

# ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®

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, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](https://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](mailto:energywise@smpa.com)  
(970) 626-5549 x212

## SAFETY TIPS

### COOKING SAFETY TIPS:

- Keep excess food wrapping away from the gas flame or electric burner on your stove.
- Don't cook wearing loose-fitting clothes that could dangle over the stove.
- Grease fire? Turn off the stove. Put the lid or another cover over the fire and let it die from lack of oxygen.

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.

Persons 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](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.intakeusda.gov](mailto:program.intakeusda.gov).

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

## SMPA Storehouse in Silverton Fits the Bill

SMPA JOURNEY LINEMAN, JEFF SHEA HAS A TOUGH JOB. ANY LINEMAN WILL TELL YOU THAT RESTORING POWER DURING AN OUTAGE IS DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS, BUT DOING SO IN A TOWN WITH AN ELEVATION OF 9,318 FEET BRINGS A WHOLE NEW SET OF CHALLENGES.

To meet these challenges, Jeff has access to a variety of equipment. There are two different trucks, snow sleds, an ATV, a snow blower, and many more specialized tools. It's a lot to manage, and over the years, these items have been spread across several of the SMPA properties throughout town, making access cumbersome and slowing down restoration times.

In 2015, the need for a new facility which would house all necessary vehicles and equipment in one spot spurred SMPA's Operations Department to start discussing plans to build one. SMPA owns properties on the outskirts of town, and these were considered as possible locations, but they were all either cost prohibitive for utilities extension or they were located in areas zoned as residential or in extreme avalanche danger. The lots owned by SMPA on Greene St. were ideal because of their proximity to the staff residence which enhanced the convenience, safety, and speed of Jeff's access to needed materials, and equipment.

The design of the building was also of critical importance. The goal was a structure that incorporated a convenient, modern layout with an aesthetic that would honor the mining heritage which makes Silverton unique. Although this latter element was not required by building codes, it was important to the SMPA Board and Staff, because, as the local Electric Cooperative, the goal is always to have a community-focused approach in all we do.

Through several discussions with the Silverton Planning Director, Historic Preservation Officer for the Silverton National Historic Landmark District, and Public Works staff, SMPA personnel we were able to come up with a plan all parties agreed upon. The project was presented to the SMPA board of directors and they unanimously agreed to begin the bidding process.

Per SMPA policy and at the recommendation by the Town Planner and Board Member Terry Rhoads, the RFP for the project was sent to several local Silverton construction companies as well as several other companies which were active within the SMPA service territory. By the time of the deadline, two proposals from companies based in Montrose had come back fully completed, and the project was awarded to the lower bid.



SMPA requested that, when possible, local subcontractors be considered for work on the storehouse project. This goal was realized with the hire of the electrician, a local Silverton resident who provided excellent service.

Now, the storehouse project is complete and serving the town of Silverton as envisioned. The architectural accents like raw wood, rusted metal, timber framing and darker shades help the storehouse to fit in with its surroundings and the efficient layout and convenient location solves innumerable problems for Jeff.

The storehouse definitely changes the look of the area, but for those who know, it may come to represent the resiliency and determination that keeps Silverton energized in its rugged, mountain-high perch.

## Hunt Safely Near Utility Power Lines

The clearings created by utility rights of way can lure game and hunters into a dangerous spot. Always be aware of what's behind your target, and keep electrical lines and equipment out of your sights!



COMING SOON!  
**POWER HOURS**

**Learn. Discuss. Take Part.**

Power Hours is your chance to talk to us directly. Rates, renewables, reliability and more...

When will Power Hours be in your home town? Find out at [smpa.com](http://smpa.com).

**Power Hours Schedule**

Naturita	Rimrock Hotel 123 E Main Street	September 4 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM
Norwood	The Divide Restaurant 1610 Grand Avenue	September 16 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM
Mountain Village	The Madeline Hotel "M" Lounge 568 Mountain Village Boulevard	September 25 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM
Silverton	To be announced	October 14 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM
Ridgway	To be announced	October 16 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM
Ouray	To be announced	October 17 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM



**2019 SHARING SUCCESS**

Organizations and businesses may receive up to \$10,000 in \$1,000 increments in dollar-for-dollar matching funds.

Interested parties should email [phora@smpa.com](mailto:phora@smpa.com)

**Qualifying projects should:**

- Stimulate job creation in our area
- Promote economic growth
- Create/improve local commerce
- Maintain/strengthen existing businesses
- Enhance regional prosperity
- Offer sustainable progress; set the stage for economic development in the long run
- Build collaboration
- Show off our communities attributes
- Demonstrate ability to leverage funds



*Come on down...*

**Member Appreciation Days**

**October 1 - 3 | 8:30AM - 4:30PM**

We celebrate National Cooperative Month by celebrating YOU!

Please stop by one of our offices. Enjoy coffee or hot cider, donuts, pastries, or a hot lunch!

THIS YEAR ONLY...

Celebrate your community's history with the 80th Anniversary Commemorative 2020 wall calendar.



**Time's Running Out!**

To help launch our new program, Totally Green, we're giving away this totally awesome "SOL-Shine" paddle board from SOL Paddle Boards, based in Telluride.

On September 23, we'll draw one name from our list of Totally Green participants, and that lucky winner will be hangin' ten from this sweet new paddle board, complete with carrying case, air pump and paddle. Good luck!



**SMPA POWER PLAY**

**This Month's Puzzle: I E DREAM REAPER MAN**  
 Hint: This father of electrodynamics gave his name to our base unit of electric current.

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

**EnergyWise  
 PO Box 1150  
 Ridgway, CO 81432**

**SCAM ALERT!**

If you get a call from someone threatening to turn off your power, hang up. View your account status at [smpa.smarthub.coop](http://smpa.smarthub.coop)