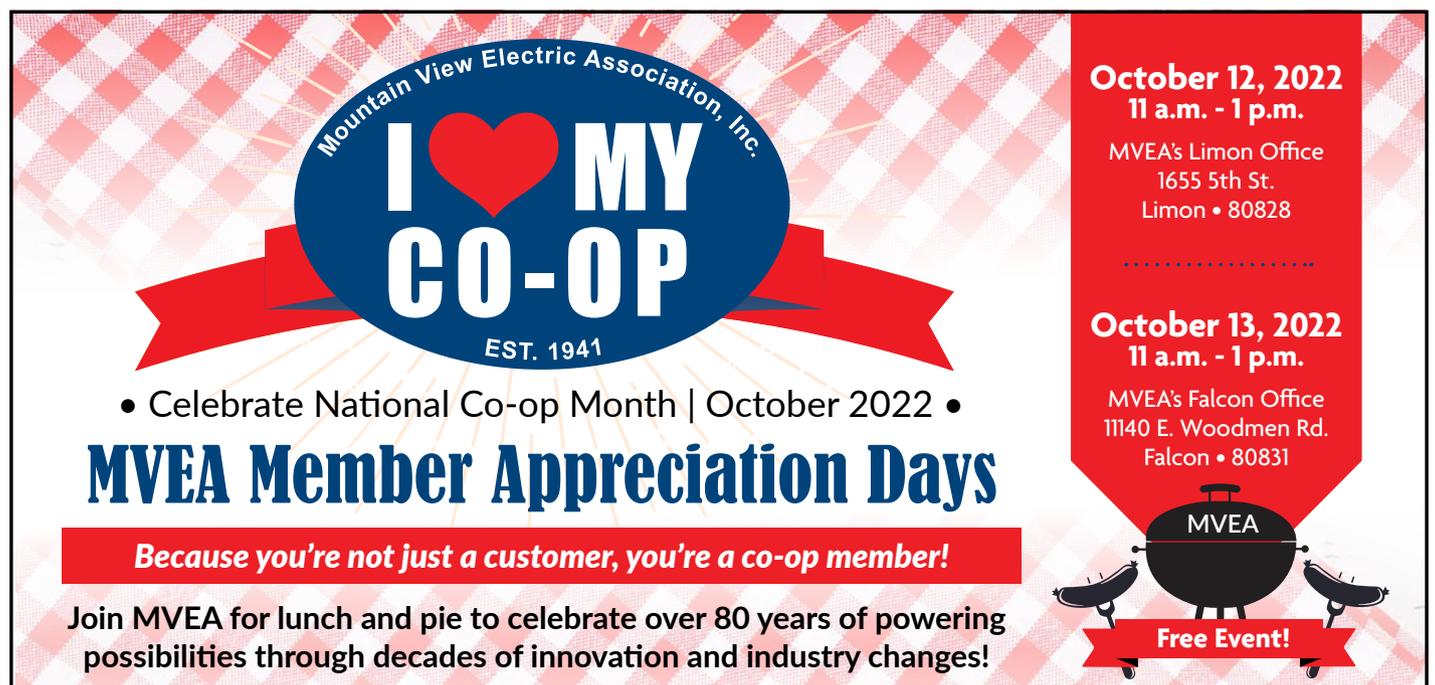
well as the Board of Director's dedication to serving the membership through long-term fiscal stewardship. It all goes back to "what's best for the members" — now and in the future.

Bringing high-speed internet access to the underserved areas in MVEA's service territory had been a goal for over 25 years. The challenge was finding the right partner, at the right time, with the right business plan. That all came together in 2021. We now have our first members connected and using fiber-fast internet services through Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association. We will be announcing Phase Two in the coming weeks.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together toward a common goal: mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected Board of Directors are invested in the community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. MVEA is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local electric cooperative and we were built by the members we serve.

We have a lot to celebrate this year! I want to personally invite you to attend an MVEA Member Appreciation lunch this month. We will be hosting one in Limon on October 12 and another one in Falcon on October 13. (Details are available in the ad below as well as on MVEA's website, [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop).) We will be grilling up brats and hot dogs and giving away some fun items to celebrate National Co-op Month. I hope to see you there!



**October 12, 2022**  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
MVEA's Limon Office  
1655 5th St.  
Limon • 80828

**October 13, 2022**  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
MVEA's Falcon Office  
11140 E. Woodmen Rd.  
Falcon • 80831

**Free Event!**

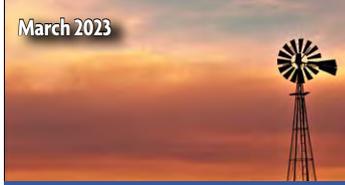
# MVEA Members Capture Colorado's Beauty

## Announcing MVEA's 2023 Photo Calendar Contest Winners!

Every year Mountain View Electric Association receives photo calendar contest submissions capturing the beauty of Colorado. From sweeping views of Pikes Peak to storms racing across the plains, MVEA's 5,000-square-mile service territory provides the perfect backdrop for shutterbugs of all ages to help tell the story of the seasons, wildlife, lifestyle, and landscape of the area. This year, over 150 photos were submitted and reviewed for consideration. Narrowing down the images to 39 for publication was no easy task. The 2023 calendar includes January 2024 and features two additional winning submissions for each month.

A limited number of 2023 calendars will be available to MVEA members starting in November at the Falcon and Limon offices as well as distribution locations throughout our service territory. Please visit [www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest](http://www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest) to view the 14 main featured winners (shown below) and for calendar distribution locations.

**Thank you to all of the MVEA members who participated in the 2023 photo calendar contest!**

 <p>December 2022</p> <p>Jason Fazio, Monument</p>	 <p>January 2023</p> <p>Mellisa Kuper, Limon</p>	 <p>February 2023</p> <p>Donnell Allen, Monument</p>	 <p>March 2023</p> <p>Todd Cogan, Colorado Springs</p>
 <p>April 2023</p> <p>Megan Cavender, Colorado Springs</p>	 <p>May 2023</p> <p>Stephanie Gonzalez, Monument</p>	 <p>June 2023</p> <p>Bethany Bracht, Colorado Springs</p>	 <p>July 2023</p> <p>Todd Cogan, Colorado Springs</p>
 <p>August 2023</p> <p>Brandy Guertin, Fountain</p>	 <p>September 2023</p> <p>Robert Dickey, Deer Trail</p>	 <p>October 2023</p> <p>Cambria Mahagan, Calhan</p>	 <p>November 2023</p> <p>Shane Morrison, Colorado Springs</p>
 <p>December 2023</p> <p>Dave Munns, Colorado Springs</p>	 <p>January 2024</p> <p>Kenneth Childress, Colorado Springs</p>	 <p><b>Mark Your Calendars!</b> The next photo calendar contest will begin January 1, 2023. Start taking photos now for entry by July 6, 2023. Your photo could be featured in our 2024 calendar!</p>	

## Rural Communities Depend on Co-op Voters.



Election Day is November 8, 2022

Be a Co-op Voter.

### Get Involved!

Join electric co-op voters across the nation in grassroots advocacy efforts.

- Co-ops Vote Campaign
- Cooperative Action Network
- Colorado Legislative Directory

[www.mvea.coop/legislative-advocacy](http://www.mvea.coop/legislative-advocacy)



**High School Sophomores & Juniors You Could Win a Summer Trip!**

**MVEA Youth Leadership Trip Contest**

High school sophomores and juniors are just a couple of short questions away from an opportunity to win a once-in-a-lifetime all-expenses paid trip. Top-placed winners will receive either a trip to Washington, D.C., with students from across the U.S. for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, or will be invited to the Colorado Electric Educational Institute's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in the mountains outside of Steamboat Springs.

Visit [www.mvea.coop/leadershiptrip](http://www.mvea.coop/leadershiptrip) for contest qualifications and to complete an entry form. Deadline: Thursday, November 10, 2022.

Questions? Contact Erica Meyer, (719) 494-2654, [erica.m@mvea.coop](mailto:erica.m@mvea.coop).

## MVEA Concern for Community Spotlight: Colorado's Electric Cooperatives Junior Livestock Sale

For 4-H and FFA youth across the state, Colorado's Electric Cooperatives Junior Livestock Sale is the big show, the granddaddy of them all, and the money maker — it is the largest event of its kind in the state! This year more than \$490,000 was raised in the auction of 139 animals raised and shown by young people from across Colorado.

The sale is sponsored by MVEA, *Colorado Country Life*, the Colorado Rural Electric Association, the Colorado Rural Electric Member Services group, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and electric co-ops throughout the state. Colorado's electric cooperatives have supported the Junior Livestock Sale for the last 18 years. The sale benefits youth exhibitors who raise animals to show at the Colorado State Fair. All youth exhibitors who participate learn responsibility, leadership, showmanship, and best animal husbandry practices.

All proceeds from the sale go directly to the education funds of the youth exhibitors. The sale is instrumental in supporting the future of Colorado's agribusiness, as it demonstrates the importance of raising quality livestock and the work required of those who pursue careers in agriculture. The 41-year tradition has raised more than \$11.5 million for youth over the last four decades.



 Lexi Vrabec, of Colorado Springs, and her Market Goat, show at Colorado's Electric Cooperatives Junior Livestock Sale. They placed third in the lightweight division. Lexi's goat sold for \$2,000 during the auction.



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**Falcon Office**  
11140 E. Woodmen Road  
Falcon, CO 80831

**Limon Office**  
1655 5th Street • P.O. Box 1600  
Limon, CO 80828

**Monument Office**  
(Temporarily Closed)  
15706 Jackson Creek Parkway, Suite 100  
Monument, CO 80132

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday • 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Visit our website: [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop)

**Stay Connected: Like. Follow. Share.**

 [www.facebook.com/MVEAInc](https://www.facebook.com/MVEAInc)

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 Search for: Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.

This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## We've started connecting MVEA members!

We are proud to announce Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association, has connected its first customers! Crews are currently hard at work to continue to connect MVEA members to high-speed fiber internet. MVEA members can now enjoy:

- Fiber-fast speeds.
- Affordable monthly pricing.
- Unlimited data, no caps or throttling, ever.
- Equal upload and download speeds.
- And more!

*Join the broadband movement today!*

Check availability at [ConexonConnect.com](http://ConexonConnect.com), call 844-542-6663, or scan the QR code!





**October** is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.



## Four Cybersecurity Tips to Help Beat the Bad Guys!

- 1. Enable multi-factor or two-factor authentication for your online accounts.** This extra layer of security allows websites and applications to confirm you're really who you say you are.
- 2. Use strong passwords and/or a password manager.** This means using unique passwords for all your accounts and ensuring they are at least 15 characters long. Randomly generated passwords or passphrases are typically more secure. You might also consider using some type of password manager.
- 3. Update software.** Regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates. Use good judgment and always think before you click.
- 4. Recognize and report phishing attacks.** Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails.

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

 In Colorado, it's never too early to plan ahead for the first snow!

# Ditch The Snow Shovel

# GO ELECTRIC!

## Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway

Enter for a chance to win an Electric Snow Blower.  
Two winners will be selected in November.  
Giveaway Entry Deadline: October 31

Low Noise • Zero Gas • Zero Emissions • Low Maintenance

### 2022 Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway Entry Form

Visit [www.mvea.coop/greengiveaway](http://www.mvea.coop/greengiveaway) to enter online and for complete giveaway rules.

The giveaway is open to all MVEA residential members in good standing who agree to contest rules and requirements. Current or former MVEA employees, affiliates, related entities, and the immediate family members and household members of all such employees are not eligible to win.

[Scan & Enter Online!](#)



Enter online, return entry form with your monthly payment, or mail entry form to: MVEA, Attn: Green Giveaway, 11140 E. Woodmen Road, Falcon, CO 80831.

MVEA Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_