



# NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

# WATTS NEWS

VOL. 25 NO. 3

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2022

## CEO Report

*Good afternoon North Itasca!*

It's a blustery afternoon for sure! I'm crossing my fingers everyone is staying safe out there today, I heard reports gusts are up to 50 mph today. I do not usually take any input on my articles. This article serves as my chance to reach out to you with a personal touch. This month I felt it necessary to use a little information from Great River Energy. Of course I had to change a few things, the basics of this article will be shared

with the 28 member cooperatives that own GRE.

Your electricity is cleaner, safe, and reliable as ever.

There has been a lot of talk about climate change and emissions targets over the years in places like Paris, Washington D.C., and St. Paul.

We are on the path to clean energy. We believe North Itasca Electric's members have the best electric service around, whether you value cost,



Brad Dolinski, CEO

reliability, environmental responsibility — or all three.

In partnership with our wholesale electricity provider Great River Energy, we will dramatically reduce the energy we receive from coal. Not only

CEO to p.2>

## GRE members approve Coal Creek sale, HVDC transmission line, large wind project

At a special Feb. 9 meeting, Great River Energy's member cooperatives approved the updated agreement for the sale of Coal Creek Station and the high voltage direct current (HVDC) system to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC and Nexus Line, LLC, respectively.

Great River Energy's all requirements members also approved the purchase power agreement with Apex Clean

Energy for the 400-megawatt Discovery Wind Project in McLean County, N.D.

Great River Energy is building a power supply portfolio that will serve its member-owner cooperatives with clean, affordable and reliable energy for decades. The cooperative will more than double its wind energy by the end of 2025 and remains on track to reduce

Wind to p.3>

*Grant application deadline is Friday, March 25*



## Operation Round-Up Trustees to hold spring grant meeting

Thanks to the generosity of nearly 85 percent of the Members of North Itasca Electric Co-op., the Board of Trustees for Operation Round Up will have approximately \$12,000 available to distribute to various communities

and organizations in the area. In the Round Up program, Members "round up" their billings to the next dollar, with the difference going to programs benefitting our area.

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## I'm finally warming up

*by Jerry Loney*

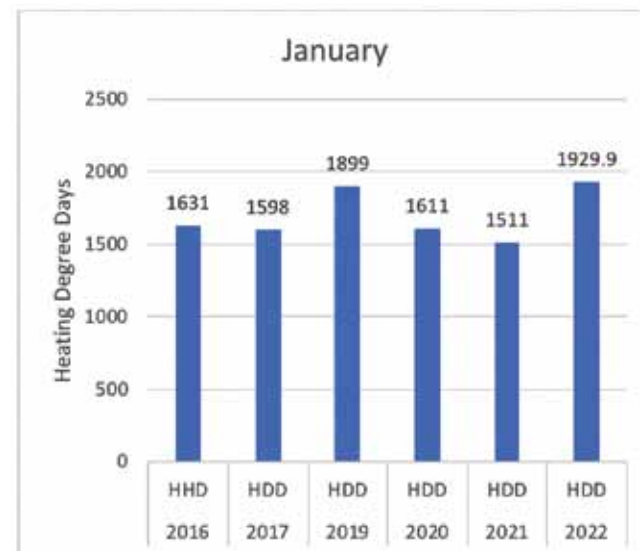
After days and days and days of cold weather last January 2022, my bones are starting to thaw out.

I am both surprised and thankful because normally this time of year I receive many phone calls for heating troubles. That wasn't the case this year despite the cold conditions. But instead of heating troubles, I did receive a number of calls from members asking about their electric bills.

Heating Degree Days (HDD) in January were the highest they have been in many years totaling 1,929.9 HDDs. Last January 2021, we had 1,511.9 HDDs. When

calculating the difference, we found that in January of 2022, it was 27.65 percent colder over that of January of 2021.

For a quick overview from past



January to p.3>



## Volunteer Spotlight: Member receives Outstanding Community Conservation Award

North Itasca Electric member Bill Cromell was recognized with an Outstanding Community Conservation Award from the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District recently. He joined Cavour Johnson and Luke Adam who were also recognized for their conservation efforts in 2021.

Bill Cromell, former president of the Deer Lake

Watershed Association the Deer Lake watershed near Effie, spearheaded by increasing community coordinating efforts to awareness and by working improve water quality in with Itasca SWCD and the

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Lucky Day Sale

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EV Charging

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Hours

Monday - Friday  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

CEO Report (continued)

will we meet Minnesota’s goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent from 2005 levels, but we will also get there next year—27 years before the 2050 target.

Our renewable energy portfolio – which already meets Minnesota’s renewable energy standard of 25% – will nearly triple in output by 2025.

As these changes occur, North Itasca’s wholesale power costs will flatten. As inflation is causing other costs to rise, Great River Energy’s wholesale power rate remains well below the average cost of electricity in the region and is projected to remain flat.

The changes to the way we generate

electricity have occurred intentionally for over a decade. We have closed two power plants and recently sold a third. Your elected directors have faced decisions that will have wide-ranging and long-lasting effects. They take into careful consideration the impact their decisions will have on the environment, reliability, community, and the economy. Through it all, they have focused on doing what’s best for North Itasca Electric’s membership.

North Itasca Electric and Great River Energy are in the strong position we are today because of the way we do business, as cooperatives. We are an owner of Great River Energy in the same way

you are an owner of North Itasca Electric.

Cooperatives are owned by those we serve, governed by democratically elected directors, and guided by a simple goal: to do what’s best for the membership, in every scenario. By continuing to listen to our members and work with partners like Great River Energy, North Itasca Electric will remain innovative, nimble and deliver on our promise to members for generations.

One final note I want you to understand is, we have a responsibility to provide you with power. To be a MISO participant we must have generation capable of meeting our peak load conditions plus a cushion. Closing and selling these baseload plants does not mean we are exposed to situations of brown- or blackouts. We will still be there to provide you with power when you need us.

By your side! Miigwech  
Brad

Road conditions:  
Call 511 or visit  
hb.511mn.org  
(low bandwidth:  
lb.511mn.org).

Round Up Deadline March 25

The deadline for grant applications is Friday, March 25, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Any postmarks after this date will be disqualified.

There is an editable application form available you can obtain by sending an email request to support@nieci.com. If you do not have email access give us a call at (218) 743-3131, and we will send you an application form.

When completing the grant application, please read and follow the directions closely. Make sure the application is completed, including a complete and accurate mailing address. Make sure your IRS tax-exempt letter (if appropriate) is attached. Not following directions or leaving parts of the application blank or incomplete could cause the application to be disallowed.

If you have any questions on completing the application, please contact Jerry Loney at North Itasca Electric Cooperative by calling (218) 743-1313, or one of the Trust Board members listed below.

Community Trust Board Members		
DIST #	TRUST BOARD MEMBER & AREA REPRESENTED	
1	Linda Dreher, Mizpah	(218) 897-5086
2	Meredie Rounds, Bigfork	(218) 743-3312
3	Bruce Steege, Effie	(218) 743-2649
4	Greg Anselmo, Bigfork	(218) 244-4648
5	Gary Chapman, Marcell	(217) 402-3745
6	Stacy Swedberg, Northome	(218) 239-0220
7	Lisa Peterson, Squaw Lake	(218) 659-4266
8	Eric Elhard, Marcell	(218) 832-3300
9	Lisa Polchow, Deer River	(218) 246-9680

GRE secures additional wind energy

>from p.1

its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80 percent by 2025, achieving Minnesota’s emissions target decades ahead of schedule.

Rainbow Energy Center, LLC plans to operate the 1,151-megawatt (MW) power plant using current plant employees they hire. Great River Energy will operate and maintain the HVDC system for Nexus Line, LLC using existing Great River Energy transmission employees under a 20-year contract. Discovery Wind will deliver renewable energy across the 436-mile HVDC system from North Dakota to Minnesota.

Great River Energy projects these transactions could save its members approximately \$130 million.

The sale of Coal Creek Station and the HVDC system is expected to close no earlier than May 1. The Discovery Wind project is expected to reach commercial operations in 2025.



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## WATTS NEWS

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Chief Executive Officer: Brad Dolinski  
WATTS NEWS Editor: Sally Sedgwick

Send all calendar items, recipes, advertisements and other correspondence for WATTS NEWS to the Editor at: P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680

## NorthItascaElectric.com

- *pay a bill, download a form*
- *find out about programs*
- *find worksheets to calculate the cost of running your appliances*

**North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors**

Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3  
Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2  
Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5  
Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9  
Rep. to GRE Board: Bruce Leino, District 7

James White, District 1      Mary Rahier, District 4  
Todd Christensen, District 6      Jeff Kilian, District 8



## Highlights from the Board Room

January 24, 2022

### NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC. MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 1:55 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held electronically through Zoom on January 24, 2022.

Directors Present: M. Rahier, B. Leino, J. White, W. Waller, J. Kilian, T. Christensen, R. Bain, L. Salmela and L. Kongsjord

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Andy Shaw, Daryl Pederson, Jerry Loney, T. Danielson and Kim Giesen.

Start Regular Board Meeting: 11:10 a.m.

- o Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- o A Motion was made to adopt agenda. Seconded, motion carried. A Motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded, motion carried.
- o B. Dolinski held the safety discussion. Brad shared the current guidelines from the CDC on COVID 19.
- o T. Danielson reviewed the operating reports. Motion was made to accept the operating reports. Seconded, motion carried.
- o D. Pederson gave the Line Department Report. MREA was on site for AWAIR and Hazard Recognition. The outage report and comparison were reviewed.
- o J. Loney gave the Member Service Report.
- o T. Danielson gave the office reports.
- o B. Dolinski gave the CEO report. There will be two intern linemen starting in April.
- o Motion was made to accept the travel, lodging and meeting expenses for the GRE Regional Meeting, Board Leadership class and the MRE Annual Meeting. Seconded, motion carried.
- o K. Giesen gave an update on the website. She has been in contact with Jonathan the web designer.
- o PCA charge was discussed.
- o W. Waller gave the MREA report.
- o B. Leino gave the GRE report.
- o A Motion was made to adjourn. Seconded, motion carried at 1:55 p.m.

Regular board meetings are generally held the fourth Thursday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact CEO Brad Dolinski at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

Visit your cooperative online  
[www.NorthItascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthItascaElectric.com)

## Efficiency measures, special programs improve farm energy use



Energy is a major expense in agriculture. Farms depend on diesel, gasoline, and electricity to help with the important work of raising crops and livestock.

Advancements in efficiency and special programs offered by electric cooperatives are presenting

new opportunities for farms to use less energy overall and to use electricity in new ways.

LED lighting and efficient heating and cooling technologies have reduced the energy needed to keep animals healthy and comfortable all year.

### Electrification a growing trend

Equipment manufacturers are developing electric farm implements with the potential to require far less energy and maintenance. The global market for electric tractors is expected to grow rapidly in the next decade.

Robotic technology is being applied to many kinds of machines, such as robotic milking operations, to automate processes. These

devices help farmers reduce labor demands while increasing efficiency – freeing up time for farmers to work on other duties. Since the robotic milking machines are optimized to work efficiently, they can also help to remove more milk per cow and provide more rest for them, too.

One of the most exciting trends is happening indoors. Enclosed growing containers equipped with finely tuned electric equipment provide optimal water, light, and nutrients. Best of all, they can grow fruits and vegetables year-round.

To learn more about improving the energy use on your farm, contact North Itasca Electric at (218) 743-3131 and ask for Jerry Loney.

## Colder January affects bills

>from p.1

articles to what a HDD is, for every one degree in temperature below a thermostat set point (say 65°) is one heating degree day. If the outside temperature is 50°, subtract that from 65° and you find that day having 15 HDDs. The chart shown on p.1 shows the totals of HDDs we have had in the last 6 years.

It doesn't matter if you heat with electricity or propane, your electric bill was higher. Even those with propane furnaces experienced their systems running longer and more often as they replaced the heat lost from infiltration and convection.

A 1/2 hp furnace fan motor will consume 370 Watts of energy per hour or 6.16 Watts per minute. With the additional extreme cold during January, your furnace fan motor did run more. With an estimated additional 10 min of run time every hour to keep the house warm, you can see that an extra 61.6 Watts an hour was consumed. Over a month's period, the fan would have used 45,830.4 Watts or 45.83 kWh. This may not sound like a lot of electricity, but it all adds up.

Even that ever-so-small space heater in your favorite room during the evening hours could be costing you \$0.20 per hour to operate. There are some of us that need to plug our cars and trucks in overnight making sure we would make it to work the next day. Engine block heaters consume between 400 and 1,500 watts per hour which is the same as those ever-so-small space heaters.

None of us liked seeing our January's electric bill, but the alternatives would not be pleasant. Some may not agree, but what if the energy we need is not there when needed to heat our homes? Whether heating with fossil fuels or electric, electricity is still needed to ignite the furnace, circulate water for in-floor systems, lighting, etc.

For me, whether a cooperative employee or not, I am thankful for what North Itasca Electric Cooperative provides and honored to be part of it.

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## Energy assistance

If you cannot pay your winter heating bills, contact one of these locations for energy assistance help.

**KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T.**  
201 NW 4th St., Ste 130  
Grand Rapids MN 55744  
218-999-0800  
877-687-1163

**BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL**  
P.O. Box 579  
Bemidji, MN 56601-0579  
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**ITASCA COUNTY SOCIAL SERV.**  
Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th St  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-327-2941

**KOOCHICHING COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES**  
615 4th St  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-8405

**LEECH LAKE ENERGY ASST.**  
115 6th St, Ste E, Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-8292

## Cold weather rule & energy assistance program notice

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by North Itasca Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30,

### North Itasca Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and

- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

### Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2022. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance, Kootasca Community Action (218) 999-0800. North Itasca Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Sheila Hafeman at (218) 743-3131 to set up a payment plan.

## Phone app available

Did you know that you can access your account with your smart phone?

Download the North Itasca Electric mobile app and get your account information on your phone including usage and payment history. You can also make a payment from your phone!

To download the app, follow these directions:

iPhone: Go to the App Store and search for North Itasca Electric.

Android: Go to Google Play and search for North Itasca Electric.

### Road conditions:

Call 511 or visit [hb.511mn.org](http://hb.511mn.org) (low bandwidth: [lb.511mn.org](http://lb.511mn.org)).

Always assume a downed power line is energized. If you encounter a downed line while driving, please stay back. Turn around and find an alternative route.

### SAFETY TIP

**STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES.**

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## Electric vehicle charging on the rise

Electric vehicles (EVs) continue to increase in popularity as new models with longer range hit the market. EVs are popular with consumers for several reasons including the low cost of charging up and the instant torque provided by electric drive technology. Environmental benefits such as EVs not giving off any tailpipe emissions and the electricity used to “fuel up” these cars becoming cleaner as more renewables are brought onto the grid also add to consumer interest.

However, these benefits hinge on having somewhere to charge that is convenient, affordable, and reliable. For many of today’s EV owners that place is at home — often parked overnight in a personal garage. On average, 85 percent of all EV charging is done at home, followed by 10 percent at work and the remaining 5 percent at public charging stations. But when planning a longer drive, you need the charging infrastructure to support it.

Fortunately, there has been a great deal of investment in EV charging infrastructure in the U.S. and, notably, in Minnesota. Much of the state’s funding came from a \$15 billion settlement reached in 2017 between the Department of Justice and Volkswagen Corporation after the car manufacturer was found to have violated air pollution standards. Minnesota’s share of \$47 million, which will be spent over 10 years on projects to offset the excess pollution from the violating vehicles, is managed by the state’s Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The investment plan consists of three phases:

- Phase 1: \$11.75 million (25 percent of overall funds) – 2018-19
- Phase 2: \$23.5 million (50 percent) – 2020-23
- Phase 3: \$11.75 million (25 percent) – 2024-27

In Phase 1, the MPCA funded 47 new EV charging stations (72 charging plugs) throughout Minnesota. In Phase 2, approximately \$3.17 million dollars will be spent on 38 new DC fast-charging stations. An additional \$352,000 will fund Level 2 stations at public locations, mobility hubs, workplaces and multi-unit dwellings. In order to build a statewide EV charging network, MPCA identified preliminary roadways for funding and will continue to revise plans based on where EV stations are needed.

Other efforts to ramp up the nation’s charging infrastructure include initiatives by Electrify America to invest \$2 billion in a network of fast-charging stations located along travel corridors and create cross-country routes over a 10-year period. Current plans include two Minnesota regional routes: Interstate 90 from Albert Lea to Butte, Montana, and Interstate 94 from Minneapolis to Billings, Montana.

The U.S. House of Representatives also passed a \$1.2 trillion dollar infrastructure bill that included \$7.5 billion for EVs and charging infrastructure. Minnesota will receive \$68 million over five years to expand its EV charging network.

These major, nationwide investments will help current and potential EV owners be assured they will have charging stations when and where they need them on longer road trips.

Visit [EnergyWiseMN.com](http://EnergyWiseMN.com) for more information about public charging.

Visit your co-op at [www.NorthItascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthItascaElectric.com) - get updates on Facebook!

## What is an HSPF rating?

Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) is a rating used to measure energy efficiencies of heating devices which include heat pumps, furnaces and even water heaters. HSPF is a number representing the total heat delivered by the heating device during standard conditions divided by the amount of electricity that device consumes when providing heat.

What does the HSPF numbers mean in cost?

- For a Mini-Split Air Source Heat Pump having a rating of 8 HSPF, you will get 8,000 BTUs of heat for every 1 kWh of electricity.
- For a Mini-Split Air Source Heat Pump having a rating of 10 HSPF, you will get 10,000 BTUs of heat for every 1 kWh of electricity.

By this you can see that the higher the HSPF rating, better are its efficiencies. For the Mini-Split to earn an Energy STAR label, it must be at least 8.5 HSPF.

A home consumes 200,000,000 BTUs, dividing that by 20,000,000 watt-hours gives us a 10 HSPF rating. 1,000-Watt hour = 1 kW by which we pay our bills.

20,000,000 watt-hours divided by 1,000 = 20,000 kWh and at the general service rate of \$0.1249 per kWh, the seasonal energy cost would be \$2,498.

When looking at the efficiency rating of a Mini-Split Air Source Heat Pump, it is now required by law that the rating be specified.

## WATTS deadlines

Listed below are deadlines for the WATTS News through 2022 for ads and content. The deadline can also be found on the classified page each month. Dates are subject to change.

April	3/16
May	4/15
June	see May paper
July	6/17
August	7/15
September	8/17
October	9/16
November	10/14
December	11/16

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# SURGE Protection 101

by Abby Berry


A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from a variety of sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can majorly damage electronic devices and equipment in your home.

Let's take a look at common causes of power surges and how you can protect your sensitive electronics.

One of the most common causes of a power surge is lightning. Most of us have experienced this during a severe thunderstorm. When lightning strikes an electrical system, the excess current must be channeled somewhere—unfortunately in many cases, it's sent through a home. Your best bet is to unplug all unused devices and electronics during severe thunderstorms.

Another common cause of power surges is electrical overload. This happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that can't handle the required amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged into one outlet through an extension cord. If you're experiencing power surges due to electrical overload, it's time to call a qualified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring in a home can also cause power surges. Damaged



**SURGE PROTECTION**  
Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event

**REMEMBER:**  
Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

or exposed wires can cause spikes in voltage, creating a potentially dangerous situation. If you notice signs of faulty wiring, like visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers, your home may be due for electrical wiring repairs and updates.

Surges can also occur after a power outage. Sometimes, when electricity is being restored and reconnected, it's common to experience a quick surge in current. Similar to advice for a surge caused by lightning, it's best to unplug sensitive electronics during the outage—then wait to plug them back in after power is fully restored.

Aside from unplugging devices when you suspect a power surge, there are two ways you can take additional precautions to protect electronics in your home.

Point-of-use surge protection devices, like power strips, can protect electronics during most surges. But remember, not all power strips include surge protection, so read the packaging label carefully before you buy, and don't overload the power strip with too many devices. You can also install specialized electrical outlets that offer additional surge protection. Talk to a trusted electrician to learn more.

Another option is a whole-home surge protector, which can help protect your home from larger, more powerful surges. In most cases, whole-home suppressors are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities that indicate when a device has been impacted by a surge. Whole-home

surge protection prices vary based on the size of the home and suppressor. Whole-home suppressors should always be connected by a licensed electrician, so consider the cost of installation as well.

Occasional power surges are inevitable, but by unplugging devices when you think a surge may occur and using additional levels of protection like power strips or whole-home suppressors, you can better safeguard your sensitive electronics and devices.

Contact North Itasca Electric if you have questions about ways to protect your home from power surges.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

# Scholarships

Did you know that high school seniors who are children of North Itasca Electric Members can apply for a college scholarships through the Northome High School scholarship committee?

The deadline for application is in late April (note date is corrected from last issue); information will be available on the Northome School counselor's web page in mid-March at [www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2460](http://www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2460). Children of families who live out of the area but are Members of the cooperative (i.e. lake cabins) are eligible to apply.

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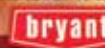
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## Cromell receives conservation award

>from p.1

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to collect lake water samples in the area. Mr. Cromell has also worked to boost community engagement by increasing invasive species awareness, improve lake shoreline health, and improve knowledge and understanding of how activities on land can impact water quality. His tireless work continues to make a positive impact for the watershed.

Cavour Johnson of Coleraine is an active conservation volunteer, mentor, and leader in his community. He is currently a member of the city's Parks, Trails and Landscaping Committee, and has led citywide buckthorn removal efforts. In 2016 Cavour was among a group of concerned community members that brought a failing stormwater pond to the attention of the city of Coleraine and Itasca SWCD. Coordination and planning in the following years identified additional stormwater management needs in the city and, ultimately, resulted in a clean water fund grant award of \$351,000.00. Cavour has assisted in coordination with city officials and staff, organizing community volunteers, securing and tracking match funding and hours, and project maintenance

such as watering raingardens.

Luke Adam of Nashauk-Keewatin High School was recognized for creating innovative conservation education activities for students and dedication to the preservation of natural resources in the community. Mr. Adam created the Spartan Angling class in the spring of 2019. The Spartan Angling class investigates a variety of topics such as: fish species, angling tactics, reading contour maps, slot limits, lake over-harvest, shoreline management, invasive species, catch and release tactics, and access to the fishing library that houses rods, reels, tackle, life jackets, fish houses, locators, flashers, and other angler necessities. "Our goal is to equip youth anglers to be stewards of Minnesota's waters by teaching them the art and science of angling.

Graduates of this class possess the skills needed to be lifelong anglers who will be successful on the water, yet aware of conservation methods to preserve the future," said Adam. Visit the class's website, [www.spartanangling.com](http://www.spartanangling.com) for more information.

Itasca SWCD is honored to have community members like these three individuals and would like to thank them for their past and continued environmental conservation, passion, and partnership on SWCD programs.



Matt Gutzmann (r), Itasca SWCD Water Resource Specialist, presents award to Bill Cromell (l).



Bill Grantges (l), Itasca SWCD AIS Program Coordinator, presents award to Luke Adam (r).



Cavour Johnson (center) receives award from (l to r) Tom Nelson (SWCD Board Member), Andy Arens, SWCD District Manager, Dennis Barsness (SWCD Board Member), and Paul Rustad (SWCD Board Member).

## Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

### LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.



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Turbo Freeze

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## Classic movie series in Bigfork

by Jack Nachbar

Itasca County's most famous and talented movie star was, obviously, Judy Garland, who was born here 100 years ago in June, 1922.

To celebrate Judy's centennial the Classic Movie Series in Bigfork in March will show her biggest box office hit, *Easter Parade* (1948).

The co-star of *Easter Parade* is Fred Astaire, who came out of retirement to play alongside Judy. They are electric together, singing and dancing to seventeen songs by the legendary songster, Irving Berlin. Also performing are Peter Lawford and the queen of tap dancing, Ann Miller. The movie is both funny and romantic as Fred is dumped

by Ann but finds himself falling in love with his musical partner, Judy.

Celebrate Judy Garland's birthday in *Easter Parade* at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 10. FREE! Masks and social distancing are still required.

APRIL CLASSIC MOVIE: It's our annual April Fools comedy. The Burt Reynolds rib tickler, *Smokey and the Bandit*, was scheduled to be shown in the Classic Film Series two years ago. Then COVID reared its ugly head. But, at last, it's back, and we can laugh our heads off at Burt, Sally Field and, in a hilarious role as a Southern sheriff, Jackie Gleason. See it at the Edge, Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

## Effie schedules Clean Up Day

by Sally Sedgwick

At its February 14 meeting, the Effie City Council scheduled a clean up day for residents within the city limits for April 8, 9 and 10, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. A dumpster will be available at the Community Center parking lot; no household garbage will be accepted.

The sewer system passed sample testing for January. Wastewater Supervisor Kevin Odden is retiring and has made contact with two companies who plan to submit quotes for taking over his responsibilities. The job description for a Class C Wastewater Operator is posted on Linked In jobs.

In other business, the council:

- Approved payroll and claims for January for \$5,439.73.
- Heard that one case for the vandalism at the ball park has been finalized with a \$600 restitution.
- Authorized the 2022 contract for service by the Bigfork Volunteer Fire Department for \$668.37.
- Tabled three items until the March meeting: review and acceptance of a bid for furnace replacement in the Community Center, discussion of possible uses for a large grant from the Blandin Foundation and authorization of an update to the sewer ordinance.
- Discussed asking for help in brushing from Thistledeew.
- Heard that the American Legion Auxiliary is planning an Easter Egg Hunt for children.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 14 at the Community Center.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.*



## The WATTS is 26!

Happy Birthday to us! The WATTS turns 26, bringing news of our cooperative and our community to our Member-Owners since 1986.

They have been an eventful and exciting years for the utility industry - introducing renewables as a major fuel source as well as bringing new technologies to market. Now we can even expect to see electric charging stations along our major highways to serve the growing needs of electric vehicles.

Still, the old-fashioned mission of electric cooperatives is as relevant as always: serving rural America. Our line crews travel across large areas, in all kinds of weather and at all hours to respond to outages. We still maintain television towers for basic free service. We still have an appliance store with a focus on value for our Members, and we still see local friendly faces when we walk into the headquarters building.

And, importantly, our residents still have a voice in their electric distribution company.

We've enjoyed sharing news of our cooperative over the years with you!

### Road conditions:

Call 511 or visit  
hb.511mn.org  
(low bandwidth:  
lb.511mn.org).



## March is Food Share Month

Although the Empty Bowls event will not be held in Bigfork this year, the need for food is still strong, and donations are appreciated. If anyone would like to contribute, mail your donation to: North Itasca Emergency Food Shelf (NIEFS), PO Box 152, Bigfork, MN 56628. If anyone needs food, stop by 200 Main Ave (north door) Thursday 12:30-3 p.m. and the 3rd Thursday of the month 12:30-4:30 p.m.

The Northome Food Shelf is located at 12059 Main St. and is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Mondays, 2-5 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays.

When donating to food shelves, Minnesota Food Share points out that financial donations actually go even further because of access to food banks and discount purchasing programs that allow food pantries to buy what is most needed in the community to stock their shelves.

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## SWCD position open in District 1

The Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is accepting applications for the vacant District 1 Board of Supervisors position. This district is on the western side of Itasca County; a map is available at [www.itascaswcd.org](http://www.itascaswcd.org). The SWCD has a mission of improving, developing and conserving natural resources.

To apply, send your name, phone number, primary residence mailing

address, reason for applying, and qualifications to Itasca SWCD Manager Andy Arens, at [andy.aren@itascaswcd.org](mailto:andy.aren@itascaswcd.org), mail to Itasca SWCD, P.O. Box 990, 1895 W Hwy 2, Grand Rapids, Mn 55744, or stop in the office. The deadline for letters of interest is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 4. All applicants will be contacted by March 11.

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SAFETY TIP



## Bigfork looks at wellhead plan, large one-time grants

by Sally Sedgwick

At its Feb. 8 meeting, the Bigfork City Council heard about water issues, including development of a state-required wellhead protection plan, and two large grants benefitting the city.

Chris Parthun, Principal Planner in the Minnesota Department of Health Drinking Water Protection Section reviewed the process of developing a Wellhead Protection Plan, which will take an estimated 1 ½ years. He reported that the two active city wells are well protected geologically and provide good quality water. Well #2 was built in 1958 and is 168 feet deep; Well #6 was built in 2017 and is 152 feet deep. Both have 8 foot diameter casings, although grouting information is not available for Well #2.

A Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWISMA) is based on easily definable boundaries outside of a wellhead protection area where a contaminant would reach the well within 10 years and an emergency response area where that time would be one year. Probable recommendations from the final report would include well locating, water quality monitoring, test drilling and geophysical analysis, according to Parthun.

The availability of new one-time outside funding was discussed, and a work session scheduled following the March City Council meeting to discuss how to maximize the benefit to the city and follow the goals of the new comprehensive plan. The funding includes approximately \$70,000 remaining through the American Rescue Plan and \$100,000 for outdoor recreation and community engagement from the Blandin Foundation.

The council decided to advertise a part-time Public Works position to assist with vacation coverage of snow removal and water/sewer emergencies. A job description will be developed and approved at the March meeting.

## Electrical Inspections

Except for minor repair work, all electrical work you do at your home, cabin, or property is required to be inspected by a State Electrical Inspector.

A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.electricity.state.mn.us](http://www.electricity.state.mn.us) for more information. The inspectors can be

The council voted to purchase a new V-plow to replace the 30-year old plow on the truck that is currently being repaired. The truck is used for plowing the RiverWalk Trail and other locations. Funding sources for the approximately \$7,500 purchase were discussed and include RiverWalk maintenance funds through the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation and American Rescue Plan funds.

The school-community enhancement project did not make the governor's bonding list, according to Community Coordinator Tim Johnson, however a bonding request has been introduced in the senate by Senators Tomassoni, Eichorn and Bakk (SF2626) and in the house by Rep. Sandstede (HF3039). If state bonding isn't successful, ISD 318 is prepared to look at other sources of external or internal funding to complete the project and match existing community funds and their current commitment. The project is scheduled to go out for bids this May, but construction will begin in 2023 due to expected supply chain delays.

Council meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. except for May, when it is held as a civics lesson at Bigfork School during school hours.

In other business, the council:

- Approved Jan. 21 and Feb. 4 payrolls, and claims paid and claims for payment totaling \$53,553.10.
- Reminded residents that the city ordinance on stray dogs requires a picture be submitted for enforcement action.
- Encouraged residents to take the ISD318 survey at [isd318.org](http://isd318.org), even if the family has no children in school.

The next regular meeting of the Bigfork City Council will be on Tuesday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the city hall.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.*

## Annual "Treasures" garage sales on Sat., May 7

The annual *Treasures Are Fine* on 6, 4 and 29 garage sales in northwest Itasca County are returning on Saturday, May 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

If you live on or near Highways 6, 4 or 29 going through Bowstring, Talmoon, Spring Lake, Sand Lake, Squaw Lake, Wirt, Dora Lake or Alvwood, this community-wide garage sale is for you!

It's an opportunity to start fresh with a spring

cleaning and turn some of those unused items into treasures.

It's free this year to be on the Treasure's published map to direct people to your sale. Print off a registration form from the Facebook page @Treasures6429 or pick one up at a local store. To be included, the registration needs to be received by April 15.

If you are a business, help the Treasures sales with a donation of \$30

and receive listing on all publicity. Paul Bunyan Communications is our major sponsor for 2022.

This is an all volunteer community event and volunteers are needed! Send a message from Facebook at Treasures6429 or email to [bowstringchapel@gmail.com](mailto:bowstringchapel@gmail.com). For more information, see the Facebook page.

## Bigfork Valley Hospital to purchase new chem analyzer, ends year in black

Bigfork Valley Hospital ended 2021 in the black with a net income of \$3.8 million. Operating income, however, showed a \$985,000 loss. Non-operating income includes outside income such as grants and forgiven loans during the pandemic.

At its Feb. 1 meeting, the board of trustees heard that higher operating expenses included benefits and medical supplies, and the effect of inflation was noticeable.

The hospital received three offers on its refinancing revenue bond and accepted a 5.5 year offer saving the hospital over \$100,000 annually.

Hospital CEO Aaron Saude said that at a Region B (northeastern Minnesota) district meeting of Leading Age, a legislative priority was approved to lobby for a \$25 minimum wage for direct

patient caregivers. Leading Age is an organization representing older adult service providers. He also noted that the hospital's vaccination mandate has gone into effect. One part-time and five casual employees were terminated at the deadline. Contractors and volunteers are also under the mandate and were compliant at 85 percent and 88 percent as of Feb. 1

He also said a new chemical analyzer was being purchased under the 2022 budget for about \$252,000, and the hospital was applying for a Rural Hospital Capital Improvement grant which might cover about half of that amount.

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- Walk-in service is not available.
- Limited duration face-to-face contact service for all others.
- Personal protective equipment and shields used to create safe environment.
- Face coverings are required at the tax site.
- Free service for families and individuals of all ages.
- AARP membership is not required.
- Tax-Aide volunteers are IRS trained and certified every year.

*This service is available through a grant provided by the state of Minnesota.*

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## Defensive Driving Courses

(Refresher)

For drivers age 55 and older who have already completed the beginner's course. Pre-register for classes by calling (218) 750-3189 or e-mailing mnflats@hotmail.com. For more information visit mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com.

### ZOOM

Date: Tuesday, March 15

Time: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Cost: \$14.00

### In-person

Date: Friday, March 18

Time: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Location: Board Room, Itasca County Courthouse

Cost: \$12.00

## AARP Defensive Driving

Due to the concern for the Omicron variant, AARP has made the difficult decision to postpone in-person classes at this time.

The special 25 percent discount for the on-line class fee has been extended through March 31, 2022.

This option is open to anyone who is not able to renew their car insurance discount due to course cancellations. The discount allows participants to take the class at the same price as in-person classes.

Website: <http://www.aarpdriversafety.org>

Promo code for 25% discount: DRIVINGSKILLS

Good through March 31, 2022

For questions or assistance with on-line classes, please contact Peggy Brennan at (651) 895-6465.

## Community Cafe

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. There is no income or financial qualification.. Each Tuesday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served at King Elementary School. For more information, visit [communitycafemn.org](http://communitycafemn.org).

## area bookmobile stops

New to the area? Get your Arrowhead Library Card on the Bookmobile.

Tuesdays: March 15; April 5, 26

*Note new hours in 2022.*

10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Bowstring Store

12:00-1:00 p.m. Spring Lake Store

3:00-4:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe

5:00-6:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: March 17; April 7, 28

11:45-12:45 Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: March 14; April 4, 25

12:30 -1:00 p.m. Gemmel; Comm.Church

1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments

3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alvwood; Hoot-n-Holler

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

*Bookmobile or Mail-a-Book information: call Arrowhead Library System at (218) 741-3840*

## Community Education

**Bigfork:** Register for classes at 743-3444, online at [getlearning.org](http://getlearning.org).

**MAKE MINIATURE ACCORDION BOOKS**

Date: Thurs., March 10

Time: 4:14-5:45 p.m.

Location: Bigfork School Art Room

Cost: \$25

Ages 7-12

**WHO EATS WHO...THE STORY IN BONES AND SKULLS**

Date: Thurs., March 31

Time: 4:30-6 p.m.

Location: Bigfork School Media Center

Cost: \$20

Ages 8-15. Examine the real skulls, teeth and bones of many animals, predators and prey. Learn how each

**Northome:** Call for more information at (218) 897-5275, Ext. 116

**CERAMIC MUGS**

Date: Tues., March 15 and 22

Time: 4-6 p.m.

Location: Northome School Art Room

Cost: \$20

Grades 9-12 and adults, build and glaze two mugs.

**START A HANGING BASKET**

Date: Tues., March 29 or Sat., April 2

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Tues.) or 2-3 p.m. (Sat.)

Location: Mizpah Local Roots Greenhouse

Cost: \$30

Plant five plants, in a 12" basket or pot, just the way you want them. Pick up in May.

**Blackduck** Call for more information at (218) 835-5206. Register online [blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE](http://blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE).

**INTRO TO ESSENTIAL OILS**

Date: Mon., March 14, call for time.

Location: Bigfork School Library

Cost: \$5

### Northome Food Shelf

12059 Main St

Bring your own bags.

1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon

2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon

4th Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

### Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf

200 Main, Bigfork

Thursdays

12:30-3 p.m.

3rd Thursday

4-5:30 p.m.

(218) 743-3381

### Blackduck Community Library:

(218) 835-6600

Tues: 1-6 p.m..

Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thurs: 1-7 p.m.

Fri: 1-6 p.m.

Sat.: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Northome Library

(218) 897-5952

Mon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tues: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Wed: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thurs: noon - 3 p.m.

Fri: 9 a.m.- noon

### Resource Centers:

Blackduck:  
(218) 835-5768

Northome:  
(218) 897-5952



Community News

Email editor at [sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net), put Community News in the subject line

Blackduck

Local author night! Come to the Blackduck High School Library on Saturday, March 26 from 10 a.m.. to noon for a program by Bemidji author Terry Smith. who will be speaking on his memoir, *Code 4*. “Terry worked as a uniformed police officer, long-haired undercover narcotics agent, SWAT commander and homicide detective in Minnesota, so his stories in the book are all about events that happened IN Minnesota.” Cost \$5, police officers, firefighters and military free.

Squaw Lake

Squaw Lake is a favorite place to be on St. Urho’s Day. This year Leino’s Pub will host the celebration on Saturday, March 19. The parade starts at 5 p.m. oat the condos on the north side of the bridge and travels to the pub on the other side of the river. Bring your float! First, second and third prizes awarded. St. Urho is the legendary saint (created in northern Minnesota) who rid Finland of grasshoppers and saved the grape harvest, so theme your colors green and purple! For more information, call the pub at (218) 659-2131.

General Interest

Plan ahead! Itasca Community College’s College for Kids catalog will be available in mid April on Getlearning.org and the ICC website. Registration begins May 17.



Marcell Family Center

218-832-3444

49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657

**MFC hours:**  
*Fitness Center, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, public computer room and WiFi hotspot.*

Mon: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.  
Tues, Thurs: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.  
Fri: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Fitness Walking** at the Marcell Family Center 4-7 p.m. Free, register at [getlearning.org](http://getlearning.org).

HOW TO PLACE AN AD

DISPLAY ADS

Email your ad in pdf format or ask us to create one for you.

Ads run from \$12 per month for the business card size (3.25 inches wide x 1.75 inches high) to \$24 per month for a square 3.25 inch ad, which is our largest commercial ad size.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are free to members, \$5 per insertion to non-members or businesses avertising in the Service section. Size is limited.

Contact the editor by one of the ways shown at the bottom on page 15.

~ March Calendar ~

- 1 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 2 The Club I Never Wanted To Join” breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, use south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, [lynn\\_etl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_etl@msn.com)
- 7 No school, Northome School
- 7 ISD318 School Board meeting at City Council Chambers in Grand Rapids or at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org), 6:30 p.m. Public Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704.
- 8 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For more information, call Judy at (218) 832-3237.
- 8 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 9 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10 The Edge Center in Bigfork hosts the Classic Movies series with *Easter Parade* (1948) starring Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, Peter Lawford and Ann Miller. Score is by Irving Berlin. 6:30 p.m. Free. Masks and social distancing are required.
- 13 Daylight Savings Time begins, 2 a.m. Set clocks one hour ahead.
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 19 St. Urho’s Day celebration in Squaw Lake. Parade starts at the condos on the north side of the bridge at 5 p.m., ending at Leino’s Pub. Finnish theme with grasshoppers and grapes. No reservations needed, just bring your float! More information, call the pub at (218) 659-2131.
- 14 Blackduck ISD32 School Board, 5 p.m. in the Media Center. Note changed time.
- 14 ISD317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 14 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 14 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 21 ISD318 School Board meeting at **Bigfork School** or at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org), 6:30 p.m. Public Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704.
- 25 **Operation Round Up applications due** at North Itasca Electric headquarters, 4:30 p.m.
- 28 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 28 No school, Bigfork, Deer River schools.

Area Church Directory

Alvwood Evangelical Free Church Sun 10:00a

58712 Co. Rd. 131  
Blackduck 56630 659-4681

Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a

41516 Scenic Hwy 7  
Bovey 55709 245-1960

Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a

11141 Hwy 22  
Cook 55723 376-1012

Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a

Mizpah 56660 897-5654

Bigfork Assembly of God Sun 9:30a

101 Golf Course Ln  
Bigfork 56628 743-3500

Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a

45114 Co Rd 133  
Deer River 56636 832-3171

Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a

54764 Co. Rd. 31  
Northome 56661 897-5684

Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a

Hwy 46  
Squaw Lake 56681 259-0115

Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a

33276 State Highway 6  
Deer River 56636 246-9570

Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a

59329 Co Rd 145  
Northome 56661 659-4551

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a

Hwy 1  
Effie 56639 743-3368

First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a

109 Ash St.  
Bigfork 56628 743-3783

Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a

10609 Town Rd 34  
Gemmel 56660 897-5966

Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a

401 State Hwy 38 N  
Bigfork 56628 743-3368

Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.

12234 Third St.  
Northome 56661 897-5654

Jehovah’s Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a

Hwy 38  
Bigfork 56628 743-3275

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a

45834 Co. Rd. 4  
Talmoon 56637 832-3883

Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a

49103 State Hwy 38  
Marcell 56657 832-3200

Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a

12071 Bartlett St.  
Northome 56661 897-5040

Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a

50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)  
Deer River 56636 659-2784

Old Scenic Community Church Sun 10:30a

25747 Co. Rd. 340  
Bigfork 56628 659-2727

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a

Mass also W, Th, F 9:00a.  
320 Golf Course Ln  
Bigfork 56628 743-3255

Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a

55581 Co. Rd 4  
Spring Lake 56680 659-2872

Church website: [www.sandlakealliancechurch.org](http://www.sandlakealliancechurch.org)

St. Catherine’s Catholic Church Sat 4:00p

52265 State Hwy 46  
Squaw Lake 56681 743-3255

St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p; Tu 6:00a

12026 Lake St  
Northome 56661 743-3255

Seventh Day Adventist Sun 11:30a

12352 Hwy 46  
Northome 56661 897-5723

Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a

42935 Co. Rd. 48  
Deer River 56636 832-3883

True Life Church Sun 10:00a

45976 Terry  
Talmoon 56637 244-7089

Church directory sponsored by  
North Itasca Electric Cooperative,  
send changes to editor,  
[sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net)

## DNR invites comment on fisheries management in local lakes

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be using comments and suggestions from the public **through March 15** as it updates fisheries management plans that identify specific activities planned for designated lakes and streams over the next five to 20 years.

Public input helps identify values and concerns and is most useful before plans are finalized in late March. Request information and share thoughts anytime about fisheries management by contacting the Grand Rapids Area Fisheries Office via email at [GrandRapids.fisheries@state.mn.us](mailto:fisheries@state.mn.us) or by phone at (218) 328-8835.

Lake management plans are being updated for the following local area lakes (except where noted, the new plans will have updated fisheries information including a review of walleye stocking):

- Bowstring – only updating fisheries information, not walleye stocking
- Busties
- Clubhouse – only updating fisheries information, not walleye stocking
- Grave
- Island (near Northome)
- Jessie
- Little Bowstring
- Rush Island

## Acrylic painting Take & Create Art kits

The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing Acrylic Painting Take & Create Art Kits to member public libraries including the Bookmobile to distribute during March.

This art experience has been designed by 321 Art Studio in Chisholm and explores acrylic painting for beginners and more advanced participants. Take & Create Art Kits will include supplies to create two unique pictures – one for beginners and one for advanced painters, one 11 x 14 stretched canvas, one 9 x 12 canvas board, one sheet of mixed media paper, and one paint kit that contains a drawing pencil, two brushes, and 12 tubes of acrylic paint. A follow-along instructional video will be shared online for participants.

It will include simple instructions and tips on using paint, canvas, and brushes. Each kit will include enough supplies for three paintings, so participants have multiple options to practice and/or create something of their own.

**Bigfork Auto Parts**  
**and Repair**  
**218-743-3525**  
**100 Main Ave.**  
**Propane, Auto Parts, Tire Repair,**  
**Brakes, Oil, Lube & General Repair**

**Scenic Rivers Clinics**  
Now offering Telehealth Services!  
COVID-19 Testing Available - Call for Details  
Your Local Clinics

<b>Bigfork Medical</b> 135 Pine Tree Dr (218) 743-3232 Open Mon-Sat	<b>Northome Medical</b> 12052 Main St (218) 897-5222 Open Mon-Fri
<b>Bigfork Dental</b> 303 Main Ave (218) 743-3600 Open Mon-Fri	<b>Big Falls Medical</b> 410 2nd St NW (218) 276-2403 Open Mon, Wed, Fri

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

**M.A.D. GUTTERS**  
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## Outdoor summer work with the Conservation Corps

Apply by March 4 for Outdoors Americorps and March 25 for most other summer jobs Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa.

Jobs are for ages 18-25 with Summer Youth Corps for ages 15-18. See [conservationcorps.org/join/](http://conservationcorps.org/join/) for more information.

• recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes •

The annual recipe booklet with all the Member holiday cookie and candy recipes can be picked up at Co-op's lobby in Bigfork, or email [roxanne@nieci.com](mailto:roxanne@nieci.com).

### Fish Breeding

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this March recipe!

- 1 sleeve (1/4 lb.) soda crackers
- 1 1/3 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 1/3 cup flour
- 1/4 cup Lawry's® Seasoning salt
- 3 teaspoons pepper

Coat fish fillets with breading and deep fry or pan fry.

*Please share your recipe with us!*  
Every month North Itasca Electric prints two Member recipes. If your recipe is chosen, you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill. Send your recipe to the editor, WATTS NEWS, P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680 or email the editor at [sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net).



### Fantastic Fish Breeding

Thank you to Pete Bourman for this March recipe!

- 1 16 oz. box Cheezit® crackers
- 1 16 oz box saltine crackers
- 1/8 cup seasoning salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Accent®
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder

In gallon plastic bag, smash crackers to small crumbs (not powdery). Add in seasoning. Seal up tight with no air in bag and shake thoroughly to mix.





CLASSIFIEDS

AD/EDITORIAL DEADLINE  
for APRIL – Weds., March 16

-SERVICES-

**Monuments and Markers**  
Available in granite and bronze.  
Also do final dating, foundation work and cleaning.  
FREE estimates.  
Serving your area.  
Jerry Pula, sales rep.  
Call (218) 743-3711

**Ellis Lake Home Services**  
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218-506-0710  
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20 yrs experience  
218-248-0717  
or 218-743-3613

**Gus's Auto and Recycling of Bigfork**  
*Wanted: Junk. Cars, trucks and other property clean up.*  
Used auto parts, steel, tires and bridge beams.  
A buyer of metals.  
**Snowplowing**  
*Over 20 years experience*  
(218) 929-7117  
Hm: (218) 743-3598  
Gus David

-FOR SALE-

*For sale:* Beautifully handcrafted cremation urns made by local artisan. Made of oak, birch, aspen, maple or other woods. Made to meet all funeral home specifications. Price range \$200 and up depending on wood. Call (218) 897-5918 5/22

-VEHICLES-  
MOTORCYCLES, ATVs

*For sale:* Complete factory exhaust system. Never used. From 2016 Harley Ultra Classic. \$150. Call (218) 832-3324 4/22

-MOBILE HOMES-  
-RVs, CAMPERS-

*For sale:* 1999 Adventurer 35 ft Winnebago, self-contained, 1 slide-out, trailer hitch, 2 air conditioners 75 percent on tires, good condition. Call for pictures \$22,000 320-766-3062 4/22

Emails will be answered; if no reply, please resend.

Classified ads are free to members, \$5 per insertion to non-members or businesses (size is limited).



Employment Opportunity

The City of Squaw Lake is looking for a Clerk/Treasurer. Candidate should be familiar with general office procedures, have some accounting background and the ability to operate office equipment. This position is part time and offers a flexible schedule.  
If you have these skills and enjoy helping to build a great community, send your resume today! City of Squaw Lake, PO Box 382, Squaw Lake MN 56681. The City of Squaw Lake is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Notice  
Marcell Township Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of **Marcell Township**, County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Marcell Town Hall. The meeting can also be heard by remote means via Zoom. In case of inclement weather, the Annual Meeting will be held the following Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting will conduct all necessary business prescribed by state law.  
If attending via Zoom, please contact Marcell Township at marcell.township@yahoo.com or call 218-832-3965 for an invitation.  
Marcell Township

Notice  
Oteneagen Township

The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall. In case of inclement weather, the Annual Meeting may be postponed until March 15, 2022. The purpose of this meeting is to transact any township business as required or permitted by law.  
Sharon Isaacs  
Oteneagen Township Clerk  
218-246-8119

Ads are a service to our members. North Itasca Electric and the WATTS NEWS do not endorse advertisements. Please use your good judgment.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of **Ardenhurst Township**, County of Itasca, State of Minnesota that the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8th, 2022. The Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.  
The Annual Meeting will be held at the following location:  
Ardenhurst Township Hall  
66733 State Highway 46  
Northome, MN 56661  
Immediately following the Annual Meeting will be the Ardenhurst Monthly Meeting. This meeting is generally held on Thursday, but will be held right after the annual meeting for this month only.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Town Meeting of **Stokes Township** in Itasca County, State of Minnesota will be held on Tuesday, March 8th, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Bigfork City Hall. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until March 15, 2022.  
All township business as required or permitted by law will be conducted. The regular Stokes Town Board will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Bigfork City Hall.

Request for Road & Bridge Quotes  
Marcell Township

Request for quotes for the Road Grading & Summer Maintenance and the Snowplowing & Winter Maintenance contracts for Marcell Township. For details, please contact the Marcell Township at 218-832-3965 (leave message) or email us at marcell.township@yahoo.com.  
For consideration, quotes must be received, with the required paperwork, by April 13th, 2022, 5:00 p.m. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all quotes.  
Quotes must be accompanied by verification of general liability and Workman's Comp.  
Quotes can be directed to:  
Marcell Township  
PO Box 141  
Marcell, MN 56657  
218-832-3965

Place a Classified Ad Today!

If you are an individual member of the cooperative, classified ads are free as a service from your cooperative. If you are advertising for a business or are a non-member, please remit \$5 per ad per month.

☐ Run my ad for one month only.

Your ad will run for two months unless you check this box. (Business classifieds are \$5 per insertion.)

Please note: We are as careful as possible, but are not responsible for errors.

Send to: Editor, WATTS NEWS,  
P.O. Box 43  
Spring Lake, MN 56680 or  
(218) 659-2779  
call:  
or email: sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

Put WATTS AD in subject line.  
If no response, please resend.

**Cooking a family meal set on low for 4 hours**

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Electricity continues to be a great value courtesy of your electric cooperative

# Money-saving programs play an important role in a heathy grid

Electric cooperatives have long understood they can use the grid efficiently and economically by reducing demand at certain times and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times. This strategy, known as demand response, allows Great River Energy to reduce demand on the electric system during high periods of stress with the flip of a switch. Better yet, these programs save members money.

This approach is one of many Great River Energy and its member-owners take to keep its wholesale rates affordable and electricity reliably flowing to homes, businesses and farms across Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin. Hundreds of thousands of cooperative members are seeing the value of this strategy firsthand.

Residents and businesses have the option to sign up for one or several demand responses programs through their cooperative. By signing up, consumers give permission for Great River Energy to “control” or “cycle” their air conditioner, water heater, heat

pump or other electric devices for a period of hours on high demand days in exchange for a reduced electric rate.

“These programs offer a direct link to avoided wholesale costs to our member-owners,” said Jeff Haase, manager of member services at Great River Energy. “And their consumer-members — the

homeowners and business owners — benefit from lower rates associated with controlled loads.”

Great River Energy has the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the

Energy Information Administration. Approximately 370,000 appliances, along with irrigation systems, were enrolled in a demand response program offered by Great River Energy’s 28 member-owner cooperatives in 2020.

When the time comes for these appliances to be used for demand response, Great River Energy “flips the switch” to alleviate demand. In addition to reducing sometimes hundreds of

megawatts of electricity demand, this helps the cooperative to avoid making expensive purchases from the energy market, which saves members money.

“Our demand response initiatives have helped more members choose electric end-uses since our lower rates make electricity an even smarter choice when compared to other types of fuels,” Haase said.

In addition to program offerings, Great River Energy is registering member distributed energy resources with the regional energy market. This will create a more formal capacity accreditation within the market for Great River Energy’s demand response resources, which will reduce the need for the cooperative to acquire more capacity. In other words, a cluster of air conditioners could delay or eliminate the need for a new power plant. The market would then call upon those resources when needed.

“Registration is also expected to result in less control during the summer months as the onus will be put on performing in response to the market,” Haase said. “This will be especially important to participating members who don’t have generator backup for those

times we historically needed to control load for consecutive days.”

To prepare for the future, Great River Energy’s member-owners are currently transitioning their load management systems to advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) enabled dispatch, a new system that relies on smart meter equipment that will run the same control schedules but in a more modern, responsive way.

Haase said AMI meters help co-ops gain greater insights into the performance of their demand response programs. These will become even more helpful as cooperatives explore new technologies

such as smart water heater controllers, smart thermostats, and smart electric vehicle charging.

These initiatives, and more in the future, will better use the electric grid and serve consumers in new ways while also transforming the energy system to be more resilient, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible.

**By signing up, consumers give permission for Great River Energy to “control” or “cycle” their air conditioner, water heater, heat pump or other electric devices for a period of hours on high demand days in exchange for a reduced electric rate.**

**GRE has the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country.**

Get outage updates on Facebook!

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Owner

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kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net

**United Country Real Estate**

**Greta Nelson**  
Bold North Agent

Bold North Realty & Auctions LLC

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Northome, MN 56661  
218-368-8057  
greta@ucboldnorth.com

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