



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

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**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL. 26 NO. 7

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JULY 2023



Brad Dolinski, CEO

Remarks at the annual meeting:

Thank you for coming to the annual meeting today. Thank you to the community of Northome for hosting us! Thanks to Shining Light Café for providing us a little treat

CEO Report

after the meeting is done. I want to recognize several people.

Our operations department, thank you for the safety presentation, I hope you all learned something about the system these fine gentlemen manage on our behalf. Also, thank you for your commitment to safety and maintaining the lines that keep our lights on. These guys lace their boots up everyday for all of us, no matter the

weather or conditions they will face.

Our office professionals, thank you for your caring professionalism, hard work and commitment to the members we serve. This group works extremely hard every day on our behalf, they take on every task for the benefit of our cooperative. There is never a down time between month ends, year ends, yearly reporting, CEO to p.2>



Cooperative bucket trucks displaying American flags welcome Members to the annual meeting at the Koochiching County Fairgrounds in Northome.

Deer River to Jessie Lake 69-kV transmission line rebuild and reroute

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to North-Itasca Electric Cooperative and Lake Country Power, is proposing to rebuild and relocate 19 miles of its 69 kV transmission line between Deer River and Jessie Lake.

Since the mid-1950s, this line has served as North Itasca Electric Cooperative's primary power source, but due to its age and condition, can no longer provide adequate and reliable power delivery. Rebuilding the transmission line using modern construction standards will enhance the area's

power supply and provide for future growth, lightning protection, improved year-round maintenance and emergency access, and diminish environmental disturbance.

The 19-mile route generally follows the Minnesota Highway 6 corridor. The rerouted areas will greatly improve access for line repair and maintenance. Landowners along the corridor received this project information by mail.

In mid-July, an Open House will be held by Great River Energy to provide an opportunity to review the project's

details and encourage landowner input. Open house information will be mailed directly to landowners. The meeting notice and project details will also be posted at greatriverenergy.com/deerriver and on the North Itasca Electric's website <https://northitascaelectric.com/>

Project questions may be directed to Dale Aukee, Great River Energy senior field representative, at (612) 840-4019 or by email to daukee@grenergy.com.

See page 7 for a map of the project.

Battery storage, the next innovation

It has been coming and has now arrived, "battery backup systems" for both power outages and demand response programs.

Briggs and Stratton along with their generators have taken on an additional line of products called "Simpliphi" which is a fully integrated battery storage system for power outages which can also be used for demand response programs. These batteries can supply energy needs during shorter power outages without dragging out a portable generator. The amount of time they will sustain your energy needs depends on the amount of energy consumed and the number of batteries you have in place. This applies

also when using them on a demand response program. North Itasca Electric Cooperative can now get these battery systems through Star Energy Services where we also get the whole-house generators we currently sell.

These battery systems come in either AC or DC coupled with a 6-kW Hybrid inverter.

Different configuration options are available and can be interconnected with each other if desired to increase capacity. Option One comes having (1) 6 kWh inverter with 2 to 5, 4.98 kWh batteries (9.96 – 24.90 kWh). Option Two comes with (2) 6 kWh inverters with 4 to 6, 4.98 kWh batteries (19.92 – 29.88 kWh). Option Three

(3) 6 kWh inverters and 6-8, 4.98 kWh batteries (29.88 – 39.84 kWh). Or you can build your own system.

These batteries can also be connected to a solar array, generator, or your home's electrical system for recharging. Currently, we are looking into a cheaper way of charging them.

With North Itasca Electric having storage programs, why not recharge them at our storage rate of \$0.058 kWh? Energy is the cheapest during the nighttime hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. which is plenty of time to restore them to full charge again. It is estimated that these batteries can be charged in 2 hours. With a fully

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Visit your co-op at NorthItascaElectric.com

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday
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CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1
audits... This small group is on their A game...always!

Our Board of Directors and Andrew, our attorney. Thank you for your service to the members and communities we serve. These directors are well informed, studied and prepared for the business at hand. Our directors spend hours training locally and nationally to oversee our investment. Thank you for your professionalism and commitment.

2022 was a challenging year for North Itasca Electric but through the hard work of all these employees and directors mentioned, it was a good year for the cooperative. Storms showed up early in the year. In the end of May we had two major events; it seemed these storms were very focused

on the Jesse Lake area of our system. We sustained a substantial amount of damage to that one substation and the lines nearby.

Our operations department had to be creative to correct the issues in the short term. We had several temporary fixes on the system while we waited for parts to correct the issue. We reached out to our friends at Minnkota Power, and they were able to help us out with some equipment to get things close to normal.

Now we had to make some bigger decisions: our substation transformer was damaged in the storms. These transformers cost over a half million dollars today. We have been working with Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management since the storms happened.

We will be working with HSEM to provide funding for that event. The storm and damage was big enough to be declared by the Minnesota governor. Roughly 70% of that transformer will be paid for by HSEM. This is good news for all North Itasca Electric.

After the storms let up for the summer we got back to somewhat normal business. We did have higher expenses in 2022 due to the weather and outages sustained throughout the year. Overall, we had a good year in 2022.

The board made the decision to hold the PCA (power cost adjustment) rather than passing it on in 2022. There were times in the year I was very nervous about the PCA. The accounts were growing, and we were going to have to come to you with some potentially bad news. Thankfully, things turned around at Gret River Energy. We ended up with a credit in the PCA account at the end of 2022. Now we are using these dollars to offset future charges that can come from GRE on our power bill.

We ended the year with enough margins to meet all our lender's requirements. In November I was faced with another bit of hard news; our budget wouldn't meet these same standards in 2023. We had a roughly 6% increase in our GRE power costs coming into 2023. Additionally, costs of materials and business expenses have been increasing substantially over the past few years. I was forced to suggest a rate increase for the first time since 2018.

For many years we have enjoyed sustained flat rates or modest increases when necessary. My concerns are this is not guaranteed in the future. We have material costs and business expenses rising rapidly. Additionally, we have new rules and regulations that we must abide by.

In the 2023 Legislative Session 100% carbon free was signed into law. I am not turning this article into a political debate. I am not talking about anyone or a group of legislators. I only want to discuss what the changes are for North Itasca Electric and my concerns. I also want to be clear, there are supporters

and non-supporters of this bill and I respect that.

What does the 100% carbon-free bill require?

- 60% carbon free by 2030 (cooperatives and municipals)
- 90% by 2035
- 100% by 2040

Increase in existing renewable energy standards: 55% of energy in Minnesota must be from renewable sources by 2035. Currently we are at 30% renewable, ahead of 20% by 2025. The goal post moved on the renewable standard.

There are several concerns voiced about the new standard. Reliability, affordability and local control are some of the concerns voiced.

Reliability concerns

We will have an increased reliance on variable resources. These are the resources that do not work when the wind isn't blowing, or the sun is blocked by clouds or nighttime. Also, winter snow loads can hinder solar panel performance. Midcontinent Independent System Operator and North American Electric Reliability Corporation issued warnings in


December of 2022 of energy shortfalls. MISO studies also show the grid becomes exponentially unreliable when the grid exceeds 40% renewable. On January 31st of 2023 at 5:55 a.m. the grid was supported by 69% coal and natural gas, 14% nuclear, 14% wind and 4% other (think hydro). Solar was 0%, it's dark out at 5:55 a.m.

Affordability

This effort will be immense. WE must build new infrastructure to replace the coal and natural gas resources mentioned above. Also, we must overbuild these resources. What happens when the wind isn't blowing in a region? You are not going to accept rolling blackouts. We will need enough power producing equipment to be geographically spread apart to provide for everyone's needs 100% of the time. Additionally, resources that are still being used will be retired early, there is still depreciation owed on these plants. That depreciation does not go away, we still need to pay that to zero.

CEO to p.3>

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WATTS NEWS

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Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 25, 2023

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 11:50 a.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on May 25, 2023.

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

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

Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:00 a.m.

- o Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- o A motion was made to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A safety discussion was held. Brad wanted to stress the importance of protecting yourself against ticks this time of year. There are lots of ticks in the area right now. Also be aware of your surroundings in regard to poison ivy and other noxious weeds.
- o Brad shared the Audit Proposal from Brady Martz for extending the contract for 3 more years. A motion was made to accept the proposal to extend the contract by three years to 2025. Seconded, discussion was held, motion carried.
- o Tina reviewed the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports as they were presented. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Legal Update: Reviewed Board Policy 300.10 Rates. A motion was made to show the policy was reviewed with no changes at this time. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Bylaw Article 7 was reviewed.
- o Brad gave the CEO report. There was great discussion amongst the 7 members of the MREA communication group.
- o Daryl gave the Line Department report. The crew has started installing new services. Lovdahl has started ROW clearing. Work began relocating equipment on County Road 52. No issues with materials currently, the costs are still high. There was a slight uptick in outages, more animal issues and trees that let loose from soft ground and snow load.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report. Ripple controller changes are complete and under budget.
- o Tina gave the Office Department report. Patronage has been verified; work will begin to verify allocations next. July statements will have the allocations on them.
- o MREA District Meetings will be in Cohasset on July 14 from 9:00 to 12:30. A motion was made to approve travel & expenses for directors to attend the meeting. Seconded; motion carried.
- o W. Waller gave the MREA report.
- o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

CEO Report (continued)

>from p.2
Many want to see us shift to more electrification. This would, in a perfect world, reduce pollution and reliance on fossil fuels. This increased demand on the grid will drive costs up when we must build new wind and solar resources. This is simply a supply and demand debate that is complicated when you've already heard that MISO expects energy shortages soon. Contracts for new resources have already been increasing in cost since the legislation was signed.

Local Control

You heard me thank our directors at the beginning of this speech. You elect your friends and neighbors to represent you and your interests at the cooperative – this business model has worked for the last 80 years. With the new legislation, we must go before the Public Utility Commission for any potential off ramps. The PUC is a 5-person commission appointed by the governor in St. Paul. Our Board of Directors have been making these decisions in our best interest for over 80 years. The potential off-ramps are limited to reliability and cost. Exactly the concerns we have with the new legislation.

Now I don't want to be all doom and gloom. Great River Energy and Minnkota are some of

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.

the G&T's of the state that will have to figure this out on our behalf. GRE recently filed their integrated resource plan on March 31st. This was the first plan to be filed after the 100% carbon free initiative was passed.

GRE's portfolio of renewable resources combined with the ability to retire renewable energy credits (RECs) to satisfy the carbon-free standard puts GRE in strong position to achieve the standard. Great River Energy anticipates that by 2035 its retail electric sales will be provided by a 90% carbon-free power supply in alignment with the Minnesota carbon-free standard, and its power supply will be 90% decarbonized from 2005 levels.

Regardless of the hurdles faced now and into the future, I am confident we'll be fine. We have over 80 years of history of overcoming some of the most daunting challenges.

Our employees, Board of Directors, and myself are here to serve you, the communities that built us all those years ago. We will stand together with you and our fellow cooperatives to overcome and be the beacon of light we were created to be.

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Battery storage systems

>from p.1

depleted 4.98 kWh battery charged at the storage rate, it would cost you \$0.29 per battery. For an 18-kW system with (8) 4.98 kWh batteries needing a full charge the cost of charging them would be \$2.31.

In a study done by Meeker Cooperative, the results showed that an average home consumed roughly 1.5 kWh per hour. I also looked at North Itasca Electric's members' average usage, and it is very similar. With the smallest 6 kW inverter systems having (2) 4.98 kWh batteries (9.96 kWh), the batteries would carry the home for 6 hours in the event of a power outage if the average 1.5 kWh is maintained. Homes having 12 or 18 kWh inverters would have more batteries which would increase storage capacities and extend the number of hours available during outages.

When investigating the various advantages of charging these batteries on North Itasca Electric's storage rate, I found several that are enticing to me. Some of these include:

- Batteries are recharged during nighttime hours when energy is the cheapest and the savings are passed on to the members.
- Electricity at the meter is 100% efficient, not so with renewables.
- No generator noise when running or propane expenses.
- No maintenance expense.
- The wind does not always blow, or the sun does not always shine to receive energy.
- Can be used to avoid higher general service rates when desired.

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• Can be used to avoid demand charges billed to North Itasca Electric each month.

• Much less expensive and dependable than wind or solar and yet, since all energy purchased has a portion of renewables in it, one is still recharging them with renewable energy.

What are the costs?

Option One (one inverter 6 KW)

9.98 kWh system \$15,274.80

14.94 kWh system \$21,196.80

19.92 kWh system \$27,118.80

24.90 kWh system \$33,044.40

Option Two (two inverters 12 KW)

19.92 kWh system \$30,547.20

24.90 kWh system \$36,470.40

29.88 kWh system \$42,394.80

Option three (three invertors 18 kW)

29.88 kWh system \$45,819.60

39.84 kWh system \$57,666.00

(Shipping and installation costs not included.)

The cost of these battery systems might sound high (and they are) but let's look at some scenarios. First ask yourself, how much energy do I need during an outage? What length of time do I feel comfortable with being out of power before it is restored? If you can get by with the average 1.5 kWh mentioned earlier and an outage lasting 6-hours, Option One with a 9.98 kWh system may be just the ticket. If the outage occurs during nighttime hours, you will still have power. Not so with a solar array, you would be out of luck until the sun starts shining again unless you have batteries as well. With many solar systems being 4-9 kW and only reaching their peak potentials when the sun is directly overhead, you may find yourself short of power.

If you are interested in solar systems and price them out, you will find the cost of them being much higher than that of the batteries shown above. Yes, you will hear of solar tax credits available, but the same is true for storage battery systems which also includes the total cost of installation.

What excites me the most about battery storage is the potential of using them for demand response programs during North Itasca Electric's billing peaks. When Great River Energy calls for a load control period and the home switches over to battery power for energy, North Itasca Electric can avoid charges for demand each month.

There are currently programs available for commercial accounts curtailing their loads during peak periods by using generators to avoid these peak periods and why couldn't the same work for residential, but instead of generators, using batteries? Generators are used on commercial accounts because of the higher loads, but for smaller residential loads, batteries would work fine. Briggs and Stratton have generators available for higher load demand response programs, and the principle should be the same for residential battery storage as well.

I'll keep you posted.

Figuring your energy costs

by Jerry Loney appliance consumes? All

When one desires appliances have what to reduce their energy are called plaque cards. costs, the first step is This plaque card shows understanding energy and the amount of energy it the appliances consuming consumes in watts if left on for one continuous hour. But you only used use energy in the form of your new 91-watt LED watts per hour. Appliance consumption varies television for 40 minutes. depending on the amount Simple math: 91 watts of work the appliance does. divided by 60 minutes times 40 minutes = 60.6

Some appliances have varying settings enabling it to change the amount of work performed. For example, electric space heaters and dehumidifiers may have a low, medium and high setting. The low setting may consume 500 watts per hour, medium 1,000 and on high 1,500 watts. Since one watt produces 3.412 Btus, multiplying that by the setting will give you the amount of heat a space heater will deliver.

There are appliances that do not have settings to adjust the amount of work performed such as electronic equipment, non-variable speed motors, heat tape, etc. A television is another example of this. Newer LED televisions are now as low as 91 watts per hour.

How does one know the amount of energy an appliance consumes? All appliances have what are called plaque cards. This plaque card shows the amount of energy it consumes in watts if left on for one continuous hour. But you only used your new 91-watt LED television for 40 minutes. Simple math: 91 watts divided by 60 minutes = 60.6 watts.

Finding the amount of energy consumed may be good, but do you want to know what it costs you in dollars and cents? Since energy is billed in kWh (kilowatt hours), kilo meaning 1,000, divide the 60.6 watts you figured your television used by 1,000 (.0606 kWh). By knowing your electric rate, currently \$0.1288 per kWh, the 40 minutes of use cost you \$0.0078 cents.

Performing the same calculations using a space heater set on high (1,500 watts), on the general service rate of \$0.1288, it would cost you \$0.19 per hour.

I hope this helps you understand energy consumption and costs a little better and you can apply it to those energy questions you may have.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy

Emergency conservation appeal The electric connection you may not know about

As a member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, may be required in a grid emergency to ask its member-owners, including North Itasca Electric Cooperative, to issue an Emergency Conservation Appeal – an urgent appeal to the public to conserve energy to help restore balance to the grid. These situations are rare, but are part of MISO's emergency operating procedures.

Our role

An Emergency Conservation Appeal requires us to issue a special message alert through our website or social media channels, or by issuing public service announcements, asking our co-op members to reduce their electricity usage for a specific period of time.

Communications tools

If Great River Energy asks us to make an Emergency Conservation Appeal, they will provide us with messaging to share. Here is a sample. Social media posts and graphics are available on the Member Owner website. Great River Energy will reimburse us for any costs we incur for radio time, etc. However, many radio stations will air the appeals for free as public service announcements.

SAMPLE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Electric cooperatives ask members to do their part to conserve energy today.

The heat wave we are experiencing is putting stress on the electric grid. This has prompted the operator of the electric transmission system in our region to issue a maximum generation emergency event. North Itasca Electric is asking its members to do their part to manage this emergency and conserve electricity. Please cut back energy use until 10 p.m. today. North Itasca Electric said the conservation appeal is being made only after all other efforts to reduce electricity demand or to increase supply were implemented:

Additional information may be included:

Energy-saving suggestions:

- Postponing use of appliances such as washers, dryers and dishwashers until after 10 p.m.
- Turning off lights and appliances that are not essential to health and safety.
- Turning off computers and other electrical equipment when not in use.
- Keeping your shades pulled and doors and windows closed during the day.
- Using a microwave oven instead of a conventional electric oven or gas stove.
- Setting the thermostat on your central air conditioner to 78 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- Supplementing air-conditioner use with ceiling fans and other fans, which create a wind-chill effect that increases air-conditioning cooling efficiency.
- Taking shorter showers.

Each day we live with electricity at our fingertips, rarely thinking about the complex system that brings it to our homes, farms and businesses. The electric grid is all around us, made up of power plants, wind turbines, power lines, substations and communications technology owned and operated by different utilities that all have one common goal: to keep electricity reliable and affordable.

While most cooperative members know North Itasca Electric Cooperative receives wholesale power from a generation and transmission cooperative called Great River Energy, there is another organization, equally important but lesser known: the region's grid operator.

Our wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, is a voluntary member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which operates the power grid across 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. MISO helps the region's electric providers deliver reliable, affordable energy in three ways:

It acts as 'air traffic controller'

Forty-two million people depend on MISO every day. Think of MISO

as the air traffic controller to the region's electric grid. Using sophisticated technology, processes and procedures, MISO maintains a broad view and control of the grid that goes beyond any one utility. This helps utilities

maintain reliability on a regional level and prevent emergency operating situations.

It manages the energy market

In past decades, electric cooperatives would generate power and deliver it via power lines to their members. Coordinating the power flows and transactions at that time was a manual process requiring many agreements between utilities. Today, all electricity generation is offered into the MISO market and cooperatives buy back what they need to serve their member-consumers. The MISO energy market helps keep electricity affordable by ensuring the lowest cost generation available is used first to supply member-consumers and minimize flow constraints across the grid. MISO also provides improved price transparency with energy market price changes occurring every five minutes.

It plans transmission

Maintaining a reliable high-voltage transmission system requires ongoing planning efforts. Utilities conduct their own transmission planning and they collaborate with MISO, which plans the transmis-

mission, generation and the energy on the system. Using advanced modeling and research, MISO helps ensure reliable and efficient electricity transmission in the region and beyond.

Great River Energy works closely with MISO to make sure when it designs a plan for the region's electric system, it will serve cooperative members well in terms of both reliability and affordability.

Visit misoenergy.org to learn more about MISO.

MISO tracks energy market price changes every five minutes.

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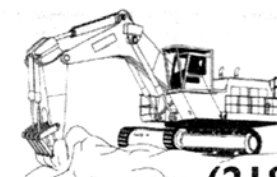
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There is an on-line bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with North Itasca Electric, but it is not. Doxo.com allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. There may be extra fees, however, and North Itasca Electric cannot control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

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Are you prepared for a storm?

Do you have the essentials needed in the event your power is lost? It is a good idea to have an emergency kit made up to ease the inconvenience until power is restored. To help you in determining an emergency kit right for you, visit <https://www.weather.gov/owlie/emergencysupplieskit>.

There are other options available if you do not want to be without power during or after a storm. North Itasca Electric has

available whole house generators which will turn on automatically keeping your life uninterrupted. Another option is installing a Generlink Disconnect Switch where you, the homeowner, can plug in a portable generator providing you power until electrical service is restored.

If you are interested in either of these options give Jerry Loney a call at (218) 743-1313.

Hot weather can stress the electric grid, but co-ops have a plan

Minnesotans experience weather in extremes often on a recurring cycle — from deep freezes to big melts to heat waves — which means your local electric cooperative must be prepared year-round to keep electricity flowing to homes, farms, and businesses no matter what Mother Nature throws its way.

When temperatures drop as low as they did during the polar vortex earlier last year or reach heat index values as high as 100 degrees during the summer, North Itasca Electric Cooperative’s wholesale power provider Great River Energy deploys its demand response programs to cost-effectively meet members’ electrical demands.

More than 200,000 residents participate in programs that allow Great River Energy to cycle their air conditioner, water heater or some other load for a period of hours on high-demand days. Because of this, Great River Energy can control 15% of its peak load — or the equivalent of reducing electricity demand by more than 200,000 homes on a normal summer day.

“We are able to be very proactive in anticipation of extreme weather events and work closely with our members to ensure they are properly prepared,” said Josh Hebert, load management specialist at Great River Energy. “We depend on the flexibility of our programs and the membership to avoid paying higher market costs during times when demand for electricity is high. These programs also help avoid transmission and substation equipment from reaching thermal limits during extreme heat.”

In addition to these programs, Great River Energy owns and operates a fleet of natural gas peaking stations across Minnesota that generally run only on the hottest and coldest days of the year. These plants can start up in a matter of minutes to add electricity quickly and dependably to the grid when needed. Most of the cooperative’s peaking plants are “dual fuel” facilities, meaning they can operate on fuel oil when demand for natural gas is heightened.

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Rebates available in 2023

Appliances

- Dehumidifier - \$25.00
Must be Energy Star listed
- Dryer - \$25.00
Must be Energy Star listed
- Refrigerator or freezer harvest - \$75.00
When removing an older unwanted working refrigerator or freezer from the distribution grid.
- Refrigerator (New construction) - \$0.00
No rebates for new construction. There is no energy savings when installing an additional appliance to the distribution grid.
- Refrigerator or freezer w/ recycling - \$75.00
When replacing an older less efficient working refrigerator or freezer and recycling it.

Heat Pump

Water Heaters

- 50 gallon or 80 gallon - \$500.00
- ECM Motors for a hot water recycling pump - \$50.00

HVAC

- AC tune up - \$25.00
When tuning up your existing air conditioning equipment.
- WIFI thermostat - \$25.00

- ECM motors - \$50.00
When replacing a standard motor with an energy efficient ECM motor.
- Ground Source Heat Pumps (Per Ton) - \$400.00
When installing new or replacing older equipment up to 5 Tons.
- NOTE: Air Source Heat Pump rebates now require a Quality Installation (QI) contractor. QI Contractors will submit rebate form to North Itasca Electric Cooperative when installations are complete.

- Central Air Source Heat Pumps - \$500.00
With a HSPF ratings of 8.2 - \$500.00
With an HSPF ratings of 9.0 or more - \$800.00
- Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps with primary heat being delivered fuels - \$300.00.
- Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps with primary heat being electric - \$500.00.

Lighting

- LED light bulbs - \$2.00 each.
With proof of purchase of LED light bulbs.
- LED Yard light - \$30.00
With proof of purchase of an LED yard light fixture.

Load Management

- ETS Water Heating - \$400.00
When installing a 100-gallon capacity water heater and placing it on North Itasca Electric’s storage water heating program.

Miscellaneous

- Engine block Heater time - \$5.00
With proof of purchase.

Pool programs

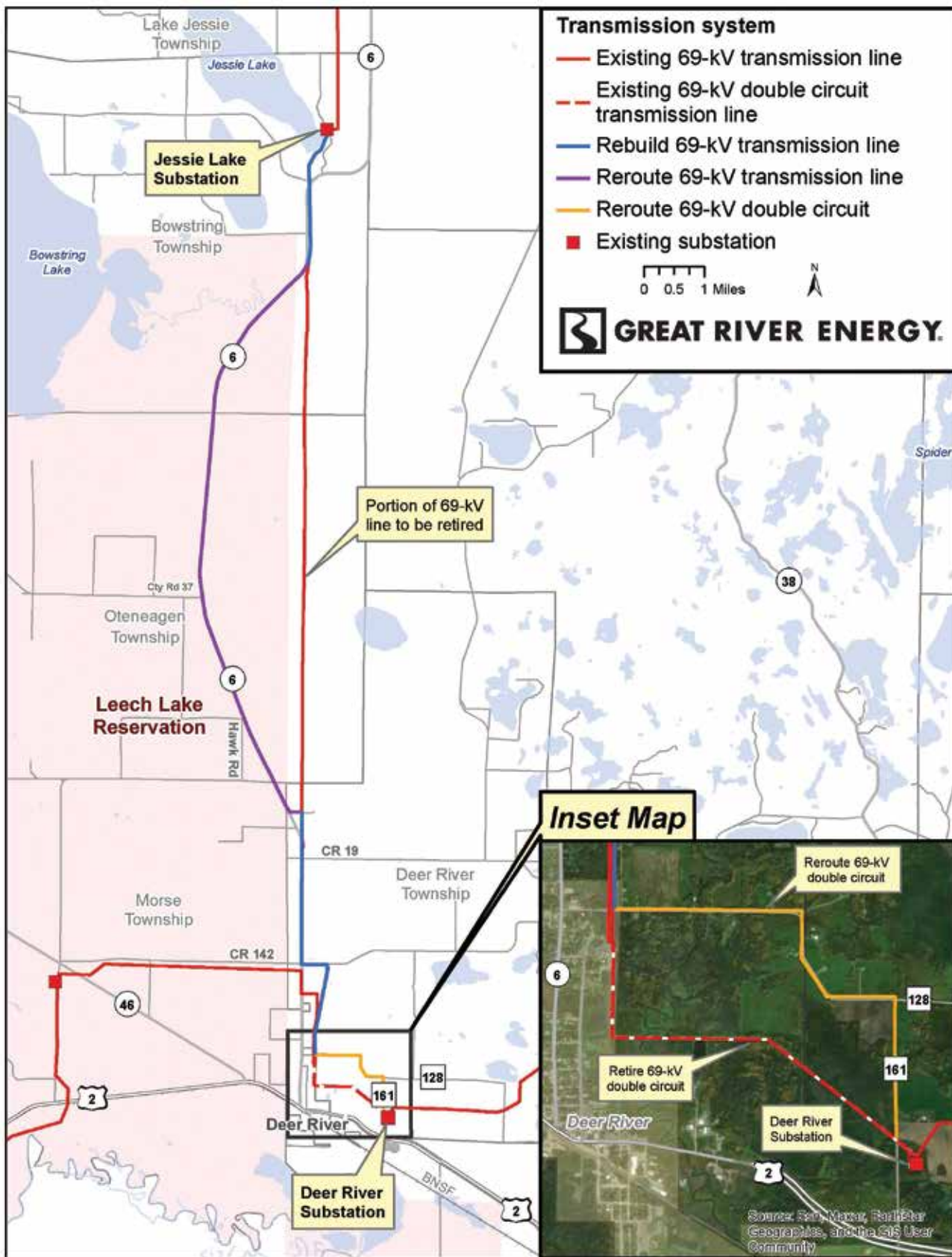
- Pool ASHP - \$400.00
When heating pool with a heat pump pool heater.
- Pool Variable Speed Pump - \$200.00
With proof of purchase.

Income Eligible members

- Appliance sales

Visit your cooperative online
www.NorthItascaElectric.com

Deer River to Jessie Lake 69-kV line reroute project



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 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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Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Saving Energy with Washers and Dryers

- Use cold water during the rinse cycle of your washer; this can save you around \$25 a year by not having to heat the water.
- Decide which wash cycle best fits how dirty your clothes are. Each cycle uses a different amount of time, so if your clothes are dirty try soaking them first, then use the setting for less time.
- Remember to adjust the water level with the number of clothes you put into the machine, so you don't have little clothes and a full washer of water. Lower settings use less water.
- Think about doing two small loads of like colors together to save time and energy.
- If you have a front load washer you are saving about 50% on energy, soap and water. Plus, they are a lot easier on your clothes.
- Don't overload the dryer, if you do it will take longer to dry the clothes, wasting energy and your clothes will come out wrinkled. If you have to iron them, you use more electricity!
- Clothes dryers use heated air and tumbling action to dry your clothes, if you don't keep the lint filter clean the dryer uses more energy because the dryer must work harder when the airflow is blocked.
- Dry one load right after the next to take advantage of the heat already in the dryer.

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Retiring soon? Let's talk.

Brad Johnson, AAMSTM
 Financial Advisor
 72 S.E. 7th Street Suite A
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
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MKT-5894N-A > edwardjones.com

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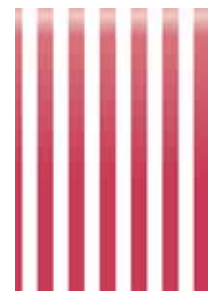
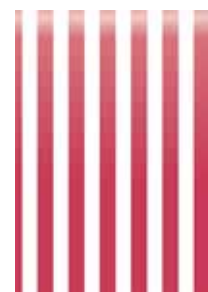
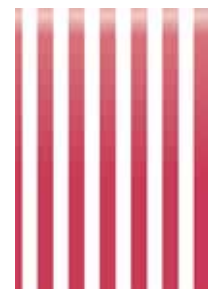
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LG WT7405CV \$897.10 SALE \$807.39

5.3 cu. ft. mega capacity 4-way agitator, turbo wash 3D technology, 6 motion technology, smart pairing, ThinQ® technology, proactive customer care, deep fill option, cold wash technology, never rust stainless steel tub, direct drive motor, 10-year limited warranty, ENERGY STAR® certified. 15 options: turbo wash, extra rinse, add garments, delay wash, control lock, deep fill, cold wash, rinse+spin, spin only, stain care, tub clean, signal, remote start, wi-fi, soak. 5 wash/rinse temps: hot, warm, semi warm, cold. 5 spin speeds: extra high, high, medium, low, no spin. Water levels automatically adjust to the size of the load. 3 soil levels, slam proof lid, true balance anti-vibration system, smart diagnosis, 3-tray dispenser, load sense status indicator(s), end of cycle signal, child lock, auto suds removal, forced drain system, add garment indicator, LoDecibel™ quiet operation, leveling legs.



LG DLE7400VE \$897.10 SALE \$807.39

7.3 cu. ft. ultra large capacity, easy load door, ThinQ® technology with proactive customer care, sensor dry, FlowSense™ duct clogging & lint filter indicators, ENERGY STAR® certified, aluminized alloy steel drum, LoDecibel™ quiet operation, smart diagnosis, reversible door, wrinkle care option. 8 programs: normal, heavy duty, bedding, delicates, perm press, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), downloaded (manual dry). 12 options: wrinkle care, custom program, child lock, more time, less time, signal, damp dry signal, energy saver, default on/off, wi-fi connect, remote start, temperature settings: high, med high, medium, low, ultra-low. Drying Levels: very dry, more dry, normal dry, less dry, damp dry, manual dry times 60, 50, 40, 30, 20 min, 3-minute installation check, LoDecibel™ quiet operation, end of cycle signal, drum light, reversible door, FlowSense™ duct clogging indicator, wrinkle care option, child lock, 4 way venting options.



Samsung WA50R5200AW \$746.30 SALE \$671.67

Large 5.0 cu. ft. active water jet, easy access, deep fill, Smart Care, VRT Plus™ technology, swirl + tub design, self-clean, soft-close lid, advanced cleaning technology to wash a full load of laundry in 36 minutes without sacrificing cleaning performance. 750 rpm maximum spin speed, direct drive motor, 10 preset washing cycles. 7 additional washing options, 5 temperature levels, LED display: ice blue. 10 preset washing cycles: normal, bedding / waterproof, heavy duty, permanent press, whites, delicates/hand wash, quick wash, self-clean, rinse and spin, spin only. 7 additional washing options: delay end, presoak, alarm off, child lock, fabric softener, deep fill, smart care. 5 temperature levels: hot, warmer, warm, cool, cold, 5 spin speeds: high, medium high, medium, low, no spin. 5 soil levels: heavy, medium heavy, normal, medium low, light.



Samsung DVE50R5200W \$763.80 SALE \$687.42

7.4 cu. ft. capacity, sensor dry to optimize time and temperature of dry cycle, Smart Care for quick and efficient resolutions to technical issues. 10 preset drying cycles: normal, heavy duty, permanent press, bedding, delicates, sanitize, time dry, air fluff, quick dry, wrinkle release. 9 additional drying options: damp alert, wrinkle prevent, adjust time (up), adjust time (down), child lock, alarm off, eco dry, smart care, drum light. 5 temperature levels: high, medium high, medium, medium low, low. 5 dry levels: more dry, normal-more dry, normal dry, normal-less dry, less dry. Interior drum light, powder coat interior, reversible door can be made left-hand or right-hand accessible, easy-to-read LED display, lint filter indicator, child lock for safety, 4-way venting.



LG WT7005CW \$751.50 SALE \$676.35

4.3 cu. ft. ultra large capacity fits up to 20 pounds in one load, Turbo drum, 4-way agitator moves clothes up & down and left & right, smart diagnosis feature allows you to trouble shoot over your smart phone app. Deep fill whenever you choose, cold wash without compromise, smooth stainless steel tub, self-balancing, 3 wash rinse temperatures, spin speed: high, med, low. Wash rinse temps: hot, warm, cold. Load sensing water levels, 3 soil levels, slam proof lid, 3-tray dispenser, static indicators, end of cycle signal, control lock, auto suds removal, forced drain system, add garment indicator, leveling legs.



LG WT7400CW \$983.45 SALE \$885.10

5.5 cu. ft. mega capacity, TurboWash3D technology, 6 Motion Technology, Smart Pairing & ThinQ Technology with proactive customer care. Download the ThinQ app to control your washer/dryer from virtually anywhere, anytime. Start cycles, check the time remaining, and more, right from your phone. With Smart Pairing, the washer can even tell the dryer to select a compatible drying cycle. Water plus option on any cycle, cold wash technology, never rust stainless drum. ENERGY STAR® certified. 15 options: turbo wash, extra rinse, add garments, delay wash, control lock, deep fill, cold wash, rinse+spin, spin only, stain care, tub clean, signal, remote start, wi-fi, soak. 5 wash/rinse temps: hot, warm, semi warm, cold. 5 spin speeds: extra high, high, medium, low, no spin. Water levels automatically adjust to the size of the load. 3 soil levels, slam proof lid, true balance anti-vibration system, smart diagnosis, 3-tray dispenser, load sense status indicator(s), end of cycle signal, child lock, auto suds removal, forced drain system, add garment indicator, LoDecibel™ quiet operation, leveling legs.



LG DLE7400WE \$983.45 SALE \$885.10

7.3 cu. ft. ultra large capacity, Easy load door, Smart pairing and ThinQ technology with proactive customer care, sensor dry, flow sense duct clogging and lint filtration indicators, Energy Star qualified. 8 programs: normal, heavy duty, bedding, delicates, perm press, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), downloaded (manual dry), 12 options: wrinkle care, custom program, child Lock, more time, less time, signal, damp dry signal, energy saver, default on/off, wi-fi connect, remote start, dual opening options with easy load door, flow sense duct clogging & lint filter indicators.





Samsung WA52A5500AW \$812.50 SALE \$731.25 less \$125 FOR DENT ON BACK \$606.25

5.2 cu. ft. washer, super speed wash in 28 minutes, wi-fi connectivity to control washer remotely, active waterjet for spot treating clothes. EZ access tub is shallower but still 5.2 cu. ft., Smart Care Technology to diagnose issues and troubleshoot from your phone. Vibration reduction technology, swirl + drum extracts more water from fabrics, soft close lid, Energy Star, internal heater, deep fill. 12 preset washing cycles: normal, bedding, waterproof, heavy duty, colors, whites, activewear, delicates, quick wash, self clean, rinse + spin, deep wash & downloaded, 55 downloadable washing cycles, 10 additional washing options, 5 temperature settings, 5 spin settings, 5 soil settings.



Samsung DVE52A5500W \$816 SALE \$734.40

7.4 cu. ft. dryer, wi-fi compatible, Steam Sanitize + eliminates 99.9% of germs and bacteria, sensor dry, clean guard uses antimicrobial technology to protect high touch areas of your dryer, vent sensor, Smart Care Technology, interior drum light, child lock, reversible door, lint filter indicator. 18 drying cycles. 10 options: damp alert, wrinkle prevent, adjust time up, adjust time down, alarm off, Eco dry, smart care, drum light, smart control. 5 temperature settings, 4-way venting. 12 preset drying cycles: refresh, steam sanitize+, normal, heavy duty, permanent press, bedding, delicates, activewear, time dry, air fluff, quick dry, downloaded.



Samsung WA50R5200AW \$837.79 SALE \$754.01

5. cu. ft. washer, active waterjet, EZ access tub design, deep fill, Energy Star rated, Smart Care Technology, VRT + technology, swirl + tub design, self clean cycle eliminates 99.9% germs and bacteria, soft close lid, 750 RPM spin speed. 10 preset wash cycles: normal, bedding, waterproof, heavy duty, whites, delicate hand wash, quick wash, self clean, rinse + spin, spin only. 7 additional washing options: presoak, steam clean, delay end, alarm off, child lock, smart care, spin only. 5 temperature levels: hot, warmer, warm, cool, cold.



LG DLE3600V \$1023.23 SALE \$920.91

7.4 cu. ft. front load dryer, Energy Star certified, sensor dry, Thin Q app allows you to control dryer from smart phone, flow sense indicator to avoid lint backup, closet depth design, LoDecibel™ quiet operation, reversible door, intelligent electronic controls with LED display, 10 drying programs: normal, heavy duty bedding, small load, perm press, delicates, towels, speed dry, (manual dry), air dry (manual dry) downloaded, 9 drying options: more time, less time, damp dry, signal, wrinkle care, control lock, wi-fi, remote start, signal. 5 temperature settings: high, medium high, medium, low, ultra-low, 5 drying levels: very dry, more dry, normal dry, less dry & damp dry. Compatible with Amazon Alexa and Google. 4-way venting.



Crosley CAW45125LW \$713.70 SALE \$642.33

4.5 cu. ft. washer, 12 wash cycles, stainless steel wash basket, 360 wash agitator, slow close glass lid, 5 water temperature settings, deep water option, auto load size sensing, instant water faucet.



Crosley CED7011LWO \$614.65 SALE \$553.18

7.0 cu. ft. dryer, moisture sensor, 11 cycles, 4 dryness levels, 4 temperature options, wide hamper door, automatic dry control, bright drum light, wrinkle prevent.



Crosley VED6505GW \$475.80 SALE \$428.22 1-only

6.5 cu. ft. dryer, 11 cycles, 2 temperatures, timed dry 60 minutes, auto dry cycle, wrinkle prevent, powdercoat drum, wide reversible door.



Samsung DVE45T6000W \$945.00 SALE \$850.50

7.5 cu. ft. dryer, closet depth, sensor dry, Smart Care Technology for troubleshooting your washer straight from your smart phone, interior drum light, reversible door. 10 preset drying cycles: normal, heavy duty, permanent press, activewear, bedding, delicates, sanitize, time dry, air fluff, quick dry. 9 additional drying options: mixed load bell, wrinkle prevent, adjust time (up) adjust time (down), eco dry, child locks, smart care, signal sound, drum light. 5 temperature levels: high, medium high, medium, medium low & low. 5 dry levels: very dry, more dry, normal dry, less dry, damp. Lint filter indicator, LED display: ice blue.



Samsung DVE45T6200W \$734.60 SALE \$661.14

7.5 cu. ft. dryer, steam sanitize, sensor dry. 10 preset drying cycles: refresh, steam, sanitize+, normal heavy duty, permanent press, bedding, delicates, time dry, air fluff, quick dry. 9 additional drying options: mixed load, wrinkle prevent, adjust time up, adjust time down, eco dry, Smart Care Technology, drum light, child lock, sound. 5 temperature levels: high, medium high, medium, medium low, low. Reversible crystal blue door, child lock, lint filter indicator, 4-way venting, dryer rack, interior drum light.



Samsung WF45T6000AW \$814.06 SALE \$732.65

4.5 cu. ft. washer, closet depth, Vibration Reduction Technology, self-clean drum, smart care, swirl+ drum interior, stackable. 10 preset washing cycles: normal, heavy duty, bedding, quick wash, permanent press, delicates, whites, active wear, rinse & spin, self-clean+. 6 additional washing options: presoak, delay end, smart care, sound, child lock, spin only. 5 soil levels: heavy, medium heavy, normal, medium, low, light. 5 temperature levels: hot, warmer, warm, cool, cold. Dispenser trays: main wash, softener, bleach. LED display: ice blue. 12,000 rpm maximum spin speed. Energy Star rated.



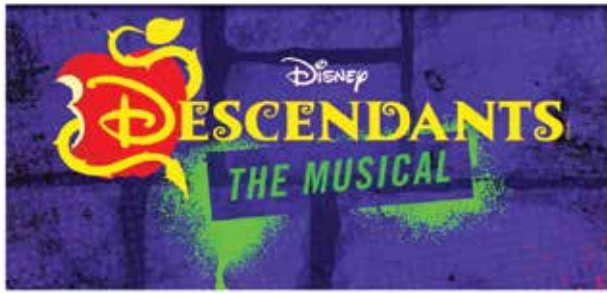
Arts on the Edge

by Sandra LeBlanc-Boland

Stages Theatre Company is returning to the Edge Center, bringing brand new awesome Disney adventure. Each summer, Stages brings us a new play. Each year we are amazed and delighted by their performances. The whole community is excited to host Stages, a professional children's theatre group. In July, at the Edge, they will present "Descendants: The Musical". A Rotten to the Core clash between good and evil!

A chance at redemption sends the troublemaking offspring of Disney's evil villains to school with the children of their sworn enemies. Do they carry on their parents' wicked ways, or do they learn to be good? The generational match-up features beloved characters and hit songs from the popular Disney Channel films.

Come to the show to find out what happens! Performances are on Friday, July 14 and Saturday, July 15 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 16 at 2 p.m. Adults \$10; children \$5.



On Wednesday, July 26, at 7 p.m. **Kim Harrington** presents *Cowboy Melodies*. Kim grew up in the northwoods of Minnesota with a love for singing and playing guitar. His performance crosses several genres from country, folk, gospel, cowboy and original songs, and includes poetry and storytelling. Adults \$10; children \$5.

On Sunday, August 6 at 2 p.m. the Edge presents the **Third Coast Chamber Collective (TCCC)** as part of their Festival "On the Edge of Light and Darkness". Adults \$10; children \$5.

The program features:

- J.Haydn: String Quartet no.2 op.20 in C major
- D.Shostakovich - String Quartet no.8 op.110 in C minor

TCCC Artists:

- Evgeny Zvonnikov, Natalia Korenchuk-violins
- Pedro Oviedo - viola
- Magdalena Sas - cello

TCCC is a group of emerging musicians from diverse backgrounds who build connections by improving community access to the arts and arts education.

The Edge Center is located at 101 2nd Ave, Bigfork, MN 56628. Contact us at: (218)743-6670, www.edgecenterarts.org

Edge Gallery

Artist "Paints with fabric and draws with thread" on exhibit at Edge Gallery during July
by Gail Blackmer

Blair Treuer is a storyteller and textile artist from rural Bemidji who was inspired to create her current body of work when she began making portrait blankets of her Native American children for their spiritual offerings.

Her series of portraits that will be on display at the Edge Gallery in Bigfork during the month of July explore intimate and spiritual aspects of life which juxtaposes her white American culture with her husband and children's traditional indigenous culture. She states her work reflects the emotional rollercoaster of standing outside of the cultural experiences of the Ojibwe culture but being privileged to see within those experiences through her family.

Treuer's award-winning works have been exhibited at numerous venues across the country and internationally, and will again be part of an international showing once they have been exhibited in Bigfork. Don't miss this opportunity to view a unique collection of textile art that depicts challenging topics concerning today's society; pieces that are honest and personal, but have the power to make universal connections.

Blair Treuer's show opens in the Edge Gallery next to Bigfork High School on July 6, with a meet and greet opportunity to visit with Blair about her work at an artist's reception on Friday, July 7, from 5-7 p.m. All are welcome and the event is free. The show continues through July 29, 2023. The Gallery committee is seeking interested volunteers to assist with hosting the public hours of Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Training is provided, please stop by the Gallery during open hours for more information.

Bigfork Council seat open

by Sally Sedgwick

At its meeting on June 13, Public Works Director Joe Zimmer resigned effective immediately and the council promoted Public Works Worker Aaron Gould to that position. Councilor Paul Gustafson who has been a part-time employee was promoted to Gould's vacated full time position, which required him to resign from the city council. Residents interested in filling the open council seat should send a letter of interest to City Clerk Melissa Grover before the July 11 city council meeting.

A new cash donation request policy was discussed. The policy would include a form that specifies amount requested and how it would directly benefit the community. The request should be made in person to the council.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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

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Groundbreaking for new school/community project in Bigfork

The groundbreaking ceremony marks the culmination of a successful design process that began with community and school staff coming together to address some needs in the Bigfork School building as well as meet some needs in the community. The multi-year process of design included input from the community,

teachers, district staff, parents and administrators.

The project adds a community fitness and wellness center, locker room space and related amenities, storage space, showers, HVAC improvements, public restrooms accessible from the Bigfork RiverWalk Trail and outdoor events, storage space for the Edge Center and updated education/academic space.



(above) Heidi Korstad, Scenic River Heath Services; Matt Grose, ISD318 Superintendent, Terri Synder, Itasca County Commissioner; Ida Rukavena, Dept. of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Commissioner; Linda Gibeau, Blandin Foundation.



(above, top to bottom) School board members Matt Grose, Superintendent, Dave Marty, Mark Schroeder and Pat Medure; Ken DeCoster, Bigfork High School Principal. Pam Francisco, BHS teacher & former coach; Heather Lovdahl, Athletic Director; BHS; Chad Lovdahl former BHS coach; Joe Anselmo, BHS; Tim Johnson, community coordinator; Stu Ostendorf BHS teacher and coach. All were part of the Community Support and involvement committee. Future Huskies. (r) Bigfork Mayor Bryan Boone. (below) Current high school students.



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Bigfork Valley

Dr. Daniel Baker
Orthopaedic Surgeon

Jeff Temple, APRN-OPA
Nurse Practitioner

North Star Stampede in July

The last full weekend in July is the time to be in Effie for the state's "largest open rodeo," the North Star Stampede. In its 68th year, the rodeo features all the popular events plus free camping (with a 3-day pass), vendors, food and an opportunity to see regional rodeo competitors as well as friends and neighbors in the ring at the North Star Ranch just north of Effie.

Events are at 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Adults \$18, children 6-13 \$10. Competitions include saddle bronc, bareback, ranch bronc, dally calf roping, steer wrestling, bull riding, team roping, cowgirl barrel racing, novice bareback, cow milking and junior bull riding

Effie also hosts Rodeo Daze with a flea market, vendors and a parade on Saturday.

Wild Rice Festival in Deer River

July 7-9 is the weekend of the 74th Wild Rice Festival in Deer River. Highlights include live music on all days: Fri., *Garage 19*, 8 p.m.; Saturday, *Adessa & The Beat*, 4:30 p.m.; and a street dance/concert by *The Dweebs*, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; Sun., *Easton Corbin*, 4:30 p.m. Also the Midway, Pow Wow (Fri., 6:30 p.m.), Wild Rice Run (Sat., 8 a.m.), kids bike rodeo (Sat., 9 a.m. at Northern Star Co-op office parking lot) and fireworks (Saturday, 10 p.m.), kids tractor pull (Sun., 3 p.m.), parade (Sunday 1 p.m.). For full schedule, visit wildricefestival.com.

Discovery Center summer hours

Beginning May 26 the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center will be open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (closed Wednesdays) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hours are subject to change. Naturalist Programs at the Discovery Center this summer will be on every Saturday starting July 1 and every Tuesday starting July 11 at 10 a.m. Programs 10 a.m.

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

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

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

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.

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

- July 5 – Tips to safely catch and release fish with Tony Sindt, Minnesota River specialist with DNR Fisheries
- July 12 – Fawn research and what we are learning about white-tailed deer with Tyler Obermoller, DNR natural resources specialist
- July 19 – The art of falconry with Matt Lasch
- July 26 – Frogs and toads (14 species!) in Minnesota with Mags Edwards, DNR frog and toad research program coordinator

Itasca Waters Practical Water Wisdom series

The lunchtime virtual series Practical Water Wisdom continues on the first Thursday of the month with "Water-borne disease and symptoms: Can swimming make me sick?" on July 6 at noon. The presenter will be Trisha Robinson, Epidemiology Supervisor, Water Borne Disease Unit, Minnesota Dept. of Health.

On August 3, join Dr. Kenneth ("Kenny") Blumenfeld, a climate scientist and Minnesota native with a "love for storms, blizzards, and being outside." His program is "Understanding Minnesota's Changing Climate.

Register at itascawaters.org.

Visit your co-op at
www.NorthItascaElectric.com
Get updates on Facebook!

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.

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:
(218) 835-5768

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

— Community Education —

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

WARRIOR FOOTBALL CAMP GRADES 4-6

Date: August 1-3

Time: 3-4:30 p.m.

Location: ISD317 practice field

Cost: \$20 for three sessions

WARRIOR FOOTBALL CAMP GRADES 7-8

Date: August 1-3

Time: 4:30-6 p.m.

Location: ISD317 practice field

Cost: \$20 for three sessions

No experience necessary, learn basic football skills and fundamentals of the game with Head Coach Brent Schimek.

Creaky Bones exercise class

Creaky Bones Exercise Class is at the Marcell Family Center!

Designed by the licensed physical educator and designer of YMCA's (water) Rusty Hinges, Creaky Bones uses balls, bands, chairs and 1-, 2-, & 3-lb weights to gently tone and strengthen muscles, tendons and ligaments around your joints. Bring measuring tape and watch the inches disappear!

Thursdays through July 27

5-6 p.m.

\$5 per class or \$60 for 12 weeks.

Credit cards accepted.

[Equipment can be purchased for cost.]

To register, contact Lauri Barber: (952) 200-5543

Playstations

Playstations are located at McGarry Park in Bigfork and Lion's Park in Deer River with sporting gear and park art supplies to use and return for other visitors to enjoy. More information at unitedwayof1000lakes.org/ Playstations

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: July 11; August 1, 22

12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store

2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe

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

Thursdays: July 13; August 3, 24

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

Mondays: July 10, 13; August 21

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

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

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

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

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

Community News

Email editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net, put Community News in the subject line

~ July Calendar ~

Ardenhurst

The annual Ardenhurst Township potluck picnic will be held this year at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1 which is also National Night Out. Come celebrate this special day! This will be the 16th year of this annual gathering. It will again be held at Ardenhurst Community Park. Mark your calendars now for this coming event. As usual, it is a potluck picnic. Cold drinks and plastic and paper products are always provided. Ardenhurst Community Park is located 4.1 miles south of Northome on Highway 46. Turn east on Island Lake Road toward the lake to get to the park. Everyone is welcome to this picnic so come one, come all.

Bigfork

Northern Itasca AFG meets EVERY Tuesday 7 p.m.-8 p.m. at Grace Community Lutheran Church in Bigfork.

Marcell

North Country Gardeners meet Monday, July 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center for an informal meeting, each of us sharing the joys and frustrations of Zone 3 gardening with a special emphasis on pollinators and pollinator gardens. Any and all are welcome.

Farmer's markets

Talmoon Flea and Farmer's Markets will be the first Saturday and third Thursday through September, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Little Turtle Lake Store. Vendor space \$5.

Northome Farmer's Market, Wednesdays 5-7 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. -12 noon at the fairgrounds in Northome. It costs \$15 a year to sell.



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 Music & Art Festival at Spring Lake Store, 1-4 p.m. Local artists and photographers, history of the store. Juice and treats served.
- 1 Naturalist programs every Saturday starting July 1 and every Tuesday starting July 11 at Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center just north of Marcell. Programs 10 a.m.
- 4 Independence Day. North Itasca Electric offices closed.
- 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_etl@msn.com
- 6 Northern Star Cooperative Customer Appreciation Picnic, 11 a.m.-1p.m., Deer River.
- 7 Artist's Reception for Blair Treuer's exhibition of textile art, "Identity," at the Edge Gallery, Bigfork, 5-7 p.m. Exhibit runs from July 6 to 29. The Edge Center Gallery is open Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 7-9 Wild Rice Festival in Deer River. Live music, events, food, Midway, parade and fireworks. For full schedule, visit wildricefestival.com.
- 8 First Thursday online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. July program is "Water-borne disease and symptoms: Can swimming make me sick?" with Trisha Robinson, Epidemiology Supervisor, Water Borne Disease Unit, Minnesota Dept. of Health. Register at itascawaters.org.
- 8-9 Bear Country Mounted Shoot, Sat. at 9:30 a.m. Pistol Match/Rifle and Shotgun to follow; Sun., Pistol Match 9 a.m. Spectators welcome.
- 10 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 10 ISD 317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 10 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 10 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 11 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 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.
- 12 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Bigfork School or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 14-16 Northwoods Saddle Club Show, Itasca County Fairgrounds. Friday night barrel racing: 5 p.m. exhibitions; 6 p.m. races start with Peewee (10 and under). Pleasure classes start at 8 a.m. Saturday, Games not before 11 a.m. Spectators welcome.
- 14-16 Stages Children's Theater presents Disney's "Descendants," a play for all ages at the Edge Center theatre, Bigfork. Fri. and Sat. 7 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Adults \$10, students \$5.
- 17 North Country Gardeners meet, 5:30 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center for an informal meeting on personal experiences gardening in Zone 3. All are welcome.
- 18 "Bubble Wonders," 10 a.m. at Northome School sponsored by the Northome Library.
- 24 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 24 ISD 318 School Board meeting in Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 26 Second annual Pie Social fundraiser at B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Live music by Jerry Hagen.
- 27 North Central Research and Outreach Station Visitors Day in Grand Rapids, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 28-30 68th annual North Star Stampede at North Star Ranch north of Effie on Co. Rd. 5. Billed as Minnesota's largest open rodeo, competitions are at 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Adults \$18, children 6-13 \$10. Entries open July 17, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Note revised entry number: (218) 743-3886.
- 29 Effie Rodeo Daze. Flea market, vendors, parade.
- 29 39th annual Blackduck Woodcarvers Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wayside Park. Woodcrafts and more.

Area Church Directory

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a
58712 Co. Rd. 131
Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681

Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a
41516 Scenic Hwy 7
Bovey 55709 218-245-1960

Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a
11141 Hwy 22
Cook 55723 218-376-1012

Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a
Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654

Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a
45114 Co Rd 133
Deer River 56636 218-832-3171

Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a
54764 Co. Rd. 31
Northome 56661 218-897-5684

Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115

Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a
33276 State Highway 6
Deer River 56636 218-246-9570

Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
59329 Co Rd 145
Northome 56661 218-659-4551

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a
Hwy 1
Effie 56639 218-743-3368

First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a
109 Ash St.
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783

Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a
10609 Town Rd 34
Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966

Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a
401 State Hwy 38 N
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368

Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.
12234 Third St.
Northome 56661 218-897-5654

Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a
Hwy 38
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
45834 Co. Rd. 4
Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883

Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a
49103 State Hwy 38
Marcell 56657 218-832-3200

Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a
12071 Bartlett St.
Northome 56661 218-897-5040

Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a
50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)
Deer River 56636 218-659-2784

Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:00a
25747 Co. Rd. 340
Bigfork 56628 218-659-2727

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a Mass also W, Th, F 9:00a.
320 Golf Course Ln
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255

Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
55581 Co. Rd 4
Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872
Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org

St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p
52265 State Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255

St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p; Tu 6:00a
12026 Lake St
Northome 56661 218-743-3255

Seventh Day Adventist Sun 11:30a
12352 Hwy 46
Northome 56661 218-897-5723

Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a
42935 Co. Rd. 48
Deer River 56636 218-832-3883

True Life Church Sun 10:00a
45976 Terry
Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089

Wilderness Church Sun 9:30a
City Hall
200 Main Ave.
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3500
wildernesschurchMN@gmail.com

Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net


AUGUST

- 1 Annual Ardenhurst Township potluck picnic at Ardenhurst Community Park, 6 p.m. The park is 4.1 miles south of Northome on Highway 46, turn east on Island Lake Road.

Wilderness Days in Bigfork



United Country Real Estate
 Greta Nelson
 Real Estate Associate
 License #497500759
 United Country Bold North Realty & Auctions
 218-368-8057
 greta@ucboldnorth.com
 www.UCBoldNorth.com
 11522 Bartlett Avenue
 Mizpah, MN 56660



New playground in Effie

by Sally Sedgwick

On Thursday, June 29 volunteers began work at 7 a.m. to install new playground equipment purchased as part of the Blandin Foundation Community Grant. Additional projects under the grant as discussed in the community meeting will be finalized in a work session with Community Coordinator Tim Johnson and CEDA consultant Sara Carling. The major project is the school demolition.

Verizon will be present at the July council meeting to discuss and answer questions about the proposed cell tower within the city limits.

Rodeo Daze will be the weekend of July 29. There will be vendors, food and a parade during the day.

The next regular council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 10 at the Community Center.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.

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 Road Building • Septic Install
 Driveways • Stump Grinding
 Culverts • Wood Chips
 • Tree Planting / Removal •
218-244-7152

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

Strawberry Salad
Thank you to Janet Kogler for these July recipes!

Salad:
 1 bunch Romaine or spinach
 1 quart strawberries, sliced
 1 small sweet onion, chopped

Dressing:
 1/2 cup mayonnaise
 1/3 cup sugar
 2 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar
 1/4 cup milk
 1 Tablespoon poppy seeds

Cucumber Sandwich

8 oz. cream cheese
 1 package dry Italian salad dressing
 2 Tablespoons mayonnaise

Mix and spread on cocktail rye bread. Top with cucumber slices and paprika.



Please share your recipe with us! If your recipe is chosen, you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Send your recipe to the editor, WATTS NEWS, P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680.

CLASSIFIEDS

AD DEADLINE
for the AUGUST issue: Fri., July 14

HOW TO PLACE AN AD

DISPLAY ADS

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Contact the editor by one of the ways in the coupon at the bottom of the page or bring your ad into the office.

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

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Service classifieds are \$5 per insertion and are all text. Ads are boxed and may be limited in size.

To place a service classified, contact the editor or email content.

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

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-SALES-

Joyce's New and Used Shop: Plants and miscellaneous. Open the first Fri. and Sat. of the month. July through Sept. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 4.5 miles east of Highway 6 or one mile west of Bigfork (Highway 38) on 14. Call (218) 929-9138 9/23

-WANTED-

Wanted: Wide front for Massey 44. Call (218) 659-2779 8/23

Wanted: 2 queen size blow up air mattresses. Old hand coffee grinder. Call (218) 259-2482 7/23

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Heavy duty Craftsman router with attachments, manual, in case, \$50. Viking model 150 sewing machine, \$100. 72 piece pink depression glass, \$75. Dog crate, 2 ft x 3 ft, \$35. Also smaller crate, \$10. Call (218) 910-6610 8/23

For sale: Marlin model 1893 30-30 lever action carbine. Made in 1906, serial #432127. I have owned rifle since 1954. Exc. condition. Appraised conservatively at \$1,300. Sell for \$975.00. Located on Sand Lake. Call (218) 659-2797 7/23

For sale: Five antique milk bottles from around 1940. (2) half pints, (1) pint, (1) req quart, (1) quart with creamer on top part of neck. 1 large antique bottle with metal flip over cap. \$40 takes all. Call (218) 659-2797
For sale: Aspen & Birch firewood cut and split into stove length. 2 cords delivered to the Wirt, Dora Lake and Spring Lake areas. \$200. Call (218) 659-2901 7/23

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Haier chest freezer. 7.1 cu ft. Like new, never used. \$150 Call (218) 659-4432 7/23
For sale: Girls 26" bike (blue). New, never used. \$150. Call (218) 659-4432 7/23

For sale: Nortrac snowblower, 60 in. for 30 horsepower tractor, 3 pt.hitch. \$900. Call (218) 743-8479 7/23

-VEHICLES- PARTS, ATVs

For sale: 2 new stock car racing seats ready to be mounted. they are black and Harley orange colors. \$350 for the pair. Call (218) 246-9457, feel free to leave a message. 8/23

For sale: 2018 Polaris 900 Ranger. It has glass windows, half metal doors, heater, 4500# winch, turn signals. Includes 6 ft. adustable V plow. 2600 miles. Exc. cond. \$14,995. If interested, call (218) 743-3933 or (218) 244-2355 7/23

-VEHICLES- PARTS, ATVs

For sale: 4 tires and rims P22570R15 Timberline ATs, Daytona, off a 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Two thousand miles on tires. \$400. Call (218) 966-2052 8/23

-WATER SPORTS- MOTORS, BOATS

For sale: Bennington 20SFNP pontoon. 2014 has 72 "running hours." 50 HP Yamaha outboard engine, Terova trolling motor and charger, tandem trailer. Great condition. No tears, rips, or stains. \$19,000. Call (218) 832-3245 for more info and pixs. 7/23

For sale: 14' Ted Williams trihull fiberglass boat. \$200. Call (218) 743-3197 8/23

For sale: Yamaha outboard motor. 8 hp, 4 stroke, short shaft, very clean. \$2,200. Call (612) 919-3678 7/23



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Run my ad for one month only.

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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.

Annual Meeting at Northome

About 110 members and their guests attended the 2023 Annual Meeting on a sunny day at the Koochiching County Fairgrounds in Northome. Special guests in attendance included retired lineman Jerry Pula, retired directors Ray Swang and Walt Breeze, and Lorraine Nygaard, director at North Star Electric Cooperative.

A safety display from Lake Country Power headlined the meeting, demonstrating the importance of safety for linemen and for customers: spectators saw the results of such things as ladders or kite strings touching a live wire, cutting buried cable while digging, dropping a hair dryer in water when it is not plugged into a GFCI outlet, or backfeeding from incorrectly wired generators.

“Our lives are on the line every day,” pointed out Lead Lineman John Rahier. “We’re trusting you to do your job just like you trust us.”

Board Chair Larry Salmela spoke to the crowd



(above and right) Safety demonstrations and gear. Door prize winners (top to bottom at right) George Knesel, Sand Lake Alliance Church; Karen Olson, Northome city; Linda Mankus; Sharyn Cox. Far right Walt Breeze,

about the challenges the cooperative is currently facing

Currently the cooperative is in good shape, he said. The federal government, he said, have addressed global climate change by new mandates to reduce or eliminate the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

This will present a challenge to the cooperative and the industry in general. If fossil fuel plants are closing, where is power coming from? The sun and wind. But what happens when there is no sun or wind? The electric grid must be rejuvenated, and large scale batteries for energy storage must be developed. Great River Energy is building a test facility near Cambridge to test the concept of iron oxide batteries being developed by Form Energy.

CEO Brad Dolinski spoke about how the cooperative will meet these and other challenges. His remarks start on page 1. He noted that the cooperative will reach out to the membership for support during the 2023-2024 legislative session.

Directors Mary Rahier (District 4), Lloyd Kjongsood (District 5) and Todd Christensen (District 7) were re-elected to the board.

Questions and comments from the floor included support for small nuclear plants and a thank you for displaying the American flag (see pictures on page 1). Why there were changes in the line distances for buried and overhead cable was due to taking overhead down and replacing it with underground. There are ties when underground cable is rerouted and current cable retired in place. Dolinski

expects there will be single digit rate increases based on anticipated inflation and capital credit commitments, but said he believes the cooperative will not suffer from brownouts. Currently the co-op must cover 107% of the power peak. Wind contracts are negotiated on both price and quantity, but interconnections are important as the power must get to the consumer.

Great River Energy employees donated \$1,000 to North Itasca Electric’s Operation Round Up program.

Door prizes awarded to attendees included: \$100 energy credit to Sand Lake Alliance Church, \$50 energy credits to the City of Northome and Edmund Peterson, large flower pots to Sharlyn Cox, Lianne Custer, Linda Mankus, Mary Ann Lindner, Raymond Schenhiet and Daniel Siats.

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