



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

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**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL. 26 NO. 6

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JUNE 2023



83rd Annual Membership Meeting

Koochiching County Fairgrounds, Northome

- Bring your registration cards to the meeting!
- Every attendee will receive a \$25 bill credit!
- Safety Trailer demonstration!
- Prizes! 1- \$100 bill credit
2- \$50 bill credits

Thursday, June 15, 2023 • 2 p.m.

CEO Report



Brad Dolinski, CEO

by Brad Dolinski

Great afternoon NIECI!

Phew! We made it through a long winter! The boats are rolling into and through town like crazy. I'm guessing many of us have neighbors back that we haven't seen for a while.

I'm getting geared up for our annual fishing trips. I

don't go out on opener, it's a little too busy for me. The third weekend in May Canada hits the open sign on their lakes. I head up with friends and family to enjoy Sioux Narrows; I've been fortunate to visit that area since I was about 8 years old. Now I get to take my girls up to the same rocks I've been hanging out on for over 30 years. I'm blessed they love it up there too.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on June 15th in Northome, Minn. Please show up a little early so we can get you registered. I am very excited to have the safety demo trailer this year. Please bring the kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, friends, and neighbors! This is a show for all. You will be emotionally charged by the noise, arc, and flash provided in these important

CEO to p.2>

Official Notice of the Annual Membership Meeting of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the membership of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the Northome Fairgrounds in Northome, Minnesota on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 2:00 P.M., at which time and place the following business will be transacted:

- To elect three (3) directors for the Cooperative, each to a three-year term in Director Districts 4, 5 and 6.
- To approve or reject proposed amendment to the Cooperative's bylaws.
- To hear, examine and approve reports of Officers, Directors and Committees.
- And for the transaction of such other business as might lawfully be brought before the members.

Lloyd Kongsjord, Secretary

Message from the Board Chair

by Larry Salmela

Director Elections

One of the most important principles of a cooperative organization is member control. Most businesses of any appreciable size in the United States are stock corporations. Owning the stock of a corporation enables control of the corporation. More control comes with owning a greater percentage of the total stock issued by the corporation. A common term for a stock corporation in the electric utility industry is investor-owned utility, abbreviated as I.O.U.

A cooperative organization, such as the North Itasca Electric Co-op, is organized much differently compared to a stock corporation. In a co-op each person served by the organization is a member who has the same amount of control as any other member. The members collectively control the cooperative by electing representatives to the board of directors. Every director is a member of the co-op just like everyone else.

The co-op's Bylaws describe three ways that a member can become a director with voting power on the board of

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A/C & Go Bike Sale

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Annual Meeting

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**June
celebrations**

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Office Hours

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

CEO Report (continued)

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 safety messages. Our crew went down to Lake Country Power to be trained in the safe use of the trailer. Thank you again to LCP for the use of your beautiful trailer.

You will see the various charts and graphs related to our performance in 2022 in this edition of the WATTS. 2022 was a challenging year, we had a few very strong storms that did significant damage to our system. Our crews were able to safely restore electricity in each of these events through their hard work and some creative thinking when needed. Material prices were quite the topic in 2022, well it turns out the prices are even worse in 2023. This is a contributing factor why we had to raise rates at the beginning of this year. Overall, through the hard work, planning, and commitment I'm proud of the results of 2022. We had a good year despite the hurdles we had to cross. Thank you

to the employees and directors that made for another successful year at North Itasca Electric.

Road restrictions are still on, this limits the work the crews can take on. Living this close to the arctic, we are used to a shorter construction season. I would still encourage you to contact our operations department sooner than later to ensure your project gets completed. Chris is doing a great job with the material concerns and shortages but... If we have a little extra time to plan for projects, we can ensure they flow much smoother without undue stress on any of us.

The right of way crews will be starting very soon. This year we will be running south of Northome around the Island Lake area down to roughly Alvwood. We tackle roughly 1/6th of the system yearly. I have been accused of being difficult when it comes to the right of way. Yes, I am very passionate about this. Clear rights-of-way are vital to safety. You continue to hear me talk about the need to have lines

fall clean to ground. This helps to ensure the line opens and the fuse or protection device operates. Lines hanging in trees can cause fires and very dangerous situations for all. Please understand, I do not want to upset you, I do not want to damage your property. I absolutely want to ensure a safe and reliable system for everyone, that requires clean rights-of-way.

That's all I have for you this month. I want to give a huge shout out to my mom and all the Moms out there. This isn't just the fishing opener this weekend, it's Mother's Day! For many years North Itasca Electric celebrated Moms with an open house. That dang pandemic put the breaks on all of that for a bit. I am very hopeful we can start bringing these events back. I miss having the excitement in the office. Getting the chance to visit with the Member-Owners we serve is the highlight of my day.

Tight lines out there.

*By your side! Miigwech
 Brad*

Board Chair's message

>from p.1
 directors. Most commonly, a member submits an application to the Nominations Committee which meets each year to recommend qualified candidates for the director elections which >from p.1

will be held in that year. Less commonly, a group of 15 members can submit a petition for a candidate in a director election. In the case a director position becomes vacant, the remaining board may appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next regular election.

This year at its regular meeting the Nominations Committee did not recommend a candidate for the District 4 director election. However, the incumbent Ms. Mary Jean Rahier has been nominated for election by a petition of more than 15 members.

(I will offer here a note of personal opinion. I strongly believe in member control of the co-op according to democratic principles. I believe that it is far better for the co-op that the members select their director representative to the board of directors compared to the selection by appointment by the other members of the board.)

The Bylaws state that ballots will be sent to the members in any district where there are two or more candidates for the director position, i.e. a contested election. Where there is only one candidate, ballots are not mailed. The members who attend the cooperative's annual meeting in June will affirm the single candidate's election to the board.



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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.

WATTS NEWS

WATTS NEWS is published monthly by:
 North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 301 Main Avenue
 P.O. Box 227
 Bigfork, MN 56628

Subscriptions for Members are included as part of the annual membership dues. \$12.00 per year or partial year for non-members, billed and payable in January for the following year.

Second class postage paid at Bigfork, MN 56628. USPS 016-849 **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to WATTS NEWS, North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227

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

After hours (to report power outages):
 (800) 762-4048

Website: www.NorthItascaElectric.com

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

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

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

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

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 27, 2023

Start time: 11:00 a.m.

End time: 3:35 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on April 27, 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: 12:25 p.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, discussion was held about a correction that needed to be made in the minutes; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to withdraw the proposed Amendment to Article 6 that was voted on in March. The Bylaws cannot be amended without a vote from the members. Seconded; motion passed.
- o Reviewed the final language of the proposed Bylaw Amendment change. A motion was made to approve as proposed. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Policy Review 200.30 Record Retention was reviewed. A motion was made to accept. Seconded; motion passed.
- o Andy stated that he has reviewed the audit letter, and everything looks good.
- o A safety discussion was held.
- o Tina Danielson presented the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports. Seconded; motion passed.
- o Daryl Pederson gave the Line Department report. Very few outages in March. We are still waiting to see what costs the state will cover on the Jessie Lake transformer. MREA compliance Review was completed on April 13, 2023. ROW clearing will probably start in May when the roads are in better condition.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report.
- o Tina gave the Office Department report. Form 7 has been submitted to RUS. The Nominating committee meeting will be May 3. Tina discussed the ACH Shazam issue and thanked the office for taking calls.
- o B. Dolinski gave the CEO Update. Brad will now be on the committee working with communication efforts with MREA. GRE MMG met April 18th – the 1st quarter was the best that GRE has had in quite some time. Brad presented the Strategic Plan Goals in the form the board requested.
- o W. Waller gave the MREA report. Wes was very impressed by the new Social Media representative for MREA. MREA has approved their strategic plan for 2024.
- o Larry Salmela has been invited to the MREA Board Meeting in late June in Grand Forks. A motion was made to approve travel and expenses for Larry to attend this meeting. Seconded; motion carried.

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It has been busy the last couple months

by Jerry Loney

The Ripple conversions you have read about in the past are coming to an end. Those members around Island Lake and a few others near Northome having load control programs such as Dual Fuel, Storage Water, or Storage Space Heating are now being controlled properly. Before the conversion, those on load control had Great River Energy's (GRE's) radio receivers and were being controlled according to GRE's load control strategies even though receiving energy from Minnkota Power which may or may not have been controlling. On the reverse side, Minnkota may had been controlling but with a GRE receiver, loads were not being controlled adding demand loads to the Northome substation. Getting this conversion done is a great accomplishment!



Jake Bowers (l) helps John Rahier deck out student Isaac Buckingham with lineman safety gear during a presentation to elementary students at Bigfork School.

There are a few load control receivers on GRE's system as well, which accounts for roughly 85% of our membership where equipment needs to be replaced. Local electricians Goggleye Electric and Hill Brothers Electric are helping with this effort where a licensed electrician is needed. Even though North Itasca Electric is below the acceptable failure rate of 10%, we are still going after the 3-5% identified as failing.

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Welcome, new Members!

from Jerry Loney
Energy Management Specialist

I would like to welcome all new Member-Owners of North Itasca Electric Cooperative to our system. As a Member-Owner, you are entitled to many benefits such as the right to vote for board members, rebates for Energy Star products, Capital Credits, and for the main purpose of this note, introducing you to money saving options for heating and cooling your home.

North Itasca Electric offers reduced energy rates for those Member-Owners who heat with electric over fossil fuel systems. The reduced space heating rate on our Dual Fuel program is equivalent to paying \$1.62 per gallon for propane having 90% efficient equipment. For those having a Central Air Source Heat Pump installed, it is equivalent to \$.54 per gallon propane.

Not only do you save on your heating costs, but there is no more worrying about your propane tank running out halfway through the winter. Electric heat is also better for the environment with no CO2 discharged into the atmosphere, and it is 100% efficient at the meter.

If you are interested in learning more, give Jerry Loney a call at (218) 743-1313.

Bylaw amendment to be voted on at annual meeting

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

Proposed Bylaw changes for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Shall Article III of the Bylaws of North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc. to include the following Section

Section 8 & 9

Remote Communications for Member Meetings

Section 8. Remote Communications for Member Meetings.

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

(b) The Board of Directors is authorized to hold annual or special meetings of the members, the Board of Directors or any committee designated or appointed by the Board of Directors solely by means of remote communication through which the members, the Board of Directors or such committee representatives may participate in the meeting. Furthermore, the Board of Directors is authorized to determine that a member, Board of Directors member or committee representative not physically present in person at an annual or special meeting of members, the Board of Directors or any committee designated or appointed by the Board of Directors may, by means of remote communication, participate in a meeting of members, the Board of Directors or such committee held at a designated place. Such participation by a member, Board of Directors or such committee representative by means of remote communications constitutes presence at the meeting in person if all other requirements set forth in this Section 9 are met.

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

(iii) if otherwise entitled, vote on matters submitted to the members, Board or committee representatives. The Board of Directors may adopt such guidelines and procedures applicable to participation in member, Board of Director and committee meetings by means of remote communications as it deems appropriate.

(d) Any ballot, vote, authorization, or consent submitted by electronic communication submitted by a member, Board-member or committee representative may be revoked by the member, Board-member or committee representative who submitted the same so long as such revocation is received by the President or the Secretary of the Cooperative at or before the meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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Energy Management activities

>from p.3
Even a small amount of demand savings justifies the cost of repairs.

On February 23, North Itasca Electric along with Star Energy Services hosted an open house on the Briggs and Stratton generators North Itasca Electric is selling and on the new line of "Simpliphi" battery backup systems Briggs and Stratton now owns. Since the time of our first generator being sold, North Itasca Electric has sold 20 whole house generators, three being 20kW and the rest 12kW. Of these 20 generators, we only had a couple glitches which have been resolved with firmware upgrades and one generator which did not get programmed during installation. Otherwise, we are having good success with them.

Now having several generators in the field, it will be time for oil changes, and I have ordered several maintenance kits for this. We have Archie Wass on board for those that do not want to change oil themselves. If you desire to have Archie do this for you, give North Itasca Electric a call and we can schedule it for you.

During the last couple months, I also attended courses on Air Source Heat Pumps, Net Metering for solar installations, Briggs and Stratton generators and battery systems.

You might be getting tired of hearing me talk about heat pumps, but the technology has improved so much and the benefit is so great, it is hard not to.

Questions on Net Metering continue rolling in, all I can say on this is, think about the reasons

you really want to install solar first before jumping in.

The course I attended on battery backup systems was informative and a potential means to reduce loads during peak periods as well as acting as a backup system during outages.

Spring is here and it's time to start that construction project you've been waiting for. With any construction project comes the question, how to heat the space? Not a problem when you come to North Itasca Electric for the answers. Just last week I worked up an answer for one cabin builder, quoting him a storage heat system using a Steffes furnace. He wanted electric heat with ductwork for air conditioning. The Steffes furnace is a good option because with it comes the ability to add on an air source heat pump within its ductwork, further reducing energy costs another 25%. By taking advantage of a load control program with his heat pump, he will be paying the equivalent of \$0.72 per gallon propane.

On April 25, I scheduled a safety presentation for the Bigfork school kids K-5 on electrical safety. Linemen John Rahier and Jake Bowers demonstrated to the kids the work involved in fixing the power lines and various safety tips along with things to look out for when around electrical equipment. Afterwards we handed out training materials to all the kids according to age..

Until next time...

From the Line Department:

If Your Power Goes Off

by Daryl Pederson,
Line Superintendent

Electricity is an important part of our lives. We strive to maintain power and minimize the length of time anyone has to be without power. By being prepared and informed, you can help us restore your power as quickly as practical.

When an Outage Occurs

- Check the fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on the meter pole to determine if the loss of power was caused by your system. The problem may be with your wiring and may require the services of an electrician.

- Call your neighbors to determine if they have electricity. This helps pinpoint the extent of the outage.

- If the cause of the outage is not in your wiring, please call 218-743-3131 or 800-762-4048. The following information will be helpful:

- Name
- Account Number
- Location Number
- Telephone Number

- Any other information that may help us locate the cause of the outage (for example, a downed tree, lightning strike, branch across a wire, etc.).

How North Itasca Electric Co-op responds to an Outage

- The dispatch center reviews information to determine outage location and cause.
- Outage information is reported to the line crew.
- Line crews work to restore power as quickly as practical. Our goal is to restore power to the greatest number of customers first, and continuing until all power is restored.

North Itasca Electric Co-op., phones are answered 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. When the office is closed, a dispatch system will handle your call and forward reports concerning the outage to appropriate crews. In the event of a widespread outage during non-business hours, our electronic outage system will receive your calls and respond with information

about the outage. Should you find the phone lines busy, please be patient. We will answer your call as promptly as possible.

Common Causes of Outages are:

- Storms
- High winds
- Lightning
- Ice on power lines
- Overloaded Equipment
- Traffic accidents
- Construction work
- Digging
- Animals

Be Prepared

- Keep at least one good flashlight with fresh batteries in your house.
- Place North Itasca Electric Co-op's telephone number and your account number near your telephone.
- In a wide-spread outage, there may be a prerecorded message played over the phone from the dispatch center.

April board highlights

>from p.3

- o L. Kongsjord gave the GRE report.
- o Matt from Brady Martz gave the audit report. A motion was made to approve the audit as it was presented. Seconded; thank you to Brady Martz, Matt, and his team for their efforts throughout the year and during the audit. The final audit interview was very thorough. Motion passed.
- o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 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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CertainTeed

Roxanne's Repair Tips:

“Boy, this refrigerator seems to be running a lot!”

There are a few things that can cause this, some are easy fixes while others take a little more knowledge.

Make sure the door is shut all the way, and the seal makes good contact. If not, wash the seal with hot soapy water and see if that helps. If this doesn't solve your problem, you might want to check the seal over. Are there any cracks or tears in the seal? If so, replace the seal. You can put your model in on RepairClinic.com to search for the right seal for your refrigerator.

Most people think that all appliances need to be level to work properly. This is true in most cases, but not for the refrigerator and upright freezer. With these it is best to have the front two legs a little higher than the back ones so if the door doesn't get shut all the way it will swing shut. This will save you a lot of grief and gives you peace of mind, especially if you have younger children who don't pay close attention to shutting the door.

Another thing to look for are the coils clean. The coils are normally found under the refrigerator but if you have an older model they might be on the back. If the coils are all plugged up with dust they won't cool properly, and your refrigerator will keep running to try to cool the freon. You should clean the dust off the coils at least twice a year. You might be shocked at the amount of dust that gets under your refrigerator. The freezer temperature should be under 10 degrees Fahrenheit otherwise the refrigerator will not be cold enough. Your freezer temperature should be set between 0 & 5 degrees. If the freezer temperature is too high, check the coils under the refrigerator and make sure they are all clear and that the condenser fan is running properly. Also look to see if frost has accumulated on the condenser coils. If they are all frosted up, that means that part of the defrost system failed.

The defrost assembly turns on many times a day to clear any frost that has accumulated on the coils. If the defrost heater assembly fails, the refrigerator will not defrost, and the frost will build up on the coils. This will cause your refrigerator to run steadily because it is trying to cool itself and cannot. If you suspect this is the problem, you can check the defrost heater assembly by using a multimeter. If there is no continuity the part is bad, and you will need to replace it.



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Whirlpool WHAW10BW \$426.40 Sale \$383.76

10,000 BTU Energy Star® 12.1 EER air conditioner quickly cools and dehumidifies a room at 2.11 pint per hour, equipped with a programmable 24-hour on/off timer so you can customize cooling time to fit your schedule, 3 cooling speeds, ECO mode, and sleep mode, programable off/on timer, washable filter with cleaning alert, 8-way directional air louvers. Window width 26" min / 36" max. Minimum window height 16". Easy install kit included.

Keystone KSTAW10BE \$379.11 Sale \$341.20

10,000 BTU with LCD remote control. Depth 19" x 21.5" wide. Window opening max 36"/min 23". Height 14.6". Window opening max 15.5", min 15.5". Cools area 450 sq. ft. 3 fan speeds, 4-way air direction EER rating 10.9.

Whirlpool WHAW151BW \$760 Sale \$684.00

Energy Star® compliant: 11.9 EER, 15,000 BTU air conditioner for window-mounted installation. 4.9 ft. LCDI power cord with 3-prong grounded plug uses 115V electrical outlet. Cools a room up to 700 sq. ft. with up to 3.52 pints per hour dehumidification. On-board electronic control panel with digital display, remote control with LCD display, cooling speeds plus auto option for cooling flexibility, ECO mode uses less energy, Sleep mode, programmable 24-hour on/off timer cools on your schedule, after a power failure, unit automatically restarts when power is restored. 8-way directional air louvers, removable and washable air filter with a 'clean filter' alert, easy-to-install window mounting kit included. Window width: 28" min / 41" max, minimum window height: 19."

Whirlpool WHAW182BW \$598.40 Sale \$538.56

Electronic control with digital display, cools room up to 1,000 sq. ft. with 4.75 pint per hour dehumidification, Energy Star® compliant, 3 cooling speeds, ECO mode, sleep mode, and programable 24 hour on/off timer with 8-way air louvers, remote control included.

ELECTRIC GO BIKES (GOB)

GOB SPEED- \$1363.00 Sale \$1253.96

Fat tires, 20-mile hour speeds, 36-mile range, weighs 65 pounds

Free back rack included with purchase!



GOB EXPRESS - \$1285.38 Sale \$1182.55

Foldable electric bike, with flat tires, 20 mph speeds, 36-mile range, weighs 60 pounds.



GOB GO CRUISER - \$ 1285.38 Sale \$1182.55

Foldable up to 20 mph speeds, 36-mile range, weighs 60 pounds.

Free back rack included with purchase!



GOB GOEAGLE - \$1278.88 Sale 1176.57

e-bike standard, 20 mph, 36 mph range, weighs 60 pounds




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Board of Directors: North Itasca Electric Co-op



Jim White
District 1



Wes Waller
District 2



Larry Salmela
District 3



Mary Rahier
District 4



Lloyd Kongsjord
District 5



Todd Christenson
District 6



Bruce Leino
District 7



Jeff Kilian
District 8



Roy Bain
District 9

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
BIGFORK, MINNESOTA

NOTICE

POSTING OF THE CANDIDATE LIST

At the meeting of the Nominating Committee, held May 3, 2023, the following names were selected and placed in the nomination for the position of director of North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc.

District 4	No Candidate
District 5	Lloyd Kongsjord (Incumbent)
District 6	Todd R Christensen (Incumbent)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S CERTIFICATE

I, Andrew Shaw, Nominating Committee Chairperson, have posted this Notice at the office of the North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc., County of Itasca, Bigfork, Minnesota. In accordance with Article IV Section Four, of the Cooperative's By-Laws this 3rd day of May 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Andrew Shaw, Chairperson

Scholarship Winners

Unclaimed capital credits are donated to the Scholarship Committee at Northome High School to create scholarships for children of Member-Owners of North Itasca Electric.

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded scholarships this spring:

- \$1,000
- Madison Aakhus, Bigfork
- Andrew Fahey, Northome
- Rebekah Storlie, Bigfork
- Karl Kallio, Northome
- Willow Pollard, Northome
- Jacob Brandenburg, Homeschool

- \$750
- Jaret Swedberg, Blackduck
- Andrew Haataja, Bigfork
- Paige Johnson, Northome
- Kayla Hovila, Bigfork
- Corey Kuhlman, Northome
- Delaney Cleath, Deer River
- Zion Forseen, Northome
- Wyatt Haley, Bigfork
- Mitike Stueven, Northome
- Madysen Tendrup, Bigfork

MINUTES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM - May 3, 2023

North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc. Headquarters Bigfork, MN
56628

1. Attorney Shaw called the meeting to order.
2. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

District 1	Myron Albrecht Mizpah, MN 56660	218-897-5048
District 2	Dale Quandt Wirt, MN 56688	218-659-2601
District 3	Marcie Lindgren Effie, MN 56639	218-743-3261
District 4	Tim Neuschwander, Bigfork, MN 56628	218-245-3792
District 5	Eric Handyside, Bigfork, MN 56628	218-766-6312
District 6	Crystal Braunwarth, Blackduck, MN 56630	218-779-3249
District 7	Lisa Peterson, Squaw Lake, MN 56681	218-659-4266
District 8	Les Jensen, Marcell, MN 56657	218-832-3410
District 9	John (Jack) H Schultz, Deer River, MN 56636	218-832-3784

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Andrew Shaw, CEO Brad Dolinski, Office Manager Tina Danielson

3. The minutes of the last Nominating Committee Meeting held on May 4, 2022 were reviewed.
4. Attorney Call for approval of minutes. Motion by Lisa Peterson to approve minutes, seconded by Marcie Lindgren. Motion carried.
5. Attorney Call for nominations for Chairperson. Motion made by Jack Schultz to appoint Attorney Andrew Shaw as chairperson, seconded by Myron Albrecht. Motion carried.
6. Newly elected Chairman Call for nominations for Secretary. Motion made by Myron Albrecht to appoint Tina Danielson as secretary, seconded by Lisa Peterson. Motion carried.
7. Chairperson Call for nominations for Candidates for District 4, 5 and 6. Candidates will be listed in alphabetical order and incumbents identified on ballots.
8. Nominating Committee Member for District 4 - No Candidate.
9. Nominating Committee Member for District 5 presented their candidate. Motion made by Jack Schultz, seconded by Myron Albrecht to approve Lloyd Kongsjord (Incumbent) as candidate for District 5. Motion carried.
10. Nominating Committee Member for District 6 presented their candidate. Motion made by Marcie Lindgren, seconded by Eric Handyside to approve Todd Christensen (Incumbent) as candidate for District 6. Motion carried.
11. The Chairperson stated that the incumbent candidates are consuming members and residing in the districts nominated for.
12. CEO Dolinski gave an update on North Itasca Electric to the committee.
13. There being no further business, motion made by Jack Schultz, seconded by Myron Albrecht to adjourn the meeting.

Nominating Committee Secretary (Acting)

Vision - To be a progressive, safe and reliable cooperative trusted by our members.

<p>Mission - Delivering value to our members and communities by providing safe, reliable and progressive energy and other services.</p>	<p>Values - North Itasca Electric Cooperative values honesty, integrity and high ethical standards. We are accountable to our members and committed to our communities.</p>
--	--

North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc.

Minutes of the 82nd Annual Meeting held June 16, 2022

The Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric Co-op was held on June 16, 2022, at the North Itasca Electric Headquarters in Bigfork, MN.

President, Larry Salmela started the Annual Meeting at 2:00 pm by welcoming everyone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Larry introduced Rob Ecklund, our State Representative who said a few words.

The Board of Directors were introduced along with Andy Shaw, the Co-op Attorney.

Larry introduced Brad Dolinski, the CEO and Daryl Pederson from the Operations Department. Daryl held the safety discussion. Caution was stressed that no one should touch downed trees near or touching power lines. This should be left to the line department.

Demonstration of investigating a ground fault outage call was performed by John Rahier, Josh Hubbard and Jake Bowers. The steps that it takes to detect the fault and fix it were shown. Caution was stressed to stay away from the electrical cabinets that may be found on your property.

Questions from the members included:

- What causes a fire in a cabinet?
- What are the linemen's gloves rated for?

10,000 volts

- How often are the gloves checked?
*Air inspected every day.
Tested every 90 days.*
- Why don't we use Kevlar gloves?
Daryl will look at these.
- Next time there is a demonstration, put it on a riser so that the back of the audience can see.

Larry asked the secretary if we had a quorum. Lloyd reported that we had 138 members in attendance which met the quorum of 50 that was needed.

Andy Shaw spoke about the Nominating Committee Meeting. He discussed the acclamation election process of the Directors. Acclamation of director appointment can happen when a director runs unopposed. They are acclaimed the winner when there are no opponents. It was noted that the Co-op saved \$15,000 by not needing ballots. Directors winning by acclamation are:

- District 7 – Bruce Leino
- District 8 – Jeffrey Kilian
- District 9 – Roy Bain

Lloyd Kongsjord spoke about the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting & Notice of the Mailing Certificate List

that were posted in the WATTS paper.

Motion was made to accept the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes and the Nominating Committee Report, seconded. Motion Carried.

Larry spoke about North Itasca Electric being a member of the Great River Energy Cooperative (GRE). Bruce Leino has been on the GRE board for many years. He retired from that role this year and Lloyd Kongsjord has taken his spot on the board. Larry reported that North Itasca Electric as a cooperative is in good condition.

CEO Brad Dolinski gave a speech thanking all the members for coming to the meeting and telling them that each of his meetings begins with a safety discussion, just like today's, thanking the linemen for their demonstration. He spoke about the challenges the co-op faced in 2021. He mentioned Jerry Pula's retirement thanking him for all his hard work over the years. He mentioned the hiring of three new linemen. He introduced and thanked each of the linemen for their hard work. Reported that we had a clean yearly audit. Introduced and thanked the office professionals. Mentioned our new phone app availability. Talked about the new website that is coming soon. Introduced and thanked the members services department. Thanked the Board of Directors for their preparedness and participation efforts. Thanked Andy Shaw for all his work. Mentioned that it has been with grit and determination of the members that we have gotten to where we are today as a cooperative. We have challenges ahead of us but we are doing our best to protect the interest of the members.

Questions for Brad included:

- Will we have prices on the website for electric vehicle charging stations?

*There are programs available now.
We will not be selling or installing charging units here at the coop.*

- Will you need a new user name for the new website?

NO

- What are our blackout possibilities?
- How does the power grid for our neighboring cooperative usage work?

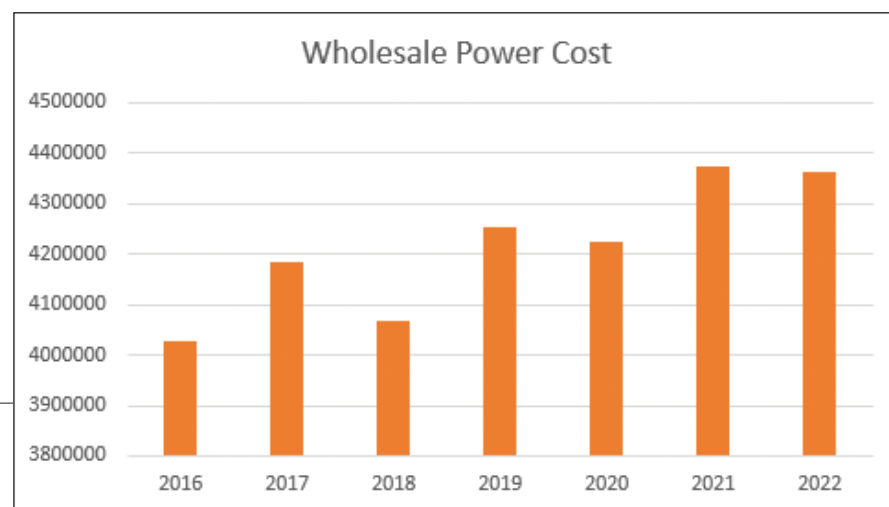
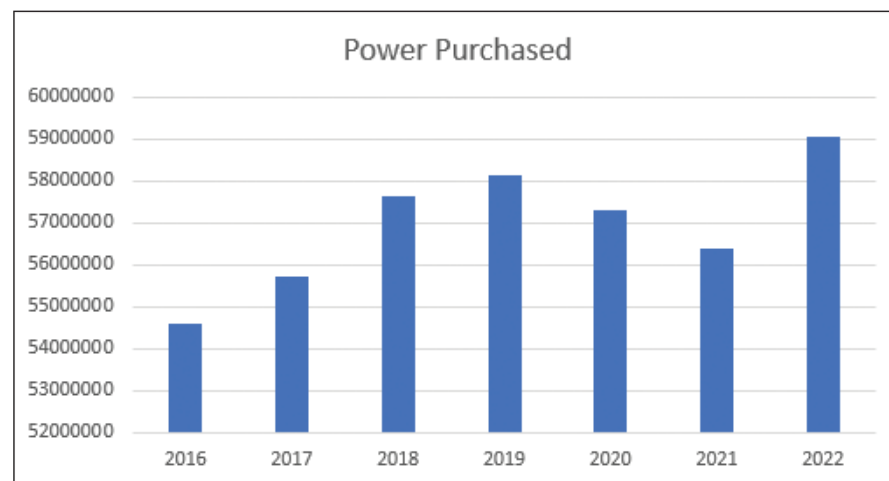
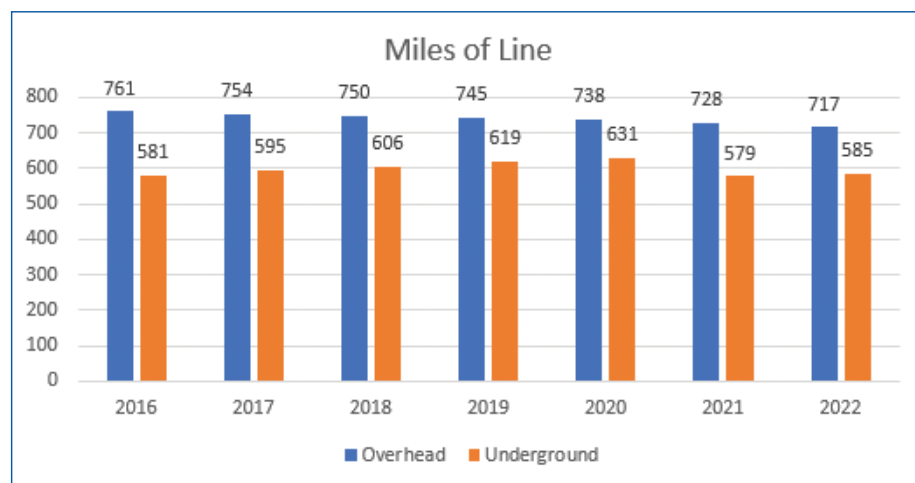
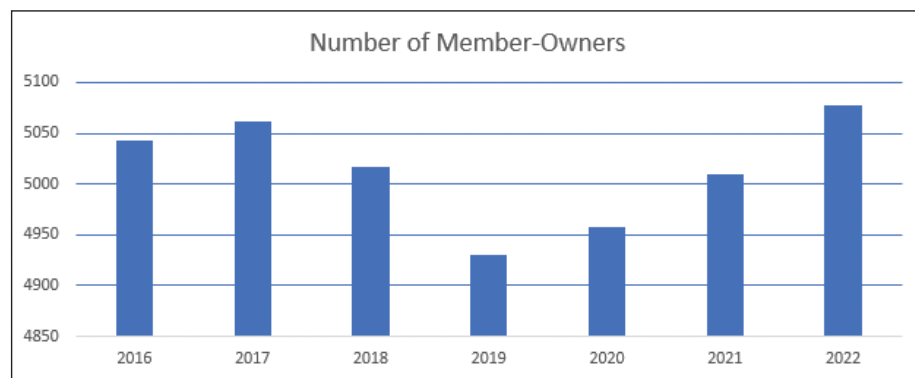
• Does the new phone app show usage instantly?

Not available with our metering system.

- Will controlling power show on our website?

Yes

The year in graphs



- Rolling blackouts in the future – who gets blackouts first?

There will be more information shared in the future through articles in the WATTS News.

Brad presented Gary Chapman from Operation Round Up a check from GRE for \$1000. Gary reported that the most money ever was granted in April 2022 with an amount of \$13,800. He thanked

the members for helping the community. Since 2005 Operation Round Up has granted a total of \$391,331.

Larry called for any old business. There was none.

Larry called for any new business. There was none.

Prizes were drawn.

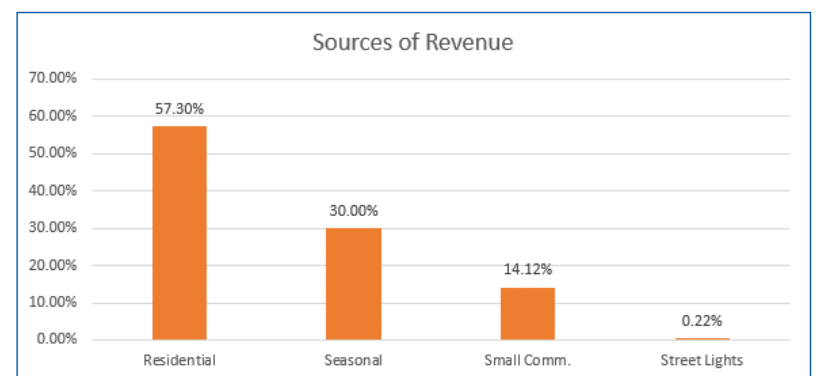
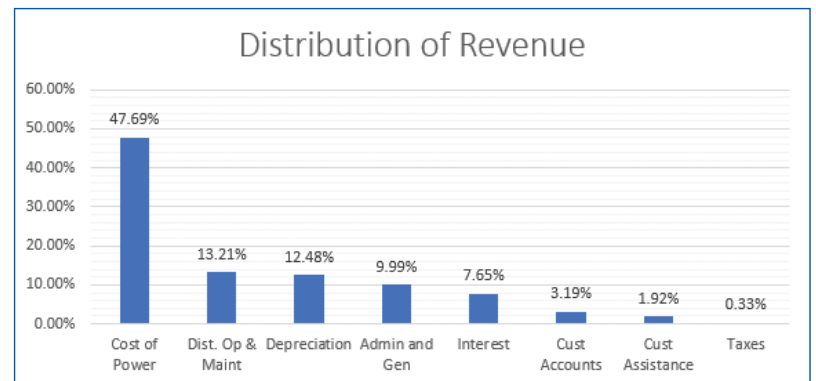
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**Balance Sheet
North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Dec. 31, 2022 and Dec. 31, 2021**


ASSETS	2022	2021	LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	2022	2021
ELECTRIC PLANT			EQUITIES		
Electric Plant in Service	\$ 40,822,981	\$ 39,486,197	Patronage Capital	\$ 8,166,035	\$ 8,028,377
Under Construction	490,103	72,191	Other Equities	3,428,152	3,350,226
Total Electric Plant	41,313,084	39,558,388	Total Equities	11,594,187	11,378,603
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	14,142,526	13,490,375	LONG-TERM DEBT, LESS CURRENT MATURITIES	20,215,132	19,085,166
Electric Plant - Net	27,170,558	26,068,013			
OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS			CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Non-Utility Property (Net of Accumulated Depreciation, 2022 - \$79,929, 2021 - \$73,973)	46,476	52,431	Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	1,006,857	966,626
Investments in Associated Companies	3,725,611	3,725,019	Accounts Payable - General	117,873	51,984
Other Investments	20,646	17,449	Accounts Payable to Associated Company - Billed Power Costs	688,647	711,263
Total Other Property and Investments	3,792,733	3,794,899	Consumer Deposits	45,597	65,126
			Taxes Accrued	83,875	81,107
CURRENT ASSETS			Interest Accrued	22,320	24,601
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,034,465	1,042,121	Accrued Payroll	66,160	54,627
Notes Receivable, Less Allowance for Uncollectible Notes (2022 - \$9,171, 2021 - \$9,606)	54,964	49,599	Accrued Compensated Absences	162,161	147,414
Accounts Receivable, Less Provision for Uncollectible Accounts (2022 - \$61,349, 2021 - \$50,660)	1,309,756	1,097,198	Total Current Liabilities	2,193,490	2,102,748
Material and Supplies	474,618	407,831	DEFERRED CREDITS		
Prepayments	126,183	72,090	Consumers' Energy Prepayments	48,544	128,793
Interest Receivable	3,749	3,749	Deferred Revenue	22,346	24,065
Total Current Assets	3,003,735	2,672,588	Total Deferred Credits	70,890	152,858
			TOTAL	\$ 34,073,699	\$ 32,719,375
DEFERRED DEBITS					
Retirement Security Prepayment	-	64,526			
Other	106,673	119,349			
Total Deferred Debits	106,673	183,875			
TOTAL	\$ 34,073,699	\$ 32,719,375			

Statement of Operations

	2021	2022
1. Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	8965369	9150867
2. Power Production Expense	3313	2634
3. Cost of Purchased Power	4374378	4364155
4. Transmission Expense		
5. Regional Market Expense		
6. Distribution Expense - Operation	266553	253379
7. Distribution Expense - Maintenance	837096	955303
8. Customer Accounts Expense	278839	292108
9. Customer Service and Informational Expense	166505	175382
10. Sales Expense	2571	1652
11. Administrative and General Expense	863664	914218
12. Total Operation & Maintenance Expense (2 thru 11)	6792819	6958831
13. Depreciation and Amortization Expense	1118838	1154858
14. Tax Expense - Property & Gross Receipts	33322	29706
15. Tax Expense - Other	501	511
16. Interest on Long-Term Debt	676164	686649
17. Interest Charged to Construction - Credit		
18. Interest Expense - Other	1164	13166
19. Other Deductions		-1127
20. Total Cost of Electric Service (12 thru 19)	8622808	8842594
21. Patronage Capital & Operating Margins (1 minus 20)	342561	308273
22. Non-Operating Margins - Interest	26784	21734
23. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction		
24. Income (Loss) from Equity Investments		
25. Non-Operating Margins - Other	-13170	-2295
26. Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	215721	77677
27. Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	89275	96003
28. Extraordinary Items		
29. Patronage Capital or Margins (21 thru 28)	661171	501392



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Bigfork High School graduates



The Bigfork High School Class of 2023 includes:(back row, l to r): Chase Powell, Aidan Elhardt, Jaren Gustafson, Matt Vosika. (front row (l to r): Domanick Stangland, Ty Nelson, Lily Danielson, Madison Aakhus, Rebekah Storlie, Kitty Newman, Ivy David, Kayla Hovila, Caidance Scheff, Mac Moore, Kristen Grover, Matayah Simonson. Not pictured: Cassidy Alleman, Justin Goble, Bradley Haley, Alex Rowan, Mankin Wilde.

< Class of 2023 Valedictorian (r) Rebekah Storlie and Salutatorian Kayla Hovila.



B.I.G. delivers May Day flowers



The Bigfork Improvement Group delivered May Day Baskets to the residents of the Bigfork Nursing Home and Pine Tree Villa. (top) Theresa Pederson delivering a flower and with a resident. (center) Sydney Grover and daughter hang a flower on a door handle.

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
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Effie seeks volunteers for playground build June 29

Volunteers are needed for the new playground build date of Thursday, June 29 with a rain makeup day of June 30. The playground company has asked for 10 to 15 people per shift, with one full day of work from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Minnesota Correctional Facility-Togo will provide eight workers. Councilor Tom Lamont will head up a committee of five residents to organize the build. Playground equipment has been purchased as part of the Blandin Foundation Community Grant.

Community Coordinator Tim Johnson was present to review the status of incoming funds and projects identified by Effie residents. The major project is the Effie School demolition,

which is estimated at \$250,000 to \$300,000 based on an "all hazardous" demolition classification being the most cost effective. Effie can expect to be required to match about \$104,000.

The council heard that a zoning ordinance that would allow application for conditional use permits was being worked on with the city attorney and Verizon, who is proposing a cell tower within city limits. The ordinance has not been finalized.

The next regular council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 12 at the Community Center.

Excerpted from a story in the Scenic Range NewsForum.

27 youth out for baseball in Bigfork

At its May 9 meeting, the Bigfork City Council agreed to match money raised locally to purchase batting practice equipment: a batter's box mat, a protective L-frame for a pitcher and a freestanding batting cage for the new baseball/softball field in Bigfork. Coach Mike Olson had received three grants from Operation Round Up, the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation and Storlie Construction totaling \$1,500.

He has 27 youth ages 9-12 out for the team, playing through mid-July. Olson is seeking a volunteer(s) to coach T-ball at the high school for ages 4-8.

The council discussed the excellence of the Edge Theater production of "Our Town."

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Excerpted from a story in the Scenic Range NewsForum.

Edge Center Gallery

Ashley Hise Ceramics Featured for June Gallery Exhibit

by Gail Blackmer

The Edge Center Gallery is pleased to be back with a full season of monthly artist exhibits in 2023.

We started with a new idea to go along with the highly successful EdgeWild Players production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" by hosting a photo contest of submitted images of familiar scenes from around the towns that make up the Edge of the Wilderness. In May, the Student Art Show was held with pieces from students of all ages showing what they had been doing in the school art classes.

Starting June 1, we will be displaying a show that has been planned for three years! It's not that it took that long to put together,

but it was intended to be a part of the 2020 season when the Gallery had to shut down due to COVID restrictions. Fortunately, ceramic artist Ashley Hise didn't forget about us; she has kept the Edge Center in mind for the three years of pandemic turmoil and will be returning with a collection of ceramic pieces which she has titled "Symbiosis". Ashley states she found inspiration in reconciling opposites of smooth, delicate forms from her stoneware/porcelain clay with the rough, iron-rich clay used for more jagged shapes with unglazed surfaces. She encourages us to embrace duality and appreciate the beauty in symbiosis.


This show is open to

the public during regular Gallery hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday with a reception for the artist on June 2, from 5-7 p.m. We will be offering light refreshments again during the reception! The Edge Gallery is adjacent to Bigfork High School.

Also remember the call for entries to the annual Juried show is now in progress, entries due June 12. Details and entry forms available at www.edgecenterarts.org

This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and cultural heritage funds.

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Water Wisdom

by Shirley Loegering

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 July 6 program will be “Water-borne disease and symptoms: Can swimming make me sick?” presented by Trisha Robinson, Epidemiology Supervisor, Water Borne Disease Unit, Minnesota Department of Health. She oversees the routine surveillance activities, outbreak investigations, and health promotion activities for all waterborne pathogens, including *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, *Legionella*, and free-living amoeba. Free-living amoeba are environmental protozoan parasites with worldwide distribution. They exist in nature without the need for a host and do not require a vector for transmission to humans or animals. While we are lucky to be surrounded by so many great places to swim and recreate, the risk of water-borne diseases is also a reality. Trisha will talk about those diseases and what you can do to

help minimize your risk of getting one this summer.

In recent related news, there have been articles about the growing outdoor human waste problem and how it is making water-borne diseases more prevalent. Research has found that the recommended “best practice” to bury our human waste six inches deep and 200 feet from water is not working—high levels of pathogens can remain in the soil for many years. This has become an increasingly critical problem since modern-day human feces can contain a variety of chemicals, hormones, pharmaceuticals, and dozens of bacteria, protozoa and viruses that affect human health. So, what can we do to help?

For short hikes, simply remember to “GoB4Ugo”. Okay, that one is easy. For remote hiking, rock climbing, camping, and ice fishing, we need to “pack out our poop” in a WAG bag (which stands for Waste Alleviation and Gelling and is basically a dog waste bag for humans). A few national parks now require remote hikers and climbers to carry WAG bags. It may be an unpleasant thought, but if we care about protecting our health and our waterways, we can learn a new habit. There are a variety of

WAG brands available to buy, and most WAG kits contain a gel that neutralizes the waste. Some include tablets with mycelium (fungi) that promise to effectively break down human waste; however, some scientists and land managers worry that the mycelium products could introduce non-native fungi to the environment. WAG kits usually include toilet paper and hand sanitizer and instructions to help you understand how to pack it out safely.

Have fun—be safe—and WAG it!

We hope you will be inspired each month to think about water in a new way. Please join us on July 6 for an interesting talk by Trisha Robinson by registering at www.itscawaters.org/water-wisdom-2023. You will receive a zoom invite by email, with periodic reminders, to join the program. For more information contact info@itscawaters.org.

The Practical Water Wisdom series is the brainchild of Itasca Waters. This series is supported by Itasca Waters’ members, Minnesota Sea Grant, Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, KAXE/KBXE, Rapids Radio, and Grand Rapids Herald-Review.

— Community Education —

Blackduck Call for more information at (218) 835-5206 . Register online at blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE. Questions? Contact mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us.

YOGA WITH MADDIE OTHOUDT

Date: Weds. May 3, 10, 17, 23

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

Location: Blackduck School Rm#31

Cost: \$12 per session, \$40 for all paid at once
Bring water bottle and yoga mat.

JUNIOR GOLF LESSONS

Date: Mon. June 7, 14, 21, 28

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

Location: Blackduck Golf Course

Cost: \$60

Must preregister, Open to grades 2-8.

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

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.

Watch for Naturalist Programs at the Discovery Center and Scenic State Park this summer!

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

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.

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

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

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

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

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: May 9, 30; June 20

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: May 11; June 1, 22

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

Mondays: May 8; June 19

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

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

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

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

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

Community News

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

~ June Calendar ~

Bigfork

There are AA meetings on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at the Grace Luthern Church, Bigfork and on Fridays at noon at the Marcell Town Hall.

Marcell

The first regular monthly meeting of the summer for North Country Gardeners will be Monday, June 19, 5:30 p.m., at the Marcell Family Center. Lynne Schleicher will present an introduction to Straw Bale Gardening. We will discuss suggestions for future speakers, as well as sharing personal stories of "wins and losses" in the garden. Any and all are welcome!

On Thursday and Friday, June 1 and 2, new equipment will go up at the Marcell Town Hall playground! The build will go all day, and volunteers are needed for any amount of time they can give. Call Tracy at (218) 832-3965 and leave a message or email marcell.township@yahoo.com.

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

The Northome Senior Citizens are holding a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, June 3rd, 7 – 11 a.m. at the Northome Senior Center. Free Will Offering will go toward the maintenance of the building.

Northome Farmer's Market starts the 3rd week in June, 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, 2 Playground build at Marcell Town Hall. Volunteers needed, call (218) 832-3965 by April 26, leave message.
- 1 First Thursday "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour. Preregister at [Itasca Waters.org](http://ItascaWaters.org)
- 3 Northome Senior Center hosts a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser 7 – 11 a.m. at the Northome Senior Center benefitting building maintenance
- 3 Take a Kid Fishing at Round Lake south access in Squaw Lake, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. sponsored by the Squaw Lake Volunteer Fire Department. Children must be accompanied by parent/guardian. Breakfast and lunch provided, games, prizes.
- 5 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Bigfork School or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 6 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 7 "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
- 10-11 Bigfork Wilderness Days. Events, activities, food, vendors along Main Ave. downtown Bigfork. See p.16 or Facebook.
- 10 Free Youth Activity Day hosted by Deer River Sportsman's Club at the gun range (east on Co. Rd. 19 from Hwy 6, then north to 36644 Baumgartner Rd.)
- 12 Entry deadline for the 17th Annual Juried Exhibitin at the Edge Center, Bigfork. See edgecenterarts.org for information.
- 12 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 12 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 12 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 13 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.
- 13 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 ISD 317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 13 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 **Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric Cooperative**, 2 p.m. at Koochiching County Fairgrounds, Northome.
- 17 EOW Kid's Fishing Day at the Discovery Center just north of Marcell, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Register at (218) 832-3161.

- 17 Northome Fun Day. Medallion Hunt 10 a.m., Turtle Races, 2 p.m.
- 17 Grand Opening, new playground equipment at "Picnic in the Park," Mizpah, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Picnic and activities.
- 18 Father's Day
- 19 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.
- 19 North Country Gardeners meet, 5:30 p.m. at the Marcell Family Centet. Program: Straw Bale Gardening with Lynne Schleicher. Everyone welcome.
- 24 BVCF Golf Tournament Golf on the Edge, 10 a.m. Preregister at (218) 743-4116, online at www.bigforkvalleyfoundation.org or at Golf on the Edge.
- 26 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- JULY
- 1 Music & Art Festival at Sprng Lake Store, 1 p.m.
- 6 First Thursday online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Register at itascawaters.org. (See p. 12.)

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

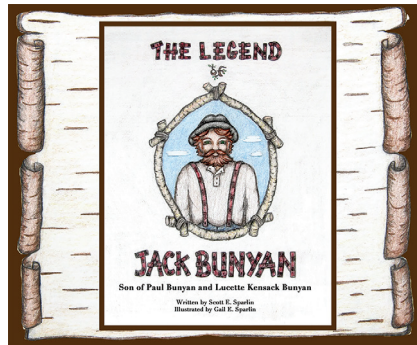
Member publishes book

Scott Sparlin has just written and self-published a fictional storybook "The Legend of Jack Bunyan." It's all about the most beloved adopted son of Paul Bunyan and his wife Lucette Kensack, Jack Bunyan.

gifted sister Gail Sparlin, the story comes to life in this whimsical tale of the northwoods in Minnesota.

Yup, you heard right, Jack Bunyan, the true inventor of the chainsaw. You say you didn't know that? Well, here is your chance to learn how it all came to be. Beautifully illustrated by Scott's

Find out about all the characters in Jack's life, like his best friend Bucky Blue, the 4-foot-tall blue beaver with bright red eyes. This storybook is written for every kid at heart no matter what age, and most of all it's just plain fun.



The book is 9" by 9" soft cover and can be shipped free anywhere in the USA for the low cost of \$11 each. Visit jackbunyan.com or simply send checks made to Scott Sparlin, P.O. Box 488, New Ulm, MN 56073 and include shipping address.

...submitted

Fun Day in Northome

Watch for a schedule of events for Northome's annual Fun Day, home of the famous turtle and minnow races each summer! This year Fun Day will be on Saturday, June 17.

Starting early at 8 a.m., rummage sales will be lining Main Street. At 10

a.m.the Medallion Hunt begins, with instructions handed out at the Shining Light Café.

In the afternoon, it is the famous turtle races! Participants need to bring their own turtle. Turtle races begin at 2 p.m.

Help open the new Mizpah playground June 17

The Grand Opening of the new playground equipment will be celebrated at "Picnic in the Park" 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Mizpah City Park on Saturday, June

17. A picnic lunch will be served and there will be activities from bocce ball and corn hole to checkers to enjoy...plus, of course, the new playground.

Edge of the Wilderness Kid's Fishing Day

The Kid's Fishing Day a.m. to noon. Register by the Discovery Center calling (218) 832-3161. will be on June 17, 8:30

fishing in the morning then on to a shore lunch. Bait casting contest, minnow races, and more follow.

The day is hosted by the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center, US Forest Service, Bigfork Lions Club, and Marcell Family Center.

Spring Lake Store
218-832-3626
An Old Fashioned General Store

Cheeses, lunch meat, sandwiches, groceries, gifts, WiFi, post office

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

Happy Fathers Day!
Music & Art Festival Sat., July 1 at 1 p.m.

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• recipe • recipe • recipe • recipe • recipe • recipe •

Vegetable Dip
Thank you to Janet Kogler for this June recipe!

1 cup sour cream
1 cup mayonnaise
2 Tablespoons dill weed
2 teaspoons seasoned salt (such as Lawry's)

Mix well and chill.

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.

Road conditions:
Call 511 or visit 511mn.org for maps, cameras, weather alerts.

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Jeff Temple
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www.BigforkValley.org
218.743.4317

Golf!

Support the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation and enjoy a round of golf at the annual BVCF Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 24 at Golf on the Edge in Bigfork.

Preregistration required, contact the foundation at (218) 743-4116, online at www.bigforkvalleyfoundation.org, or pick up a form at Golf on the Edge.

Check-in time will be 10 a.m., tee time 11 a.m..

PLACE A WATTS NEWS AD

DISPLAY ADS

Email your ad in pdf format or ask us to create one for you! Contact the editor through one of the ways listed on the form on page 16.

CLASSIFIEDS

AD DEADLINE
for the JULY issue: Weds., June 21

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Call (218) 743-3711

-SALES-

Joyce's New and Used Shop: Open the first Fri. and Sat. of the month. June 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 7/23

-FREE-

Free: Yamaha Electone organ. Call (218) 398-4680 7/23

-WANTED-

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

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Girls 26" bike (blue). New, never used. \$150. Call (218) 659-4432 7/23

For sale: Haier chest freezer. 7.1 cu ft. Like 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

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 7/23

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: 6 beautiful glass flowers \$60. Heavy duty garden cart/seat with storage, \$30. Dog crate, 2 ft x 3 ft, \$35, also feline crate, \$10. Call (218) 910-6610 6/23

For sale: After 40 years of trapping, selling all traps and related equipment, incl. 200 leghold traps of all sizes from 1 to number 14 and 110, 220, 330 conibears. All snares, drags, stretchers, stakes, knives, repair parts, setters, and more. Everything in good condition. Call (218) 244-5489 or (218) 832-3541 6/23

For sale: - Ruger 223 AR platform Heavy barrel long range rifle, \$1,400 new. Very little use \$1,100 Super accurate. Call (218) 256 3829 6/23

-VEHICLES-

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

For sale: 05 Dodge Ram 2500 w/ 8'2 boss v-plow \$15,000. Call (218) 244-7349 6/23

-VEHICLES-

SNOWMOBILES, ATVs
For sale: 2018 Sportsman Polaris 4x4. Very low miles, super clean mach. Brush guards, hand warmers, winch, windshield, loaded. On 2020 Camso TS 4 Tracks. Great for all winter fun. \$15,000. Call (218) 256-3829 6/23

-FARM-

For sale: Square bales, mixed grass, 35-45 lbs. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 6/23

For sale: Hay. Small square bales, \$5.00 ea. Call (218) 256-3829 6/23

For sale: Farmall A Tractor. Restored. Parade Ready. Call (218) 244-5297 6/23

-WATER SPORTS-

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

For sale: 1991 Lund 1750 Tyee w/ 120 Johnson Motor and EZ Loader Trailer. Perfect boat for fishing, skiing, tubing. Brand new Bimini top, Ski Pylon, new steering cable. Trailer has new tires and fold-away tongue for storage. Hummingbird fish/depth finder. Seats in exc. cond., fishing platform in front, Live well. Runs great. \$8,500 obo Call Jim (218) 743-3509 after May 15 6/23

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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.


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Wilderness Days June 10, 11

Visit Bigfork "In the Wilderness" on Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11 for the annual Wilderness Days celebration, hosted by the Bigfork Booster Club.

There will be two days of contests, music, entertainment, vendors and, of course, food along Main Ave. in Bigfork. Scheduled road construction this summer will start after the event, so there should be access in every direction.

Highlighting the events are a street dance starting at 8 p.m. on Saturday with the band Uptown, Jason Waldron from noon to 3 p.m. at Wilderness Bar on Sunday and a parade at 4 p.m. on Sunday. From 3:30 p.m. until the parade, Shriners motorcycles will exhibit their skills on Main Ave.

For those who like to compete, there's a lot to choose from: golf, basketball, corn hole, bingo and a Bloody Mary contest. Firefighters have a special contest: a Barrel Fight

There are pony rides for the kids, and there's the Ducky Derby on Saturday at 6 p.m. There is also a spot for luck: bingo at the B.I.G. Center and a two-day raffle with over 50 winners. Buy your raffle ticket early at area businesses in Effie, Bigfork, Marcell and Talmoon.

It will be a busy two days with vendors and events starting at 9 a.m. on each day.

For more information, or to contribute or become a vendor call Allison (402) 873-0165, Allyssa (513) 283-2730 or Haley (218) 360-3034. Visit the event on Facebook @Bigfork Wilderness Days.

ENTRIES:

Basketball: Jeremy (218) 910-5987; Golf: Scot/Katie: (218) 743-3626; Corn Hole: Travis (218) 929-9307; Darts: Allison (402) 873-0165 ; Parade: Haley (218) 360-3034



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 Bigfork, MN 56628
bigforkveterinaryclinic@gmail.com



SCHEDULE

BIGFORK WILDERNESS DAYS

Saturday, June 10

9 a.m. Wilderness Days open
9-11 a.m. Bloody Mary contest: Golf on the Edge
10 a.m. Golf tourney: Golf on the Edge
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Bingo: B.I.G. Center
11 a.m.-3 p.m. Cake Walk at Fire Hall
12-2 p.m. Pony rides
11 a.m.-3 p.m. Kids' Entertainment by Ice Rink
1 p.m. Firefighter's Barrel Fight: Fire Hall
1-6 p.m. Live music: Wilderness Bar
2 p.m. Corn Hole/Bags tourney: Wilderness Bar
3:30 p.m. Shriners open parade
4 p.m. Main parade
5 p.m. 3 on 3 basketball (ages 15 and up): school park
6 p.m. Ducky Derby Race
8 p.m.-12 a.m. Street Dance with UPTOWN

Sunday, June 11

9 a.m. Wilderness Days open
10 a.m. 3 on 3 basketball tourney: school park
2 p.m. Corn Hole tourney: Wilderness Bar
12-3 p.m. Jason Waldron: Wilderness Bar

Electrifying Minnesota

In 2019, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency awarded more than \$1.4 million in grant funds to install 22 EV fast-charging stations along highway corridors in Greater Minnesota. By the end of 2023, the agency will have invested an additional \$3.5 million in EV charging stations.

Minnesota also expects to invest about \$68 million from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program to install fast-charging stations along the Interstate 35 and I-94 corridors.

Driving an electric vehicle (EV) is becoming easier as technology and affordability improve, and performance and infrastructure are enhanced. A few of the contributing factors include longer range, affordability, better performance and faster charging.

In many cases, the total cost of ownership for an EV is comparable to that of a gas-powered car. EnergyWiseMN.com has a handy calculator to help you determine if driving electric is economical to you, based on your driving patterns



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