



**NORTH ITASCA  
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS  
NEWS**

VOL. 26 NO. 3

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2023

## CEO Report

*Good day from snowy St. Paul!*

I am down at the Capitol this week to do my best with 44 MN electrical cooperatives to explain our concerns to our elected legislators. I'm going to be honest and share my opinions with you. I'm concerned. I'm concerned with the way decisions are being made at St. Paul. Our democratic republic is operating in Minnesota much different than I remember being taught in civics class from Mr. Mark Nohner. I remember when the two parties would work across party lines to do what is best for the citizens of Minnesota. Folks, that is not what is happening today. With one party in charge there are a number of bills that are being pushed through both the House and Senate without input from the

other side.

My concern is this isn't about parties, this is about what is best for Minnesota. When one party rule forces their agenda the other constituents or citizens of Minnesota are not being heard. Many rural Minnesota districts voted for Republican legislators to represent us at the Capitol. The games being played at the Capitol are silencing the voices of these citizens. I need you to stand up and contact your legislators. Tell them how you feel. Know the bills being proposed at the Capitol, your legislators need to hear from you! Close to 4,000 bills have already been introduced this legislative session; it's still February!

I have heard many times; our electric cooperative was born in politics and can die in politics. The issues



Brad Dolinski, CEO

near and dear to us right now are the following:

### **HF1171/SF1242 Property Tax on Co-op Distribution Infrastructure**

We introduced this legislation last year. Since the late 30's cooperatives paid a flat tax per member rather than being issued property tax based on total plant. Lately the Department of Revenue has reinterpreted the 80-year-old statute and assessed taxes on meters and street lights. These items have always been considered part of our  
CEO to p.2 >

## The value in using electric heat

*by Jerry Loney*

Are you looking for a reliable heat source for your home or business but don't know what the best option is? North Itasca Electric can help.

With electricity being 100% efficient at the meter, you receive all the value you're paying for. When using a fossil fuel such as propane or fuel oil, there will always be inefficiencies. These inefficiencies come from unburned fuels from combustion. That unburned fuel that is exhausted outdoors from propane could be from 5-10%, fuel oil up to 15-20%. This would equate to \$100 - \$400 in wasted heat per year.

When heating with electricity, at the meter there are no inefficiencies, for every kWh consumed, 3412 Btus are produced. It doesn't matter if you are using baseboards, plenum heaters, boilers or space heaters, one kWh puts

out 3412 Btus no matter what – and there is no longer a need to keep checking your propane or fuel oil tank.

Not only are you saving \$100 - \$400 in wasted heat, the cost equivalent on North Itasca Electric dual fuel program is \$1.80 per gallon of propane and  
Electric to p.3 >

### Bylaw amendment to be voted on at annual meeting

The Board of Directors is recommending the adoption of an amendment to enable the cooperative to hold member meetings virtually. See p. 5 for the full text that will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

## Open House



North Itasca Electric held an informational Open House for members and the trades on Briggs and Stratton whole house generators, transfer switches and Simpliphi battery storage solutions. (l) Member Services Manager Jerry Loney stands with a 3.8 kW lithium ferro phosphate. (top) Star Energy representatives Jim Pederson, director of business development and Cody Hess, electrician, describe the installation and benefits of the Briggs and Stratton product.



*Grant Application Deadline is March 31, 2023*

### Operation Round Up Trustees to hold grant meeting

Thanks to the generosity of nearly 85% of the Members of North Itasca Electric Co-op., the Board of Trustees for Operation Round-Up will have approximately \$11,000 to distribute to various communities and organizations in the area.

The deadline for grant applications is Friday, March 31 at 3:30 p.m. Application forms along with instructions can be

obtained by calling the office at (218) 743-3131 or (800) 762-4048, by e-mail to jerry.l@nieci.com, online at www.northitascaelectric.com, by contacting your North Itasca Electric Co-op. Inc. Director or by contacting one of the Trust Board Members listed on page 2.

The Trust Board has set a tentative meeting date of April 13, 2023, at the  
Round Up to p.2 >

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**Empty Bowls**

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**St. Patrick's Day Sale**

pages 8-9

**Scholarships**

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### Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
(218) 743-3131

## CEO Report (continued)

system and not individually taxed. We are attempting to clear the language to prevent change in the existing statute.

### SF1622/SF1656 IJA State Matching Funds and Technical Assistance to Unlock Federal Infrastructure Funding.

This bill is necessary to give Minnesota access to the Federal funding available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The bill will include grant writing assistance funds and infrastructure grants that will be made available to small utilities, cities and tribal governments to allow these entities to arrange for technical guidance in developing potential projects for IJA funding.

### SF116/HF1151 Load Control Receivers

This bill concerns the equipment necessary to run our Off-Peak program. Many electric cooperatives use this program to reduce costs to Member-Owners and to ensure reliability to the grid. When we need to work on this equipment owned by the Co-op we send qualified employees to your homes and businesses. Many times, a simple door

swap is necessary to correct a failed receiver. The Department of Labor was requiring we pull a full inspection permit to accommodate this work. This bill agrees to an understanding to prevent this unnecessary additional cost and inspection.

There are many more bills I have concerns with, but these are the ones I'll be focusing on while your Directors and I are at the Capitol. I will do my best to represent you while visiting with the legislators we elected to serve us, not the parties they belong to.

I had a chance to vent to my buddy when I was on a rescue mission to the beautiful community of Orr. We had a nice lunch at the Junction in Togo once the snowmobiles were secured on the trailer. I enjoyed the beautiful drive, good company, and was reminded why I do what I do. I truly enjoy the relationships this journey provides. I get to serve the great people in Northern Minnesota in what I believe is the one of the most beautiful places to live.

*By your side! Miigwech  
Brad*

## Operation Round Up applications due

>from p.1  
cooperative's office in Bigfork to review grant requests and make awards.

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 denied. Applications received after deadline stated above will also be disallowed. If you have any questions on completing the application, please contact Jerry Loney at North Itasca Electric Cooperative, or one of the Trust Board members listed below.

### North Itasca Electric Community Trust

District	Trust board member	Area represented	Phone #
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/Inger	218-659-4266
8	Eric Elhardt	Marcell	218-832-3051
9	Lisa Polchow	Deer River	218-246-9680

### Road conditions:

Call 511 or visit [511mn.org](http://511mn.org) for maps, cameras, weather alerts.

### 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 reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

- **Itasca County** - Steve Bartlett (218) 591-1616
- **Koochiching County** - Curt Collier (218) 966-5070
- **Beltrami, Clearwater counties** - Davis Smid (507) 227-2772

### Keep us up-to-date

Please keep your contact information current with our office. Please notify North Itasca Electric of any changes in property ownership, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

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## WATTS NEWS

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Visit your co-op at [www.NorthItascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthItascaElectric.com)  
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**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: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

James White, District 1      Mary Rahier, District 4  
Todd Christensen, District 6      Bruce Leino, District 7  
Jeff Kilian, District 8



# Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Jan. 26, 2022

**Start time: 10:00 a.m.**

**End time: 1:30 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on January 26, 2023.

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

**Also Present:** Andrew Shaw, CEO Brad Dolinski, Jerry Loney, Daryl Pederson and Kim Giesen.

**Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:00 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 Safety discussion was held. Know what is behind the target that you are aiming for when shooting your guns. Bullets can ricochet and travel to unknown locations. Slips and falls were also discussed. Use good housekeeping practices. Use good equipment. Clean up spills. Wear proper footwear. Use cleats when conditions are icy. Fix poor floor quality. Use three points of contact when appropriate. Be aware of your surroundings.
- o Brad presented the Operating Reports in Tina's absence. These reports were preliminary only.
- o A motion was made to approve the Member Form of Resolution for the Approval and Acceptance of Offer to Amend Power Purchase Contract. Seconded, motion passed.
- o Board Policy 200.10 Audit of Cooperative Records was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the policy as is. Seconded; motion carried.
- o New wording for the Bylaw Article 5, Remote Communications for Member Meetings, was presented. A motion was made to accept this new wording. Seconded, motion carried. Brad and Andy will work together to get the change publicized in the March WATTS News, following proper procedures to have this voted on by the membership during the annual meeting in June.
- o D. Pederson gave the Line Department report. Irby did testing of all our tools. Rachel from Star Energy was here to review the 4-year work plan. Brad has submitted the plan to RUS for approval. The poles that were rejected last fall are being replaced now. Sioux City line project is underway. This will make great improvements to the outage issues we face in this area.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report. We now have 14 solar systems on our system.
- o Brad gave the Office Department report in Tina's absence.
- o B. Dolinski gave the CEO Update. Brad was at the Capitol with Mark Bakk and Jenny addressing the bill

## Value of electric heat

>from p.1  
\$2.73 for a gallon of fuel oil. What did you pay this winter?

My understanding is that propane prices are now \$2.49 per gallon. A home consuming 1000 gallons of propane per year would pay \$2,490. With an inefficiency of 10%, electric consumption would be 24,135 kWh. On the dual fuel rate of \$0.0673 per kWh, you would have

paid \$1,624.31, saving \$865.69. Those having an Air Source Heat Pump would further reduce their heating costs consuming half to one third of the electricity that electrical equipment would consume on the dual fuel program.

With the energy platform changing so much today especially with our new legislation, they are proposing to eliminate all fossil

fuels entirely for home heating systems, instead pushing air source heat pumps which do not work well in extreme cold weather but continue to improve each year. Having a second alternative energy source available is still best when temperatures get below zero.

*Until next time...*

## GRE ends year on high note

Strong financial results allowed Great River Energy to return a bill credit to its member-owners

Not-for-profit cooperatives like Great River Energy provide electric service at cost and any additional gains are returned to the membership. As it closed the books on 2022, the cooperative issued nearly \$25 million in bill credits, bringing the year-end total of bill credits to just over \$38 million returned to members.

“Cooperatives are united. We share in our success and stick together when challenges come up,” said Great River Energy Board Chair Bob Bruckbauer. “We are thrilled to share Great River Energy’s strong financial performance with our member-owners.” This is the sixth consecutive year Great River Energy has issued bill credits to members at the end of the year.

The latest bill credits coincide with cost pressures for many electricity providers due to supply chain challenges and inflation.

Cooperatives also return capital credits to members, similar to how a publicly held company returns dividends. Great River Energy’s member-owner cooperatives spent years investing in the financial strength of Great River Energy by gradually increasing equity over time, with the goal of returning patronage capital to members.

Great River Energy issued \$25 million in patronage capital credits to members in 2022 and expects to return additional patronage capital credits this spring.

that would require us to be 100% carbon free by 2040. Changes to the bill sound very promising. The letters that members wrote with the help of MREA were very helpful in make these changes.


- o HomeServe Program Overview was given. This is a warranty program that we can offer our members.
- o Brad reviewed the GRE Statement.
- o W. Waller gave the MREA report.
- o L. Kongsjord gave the GRE report.
- o Round Table Discussion was held.
- o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 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.*

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**WWW** Website highlights:  
NorthItascaElectric.com

**Budget Billing**

Do you find you are stretching the budget to cover the electric bill in one season but it is easy in another? In our four-season climate, electricity use can vary widely during the year.

There's a way to cope with this! Budget billing uses your average electricity use across the previous year to calculate a constant monthly payment. We let you know each month where you stand so you can adjust the payment if needed.

The true-up month is June, so the July statement will reflect any amount owed in excess of the monthly payments, or a credit to the account.

For extra ease, combine budget billing with auto-pay and don't worry about the calendar!

See the Budget Billing webpage under "Account" on the website for more information.

**Gopher State One Call**

Confused about what Gopher State One Call is all about, when you need to call and how much notice you need to give? Click on Gopher State One Call under the "Safety" tab on the website to link to the state One Call page. You can submit a ticket and find out about the service.

When you dig, do you know what's below? One Call is a free service allowing companies that operate underground utilities like water, electricity and telephone cables to mark their service lines so they aren't inadvertently cut. Private underground lines - like the lines that extend from North Itasca Electric's meter to the house or invisible fences are not marked.

**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% 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, 2023. 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.

**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  
800-332-7161

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

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## Bylaw amendment to be voted on at annual meeting

*The Board of Directors is recommending the adoption of the following Bylaw Amendment. This amendment is necessary to hold member meetings virtually.*

### Section 8. Remote Communications for Member Meetings.

(a) This Section shall be construed and applied to facilitate remote communications consistent with reasonable practices concerning remote communication and with the continued expansion of those practices.

(b) The Board of Directors is authorized to hold annual or special meetings of the members, the Board of Directors or any committee designated or appointed by the Board of Directors solely by means of remote communication through which the members, the Board of Directors or such committee representatives may participate in the meeting. Furthermore, the Board of Directors is authorized to determine that a member, Board of Directors member or committee representative not physically present in person at an annual or special meeting of members, the Board of Directors or any committee designated or appointed by the Board of Directors may, by means of remote communication, participate in a meeting of members, the Board of Directors or such committee held at a designated place. Such participation by a member, Board of Directors or such committee representative by means of remote communications constitutes presence at the meeting in person if all other requirements set forth in this Section 8 are met.

(c) In any meeting of the members, the Board of Directors or any committee designated or appointed by the Board held solely by means of remote communication or in any meeting of the members, Board of Directors or any committee designated or appointed by the Board held at a designated place in which one or more members, Board-members or committee representatives participate by means of remote communication, the Cooperative must implement reasonable measures to verify that each person deemed present and entitled to vote at the meeting by means of remote communication is a member, Board-member, or committee representative, as applicable; and the Cooperative must implement reasonable measures to provide each member, Board-member or committee representative participating by means of remote communication with a reasonable opportunity to participate in the meeting, including an opportunity to: (i) read or hear the proceedings of the meeting substantially concurrently with those proceedings; (ii) if allowed by the procedures governing the meeting, have the member's, Board-member's or committee representative's remarks heard or read by other participants in the meeting substantially concurrently with the making of those remarks; and (iii) if otherwise entitled, vote on matters submitted to the members, Board or committee representatives.

The Board of Directors may adopt such guidelines and procedures applicable to participation in member, Board of Director and committee meetings by means of remote communications as it deems appropriate.

(d) Any ballot, vote, authorization, or consent submitted by electronic communication submitted by a member, Board-member or committee representative may be revoked by the member, Board-member or committee representative who submitted the same so long as such revocation is received by the President or the Secretary of the Cooperative at or before the meeting and prior to the vote being accepted and tallied in the election or other action being taken.

(e) Participation in a meeting by remote communication described in clause (b) or (c) of this Section 9 is a waiver of notice of that meeting, except where the member, Board-member or committee representative objects at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of business because the meeting is not properly called or convened, or objects before a vote on an item of business because such item may not properly be considered at the meeting and does not participate in consideration of the item at the meeting.

**Section 9. Certain Definitions.** The following words or phrases when used in these By-Laws have the meanings set forth below:

(a) "authenticated" means, with respect to an electronic communication, that the communication is delivered to the principal place of business of the Cooperative, or to an officer or agent of the Cooperative authorized by the Cooperative to receive the communication, and that the communication sets forth information from which the Cooperative can reasonably conclude that the communication was sent by the purported sender.

(b) "electronic communication" means any form of communication, not directly involving the physical transmission of paper that creates a record that may be retained, retrieved, and reviewed by a recipient of the communication, and that may be directly reproduced in paper form by the recipient through an automated process.

(c) "remote communication" means communication via electronic communication, conference telephone, video conference, the Internet, or such other means by which persons not physically present in the same location may communicate with each other on a substantially simultaneous basis.

## Scholarships

High school seniors who are children of North Itasca Electric Members can apply for a college scholarship through the Northome High School Scholarship Committee.

The deadline for application is in late April; 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) or my emailing Christine at [clundin@northome.12.mn.us](mailto:clundin@northome.12.mn.us) 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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# New year brings new wind resources to GRE system

Great River Energy begins 2023 by adding two new wind agreements to its growing portfolio of renewable resources.

The new year brought two new energy resources to Great River Energy's power supply portfolio. The projects will col-

lectively add more than 300 megawatts (MW) of nameplate generating capacity — and zero emissions.

“Adding cost-effective wind resources is a critical component of our power supply strategy,” said Great River Energy Re-

source Planning Director Zac Ruzycski. “These new resources will provide energy to serve our member-owner cooperatives and an important hedge in the region’s electricity market.”

Great River Energy now has power purchase agreements for the output of nine wind facilities located throughout Min-

nesota, Iowa and the Dakotas.

“Having wind resources in different locations throughout the Midwest provides geographic diversity that helps ensure there is wind energy on our system, even if parts of the region are experiencing a calm day,” said Great River Energy Renewable Energy Manager

Mark Rathbun.

With 73 turbines in eastern South Dakota, Deuel Harvest Wind Farm will provide 200 MW of wind energy for Great River Energy’s member-owners.

The Buffalo Ridge Wind Farm will supply 22 of Great River Energy’s member-owner cooperatives with wind pow-

er generated in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

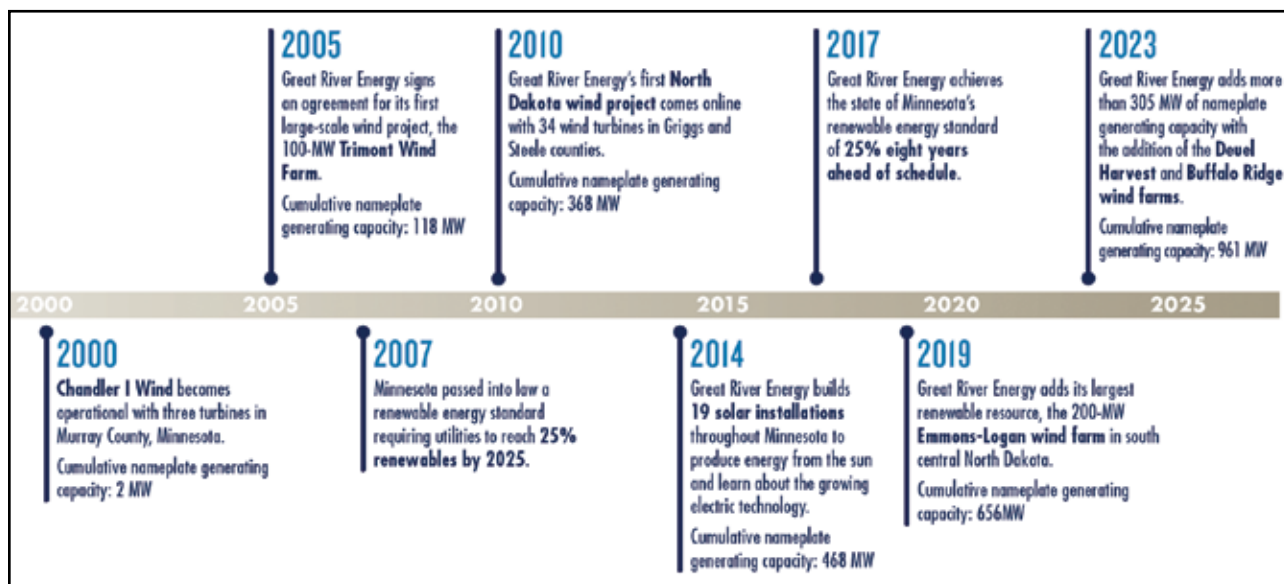
All of Great River Energy’s wind resources are equipped with specialized equipment so they can operate dependably at temperatures as low as 22 below zero. In fact, wind resources played a part in keeping electricity reliable during the recent bomb cyclone.

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Source: energy.gov

## Wind Resource Timeline: Great River Energy



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## Member Warning: Doxo.com

There is an on-line bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with North Itasca Electric, but it is not. Doxo.com allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. There may be extra fees, however, and North Itasca Electric cannot control when we will receive the Member payments. To make sure you're paying North Itasca Electric directly, visit our website [www.northitascaelectric.com](http://www.northitascaelectric.com), for our direct link to the online bill payment portal, [mypsportal.com](http://mypsportal.com).

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Happy Birthday to the WATTS News!  
The first issue was March 1996; the WATTS News has been bringing you Member news every month since then!



# Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, member services representative

As many of you know I have been at North Itasca Electric Cooperative a little over 22 years! I love meeting new people and being a part of helping you pick out your appliances. North Itasca Electric has a lot of great members and I'm looking forward to hearing from all of you.

My goal is to help you find what you're looking for at the best price! I enjoy it when I can put together a package of appliances and offer a 5, 10 or 15% discount, depending on how many you buy. The more you buy the

more you save. We offer a variety of appliances from high end to low end to try to accommodate everyone's needs and budget.

When purchasing appliances for the Co-op, I'm always looking for good deals that I can pass on to you. Most of the places we purchase appliances from will offer special deals on certain items every month to try to move more merchandise. A lot of businesses will turn around and sell the merchandise at the normal price instead of the discounted price to make a greater profit. Being a cooperative, we

pass the savings on to you!

Occasionally the manufacturer will offer promotions at big discounts to get retail stores to put their products on their floor. I have had people come in and see something that they like, then look at the price and say, "well it must not be very good at that price!" Yes, sometimes that's true, you get what you pay for, but not always. I've gotten a range in at \$599, then when I reordered it was \$800.

Samsung just offered discounts on some of their models, so I have some great deals on the floor.

I also want to mention that I have a great selection of Speed Queen appliances in stock. Speed Queen has been rated #1 in Consumer Reports for the last 3 years and has been built to last 25 years.

Remember we offer contracts to members who qualify. To qualify you need to be current for three months in a row.

Stop in to check out all the good deals we currently offer.

## Comparison of Speed Queen washers and dryers

Speed Queen Washer Comparison				
Product	TR7003WN	TR5003WN	TR300WN	TC5003WN
Wash Tub	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel
Outer Tub	Porcelain	Porcelain	Porcelain	Porcelain
ADA Compliant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Balancing System	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Agitator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exterior	Durable 3 Coat Finish	Durable 3 Coat Finish	Durable 3 Coat Finish	Durable 3 Coat Finish
Color	White	White	White	White
End of Cycle Signal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wash Action	Speed Queen Perfect Wash	Speed Queen Perfect Wash	Speed Queen Perfect Wash	Speed Queen Classic Clean
Motor	Variable Speed 1 HP	Variable Speed 1 HP	Variable Speed 1 HP	Two-Speed 1/2 HP
<b>Cycles &amp; Features</b>				
Preset Cycles	16	6	4	6
Temperature Selections	4	4	3	4
Load Selections	4	3	3	2
Soil Level Selections	4	2	2	2
Quiet Agitation (43db)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pre wash	Yes	No	No	No
Extra Rinse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Warm Rinse	Yes	No	No	No
Soak Cycle	Yes	No	No	Yes
Max Spin Speed	820	820	820	710
Time Remaining Display	Yes	No	No	No
Favorite Cycles	Yes	No	No	No
Speed Cycle	Yes	No	No	No
Delay Start	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Dimensions</b>				
Capacity	3.2 c.f.	3.2 c.f.	3.2 c.f.	3.2 c.f.
Width	25 5/8"	25 5/8"	25 5/8"	25 5/8"
Height	42 3/4"	42 3/4"	42 3/4"	42 3/4"
Depth	28"	28"	28"	28"
Warranty	7 YEARS	5 YEARS	3 YEARS	5 YEARS

Speed Queen Dryer Comparison				
Product	DR7003WE	DR5003WE	DR3003WE	DC5003WE
Dryer Cylinder	Galvanized	Galvanized	Galvanized	Galvanized
Heat Source	Electric 5350 W	Electric 5350 W	Electric 5350 W	Electric 5350 W
Heavy-Duty Fan	220 CFM	220 CFM	220 CFM	220 CFM
ADA Compliant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exterior	Durable 3-Coat Finish	Durable 3-Coat Finish	Durable 3-Coat Finish	Durable 3-Coat Finish
Color	White	White	White	White
End-Of-Cycle Signal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motor	1/3 HP	1/3 HP	1/3 HP	1/3 HP
Multiple Vent Options	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Door Hinge Location	Reversible	Reversible	Reversible	Reversible
<b>Cycles &amp; Features</b>				
Preset Cycles	10	9	3	4
Temperature Selection	4	5	3	4
Sanitize	Steam	Sanitize	Sanitize	Sanitize
Time Remaining Display	Yes	No	No	No
Favorite Cycles	Yes	No	No	No
Speed Cycle	Yes	No	No	No
Delay Start	No	No	No	No
Pet Plus Cycle	Yes	No	No	No
Steam Refresh	Yes	Yes	No	No
Steam Boost	Yes	Yes	No	No
Anti-Static	Yes	No	No	No
Extended Tumble	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Moisture Sensor	Yes	Yes	No	No
Adaptive Cool-Down Technology	Yes	Yes	No	No
Energy Star	Yes	Yes	No	No
ECO Dry	Yes	No	No	No
Cylinder Light	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reversible Door	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Up-Front Filter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Dimensions</b>				
Capacity	7 c.f.	7 c.f.	7 c.f.	7 c.f.
Width	26 7/8"	26 7/8"	26 7/8"	26 7/8"
Height	42 3/4"	42 3/4"	42 3/4"	42 3/4"
Depth	28"	28"	28"	28"
Warranty	7 YEARS	5 YEARS	3 YEARS	5 YEARS

Built to last 25 years.

Speed Queen is 29.7% faster, 50% quieter and 75% gentler on your clothes than competitors.

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If you have questions, please call Roxanne at (218) 743-3132.

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## Refrigerators And Freezers 10% off

**FFTR1835VW Regular \$804.84 SALE \$724.36**

Frigidaire 18.3 c.f. top mount refrigerator, EvenTemp cooling system, flexible interior storage, humidity controlled crisper drawers with roller support, LED lighting, frost free freezer, glass shelves, meat, deli drawer, ice ready (white)



**GE -GTS18GTNBB Regular \$882.91 SALE \$794.62**

17.5 c.f. top mount refrigerator, LED lighting, edge to edge glass shelves, sliding deli drawer, adjustable wire freezer shelf, gallon door storage, icemaker ready, dairy compartment (black)

**GE -GTS18GTNW Regular \$882.91 SALE \$794.62 (white)**

**DAR110A1WD Regular \$496.17 SALE \$446.55**

Danby 11 c.f. all refrigerator, 4 full width & 1 half width glass shelves, veggie crisper with cover, interior light (white) **1-only**



**CRD1813TW Regular \$843.70 SALE \$759.33**

18.3 c.f. top mount refrigerator, pocket handles, adjustable glass shelves, 2 humidity controlled clear crispers, clear dairy compartment, 4 half width adjustable door bins, gallon door storage, (white) Crosley

**FRTD2021AW Regular \$862.04 Sale \$775.84**

20.5 c.f. Frigidaire top mount, LED interior lighting, gallon door storage, clear dairy drawer and 2 crisper drawers glass shelves (white)



**FFHT2045VW Regular \$957.67 SALE \$861.90**

20 c.f. top mount, LED lighting, gallon door storage, 2 adjustable racks, ice ready, 2 fixed door bins, 1 adjustable shelf Frigidaire (white)



**FRQG1721AV Regular \$1171.60 SALE \$1054.44**

17.4 c.f. 4 door dual evaporator, French door, 4 door bins that fit gallon storage, 2 condiment door bins, 2 clear crisper drawer doors Frigidaire (brushed steel)



**LFDS22520S Regular \$2159.30 SALE \$1943.37**

22 c.f. French door, 2 humidity crispers, smart cooling system, multi air flow technology, two tier organization levels in freezer, Energy Star SmartDiagnosis system. dispenser with ice and water, (stainless) LG



**XRS22KGABW Regular \$999.70 SALE \$899.73**

21.9 c.f. Crosley top mount refrigerator moveable snack drawer, LED lighting, 2 adjustable humidity drawers, gallon storage in door, can storage door shelf, adjustable wire freezer shelf (white)



**SJG2351FS Regular \$2605.28 SALE \$2344.75**

22.5 c.f. French 4-door counter depth, fingerprint resistant, dual freezer compartments, auto ice maker, double humidity-controlled crisper, chill boost and freezer boost modes, LED lighting, 3 shelves. one slide in shelf, 6 gallon door bins (stainless) Sharp







**Prices good through March**

**GRSS2352AF Regular \$1649.70 SALE \$1484.73**

22.3 c.f. side by side refrigerator, crisp seal plus crisper, even temp cooling system, space wise organization system, smudge proof stainless steel, Energy Star, multi-level bright Led lighting, Pure Pour water filter, Pureair I1 Air filter, Frigidaire



**GFE24JSKSS Regular \$2684 SALE \$2415.60**

23.6 C.F. French door, Energy Star external controls with child lock and door alarm, 2 humidity-controlled drawers and full width drawers, quick space slide in shelf, space saving ice maker, advanced water filtration, spill proof shelves, gallon door storage, door alarm, Turbo cool freeze settings, enhanced Shabbos Mode, cubed/crushed ice, GE



**LRDCS2603S Regular \$1790 SALE \$1611**

25.5 c.f. bottom freezer, smudge proof stainless steel, 2 humidity crispers more freshness with door cooling+, tempered glass spill proof shelves Energy Star, LG



**GFE26JGMWW Regular \$2145 SALE \$1930.50**

25.6 c.f. French door bottom freezer, 5 glass shelves external water, crisper drawer, frost guard, Energy Star, ice maker, quick space shelf, spill proof, child lock adjustable glass shelves, turbo cool, door alarm, GE



**Upright Freezers**

**DUFMO85AWD Regular \$366.17 SALE \$329.55**

8.5 c.f. Danby 1- only

**FFFU13F2VW Regular \$785.34 SALE \$706.81**

13 c.f. Frigidaire

**FFFU16F2VW Regular \$881.54 SALE \$793.39**

16 c.f. Frigidaire

**FFU18F2VW Regular \$1028.44 SALE \$925.60**

18 c.f. Frigidaire

**GE FUF21DLWW Regular \$1119.95 Sale \$1007.95**

21 c.f. GE



**Chest Freezers**

**VCM5SMWW Regular \$386.64 SALE \$347.98**

5 c.f. Conservator

**DCF050BLWM Regular \$386.64 SALE \$347.89**

5 c.f. Danby

**VFX10UW Regular \$ 414.10 SALE \$372.69**

10 c.f. Crosley

**DCF145A3WD Regular \$547.17 SALE \$492.45**

14.5 c.f. Danby





## Bigfork 2023 summer construction

by Sally Sedgwick  
 Randy Costley of MNDOT presented an agreement and resolution to the city that delineated the city responsibilities and cost share on the Highway 38 resurfacing project. The total participation by the city in the project will total \$46,806.29, and the city will be responsible for things like maintaining the sidewalks, utilities, lighting and plantings (trees) after construction. No limitations on current snow removal practice



New Bigfork city councilors Sarah Scheff and Jerry Denny.

were in the agreement. Help and \$2,000 to the Backwoods Bots Robotics Club. The latter will come from the gambling fund. The council also approved a Water/Sewer Adjustment Policy that notes repairs on lines coming into the meter from the system are the city's responsibility; lines from the meter to the house are the homeowner's responsibility. Two two-week grace periods before late fees are charged are allowed a year if the city is notified. The next meeting was set for Tues., March 21 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

*Excerpted from a story in the Scenic Range NewsForum.*

The council granted \$500 to First Call for

## Classic movie series

In 1942 World War II was raging in Europe and the U.S. was only six months into the horror. England was already three years into the War and the king of Hollywood studios, MGM, released a movie about the English home front that defined the war experience for Americans.

*Mrs. Miniver* is about the trials and even dangers of WW II at home. An upper middle class family tends their garden, fall in love, and tremble in bomb shelters. A son goes off to fight, the wife (Greer Garson) confronts a Nazi soldier, and the husband (Walter Pidgeon) uses his boat to help with the evacuation of Dunkirk.

The story may have been about an English family, but American families identified with these Brits and loved the movie.

*Mrs. Miniver* earned six Oscars, including Best Picture, and was the most popular movie of the year and of the entire war years in the United States.

*Mrs. Miniver* will be shown at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. FREE!

**APRIL CLASSIC MOVIE:** "The con is on" in the big hit, multi Oscar, 1973 movie, *The Sting*, starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.

## Effie looks at school condition

by Sally Sedgwick

The Effie City Council discussed the Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway terminus sign, deterioration at the old school and removal of vehicles on the highway rights of way at its Feb. 13 meeting.

City employee Lindsey Foss pointed out that the Edge of the Wilderness Effie sign at the corner of highways 1 and 38 is rotting and needs to be replaced. These signs are maintained through the Scenic Byway, so no bid process or city funding is necessary.

Vehicles have not been removed from the Highway 1 right of way at the fire damaged property. A notice will be inserted that anyone owning one of these vehicles must remove it by March 13 or it will be towed.

The council had an extended discussion on the condition of the old Effie School owned by the city. Councilor Tom Lamont pointed out that asbestos identification and removal quotes have been sought for two years unsuccessfully and given the deterioration, asbestos removal might not be possible soon due to debris accumulation. The council was unaware that beams under the floors and wiring within the walls were being removed.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that the sewer operation was satisfactory.
- Heard that all liquor licenses had been issued.
- Approved an annual contract with the Bigfork Volunteer Fire Department. The next regular council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 13 at the Community Center.

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## Expansion of conditions means more veterans eligible for benefits

by Sally Sedgwick

Last August, the largest federal Veterans bill in history was signed into law. And it recognized new or expanded benefits for many Veterans of the Viet Nam, Gulf War and post 9/11 eras.

The Itasca County Veterans Services Department wants to make sure those benefits come to any eligible veteran, their spouse or dependents in the county. Veterans Service Officer Luke St. Germain is urging veterans to be sure they are registered in the county and know their benefit status.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act expanded “presumptive” locations and conditions for service members. That means that if a person saw service in a specified location and time period, they are presumed to have had exposure to toxic substances. If they develop a listed medical condition, they are able to apply for benefits.

For Viet Nam era Vets, that includes exposure to Agent Orange and in limited cases, radiation. For Gulf War and post 9/11 service, that generally means

exposure to burn pits.

The Act added five new locations for Viet Nam service, including any U.S. or Royal Thai military bases in Thailand, Laos, Mimot or Krek Cambodia, Guam or American Samoa, Johnston Atoll or on a ship which called at Johnston Atoll. All locations are limited by dates of duty. It also added two new disease conditions, a certain blood cancer and – most importantly – high blood pressure.

For Gulf War and post 9/11 veterans, the list of conditions have been expanded by more than 20 types.

If the veteran has died from one of the conditions associated with the location of his service, a surviving spouse can still claim benefits. Claims can also look back, or denied claims can be revisited as a wider reach is authorized. In fact, St. Germain recalled one widow who was able to begin receiving a monthly stipend although her service member husband had passed away almost two decades before.

There are about 3,700 veterans registered as living in Itasca County, St. Germain said. And over the last four years, the number of veterans seeking services has increased 20%. But there are still those out there who may not realize they are eligible, he said.

To have a benefit checkup or if you have moved into the county, contact the department at 218-327-2858 from 8 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4:30 p.m. for an appointment.

*Excerpted from a story in the Scenic Range NewsForum.*

## Bigfork Winterfest royalty



Winterfest Royalty: Congratulations to King Ty Nelson and Queen Lily Danielson Bigfork High School’s winterfest king and queen. Congratulations also to king candidates Jhace Pearson and Bradley Haley and queen candidates Madison Aakhus and Ivory David. Senior Chase Powell was our MC for the coronation event. The week was filled with games during the lunch hour.

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North Itasca Electric Co-op is on Facebook!

## Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Spring Series

Upcoming Minnesota Outdoors Skills and Stewardship Series webinars hosted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are scheduled every Wednesday at noon through the spring. The courses are free, but participants are required to pre-register. Sign up at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach)

- March 8 – Prairie chickens in Minnesota
- March 15 – Bison (tatanka) conservation in Minnesota
- March 22 – Unraveling mysteries of the common loon
- March 29 – Backyard bird feeding

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## Letter from Effie...

The city of Effie is committed to keeping the Edge of the Wilderness communities vibrant and adding to the enrichment of its citizens and visitors.

Many may or may not know about the campground adjoining the softball field. It is with great pleasure that we inform you that we will be bringing it back to life! We are seeking donations to help fund this project and others in the community.

The funds will go to build a pavilion in place of the old volleyball pit, new campfire rings, paint, updating the bleachers and bleacher cover, and possible RV electric sites, tent sites and horse sites to support the local rodeo, as well as adding material to the softball field; new bases, picnic tables and more.

If you would like to be a part of this historic project and donate monetary funds, a campground account has been set up at the First State Bank of Bigfork. Labor and material donations are also welcome.

If you would like to sign up for volunteer work during the project, send an email with your contact information to labfoss13@gmail.com, or call or text (218) 208-7421.

If you are a business, nonprofit or individual wishing to donate annually, contact us at the same email address and we will provide more information about the annual donation tiers.

...submitted

## Tax-Aide available now-April

Tax-Aide is an AARP Foundation group that provides free tax preparation services to Itasca County families and individuals of all ages and backgrounds, with a focus on older adults and those with low-to-moderate incomes. AARP membership is not required.

It is available by appointment only. For appointments and more information, call (218) 245-9202. There is some limited duration face-to-face contact service.

ElderCircle is the sponsoring agency. This program is funded through a grant provided by the State of Minnesota.

## SAIL classes

ElderCircle has replaced Bone Builders with "Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL)" For more information or to register (required), contact ElderCircle at (218) 999-9233.

New attendees may start anytime. Weights are provided but please bring your own water.

Following is the local schedule as of July 6:

- Virtual via Zoom video conference  
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Virtual via Zoom video conference  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

### In person at:

- Bigfork Old Scenic Church,  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Bowstring Town Hall  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Deer River, Bethany Lutheran,  
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

## Community Education

**Bigfork:** Register for classes at (218) 743-3444, online at [getlearning.org](http://getlearning.org).

### COFFEE CHAT

Date: Mon., March 27

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Edge Center Gallery

Cost: Free

Bring a piece of your work and share your goals as an artist or just enjoy a discussion with others who love art. Please let us know you are coming by March 23.

### WET FELTED FLOWER LAPEL PIN

Date: Weds., March 29

Time: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Location: Bigfork School Art Room

Cost: \$25

Ages: 6-18. Register by March 24.

### FAMILY KARAOKE NIGHT

Date: Sun., March 31

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Location: Edge Center

Cost: Free

Sound boards, mikes and music. Let's sing together! Registration required, please call by March 27. A Childrens First! rescheduled event.

**Blackduck** Register online at [blackduck.k12.mn.us](http://blackduck.k12.mn.us) under Community Education. Call Melanie (218) 766-3809 or email [mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us](mailto:mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us) with questions.

### YOGA

Date: Weds., March 8, 15, 22 and 29

Time: 4:30-5:15 p.m. or 5:30-6:15p.m.

Location: Blackduck Elementary Rm. 31, door #11

Cost: \$12 per session or \$40 for four sessions

All skill levels; bring a mat and water bottle.

## B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

Coffee Club Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

## area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: March 7, 28 ; April 18

12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store-*new hours*

2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe-*new hours*

4:00-5:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall-*new hours*

Thursdays: March 9, 30; April 20

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

Mondays: March 6, 27; April 17

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

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

3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alwood; 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

**Deer River:** Register for classes online at (218) 246-8241, Ext. 60227 or [www.getlearning.org](http://www.getlearning.org)

### FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Date: Sat., March 18

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: King Elementary Community Room

Cost: \$100

American Heart Association Heartsaver first aid, CPR and AED course designed for those who need a course completion card or who want to be prepared for an emergency.

### TRY OUT PICKLEBALL!

Date: Sun., March 12

Time: 1- 3 p.m.

Location: Deer River High School West Gym

Cost: Free

Try out this fast growing sport! Paddles and balls provided.

### INTRO TO SPORTS FOR KIDS K & UNDER

Date: Tuesdays, March 7 - April 11

Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

Location: King Elementary School

Cost: \$30 per family

Practice throwing, dribbling and kicking. Kids K and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

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

### SENIOR DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Date: Monday, March 6

Time: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Location: Northome School Library

Cost: \$15 for one four-hour session, \$30 for both.

Refresher course, attend either session (Indicate which when registering). Full course, attend both.

### 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.

**Blackduck Community Library:**  
(218) 835-6600

Tues: 1-6 p.m..

Wed: 9 a.m.-noon.

Thurs: 12-5 p.m.

Fri: 12-5 p.m.

Sat.: 9 a.m.-noon.

### Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf

200 Main, Bigfork

Thursdays

12:30-3 p.m.

3rd Thursday

4-5:30 p.m.

(218) 256-4170

### 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 - 6 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

## ~ March Calendar ~

### Northome

The annual Kids Fishing Derby will be held at the Island Lake Access south of Northome on Sunday, March 26 12:30-2 p.m.. Kids 15 and under, 10 and under with adult. Bring a pole and chair, a hole will be provided. Derby is free, concessions available. Anyone interested in donating prizes or money for the Kids Fishing Derby can contact Amanda at the True Value at 218-897-5648 or cell is 218-766-1444 or you can just drop off items at the store.

### Turtle Lake

The Turtle Lake Association will have a position(s) for someone 18 or older available for a seasonal job inspecting boats coming into the lake via the public access for aquatic invasive species. Training provided. For more information, email Scott Braiedy at [sbraiedy@gmail.com](mailto:sbraiedy@gmail.com).

### Squaw Lake

It's the month of St. Urhos Day! The tradition continues at Leino's Riverside Pub in Squaw Lake. The traditional parade starts at 5 p.m. to the north of the bridge - floats are welcome, create your own with green (for grasshoppers) and purple (for grapes). The legend, which may have begun in Hbbing, Minnesota, and come to Squaw Lake via BSU student Bruce Leino, says that St. Urho chased all the grasshoppers out of Finland before the last Ice Age, saving the grape harvest.



## 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.

- 1 "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\\_ettl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_ettl@msn.com)
- 2 First Thursday "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Practical Water Wisdom." Register at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org). (see p.14) April 6 topic is "Decrease your water footprint and save money too!"
- 6 ISD 318 School Board meeting in Grand Rapids or at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org), 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call 327-5704.
- 7 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 7 "Fun, Friends and Food" open house for Day Lily Gifts and Deer River Health Care Volunteers, surgery waiting room, 4:30-7 p.m.
- 8 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8 Job & Career Fair at Blackduck School: students 2-4 p.m.; community, 4:15-6 p.m. More information (218) 835-5214.
- 9 Classic Movies at The Edge Center, Bigfork. Mrs. Miniver (1942) starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon, 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 12 Daylight Savings Time begins, 2 a.m. Set clocks one hour ahead.
- 13 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 13 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 13 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board, 7 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 14 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Judy at (218) 832-3237.
- 14 ISD 317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 14 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 Perch Jerker on Round Lake, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10 entry fee, cash prizes for 10 largest fish. Use East Landing access. Food available.
- 18 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. More information, call the pub at (218) 659-2131.

24 No school, Deer River School

26 Annual Kids Fishing Derby on at the Island Lake Access in Northome, 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Watch for updates as ice conditions may change.

27 No school, all schools.

27 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.

27 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.

31 Operation Round Up applications due at North Itasca Electric headquarters, 4:30 p.m.

## Area Church Directory

**Alwood Community 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)*



## “Water Wisdom” online series presented by Itasca Waters

by Jesse Davis and Sandy Anderson, Itasca Waters Directors

Would you like to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations? If so, then Itasca Waters has a FREE online series for you.

In many peoples’ mind-eye, we see “pristine” lakeshore as a gentle slope down to a sandy beach, not a weed, reed or lily pad in sight and a full view of

the water unobstructed by standing or fallen trees. What is it that makes a lake ‘pristine’ though? Is it a sterile shimmering body of water, or a lake brimming with diverse wildlife, from fish and birds to aquatic mammals like otters and even moose?

Dr. Gregory G. Sass, the Fisheries Research Team Leader at the Wisconsin Department of

Natural Resources, will be March’s online presenter for Itasca Waters’ Water Wisdom Series at noon on Thursday, March 2. Folks can register for the free virtual learning series at itascawaters.org.

His topic will be “Water plants and woody debris in shallow water: Friend or foe?”

Focusing on over 20 years of habitat research and the sustainability of fisheries, Sass will

focus particularly on the importance of large woody debris and aquatic vegetation in maintaining a strong fishery and water quality.

“Whenever I’m checking out a new lake, especially one that’s more rural and undeveloped, I cruise around and look for fallen trees in the water,”

explains avid local angler Kyle Erickson. “The branches are incredible habitat for fish like crap-

pies, bluegills, and perch. The algae that grow on those branches are another factor in the biodiversity, helping to provide food for the minnows that then feed the panfish.”

“Reeds, bullrushes, cattails – these are all really important places for spawning as well as a place for fry to hide from larger predators,” continues Erickson. “I can understand lakeshore owners wanting to clear a space to jump into the lake and swim, but they’re not doing themselves any fishing favors by clearing out all the aquatic vegetation on their shoreline.”

International Falls

Realtor and founder of Woody’s Fairly Reliable Guide Service Barry ‘Woody’ Woods agrees.

“The ‘weeds’ are habitat for bugs, which in turn are habitat for minnows, both food for all kinds of the fish we angle for,” says Woods. “The aquatic vegetation is part of a chain reaction that

helps the whole fishery... fish love them weeds!”

Woody brings up an excellent point – lakeshore owners also love watching the treasure of wildlife that is part of our aquatic landscape.

“Have you ever seen a blue heron fishing for minnows in the weeds?” asks Woods. “No weeds, no minnows ... no minnows, no blue herons. Same for otters, eagles and even moose.”

“Don’t forget the loons either!” Woody adds. “They need that vegetation for their floating nests. What kind of world would this be without music or loons?”

As humans, we have to co-exist within the natural bounty we’re blessed with. There’s always going to be give and take with nature as we grow, learn, create, and reflect.

That’s why this is called the ‘Practical’ Water Wisdom series. Register for this presentation at the Itasca Waters website, itascawaters.org.

*An Old Fashioned General Store*

### Spring Lake Store

**218-832-3626**

Deli cheeses & lunch meat, sandwiches, WiFi, groceries, gifts, post office, Fireside Room

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Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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### Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this March recipe!

- 4 baking potatoes
- 1/2 medium onion sliced, then quartered
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1/2 cup light cream
- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese

Boil potatoes, onion and garlic in salted water until soft. Drain and mash. Add cream, butter, salt and cheese. Mix very well.

**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 (please do not send copyrighted material) 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).

### Easy Company Chicken

Thank you to Jim LaBarre for this March recipe!

- 5-7 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut in half
- sliced bacon
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- Buddig® corned beef
- 8 oz. sour cream

Pat chicken breast pieces dry. Wrap half slice bacon around each half of chicken breast.

Spray pan with PAM® spray. Line a 9"x13" baking pan with Buddig® corned beef slices. Place bacon wrapped chicken pieces on top of corned beef.

Mix one can cream of mushroom soup with 8 oz. sour cream. Pour over chicken. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Bake at 275 degrees uncovered, 2.5 to 3 hours.





# CLASSIFIEDS

**AD DEADLINE**

for the APRIL issue: Fri., March 17

**-SERVICES-**

**Lepinski Painting**  
interior/exterior  
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20 yrs experience  
218-248-0717  
or 218-743-3613

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√ Tree Removal  
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√ Firewood processing

**Check your ad!**  
Email editor to correct errors before the next due date.

**-SERVICES-**

**Dahlke Dumpsters**  
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**Gus's Auto and Recycling of Bigfork**  
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(218) 929-7117  
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Gus David

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

**-WANTED-**

*Looking for someone to plow and mow Alwood Town Hall as needed according to the weather conditions. The township meetings are the second Tuesday of the month and it needs to be cleared at that time. The only requirement is you will need to have Workers Compensation on yourself. Please send quote to Alwood Township, P.O. Box 123 Northome, MN 56661 4/23*

*Looking for someone to work on console stackable record players, have several. Repair in my shop in Squaw Lake area. Call for information 218-659-4750 3/23*

*Looking for a handyman to do small repairs, carpenter/plumbing Big Bear Lake area. Call (763) 229-8652 3/23*

*Wanted to purchase: book by Curtis L Newstrom, titled Memories Of A Small Town In Marcell Mn. Call Ed Shearen (218) 832-4867 3/23*

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale: Strikemaster ice auger. 8", 3 hp. Good cond. \$150. Call (218) 832-3329 3/23*

*For sale: 4 10-gauge 3" single shot shotgun made in Russia. Cash only, \$130. Call in evenings. (218) 743-3375 3/23*

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale: Walther PPK 9mm kurz/380 ACP semi auto hand gun. 3.3 barrel. Made in 2000. Very little use. Comes with two 6 round clips, holster, original case and 30+ rounds of ammo. Legal sales only. \$650. Call (218) 897-5687 4/23*

*For sale: Mossberg 590 tactical 12 ga. 20 inch barrel. 3 inch ammo, 8+1 capacity. Has ATI folding adjustable pistol grip stock, heat shield and sling. Like new. \$495. Call (218) 897-5687 4/23*

*For sale: World War II Commemorative M1 Garand Rifle. New in box with sling. \$2,000.00. Call or text 218-259-7504 3/23*

**-VEHICLES-**

**SNOWMOBILES, ATVs**  
*For sale: For sale: 2018 Sportsman Polaris 4x4. Very low miles, super clean mach. Brush guards, hand warmers, winch, windshield, loaded. On 2020 Camso TS 4 Tracks. Great for all winter fun. \$17,000.00 Call (218) 256-3829 3/23*

**-FARM-**

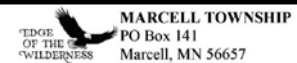
*For sale: Square bales, mixed grass 35-45 lbs. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 3/23*

**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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. Please note immediately following the annual meeting will be the March regular monthly meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the following location:

Ardenhurst Township Hall  
66733 State Highway 46  
Northome, MN 56661



**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 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Marcell Town Hall. The meeting can also be attended by remote means via Zoom. In case of inclement weather, the Annual Meeting will be held the following Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 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 March 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall. In case of inclement weather the annual meeting may be postponed until March 21, 2023. The purpose of this meeting is to transact any township business as required or permitted by law.

Sharon Isaacs, Oteneagen town clerk  
218-246-8119

**Notice of Annual Town Meeting  
Wirt Township**

The Annual Town Meeting for Wirt Township will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wirt Town Hall. In case of inclement weather the Annual Town Meeting will be one week later on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The 2024 Levy will be approved at this meeting.

Cheryl A. Carrigan, Clerk  
Wirt Township

**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  
call: (218) 659-2779  
or email: sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

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

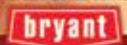


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## Responding to the needs of the grid

Our homes are outfitted with more devices that require electricity than ever before as life has become increasingly dependent on them to function. As this demand for electricity rises, North Itasca Electric Cooperative must continue providing the same affordable, round-the-clock service to its members — regardless of market conditions, or in Minnesota’s case: weather conditions.

Demand for electricity regularly fluctuates as people move throughout their homes and businesses on a normal day-to-day basis. But on extreme weather days when everyone is either trying to keep cool or stay warm, the electric grid experiences periods of high stress while attempting to meet members’ comfort needs.

These times are when Great River Energy, North Itasca Electric Cooperative’s wholesale power provider, deploys its demand response (DR) strategy to relieve the electric system of this strain. This ability to respond to the

needs of the electric system is made possible by members like you.

Residents and businesses have the option to sign up for DR programs through their cooperative that allow 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.

When the time comes for these appliances to be used for DR — typically on hot summer days or during a polar vortex when energy prices increase — Great River Energy flips a switch to alleviate demand. This strategy not only reduces sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, but it also helps the cooperative avoid making expensive purchases from the energy market, ultimately saving members money.

Great River Energy recently used its DR strategy as Winter Storm Elliott brought blizzard conditions

and subzero temperatures to the Midwest in the days leading up to Christmas. The region’s grid operator issued an emergency alert late on Dec. 23 that triggered utilities to deploy their DR resources.

Great River Energy, in partnership with its member-owner cooperatives, has the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration. This means its system operators were able to dispatch up to 370,000-plus appliances enrolled in DR programs to manage reliability during the winter storm.

It takes a collective effort from the cooperative and its membership to maintain a healthy, reliable electric grid. If you are interested in signing up for a DR program or hearing more about your options to enroll in one for a reduced electric rate, contact Jerry Loney at (218) 743-3131.

## Empty Bowls is returning for 2023!

by Lynne Schleicher

With a twist. Mark your calendars for Sunday April 16, 2023 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Our Empty Bowls event is making a change and this year we will be hosting a French Toast/Pancake breakfast. This is still the only fundraiser that the Bigfork food shelf (NIEFS) does each year, and again, we will have a freewill donation for this hearty breakfast!

The other change will be our location, which will find us cooking at the Bigfork City Hall. You may eat in or take “to go.”

Throughout all the challenges the pandemic threw at us, the wonderful volunteers that give their

time to help our neighbors, figured out a way to stay open *every week*. Our official name is North Itasca Emergency Food Shelf and we certainly do take care of neighbors from all over North Itasca. In 2022 we had 604 households visit us.

A big Thank You to all of our donors, we value your gifts and have been utilizing the donations to provide a wide range of food and household items. We strive to have all the usual shelf stable items, personal hygiene, fresh produce when available, frozen fruit and veggies along with milk, eggs and other frozen items as available from Second Harvest.

## Native Plant Sale

Have you thought about planting your lakeshore with plants native to northern Minnesota? The Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District may have what you need!

This year’s native plant sale includes eight different tree species, three grasses, 14 wildflowers and seven shrubs, including 5 that produce edible berries. There are also two seed mixes: the Lovely Lakeshore and the Pollinator Paradise blends. You can also order

two deer repellents and plastic mesh tree protectors.

Plants can be ordered online at itascaswcd.org. The order form has additional growing information for all species.

Order deadline is April 21; plant pick up dates are May 18 and 19 at the SWCD offices at 1895 U.S. Hwy 2 on the west side of Grand Rapids.

**Help Wanted!  
Work at the Lake!**

AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Watercraft Inspectors needed for Turtle Lake public boat landing. Full or part-time. Seasonal (May – October).

Administered and training through Itasca County AIS program. Must be 18 or older. Interested? Email Scott Braiedy, [scottbraiedy@outlook.com](mailto:scottbraiedy@outlook.com) for detailed information.

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