

# PowerLines REPORT

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**JUNE 2022**

## Elevate Internet Coming This Fall to Pea Green

*Alyssa Clemens Roberts, CEO*

Last month we sent our contracted fiber engineering firm to the field to assess our electric grid in preparation for bringing gigabit internet to some of Elevate’s long-anticipated fiber zones. Pea Green, Delta S 412, and Olathe 148, we’re talking to you! This build-out isn’t only exciting for the 7,000 community members that will, for the first time, have a modern internet connection. It is also a monumental feat for our internal team, who worked hard to secure more than \$10.5 million in grant funds to extend our network to these hard-to-reach places. Because of this grant, DMEA/Elevate can continue fulfilling the promise we made to our members, despite the financial challenges of building in rural areas.

I am proud of the team whose knowledge gave us the advantage we needed to secure these grant funds. Please help me thank the following staff for their hard work: Kent Blackwell, Chief Technology Officer; Mark Kurtz, Elevate Senior Business Project Manager; Margaret Davey, Grants and Regulatory Compliance Administrator; Jonathan Nelson, Elevate Outside Plant Supervisor; Janet Green, Applications and Database Manager; and our entire GIS team, Alissa Heinecke, Michelle Brew, and Donna Hebein.

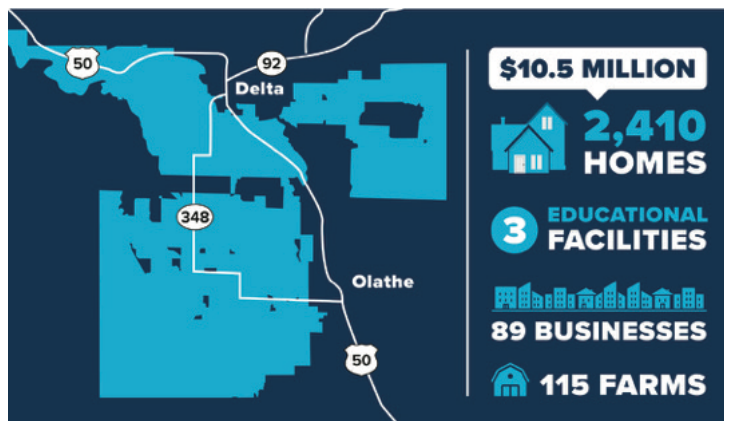
I also want to publicly acknowledge our members in Pea Green, Delta S 412, and Olathe 148 for submitting numerous comments in support of our efforts, not once but three times! That gratitude extends to U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, Colorado Senator Don Coram, and Colorado Representatives Marc Catlin and Matt Soper. These elected officials not only provided letters of support but have advocated for Elevate time and time again.

Now onto what you really want to know: when will Elevate’s 1 Gig internet be available at your home? After completing

the make-ready assessment, our contractors will work hand-in-hand with DMEA’s mapping team to design our network. After the design, DMEA will secure a contractor from a federal pool to build the fiber network. We anticipate that construction will begin in early 2023, with our first members coming online by the summer.

If all that is not exciting enough, our grant team is already working to secure an additional \$14 million in future grant funds through the Rural Utility Service’s Reconnect III program. If awarded, this grant funding will enable DMEA/Elevate to build out even more rural swaths of Delta, Montrose, and Gunnison counties. Yes, you read that right; I said Gunnison County. We’re coming, Somerset!

### BUILD-OUT *at a glance*





# Congratulations!

## DMEA's 2022 Scholarship Recipients

DMEA, in partnership with the Montrose Community Foundation, has selected its 2021-2022 scholarship recipients. This year, more than \$50,000 was available for local students to pursue post high school education.

DMEA's scholarships provide local students with funds to attend a variety of higher education institutions including private and public universities, liberal arts colleges, vocational and trade schools, community and junior colleges, institutes of technology, art and design schools, and even online colleges. Join us in congratulating this year's recipients!



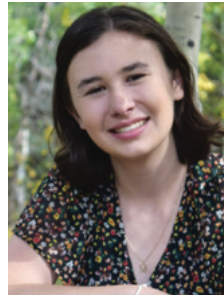
**Aubrie Lewis**  
Olathe High School  
\$3,000



**Brendan Baier**  
Delta High School  
\$3,000



**Brendan Ullmann**  
Montrose High School  
\$3,000



**Kaya Crawford**  
North Fork High School  
\$3,000



**Sarah Hartman**  
Montrose High School  
\$3,000



**Raelee McCurdy**  
Delta High School  
\$3,000



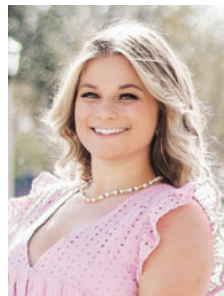
**Olivia Hohenstein**  
Cedaredge High School  
\$3,000



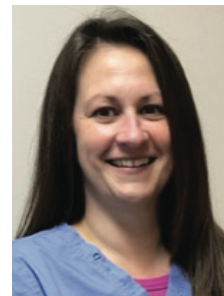
**Sienna Reese**  
Non-traditional High School  
\$3,000



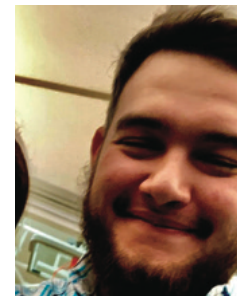
**Abby Reedy**  
Continuing Education  
\$2,000



**Samantha Wollert**  
Continuing Education  
\$2,000



**Danielle Carson**  
Guzman Character  
\$3,000



**Cody Melchor**  
Guzman Lineworker  
\$2,000



**Harrison Hall**  
Colorado Mesa University  
Montrose Campus  
\$2,000



**Evelyn Castillo Ceniceros**  
Colorado Mesa University  
Montrose Campus  
\$2,000



**Taneya Booth**  
Technical College of the Rockies  
\$2,000



**Bridger Kurtz**  
Employee Dependent  
\$3,000

*Not pictured:*

**Corbin Whittington**, Montrose High School, \$3,000  
**Shomari Cousar**, Guzman Lineworker, \$2,000  
**Benjamin Rodriguez**, North Fork High School, \$3,000  
**Jacen Brown**, Continuing Education, \$2,000  
**Victor Portillo**, Technical College of the Rockies, \$2,000



**Guzman  
Energy**

Special thanks to Guzman Energy for helping to fund our 2021-2022 scholarships!

# DMEA Destinations

## NORTH FORK

### Hotchkiss



### Enjoy a latte at Coal Train Coffee House

Start the day with espresso from this quaint, local coffee shop in Hotchkiss. With daily drink specials and a wide variety of treats, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

### Crawford



### Picnic at Crawford State Park

Enjoy views of the water, mountains, and the Crawford Needle from this charming state park. Recreation opportunities include fishing, boating, water sports, hiking, and more!

### Paonia



### Wind down at Paonia United Brewing Co.

If you're looking for a great spot for brews, look no further than Paonia United Brewing. From porter to pineapple chili ale, there's always something tasty on tap.

What's your local go-to for fun? Submit your suggestions to [communications@dmea.com](mailto:communications@dmea.com)

# SHOCKTALK TREE PLANTING

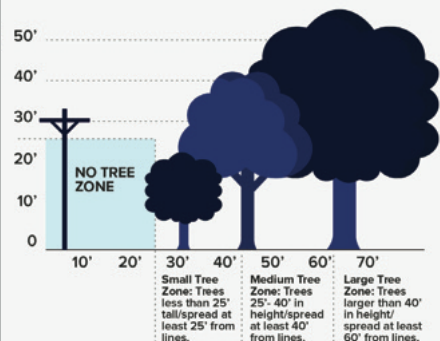
Hey! What are you up to this weekend?

I have a few trees I'm putting in the backyard. I want a little shade... eventually lol. 🌳

Don't you have a bunch of power lines in your backyard?

Yeah, I'm making sure to give a little room. Can you remember the guidelines?

I found a handy guide online.



Just make sure trees are at least 25 feet away from poles. And the bigger the tree, the further away it needs to be.

That's perfect, thanks!

No prob! And if you need anything else there's lots of info at [dmea.com/trees-your-power](http://dmea.com/trees-your-power)





## How SmarHub Can Help You Avoid Scams

Scammers are using ever-improving technologies to target electric consumers by phone, email, and text. These criminals claim to be from DMEA and often use a technique called spoofing to make the Caller ID on your phone display DMEA's number. They may even use email addresses that look legitimate at first glance.

Members can get caught off-guard by the aggressive tone of the scammers, who threaten to turn off power if not paid immediately. Your best defense against scams – a good dose of skepticism not included – is your DMEA SmarHub account.

### Check your balance 24/7/365

Scammers will try to convince you that your account is past due. They then threaten to turn off your service unless you pay immediately. To prevent falling for these threats, confirm your DMEA account balance any time, day or night.

### Make a secure payment

Sometimes, your account may have a balance. Don't give the caller any personal or financial information. After confirming your balance, you can immediately make a payment toward your DMEA account, and rest assured your money isn't in the wrong hands.

JOYCE JAMES  Select All Accounts With a Payment Amount Entered Total amount may differ from your statement due to recent payments and/or adjustments.

	Next Auto Pay Date	Auto Pay Amount	Make a Payment	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Electric</b> Account 8675309 , Auto Pay 742 EVERGREEN TR. MONTROSE, CO <a href="#">View Usage »</a>	05/09/2022	\$116.00	<input type="button" value="\$ Auto Pay"/>	<input type="radio"/> Total Due
	<a href="#">View Bill »</a>			<input checked="" type="radio"/> Other Amount
				\$0.00 <input type="button" value="Pay Now »"/>

**Set up your SmarHub account today at [dmea.smarthub.coop](http://dmea.smarthub.coop).**



**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  
W; 8:00am-5:00pm

**Contact Us:**  
1-877-687-3632 | [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) | [f](#) [v](#) [t](#) [@](#)

### Your Board of Directors:

*Bill Patterson, District 1*     *Kyle Martinez, District 2*  
*Jacob Gray, District 3*     *Ken Watson, District 4*  
*Kevin Williams, District 5*     *Damon Lockhart, District 6*  
*Enno Heuscher, District 7*     *Stacia Cannon, North*  
*Jock Fleming, South*

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.

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 [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](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, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.instate@usda.gov](mailto:program.instate@usda.gov).



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GLASS ON  
ELEVATE**

**Check out the SIPS blog on our website  
to find out how to claim yours!**



**[elevateinternet.com](http://elevateinternet.com)**





# MEMBERS BEWARE

**Don't fall for deceptive sales scams.**

DMEA has received many reports of a door-to-door solar panel salesman claiming they are working with DMEA and telling members a DMEA rate increase is on the way. Rest assured, DMEA's rates are NOT changing. We are also not partnering with any solar panel company.

While door-to-door sales is a common and legitimate practice for businesses, follow these tips to protect yourself from scammers.

**DON'T** fall for pushy or too-good-to-be-true pitches. You might hear: "this will eliminate your electric bill," "the utility will write you a check," "this will power your home during an outage," or "it will cost you nothing upfront."

**DON'T** sign any contracts to install solar generation before you call DMEA. Your best interests are our concern, and many installers are only concerned with making a sale and profit - not about you.

**DON'T** believe social media ads designed to trick you by mimicking the appearance of an article; exaggerating savings or the need for financing; or urging you to share your address, contact information, or utility bill.

If you are interested in solar power for your home, DMEA is your best resource! Contact our Energy Services Specialist, Rod Geiger, at **877-687-3632** or **rod.geiger@dmea.com**. He'll walk you through right the process and can provide a list of certified and trusted local solar companies.

