



ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



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Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage,
contact your local SMPA office to
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x2120



✓ FALL SAFETY TIPS

Unplug and safely store
battery chargers that won't
be in use again until spring.

✓ Use only weatherproof
electrical devices for outside
activities.

✓ Keep dry leaves swept
away from outdoor lighting,
outlets and power cords.

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(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

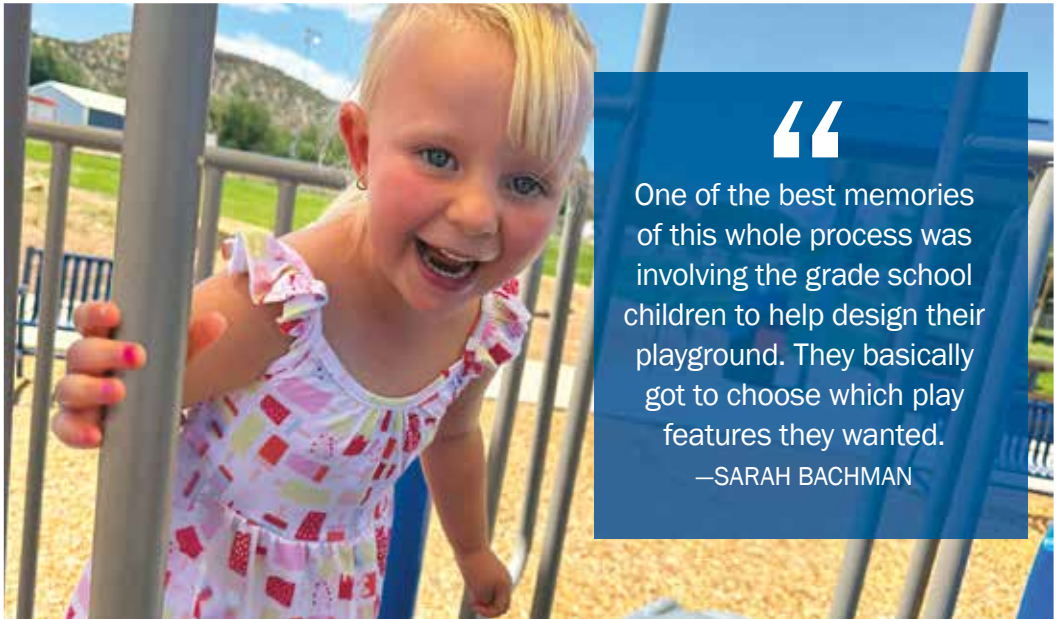
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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The Power of Leveraging Generosity – The Naturita Park Success Story

It all began when local attorney and mother, Sara Bachman, watching kids play in a dilapidated Naturita playground, resolved “...we can do better!” On behalf of the Town, she applied for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Parks and Recreation Master Plan Grant in 2018. That grant was awarded and it allowed the Town to hire Durango-based DHM Design to create a master plan for an outdoor recreation park that would prove to be a community asset for years to come. Having won a \$10,000 SMPA/CoBank Sharing Success Grant in 2018, the Town built a strong case for another GOCO construction grant of \$350,000 which they won in 2019.



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One of the best memories of this whole process was involving the grade school children to help design their playground. They basically got to choose which play features they wanted.

—SARAH BACHMAN

“...and then the leveraging began!” stated Bachman. The town gathered other in-kind donations for various elements like decorative safety boulders, and dirt from an abandoned BMX track. As the project gathered steam, The Telluride Foundation kicked in \$50,000 to match Town funds. Additionally, the project managers applied for, and won, a grant to reduce the cost of playground equipment by \$92,000.

On behalf of the town, Bachman also applied to receive adventure course playground equipment through a KaBOOM!, Community-Built Playspace Grant. That grant was awarded, and the equipment was installed by community volunteers in October of 2021. Then the project grew to include the nearby San Miguel River with monies from the National Park Service Land Water Conservation fund and Colorado Water Conservation Board.

As impressive as this tale is, it is grounded by the original idea of young people and community-members just wanting a safe place to play outside. “One of the best memories

of this whole process was involving the grade school children to help design their playground,” said Bachman. “They basically got to choose which play features they wanted.”

Including all the in-kind donations, the total construction costs for the Naturita Town Park Improvements and Perimeter Trail came to \$919,162. Upon reporting this extraordinary feat, a smile floats across Bachman’s face.



Board to Consider Raising Access Charge to Build Financial Stability and Cover Rising Costs

Volatility may characterize the global economy as well as the electric industry in recent times, but we feel it's best kept away from our members' power bills. That's why, for the past several years, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has been implementing a strategy of controlled, gradual increases to cover rising costs rather than directly passing through market prices to our members.

It's well-known that worldwide inflation has affected practically every economy, and the market for electrical equipment and tools has not been spared. Business expenses have risen and are likely to remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, SMPA is anticipating a cost hike of over 6% for its wholesale power, which accounts for approximately 52% of the non-profit cooperative's overall expenses.

With these factors in mind, the SMPA staff is planning to propose a \$2 increase to its access charge. Currently, the single-phase access charge that most residential members pay each month stands at \$23.00 per month. If approved, the increase would bring the fixed charge, which is intended

to cover fixed costs of grid maintenance and system hardening, to a total of \$25.00 per month.

"This \$2 increase will not cover the projected increase in our wholesale power costs," says SMPA Chief Executive Officer, Brad Zaporski. "However, through tightening our belt and successful long term financial planning we will be able to cover our expenses while giving our members room to adjust to market conditions."

Several times over the past four years, the SMPA Board of Directors has taken advantage of opportunities to defer revenue. This practice, a rate-stabilization tool, will make up for any losses SMPA may realize next year.

A temporary measure, the deferred revenue mechanism will help SMPA bridge a gap between the current rate environment and a yet-undefined future state. Currently, a number of rulings to affect the future relationship between SMPA and its current wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) are under deliberation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). "While questions remain about the future of



our power supply," stated Zaporski, "one truth is becoming more and more evident: the timing of electrical power use will be one of our most powerful money-saving tools as we move forward."

To help draw member attention to this fact, SMPA has launched an information campaign called "Timing Matters." Part of the movement can be read on your power bill. The hours of 4 PM to 9 PM have been identified as the system "Peak." New line items, on the bill indicate "On-peak" and "Off-peak" power use, and members can now see when their account used the most energy within the billing period. This information, combined with the announced metric that "On-peak" power costs the cooperative 4X as much as power used at other times, can help raise awareness of the challenge and of the opportunity that it presents.

Ever Tried Usage Monitoring on SmartHub?

Imagine opening your bill and seeing an amount less than expected. SmartHub gives you complete control over your account by giving you the tools that deliver the right information at the right time. Knowledge is the key to making decisions that save energy and money.



Auto-Pay Draft Date Change

SMPA is implementing a change to the draft date for autopay accounts. The draft date will be changing from the 26th of each month to the 21st. This change will align the draft date with the due date for member electric bills, which is the 21st.

Autopay users, please ensure that your account will have sufficient funds to cover your power bill on the 21st of the month. This will prevent any reports of insufficient funds.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS CHANGE DOES NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL OCTOBER 2023.



This Month's Puzzle:
G U S T O A E N R G I M O N I
Hint... Savings through knowledge.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432



Have you changed your phone # or email? Let us know at 1-877-864-7311