



**NORTH ITASCA  
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS  
NEWS**

VOL. 26 NO. 4

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2023



To our heroes  
in hard hats,  
thank you for  
keeping the  
lights on.

Monday, April 10 is

### Lineman Appreciation Day

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Jake Bowers</b>   | <b>Trevor Michienzi</b> |
| <b>Bruce Carlson</b> | <b>Charles Peck</b>     |
| <b>Cody Eischens</b> | <b>Daryl Pederson</b>   |
| <b>Josh Hubbard</b>  | <b>John Rahier</b>      |
| <b>Chris Larson</b>  | <b>Cole Serfling</b>    |
| <b>Dick Lind</b>     | <b>Noah Troumbly</b>    |

*Thank you!*

## Understanding load control

by Jerry Loney

With just over 5,000 members on North Itasca Electric Cooperative's distribution lines, there are 1,482 sub-meters installed for load control.

The purpose of controlling loads is to eliminate demand as much as possible. When controlling for demand peaks, cooperatives look for the higher consuming appliances such as electric heating equipment, water heaters, air conditioners, air source heat pumps, etc. Sub-meters are those second (even third) meters

members have on their homes (or poles) which register the amount of energy consumed by the higher consuming equipment listed.

Allowing North Itasca Electric to shut these appliances off during high-cost energy and billing peak periods, members save themselves and North Itasca Electric money in two ways. For members: the cost per kWh is reduced from the general service rate of \$.1288 to \$.0673 (47.75% less) on the Dual

Demand to p.6 >

## CEO Report

Good afternoon,

Looks like ol' man winter got quite comfortable around North Itasca. We got a good shot of snow this past weekend, and we're supposed to get another this week.

I'm already dreaming of warmer weather. I want to hit the woods on the wheelers, lakes in the boat, and start complaining about the

bugs destined to show up soon.

I've had a chance to visit with several of the Member-Owners of North Itasca Electric lately. It has been brought to my attention that I have an issue with some of our electrical meters. There are two main circuit boards in the meters we use. The first board reads and records the usage at



Brad Dolinski, CEO

your home or business.

There is nothing wrong with this board. The meters are measuring usage accurately. The CEO to p.2 >

## Board nominations open for Districts 4, 5 and 6

The nominating committee will meet in the office of the cooperative, Bigfork, Minn. on May 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The duty of the nominating committee is to select, propose and post

a list of candidates for director for the following districts:

- District 4 – Mary Rahier – 3 year term
- District 5 – Incumbent Lloyd Kongsjord – 3 year term

- District 6 – Incumbent Todd Christensen – 3 year term

If you are interested in becoming a director nominee, please contact a nominating committee delegate or alternate. The nominat-

ing committee members appointed by the board at its meeting on March 23, 2023 is shown on page 3.

All candidates selected should be qualified by the nominating committee person prior to the meeting

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## Business Spotlight: Bigfork Veterinary Clinic

by Sally Sedgwick

Carly Moberg is back home; this time with "DVM" after her name.

After graduating from Bigfork High School, she went on to four years at the University of Minnesota with a focus on veterinary medicine.

Vet school was a given; she had always been interested in treating animals. As a child, said her mom Joni, her favorite series was James Herriot – and she acted as a detective with her own pets' health issues. Once when faced with an ailing guinea pig, she figured out that it

was a vitamin C deficiency and corrected it with diet.

Things didn't go according to plan. A place at the U of M College of Veterinary Medicine didn't open up until the second year after graduation in spite of top grades. By that time, she had committed to another school: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts-Nevis Island.

It was a good choice. As well as a Caribbean setting, the accredited school offered lots of opportunities for practical

Vet to p.6 >



Carly Moberg, DVM

**Save the Date!**  
Annual Meeting  
Thursday, June 15  
2 p.m.  
Northome

• inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside •

**GRE reviews 2022**

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**Spring Sale**

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**Community Theatre:  
Our Town**

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**Office Hours**

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

## CEO Report (continued)

second board communicates that usage back to the office. This is the board we are having some issues with. Some of our meters aren't communicating the usage back in, this causes us to estimate the usage on these meters.

We recently sent our line crew out to physically read the meters we were having issues with. This helped us to correct bills that had been estimating for far too long. We will be sending letters out to the Member-Owners that are affected by this issue. We will be using both self-read meter readings and crew readings until we get a permanent fix for the issue. Currently, we are waiting up to 52 weeks for meters once we place the order. The manufacturer doesn't manufacture the component we need any longer. I am staring down the barrel of a new metering system. This is a very expensive decision to deal with when the issue only affects roughly 3% of our current meters.

We ordered twelve meters that use cellular service to communicate with the office. We will place these

meters around the system and move them over four months to "test" if they will work at North Itasca Electric. If these meters function the way I expect them to, we will order a couple of pallets and move forward with cellular technology. This test could take up to two years: the first year to get the 12 meters and the next year to get several hundred to deploy. Our other option is to purchase meters that are slightly used. We ordered eight of these meters as well. The used meters will be tested for accuracy, and if they connect with our system we can order several hundred more.

Why on earth would you order used meters? We still owe depreciation on the current system. We need to keep those meters and the system running as long as possible to ensure we realize the value of our investment. If we replace the system prior to the depreciation hitting zero, we would have to show a loss in the year, this would put pressure on our rates. I will continue to work with our team to find the best plan to correct

this issue. Some of our Member-Owners will hear from us over the next several months to ensure that your bill is accurate.

With spring in the air, we need to start planning for the Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. We will be sending out the Member Letter in the next bill. This letter explains what you need to do if you are interested in running for the Board of Directors.

Districts 4, 5 and 6 are up for election this year. The Nominating Committee will meet on May 3rd at 5:30 p.m. to determine who will be on the ballot this year. The Nominating Committee ensures that candidates meet the Bylaw requirements set forth by the members of North Itasca Electric.

I look forward to seeing you at the Northome Fairgrounds on Thursday June 15th, 2023, at 2:00 pm for the Annual Meeting. Expect nice weather and a great safety presentation from our line crew.

*By your side! Miigwech  
Brad*

## Planting with purpose



Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to North Itasca Cooperative, has worked to re-established more than 200 acres of pollinator-friendly habitats at its facilities and along transmission lines. These efforts support local food production, manage costs and help to maintain reliability.

Pollinator habitat projects support GRE's commitment to investing in Minnesota communities and finding innovative solutions to manage costs. Replacing turf grass with native prairie reduces maintenance costs as native prairie is hardy once it is established and requires very little mowing, watering or fertilizer.

GRE's latest pollinator habitat was planted last fall at the Lakefield Junction Station power plant in Trimont, Minnesota. Approximately 11 acres of land was planted with a mix of butterfly milkweed, black-eyed Susans, little bluestems and other pollinator-friendly species in late October. This space will provide a habitat for pollinators such as birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife in the near future.

Learn more about Great River Energy's pollinator projects at [greatriverenergy.com/pollinators](http://greatriverenergy.com/pollinators).

## 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

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## WATTS NEWS

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(800) 762-4048

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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



### 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  
Feb. 23, 2023

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

**End time: 2:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on February 23, 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, Tina Danielson and Kim Giesen.

**Start Regular Board Meeting: 11:00 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. You should always make your travel decisions based on your own comfort level. If the roads are too bad for you to drive on, make the choice to ride with someone else, or stay home. The Co-op encourages everyone to do what is right for them. Have winter survival gear packed when you do head out on the roads in the winter. Kitty litter to help with traction. Warm clothes and boots.
- o Tina Danielson presented the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports, seconded; motion passed. Discussion was held on how to handle the credit that was received from Great River Energy for the 2022 PCA. A motion was made to hold the money to help offset future PCA charges, tracking the balance in account 555.05, seconded; motion passed.
- o Daryl Pederson gave the Line Department report. Rachel from Star Energy was introduced to the Board members. She gave a short presentation about what Star Energy offers. Carl Henning from MREA was on site last week to cover fall protection with our line crew. Currently working with Star Energy on a grant. The crews have finished cut outs for the 3 phase feeders in the Northome and Bigfork areas. This will give better protection and help a lot during storms. Our proactive work is helping to decrease the average number of hours our members are out of power during an outage.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report. Meter problem was discussed. There are some meters that are reading correctly however not communicating back to the office properly. There is a task force working on the problem and the solutions.
- o Tina gave the Office Department report. Teri Wallace was here to work with operations on work order procedures.
- o B. Dolinski gave the CEO Update. Meetings will be coming in the future for the community input on what the e2ip building could possibly be used for.
- o Brad reviewed the GRE statement.
- o W. Waller gave the MREA report. There are 2 new

## Board nominations

>from p.1

to ensure that if elected, he/she could serve in the capacity of director for a period of three years. Each candidate must be a Member of the cooperative and a bona fide resident of the district having director elections.

There may be situations where the spouse of a Member wishes to become a director nominee. In accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative, a spouse is not automatically a Member unless the membership is a joint membership with both spouse's signatures on file. If you are uncertain about being a qualified director nominee, please contact the office at (218) 743-3131 and we will check our records. A copy of the Cooperative's Bylaws regarding Qualifications for Eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors is available from any nominating committee person or at the Cooperative Headquarters in Bigfork.

MREA board members. The new communications director is Joe Miller. The MREA annual meeting went very well. Dinner with the Representatives went well. Well worth the effort to host the meeting.

- o L. Kongsjord gave the GRE report. Biomass renewable energy – is this a viable option. GRE annual meeting will be April 5, 2023. A motion was made that Lloyd Kongsjord be designated the voting delegate and representative to GRE Board for NIECI, seconded; motion passed.
- o CRC asked to have a voting delegate for the cooperative. A motion was made that Brad Dolinski be the voting delegate representative to CRC, seconded; motion passed.
- o Round Table Discussion was held.
- o A motion was made to adjourn, seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 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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## 2023 Nominating Committee

Del/Alt	District	Delegate	Address/ Phone	
Delegate 1		Myron Albrecht	Mizpah 56660	218-897-5048
Delegate 2		Dale Quandt	Wirt 56688	218-659-2601
Delegate 3		Marcie Lindgren	Effie 56639	218-743-3261
Delegate 4		Tim Neuschwander	Bigfork 56628	218-245-3792
Alternate		Darla Rauch	Bigfork 56628	218-910-9617
Delegate 5		Eric Handyside	Bigfork 56628	218-766-6312
Alternate		Kelly Handyside	Bigfork 56628	218-244-7178
Delegate 6		Crystal Braunwarth	Blackduck 56630	218-779-3249
Alternate		Karen Christensen	Squaw Lake 56681	218-659-4612
Delegate 7		Lisa Peterson	Squaw Lake 56681	218-659-4266
Delegate 8		Les Jensen	Marcell 56657	218-832-3410
Delegate 9		John (Jack) H. Shultz	Deer River 56636	218-832-3784

The candidates selected by the nominating committee for Districts 4, 5 or 6 will be placed on the ballot and voted on by the Members within that district. Your district is listed directly below the

Date. The Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Koochiching County Fairgrounds on Highway 71 in Northome beginning at 2 p.m.

portion of your bill that lists your Name, Account Number and Statement



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Dave Ritter-Broker 218-360-1200  
Cheryl Ritter-Agent 218-360-4111  
Jason Ritter- Agent 218-244-4711  
Lisa Ritter- Agent 218-259-4249  
Steph Luedke-Agent 218-966-1080

**218-832-3121**

WWW Website highlights: NorthItascaElectric.com

40551 41410 1 859 KWH

What are these mystery numbers on your monthly statement on the "Energy Charge" line?

To unravel the mystery, check the webpage "How to Read Your Statement" under the Account tab at NorthItascaElectric.com. In this example, 40551 is the previous month's meter reading and 41410 is this month's meter reading. The difference? 859 kWh, the amount that is being billed. If the current meter reading is estimated, an "E" will appear after the number.

...And that seven digit number under Location? That's your unique pole number in the system.

Mystery solved!

WATTS archives

Wasn't there a story about the new heating system at the co-operative headquarters? I'm sure I saw it...in May last year? Or...how about the date of the Bakwoods Bash held every year in Blackduck in August?

You can find it online! The WATTS News is archived under the About Us tab on the cooperative website.

Weather

Want a quick check on the weather while you are browsing? The co-op's website is linked to Weather Underground for Bigfork. Just click on the tab on the upper right of the home page.

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
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International Falls, MN 56649
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## Roxanne's Repair Tips: If your refrigerator runs constantly

Does your refrigerator seem like it never shuts off? This is a common problem and a lot of times it can be fixed easily.

Here are some common things to check:

1. *Dirty condenser:* The old refrigerators used to have condenser coils in the back of the refrigerator where you could just pull the refrigerator out and clean them off. Now most coils are found under the refrigerator. These get full of dust, dirt and hair, and when this happens the refrigerator cannot cool properly. Make sure you clean them periodically with a coil brush.

2. *Evaporator coils:* These are inside the freezer behind the back panel. Sometimes you can tell if this is operating by putting your hand on the panel inside the back of your freezer, if it is frosty, they are frozen up. Sometimes evaporator coils freeze over because the defrost heater fails. The first thing I would ask is whether by any chance the refrigerator got left open for a while, because this will cause the coils to freeze up too. If that is the case, you can remove everything from the freezer and refrigerator, unplug it and leave the door open overnight to let everything defrost. Then plug it back in and see if it works.

3. *Defrost heater assembly:* If this is faulty, it will cause the evaporator coils to frost up. You can test with a multi-meter so see if it is defective (Please watch video on RepairClinic.com for more information as to where and how.)

4. *Evaporator fan motor:* If the refrigerator is noisy, you might want to check this. If the fan isn't moving or doesn't move freely you might need to change this motor. You can test with a multi-meter. Look for any broken or chipped fan blades. Replace it if needed.

5. *Defrost thermostat:* This might be malfunctioning. Test with a multi meter and replace if needed.

6. *Worn door gasket:* A worn gasket on the refrigerator or freezer will allow too much warm air to get in the refrigerator and make your condenser frost over. If they look worn, replace the gasket.

Please refer to videos on RepairClinic.com for more information and help on finding the location of parts listed.

## Member Alert: 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 is third-party website that allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. However, doxo.com may charge the member extra fees, and North Itasca Electric cannot control when we will receive the member payments from doxo.com, possibly resulting in a late payment from the member or even disconnection due to non-payment. To make sure you're paying North Itasca Electric directly, visit our website [www.northitascapower.com](http://www.northitascapower.com), for our direct link to the online bill payment portal, [mycpsportal.com](http://mycpsportal.com).

## Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, member services representative

Stop in and check out our Appliance Showroom at the Co-op.

We carry a variety of brands! Crosley, which is made up of Whirlpool, Frigidaire and GE; Sharp; Frigidaire; LG; Samsung; Speed Queen; Danby; and GE. We have a good variety in stock and on the floor. This means you can pick it up on the same day!

For all you who don't know, we offer great whole-house deals. We are competitive with our prices already but if you purchase three appliances, you will automatically get 8% off, 4 appliances 10% off, and 5 or more gets you 15% off! That adds up to a lot of savings.

The Co-op offers delivery for \$50 and removal of the same appliances for \$25. So, if you purchase 5 appliances you get 15% off the appliances and it would only cost you \$50 to have them all delivered, and if you had old appliances you wanted removed, we would take your old ones for \$25.

We also offer contracts to members who qualify. To qualify

you must be current on your account(s) and have been current for at least three months in a row. You would then put a minimum of 20% down and can spread your payments out 1 to 3 years. There is 4% interest on contracts.

You could also choose 90 days same as cash if you like, we still ask for a minimum of 20% down, then you have 90 days to pay it in full. If you think you might be interested in a contract, I would be happy to tell you what the down payment and monthly payments would be.

North Itasca Electric is also selling Electric Go bikes. These bikes are great for young people as well as older people. They reach a top speed of 20 miles an hour. This doesn't sound fast, but on the bike, you are clipping right along and have a range of 36 miles with Pedal Assist. The charge time is 5 hours, and they plug into a 120-

amp outlet.

These bikes can be ridden on tar, sand, gravel or trails in the woods. The Go Express is what I have on the floor, but I can order other ones as well. They are quiet so they won't disturb any wildlife in the woods and can be ridden on trails where dirt bikes can't be ridden since they won't rip up the trail. One of the best things about the bike is it folds in half so you can fit it in the trunk of a car.

I also want to let you know I was able to get some 24" gas ranges for a great price. Not only are these great for cabins, but they would be perfect for canning. You won't find them cheaper! Call or stop in to check them out.

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## Meter seals

If you or an electrician is performing electrical work at your residence which requires opening meter sockets or load control receivers, you need to contact North Itasca Electric first.

By contacting North Itasca Electric, you can help prevent possible problems which could occur when North Itasca Electric finds that seals have been cut. These problems would mostly be on sub meters where load control meters are installed.

This equipment is owned, controlled and maintained by North Itasca Electric. These seals may only be cut if permission is granted by North Itasca Electric in advance or deemed an emergency by an electrician.

North Itasca Electric does realize that there could be instances where work needs to be done, in such cases; North Itasca Electric still needs to be contacted. If it is determined that loads have not been controlled during load control periods, demand charges could be applied to your billing.

## 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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## Bigfork Veterinary Clinic

>from p.1  
experience on a variety of animals. After Ross, she completed her clinical year at Iowa State University.

Her very first job? At Bigfork Veterinary Clinic with Byron and Ann Sugden.

She then joined the Animal Care Clinic in Hibbing where she practiced for ten years as a small animal vet before purchasing the Sugden practice last fall.

Again, things didn't go according to plan when she had unexpected health issues. Fortunately, she was able to make a complete recovery, and the clinic opened in late December under new ownership.

Although the practice is not large enough to handle after hours emergencies, it is open Tuesday through Saturday; 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. on Saturday. For appointments, call (218) 743-3587.

Calls are welcome, said Carly. "If you feel there are any issues with your pet, or don't know what is going on, call the clinic," she said. "Some things might not be a big deal. Some are. It's best to check early, before problems become serious."

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Joni Moberg (l) and Sabrina Henson welcome clients to the clinic.

## 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. Visit the cooperative website homepage at [www.NorthItascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthItascaElectric.com) for the full text that will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 15.

What has she seen in animal disease coming into the area? Blastomycosis is one serious canine fungal illness that has no preventative and can present in many different ways. Humans can also catch it while stirring up spores from the ground, old buildings, etc., but seldom from a pet.

Ticks also are carrying several illnesses, but fortunately there is a Lyme

vaccine and tick sprays or preventatives.

Carly has three cats and an Australian Shepherd of her own at home in Effie. When she has downtime, she also likes to make wine from local fruits such as chokecherry or blueberry.

For the future? Her goal is to "make this a really good little clinic," she said.

## Reducing demand loads

>from p.1  
Fuel program. For North Itasca Electric, energy purchased is much less (with savings passed to you, the member) and demand charges from Great River Energy (GRE) can be avoided which vary by month. But for an example, if a 9 kW boiler was fully run during the billing peak last December 2022, it actually would hurt North Itasca Electric members if it is not being controlled and result in a \$182.07

demand charge to North Itasca Electric for that month alone. If controlled properly during this time, demand charges would be \$0.

Each winter checks are made on our load control equipment making sure equipment is operating correctly. We can do this in the office and know which receivers are working properly and which are not. When breakers are turned off, meters are not able to read usage or send information back to the

office for billing. When not knowing if breakers are off, the billing clerk will estimate your bill thinking the substation missed the read and estimate your bill based on your previous year's consumption. If you have turned your breakers off for a few days, contact North Itasca Electric to prevent an estimation of your bill. How can you know if your bill has been estimated? If so, an "E" will appear next to that meter reading on your bill.

Above I mentioned that we know when load control equipment is and is not controlling properly, and there are a few which are not. North Itasca Electric is currently in the process of changing failing equipment out, but that will take some time.

I sent a letter out to members that have been switched from the Great River Energy system to Minnkota Power many months ago, and just now we are able to do these conversions. The members affected stretch

from Gemmell to Funkley on both sides of Hwy 71 and down 46 past Island Lake. North Itasca Electric currently has Hill Brothers Electric converting Great River Energy's receivers over to Minnkota Power's ripple controllers for those members on a load control program, before starting others on Great River Energy's system where re-wiring needs to be done with equipment change outs.

My final note on load control is that: Storage Space Heating, Storage Water Heating, Dual Fuel Space Heating are Air Conditioning control programs greatly save members money, but if equipment is not functioning properly, the opposite is true (For North Itasca Electric's membership). If you ever question if your system is working properly, please give me a call. Demand charges add up and are paid for by the entire membership.

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### April's Washer, Dryer & Dishwasher sale

Sale prices will be good through April!



**WT7400CW Regular \$901 Sale \$810.90**  
LG 5.3 c.f. mega capacity with agitator, Turbowash3D, Wi-Fi -white



**WT7405CV Regular \$897.10 Sale \$807.39**  
5.3 c.f. mega capacity with agitator, Turbowash3D, Wi-Fi – white



**DLE7400VE Regular \$879.83 Sale \$791.85**

LG 7.3 c.f. ultra large high efficiency dryer – graphite steel



**CED7011LWO Regular \$614.65 Sale \$553.18**

Crosley- 5.5 c.f. top load washer, TurboWash, ThinQ – white



**DVE45T3400W Regular \$756.51 Sale \$680.86**

Samsung 7.4 c.f. electric dryer, sensor dry – white



**DLE7400WE Regular \$901.73 Sale \$811.56**

LG 7.3 c.f. ultra large high efficiency electric dryer – white



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**WT7150CW Regular 830.23 Sale \$747.21**  
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**VED6505GW Regular \$475.80 Sale \$428.22**  
Crosley Conservator 6.5 electric dryer – white



**CAW45125LW Regular \$713.70 Sale \$642.33**  
Crosley 4.5 c.f. electric washer – white



**WA45T3200AW Regular \$699.45 Sale \$629.50**  
Samsung 4.5 c.f. top load washer – white



**WA50R5200AW Regular \$837.79 Sale \$754.01**  
Samsung 4.5 c.f. top load washer no agitator – white



**DVE45T3200W Regular \$699.45 Sale \$629.50**  
Samsung 7.2 c.f. electric dryer, sensor dry – white



Enter the model number in Google on the computer or call me for more information on the sale items. I will be happy to tell you about all the features! I apologize for not having the full description of each item. I had my sale flyer just about all done and the next day when I went to open it back up, it was gone. I forgot to save...Oops! Since I didn't have time to recreate the flyer, I figure something is better than nothing.

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



**DW80B606OUG Regular \$847.47 Sale \$762.72**  
 24" Samsung Dishwasher, 44 dba – black stainless



**FFCD2418UB4AB Regular \$482.40 Sale \$434.16**  
 24" Frigidaire dishwasher, 5 cycles – black



**FFBD2420UW Regular \$697.45 Sale \$627.70**  
 24" Frigidaire dishwasher, 4 cycles, stainless tub – white



**GDT645SGN4WW Regular \$893.53 Sale \$804.18**  
 24" GE dishwasher with 5 cycles – white



**Now Hiring! AIS Watercraft Inspectors**

The Turtle Lake Association is hiring AIS Watercraft Inspectors for the 2023 boating season.

**Job Location:** Public boat landing on Turtle Lake in Marcell, north of Grand Rapids.

**Qualifications:** Must be 18 or older. Temporary part-time or full-time position. Flexible employment between May 15 through Labor Day (flexible start and end date to fit schedule)

**Job Overview:** Inspect watercrafts for AIS (aquatic invasive species). Interacts with the public, conduct surveys, document inspection, and works outside. Paid training by the DNR through Itasca County AIS program.

**Hourly Pay:** \$16.00 an hour plus a substantial bonus paid by the TLA after minimum 200 hours worked for the season, back to hour one. Inquire for specifics!

Interested? Email Scott Braiedy, [scottbraiedy@outlook.com](mailto:scottbraiedy@outlook.com) for detailed information.



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# Edge Center for the Arts

## The EdgeWild Players present Our Town

by Val Conner

The address on the envelope read:

*Jane Crofut, The Crofut Farm  
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Continent of North America, Western Hemisphere  
Earth, The Solar System  
The Universe  
The Mind of God*

“And the postman brought it just the same.”

That’s the perspective Thornton Wilder examines in his classic play, “Our Town.” Set in an early 20th Century small town in New Hampshire, the play pictures the ordinary lives of ordinary people and their place in the greater scheme of things. We who live in small town Minnesota in the early 21st Century can easily relate to the rhythm of life and its significance, complete with the humor, joy, poignancy and sadness we

all experience at some time or another.

The EdgeWild Players will do four performances of Our Town:

April 27-29 at 7 p.m. and April 30 at 2 p.m. at the Edge Center for the Arts in Bigfork. The huge cast of your friends and neighbors includes local church choirs and actors of all ages. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, and a special family rate for children accompanied by an adult.

Twenty-five years ago, Patricia Feld, the artistic director at the Edge, directed this play before the Edge Center was built. Now she is directing it with fresh insight that the passage of a quarter of a century provides. Some of the people involved then have returned in the same or different roles.

In addition to the play, the gallery committee at the Edge Center is sponsoring a photo contest, picturing Bigfork and surrounding towns now and back in “the day.” Winners will be announced at the “Welcome Back” reception to be held in the gallery prior to the performance of “Our Town,” Friday, April 28.



# Classic movie series

The annual April Classic Movie in Bigfork is the “April Fool Special”, usually a goofy comedy. This year, however, all April Fools will enjoy the most popular “Big Con” movie ever made. *The Sting* (1973) was the most popular movie of the year. It also earned seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The movie is also notable for turning the piano rags of turn of the century composer Scott Joplin into a national craze.

Paul Newman and Robert Redford, coming off their hit Western, *Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid* (1969), were reunited and their chemistry was once again movie magic. In *The Sting* they play Depression con artists who join together to scam a half a million dollars from a crooked Chicago bookie (Robert Shaw). The efforts of Newman and Redford are infinitely complicated, and delightfully amusing. “The con is on” the ads for the film trumpeted, and movie audiences in 1973 and in later re-releases of the film were delighted to become part of the action. You will be too.

*The Sting* will be shown at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13 at 6:30. FREE! You’ll never have so much fun being taken to the cleaners.

Special Bonus: The schedule for the 2023-24 Classic Movie Series will be passed out. The next Classic Movie will be in September.

# Edge Gallery

## “Our Town” photo contest

by Val Conner

The Edge Gallery is looking for original photos of the area. Submit your photos between April 1 and April 14.

These photos as well as historic photos will be exhibited in the gallery during regular gallery hours from April 24 through May 6. People may vote on their favorites April 26-28. Check out the posters and Facebook for contest details and entry forms.

The prize for the People’s Choice, Adult, is



a \$50 Kocian’s gift card; the prize for the People’s Choice, Student, is a \$50 Pizza Parlor gift card.

Winners will be announced at the “Welcome Back” reception to be held in the gallery prior to the performance of “Our Town,” Friday, April 28.

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## Treasures Are Fine on May 6

Anxious to get out? Drive the roads of northwest Itasca County and search for bargains at the annual Treasures Are Fine garage sales.

Shoppers can travel a 60 mile loop hunting for that special buy. The garage sale route includes county roads 6, 4, 29 traveling through Bowstring, Talmoon, Spring Lake, Wirt, Dora Lake, Squaw Lake and Sand Lake. The route can be accessed from each direction: Deer River, Bigfork, Blackduck and Northome.

The sale has a map, available before May 1 on Facebook @treasures6429 group page which shows locations of registered sales and some of the big items shoppers can find, like furniture, vehicles, lawn items and more. Of course, there are household, collectibles, tools and crafts for sale, too.

And food. As well as local syrup, jam and baked goods, shoppers can find huge sweet rolls, lunchtime meals and snacks at halls, stores and resorts along the route.

The sale is rain or shine, one day only from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. There are halls with multifamily sales along the route.

Thank you to the 2023 major sponsor, Paul Bunyan Communications. Other sponsors are Alex Bloch at Edge of the Wilderness Realty, Barney's Resort, Woods Reader magazine, Cheryl Gentry/Kitterman Family, Sure Game Resort, Spring Lake Store, Edgewater Resort, Max Mini Store, Little Turtle Lake Store, Riley's Fine Foods, Bigfork Improvement and Fish Tales Restaurant.

## The City of Bigfork must own school project for bonding

by Sally Sedgwick

At its March 21 meeting, the Bigfork City Council heard that ISD318 was recently informed by the state that to receive any state bonding for the community/school construction project scheduled for this summer, the city would have to own the new facility for 20 years with a lease to the school district. Local contributions have been about \$1.065 million of the \$2.9 million project total, said Community Coordinator Tim Johnson. If bonding was not received, a concern was that the school district could change the scope of the project. The school board meeting will be in Bigfork on Monday, March 27.

In other business, the council granted permission to the Bigfork 5th grade class for a pre-Memorial Day Parade on Friday, May 26 starting at the Cenex at 1 p.m. and traveling south on Highway 38.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. It was noted that the May meeting, previously scheduled at the Edge Center, would meet at the usual time and place; May 9 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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

## St. Urho's Day parade



A large crowd - some in purple and green - came to Squaw Lake for the annual St. Urho's Day celebration at Leino's Pub. A half dozen floats crossed the river bridge as part of the parade.



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## Tax-Aide available through 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.

## Comments sought on state highway investment plan

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is updating the 20-Year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan and we are looking for your feedback! During the first round of public engagement for the plan, Minnesota state highway users provided their priorities for spending on the state highway system over the next 20 years. MnDOT used that information to develop a draft investment direction that will guide future investment decisions to maintain and improve the state highway system.

Through early May, we'll be connecting with Minnesotans to get feedback on the draft state highway investment direction and identify what types of improvements to fund if additional revenue is available.

Explore our interactive investment budgeting tool at [www.minnesotago.org/investment/](http://www.minnesotago.org/investment/) and tell us how you'd budget additional state highway revenue and give feedback on the draft investment direction Questions?

If you have specific questions about the plan update, please contact:

Brad Utecht  
Project Director  
651-366-4835  
Bradley.Utecht@state.mn.us

Kathryn Engelhardt  
Principal Planner  
651-366-3867  
Kathryn.Engelhardt@state.mn.us

## Children's Author Mary

### Casanova in Grand Rapids

The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present UP NORTH! A Writer's Journey with Author Mary Casanova, a free program being offered at the Grand Rapids Area Library on Tuesday, April 25 at 6 p.m.

Straight out of college, Mary Casanova and her husband followed their dream to live "up north." Forty years and 40 books later, Mary's love of woods, water, and wilderness permeates her wide range of work.

With heart and humor, Mary Casanova entertains and educates as she shares her writing process, including where ideas come from, overcoming writer's block, doing the research, drawing on the five senses, mining personal experience, and creating strong beginnings. Program length is 60 minutes and is recommended for all ages!

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH). To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see the calendar at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info) or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alslibinfo](http://www.facebook.com/alslibinfo).

## Community Cafe in Deer River

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

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

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

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

## Community Education

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

TIME TO MAKE A SPRING UMBRELLA!

Date: Thurs., April 20

Time: 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Bigfork School Art Room

Cost: Free

Ages 6-15. Register by April 15.

**Grand Rapids:** Register for classes online at [getlearning.org](http://getlearning.org).

CHILDREN'S FAIR

Date: Sat., April 29

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

Location: Grand Rapids High School

Cost: Free

All ages. Ninja Warrior Course, hands-on tours of BIG vehicles, music, fantastic door prizes. More info at (218) 327-5730.

## AARP Smart Driver Course

The AARP Smart Driver course is the nation's first course specifically designed for drivers age 55 and older. Drivers will benefit from a 10 percent discount on their auto insurance premium upon completing the course. Drivers learn how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time.

Course is held at the Senior Center, King Elementary School, 500 SE 5th St., Deer River,. To register, call 218-246-8241, ext: 60227.

Monday, April 24: 4-8 p.m.

Cost for the class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. Please arrive 15 minutes early for registration paperwork.

In addition, the on-line class option continues to be available at [www.aarpdriversafety.org](http://www.aarpdriversafety.org).

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

## area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: April 18; May 9, 30

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: April 20; May 11

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: April 17; May 8

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*

### Northome Food Shelf

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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.

### Resource Centers:

Blackduck:  
(218) 835-5768

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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

Northome:  
(218) 897-5952

# Community News

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

## ~ April Calendar ~

### Bigfork

This year the Bigfork Empty Bowls event is making a change; this year it will be a French Toast/Pancake breakfast, “eat in” or “take out” at Bigfork City Hall. It is the only fundraiser for the Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf each year. In 2022, 604 households used the food shelf for a wide range of food and household items. “Throughout all the challenges the pandemic threw at us,” explained Lynne Schleicher in an article in last month’s WATTS News, “the wonderful volunteers that give their time to help our neighbors, figured out a way to stay open every week.”

### Suomi

Save the Date! The annual Suomi Church Auction will be Friday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. It’s a fun auction in the church basement to raise funds for the church. This year part of the funds will go to earthquake relief.

### 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 [scottbraiedy@outlook.com](mailto:scottbraiedy@outlook.com). Note: This is a corrected email address.

### General Interest

April online Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Programs include turkey calling (April 5), public easements for trout fishing (April 12), peregrine falcons (April 19), coldwater trout hatcheries (April 26). Sign up at [dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach](http://dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach). Programs start at noon, last about an hour and feature experts in the field.



**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).

- 1-14 Edge Center Gallery photo contest “The Edge of the Wilderness Through the Eyes of Our Town.” Entry forms at Kocians, Timber Rose, Bigfork School office, Pizza Parlor and Edge Gallery.
- 3 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.
- 4 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 5 Blood drive at Northome School, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Schedule appointments with Monica Fontana at [mfontana@northome.k12.mn.us](mailto:mfontana@northome.k12.mn.us)
- 5 “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)
- 6 First Thursday “Practical Water Wisdom” online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. April 6 topic is “Decrease your water footprint and save money too!” Register at [itacawaters.org](http://itacawaters.org).
- 6-10 No school, Bigfork School, Easter Break
- 7-10 No school, Deer River, Northome, Blackduck schools, Easter Break
- 8 Easter Egg Hunt at the Effie Community Center for youngsters 12 and under.
- 9 Easter
- 10 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 10 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 10 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board, 7 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 11 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.
- 11 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 Classic Movies at The Edge Center, Bigfork. *The Sting* (1973) starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford, 6:30 p.m. Free. This is the last Classic Movie until September.
- 16 Empty Bowls hosts a French toast/pancake breakfast at Bigfork City Hall benefitting the North Itasca Emergency Food Shelf, 8-11 a.m. Freewill donation.
- 17 ISD 317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 17 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 (218) 327-5704.

21 Order deadline for Native Plant Sale through the Itasca County Soil and Water District. Order form and plant information online at [itascaswcd.org](http://itascaswcd.org). Plant pick-up dates are May 18, 19 at the SWCD offices at 1895 U.S. Hwy 2.

21 Application deadline for North Itasca Electric Scholarships. Open to high school seniors whose parents are co-op members. Application at [www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2731](http://www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2731)

22 Bigfork Family Fun Fest, 11 a.m.-3p.m. at the school. Carnival games, bingo, silent auction.

22 “Under the Stars,” 9th annual Gala benefitting the Health Career Scholarship Fund at Forward Health Foundation, Morse Town Hall, 4:30 – 10 p.m. Dinner, live auction, live music. Tickets \$75 at Daylily Gifts or call (218) 246-4212 for information.

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

27-30 EdgeWild Players present Our Town by Thornton Wilder at the Edge Center, Bigfork. April 27-29. 6:30 p.m.; April 30, 2 p.m.

28 Arbor Day

## Area Church Directory

**Alvwood 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 Stephanie Kessler, Itasca Waters Advisory Board Member

Would you like to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations? If so, then Itasca Waters has the series for you. The “Practical Water Wisdom: A Virtual Learning Series” runs for an hour beginning at noon on the first Thursday

of each month. It is free, online, open to all, and includes an interactive Q&A session.

The April 6 program was titled “Decrease your water footprint and save money too” presented by Dr. Afton Clarke-Sather, Associate Professor of Geography at UMD. He is a human-environment geographer who has studied water use and water policy for over 15 years. Afton talked about water footprints and how our daily choices impact water usage, since much of our water use goes to growing the food we eat and making the things we buy.

You may have heard some staggering statistics on how much water it takes to make certain products.

For example, a smartphone takes 3,900 gallons; a t-shirt takes 660 gallons; a diaper takes 200 gallons; a hamburger takes 660 gallons; and a large chocolate bar takes 450 gallons. Those are all shocking, but it comes down to daily choices having the biggest impact on reducing a water footprint. We may not be using water directly when we order food at the drive-through, but the water it takes to produce the food, the packaging and the delivery of all those products is surprising. The first step in reducing water usage is to assess and understand our current water usage, and everyone can do that.

A water footprint looks at water use at all levels, including how much water a person uses and how much water it takes to make a product. There are websites to calculate a water footprint, such as [watercalculator.org](http://watercalculator.org) and [waterfootprint.org](http://waterfootprint.org). A water footprint can be assessed at

to reduce our water use and therefore our water footprint, an efficient and cost saving way is to think about reusing products, consuming less, and buying fewer disposable and single-use products. In addition to the amount of water needed to produce disposable and single use items, they create an alarming amount of garbage. We have the power to change our behavior to make a positive impact on water’s use and waste. It just takes a shift in your mindset and an understanding of our choices affecting water on a large, global scale.

We hope through our Water Wisdom series you will be inspired each month to think about water in a new way. Registration for upcoming programs and recordings of the April 6 and past programs can be found online at [www.itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2023](http://www.itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2023). For more information contact [info@itascawaters.org](mailto:info@itascawaters.org).

The Practical Water Wisdom series is the brainchild of Itasca Waters, a nonprofit organization located in Itasca County whose mission is to ‘team up’ with other organizations and concerned citizens to maintain abundant, clean water for our continued health, enjoyment, and a strong economy. This series is supported by Itasca Waters’ members, Minnesota Sea Grant, Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, KAXE and Rapids Radio.

**Bob Ellies**  
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**Medical Clinics**

**Bigfork** 135 Pine Tree Dr. (218) 743-3232  
**Northome** 12052 Main St. (218) 897-5222  
**Big Falls** 410 Second St. NW (218) 276-2403

**Dental Clinic**

**Bigfork** 303 Main Ave. (218) 743-3600

[WWW.SCENICRIVERSHEALTH.ORG](http://WWW.SCENICRIVERSHEALTH.ORG)

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### Caramel Dumplings

In honor of Agnes Aakre, Rollag, MN.

#### Dumplings

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/3 cup sugar

#### Sauce

- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cup boiling water

Bring sauce to boil. Drop spoonfuls of dumpling batter into sauce. Simmer for 20 minutes without lifting cover on pot.

Serve warm with ice cream!

*A hit for a late-night teenager snack!*



### Oriental Casserole

Thank you to Jan Mackenthun for this April recipe!

- 1 lb. ground beef (preferably 85% or 93% lean)
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 cups diced celery
- 1 cup uncooked rice (I like brown rice.)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 can bean sprouts or fresh sprouts
- 1/4 cup cashews

In a large skillet, brown ground beef and drain off liquid. Add remaining ingredients except nuts. Pour into a 2 quart casserole and bake at 350° for 1 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally. Before serving, sprinkle with cashews. *Serves 8-10.*

*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).*

# CLASSIFIEDS

## AD DEADLINE

for the MAY issue: Weds., April 19

### -SERVICES-

**Bigfork Mini-Storage**  
*Many sizes  
 24 hour access.*  
 For rates/pricing, call  
 218-743-6566 Ext #202  
*Located off Hwy 14  
 just west of Hwy 38*  
 For immediate service,  
 call Keith at  
**612-240-2610**

**Gus's Auto and Recycling of Bigfork**  
 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

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

**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

### -SERVICES-

**Dahlke Forestry Services, LLC**  
 218-929-7228  
 DahlkeForestry@hotmail.com  
 DahlkeForestry.com  
 ✓ Storm Cleanup  
 ✓ Tree Removal  
 ✓ Trail Development  
 ✓ Habitat Improvement  
 ✓ Private Forest Mgmt.  
 ✓ Firewood processing

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 218-929-7228  
 DahlkeForestry@hotmail.com  
 DahlkeDumpsters.com  
 Flat rates on dumpster rentals!  
 Flexible rental times!  
 Great Customer Service!

### -WANTED-

*Wanted to buy:* A good 5' x 8' utility trailer with rear ramp. Please call in evening. (218) 743-3375  
 5/23

### -FREE-

*Free:* To a person who would benefit from a hospital bed. Call (218) 245-2530  
 5/23

### -FARM-

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

### -HELP 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

### -FOR SALE-

*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-

*For sale:* Full box poly salt/sander in good condition. Make me a reasonable offer. Call (218) 244-7349 5/23

### -WATER SPORTS- DOCKS, BOATS

*For sale:* Yamaha outboard motor. 8 hp, 4 stroke, short shaft, very clean. \$2,200. Call (612) 919-3678 5/23

*For sale:* 8x8 swimming dock with ladder. \$500 obo. Call (612) 919-3678 5/23

*For sale:* 32' steel dock; cedar plank with "L", bench and wheel system on the end. Cedar has been stored indoors during winter. NW corner of Bowstring Lake. \$1,250 obo. Call Brian (612) 408 9079 5/23

**Happy Easter!**  
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**Visit us during Treasures Are Fine garage sales Sat, May 6**

**Treasures Are Fine on 6, 4 and 29**  
 Garage sales in NW Itasca County  
**Saturday ♦ May 6 ♦ 2023**  
 Sign up by **April 15** to get on the map! (It's free!)  
 Use link at facebook.com/treasures6429  
 or email bowstringchapel@gmail.com

## NOTICE

### ASSESSMENT NOTICE – MARCELL TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.  
 This may affect your 2024 property taxes.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Marcell Township** shall meet on **4/20/2023 at 9:00 AM at the Marcell Town Hall**. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Thank you,  
 Marcell Township  
 218-832-3965 – marcell.township@yahoo.com

### 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 12th, 2023, 5:00 PM. 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  
 marcell.township@yahoo.com

### Notice of Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.  
 This may affect your 2024 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Ardenhurst Township shall meet on April 11, 2023 1:00 PM. Meeting place will be Ardenhurst Township Hall, 66733 State Highway 46, Northome, MN.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

### Town of Wirt NOTICE

#### Important Information Regarding Property Assessments This may affect your 2024 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Wirt Township** shall meet on **April 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Wirt Town Hall (Old Wirt School)**. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Cheryl A. Carrigan, Clerk  
 Wirt Twsp.

### 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.

## Rates, reliability, environmental stewardship

# Great River Energy delivers on its triple bottom line in 2022

North Itasca Electric's membership is a network of individuals, families, farmers and business owners like you who own part of the company that supplies electricity to your community.

Similarly, North Itasca Electric is a member of GRE. North Itasca Electric not only receives wholesale electricity from GRE but is also an owner.

Like all cooperatives, GRE strives to provide great, affordable service and meet the needs of its membership. Electricity is being produced in new ways and cooperative members are finding different ways to use that electricity in their homes and businesses.

GRE and its member-owners have adapted remarkably to both trends. They have taken important steps to meet members' energy needs today, tomorrow and long into the future while recording impressive financial and operational performance.

### Focused on the members

Cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations that operate at cost, only collecting enough revenue to run the business and meet their financial obligations. When a cooperative experiences financial success, it returns those dollars to members.

The past year was marked with periods of turbulence in the energy markets; however, GRE's resources performed well. In fact, strong financial results allowed GRE to issue a total of \$38 million in bill credits throughout the year. The cooperative also issued patronage capital payments to member-owners.

These cash returns came at a time when many electricity providers are experiencing increased cost pressures

due to supply chain challenges and inflation.

### Building for the future

GRE successfully concluded several significant projects over the past year that have the cooperative on track to maintain stable wholesale electric rates and reliable service while reducing its environmental impact.

GRE sold its largest coal-based power plant and the high-voltage, direct-current (HVDC) transmission system that delivered the plant's electricity to Minnesota. As part of the sale, GRE secured rights to interconnect a large renewable energy project to the HVDC system. The project will fulfill a significant portion of the renewable energy needs for GRE's power supply transition and deliver wind energy just west of the Twin Cities.

GRE has been adding wind resources for years, which has the cooperative on a trajectory to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80% by 2033, and it has done so cost-effectively.

### Transmission expansion underway

GRE is a partner on a critical high-voltage transmission project that will support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest as the regional electric system continues to evolve.

Known as the Northland Reliability Project, the 150-mile line between the Iron Range and central Minnesota is one of the transmission projects planned to invest in electric reliability as more low-cost renewable energy is brought online, existing power plants are retired, electrification continues to grow and extreme weather events become more frequent.

Subject to regulatory approvals, the

transmission line is estimated to be in service by 2030.

### Grid remains stable amid weather extremes

Extreme weather in the summer and winter posed a challenge to the electric grid, but GRE's system performed well thanks to its experienced team and the ability to reduce electric demand at critical moments.

The summer of 2022 will go down as the longest on record as temperatures reached 70 degrees or higher for 118 consecutive days. On several occasions, GRE deployed "demand response" resources, which strategically reduce electricity use to maintain the health of the grid and avoid high power market prices.

This is all part of the cooperative's strategy to use the grid efficiently and economically by reducing demand during periods of high stress — such as hot-weather days — and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

Members have voluntarily enrolled more than 370,000 appliances, irrigation systems, and other devices into the demand response programs offered by GRE and its member-owner cooperatives making it the nation's largest demand response program per peak load. By participating, member-consumers grant GRE permission 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 or other incentive.

By calling on its demand response resources last summer, GRE reduced hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand and avoided making costly

market purchases — ultimately saving members upwards of \$2.5 million.

### Ethanol business sold

A biofuels enterprise where GRE was the majority owner was sold in 2022 for the benefit of the membership.

GRE's ownership of Midwest AgEnergy served its members well for many years. After the sale of Coal Creek Station, however, the cooperative had less of a strategic interest in ethanol biorefineries.

### Serving members responsibly

Cooperatives take pride in being good neighbors in the communities where they serve and operate facilities as well as doing what's right for their employees.

GRE was again certified as a Great Place to Work in 2022, an honor given to companies whose employees report a positive working experience. Nearly 90% of employees said GRE is a great place to work — that's 31 points higher than the average U.S. company. The cooperative also earned the title of "Healthiest Employer" after achieving a very high ranking among midsize Minnesota employers.

GRE provides charitable contributions to nonprofits, operates scholarship programs and sponsors events that bring people together. The cooperative also works with its member-owners to attract and retain business activity and jobs where its members live.

Through wholesale electric service and community programs, GRE strives to support its member-owners, contribute to sustainable communities and deliver on its mission to provide affordable, reliable energy in harmony with a sustainable environment.



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