

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

Nucla
 170 W. 10th Ave.
 P.O. Box 817
 Nucla, CO 81424
 (970) 864-7311
 Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Ridgway
 720 N. Railroad St.
 P.O. Box 1150
 Ridgway, CO 81432
 (970) 626-5549
 Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Both Offices Open:
 M - TH • 7:00am – 5:30pm

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

FEATURE STORY

Silverton's Baker's Park Ramps Up with SMPA's Sharing Success Grant

IT MAY HAVE SEEMED STRANGE A FEW DECADES AGO, BUT TODAY IT'S RECOGNIZED THAT INSTALLING MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL SYSTEMS IS A GREAT WAY FOR A SMALL WESTERN SLOPE TOWN TO DIVERSIFY THEIR TOURISM-BASED ECONOMIES, WHILE PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF THEIR OWN RESIDENTS. BACK IN 2024, THE TOWN OF SILVERTON INTRODUCED ITS OWN 7-MILE BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE LOOP, CALLED BAKER'S PARK.



Already attracting significant community use, this trail represents only a fraction of the vision, which aims to create 30 miles worth of multi-use trails. "It is the product of nearly a decade of collaboration between local government, nonprofits, community members, and federal agencies," says Klemens Branner, representing the Silverton Singletrack Society.

Silverton, with a population of about 700, faces economic challenges due to its remote location and reliance on tourism. The park aims to attract visitors and support local businesses, addressing the community's need for accessible recreational options. The project aligns with the Town's Compass Master Plan, emphasizing recreational infrastructure as vital for community viability.

San Miguel Power Association, along with cooperative partner, CoBank, seeks funding opportunities like Baker's Park, that stimulate and enhance local economies. The Sharing Success Economic Development grant is the result. With this \$7,500 donation, SMPA is pleased to join the growing coalition of project partners, helping leverage a Great Outdoors Colorado ("GOCO") grant and local momentum to realize the full Baker's Park Trail System. "We greatly appreciate the Sharing Success grant," says Branner. "It is helping ensure that this long-term community asset continues to serve both residents and visitors for decades to come."



San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. In any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

SMPA's Temporary Hardship Program

SMPA is a member-controlled cooperative and an integral partner within our communities. When circumstances adversely affect our local economies and large numbers of our members, we are sensitive to the impact, and we are here to help.

Therefore, if you think you may have trouble paying your next power bill due to a recent financial hardship, please give us a call and we will set up a plan that works for you.

We also want to help members-in-need to connect with programs that can help.

Please see the list below for assistance program contact information:

The Telluride Foundation Good Neighbor Fund:

tchnetwork.org/gnf-application/

Energy Outreach Colorado:

energyoutreach.org/

Tri-County Health Network

tchnetwork.org/

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

cdhs.colorado.gov/leap

Colorado Peak

<https://co.colorado.gov/colorado-peak>

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CANDIDATE FOR THE SMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Follow these steps:

STEP 1: Get Information

Call to verify your district of residence & primary account designation.
(970) 626-5549

STEP 2: Get Petition Packet

Available in March.

STEP 3: Review

Review & attest that you meet qualifications.

STEP 4: Gather

Get 15 member signatures. (See options at www.smpa.com/content/elections)

STEP 5: Submit Petition

Submit completed petition, attestation & related documents by April 2, 2026.

STEP 6: Candidacy

Get Certified as a candidate.

STEP 7: Election

Campaign & vote.

STEP 8: Annual Meeting:

Find out Board Director winners at the conclusion of the meeting.

ELECTION SCHEDULE

February, 2026: Election notice mailed to members in District #3 and District #6.

March, 2026: Nomination packets available for pick up at SMPA Offices. Email alex@smpa.com for digital.

April 2, 2026: Nomination Packets (Petitions with 15 or more valid member signatures) DUE. Completed petitions to be posted on www.smpa.com the following week.

April 20, 2026: Date of Record (Members who join or who make changes to primary account after this date may not be eligible to vote in 2026.)

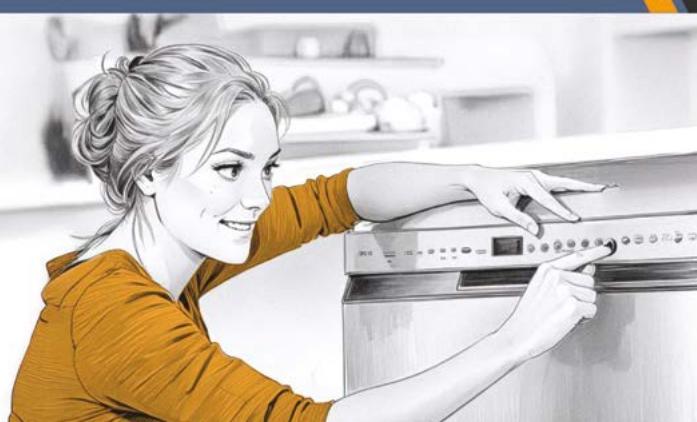
Paperless voting email campaign allowing members to "turn off" their paper ballot, if they wish.

Mid-May, 2026: Where an election is contested, ballots are mailed to members and online voting opens.

June 3, 2026: Mail-in & e-ballot deadline. Online voting closes. Mail-in ballots must be RECEIVED by close of business.

June 4, 2026: **ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING**
Nucla, Colorado
A hybrid in-person / virtual event.
See www.smpa.com to register.
(Election results announced.)

 **SAVE WITH TOU:**
Set the **delay function** on your dishwasher when loading after dinner



WHAT IS SMART PAY?
...a way to buy power that puts me in charge.

- No deposits, late fees, or reconnect fees.
- Pay whenever it makes sense for me.
- Convenient texts or emails help me keep track of my balance.

www.smpa.com/content/smarterpay



 **GIVE BLOOD** | vitalant.org

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA

 **FOLLOW US**
facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

SMPA POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:

I MOB IN GAUNT KIN

Hint: The air up there

Last Month's Answer: WEATHER STRIPPING
Last Month's Winner: MARK PISTORIO

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