



**NORTH ITASCA  
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS  
NEWS**

VOL. 27 NO. 4

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2024

## CEO Report

*Good morning NIECI!*

I got to visit with my buddy Dan last night. He's one of those lifelong friends you are fortunate enough to meet. Dan was the guy that introduced me to the area. We used to go to his parents' cabin back in the day to hunt, fish, and cruise around on snowmobiles or wheelers. Little did I know years later, I would move to the area we used to have so much fun at!

Unfortunately, I think

I spent more time fishing and enjoying the fun side of the area when I was a guest. That's what happens when life gets busy, great memories still.

April 11th is National Lineman Appreciation Day. We all appreciate our linemen every day, April 11th is set aside for this hard-working crew. Bruce, Chuck, John, Cody, Cole, Josh, Jake, and Trevor make up our crew at North Itasca Electric.



Brad Dolinski, CEO

These guys are out on the system rain or shine to get our lights back on. This group will miss holidays, family events and cancel plans at moment's notice to serve

CEO to p.2>

## Some reasons bills could seem high

*by Jerry Loney*

Each month I will receive several calls from members asking why their electric bills are so high. Before responding I first look up their account for inconsistencies with their meter readings.

Seeing none, I then look at the members daily usage for normalcy. If I see days of higher usage, I will ask questions about those days and normally can identify the cause.

But there have also been times when meters did not communicate properly with the office and bills were estimated. You will know this by an "E" next to the meter

reading on your bill. In the event a load control meter (also known as a submeter) for electric space heating does not communicate with the office, a spike on the bill

will occur. All your energy consumed flows through the main meter first and then the kWh used by the submeter is subtracted from the main meter for billing. If the submeter

Bills to p.3>



Monday, April 11 is

### Lineworker Appreciation Day

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

*Thank you!*

## New employees at North Itasca Electric

### Member Services Manager:

#### Drew Francisco

Member Services Manager Drew Francisco describes himself as a typical northern Minnesota guy, growing up in Effie and enjoying all the outdoor activities of the northwoods. He is married to Ashley and has two young children.

His career path has taken him from plant operations at Bigfork Valley to maintenance director at

a nursing home in Grand Rapids, through materials management at Bigfork Valley to plant operations director at the hospital.

But throughout his career, he has always been the consumer, asking what he could do to become more energy efficient. Then he took training to become certified

Francisco to p.5>



### Customer Account Representative:

#### Gina Vickerman

Gina Vickerman came to North Itasca Electric right after Thanksgiving last fall to become a customer account representative in the business office. In that job she handles accounts receivable, inventory entries and capital credits.

There's a lot to learn, she said, especially about capital credits – and it's a challenge she enjoys. In her other job she has been the Morse Town Clerk since 2009, and some members might recognize her as she filled

Vickerman to p.7>



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

Falcons are back!

page 6



April Washer/Dryer Sale

pages 8-10

Fire Department gets new tender

page 16

### Office Hours

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

# CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1  
the Member-Owners of North Itasca Electric. I want to personally thank you all for your dedication to the membership and the hard work you provide for all of us!

My wife Cathy called me last night. "Did you know our trees were getting cut?!" Whoops, I might have forgotten to tell her that. We had three beautiful pines that were just too close to the power line. The crew did a very nice job cleaning up, I'll have some great campfire wood for next year after it dries out a bit. I told Cathy I will get the stumps ground down and it will look nice when it's done. Should be a lot easier to mow that part of the yard now.

I know the right-of-way clearing can cause hard feelings when these trees get cut. It is so necessary

for safety and reliability. With the dry conditions we have this spring, I'm so happy we have been responsibly clearing our right-of-way. This will help to prevent fires from starting due to powerlines.

I watched a great video from our insurance company Federated yesterday. This video talks about electrical powerline safety. It does a great job to explain the dangers of trees on the lines and when power lines fall to the ground. You can't see, smell, or hear if a line is de-energized. We must respect the dangers of this system and stay away! We are posting that video on our website and Facebook account. I encourage you to watch the video, if you have kids around, please encourage them to watch the video also.

It's going to be a short weekend. I'm heading to

Maple Grove on Sunday to meet with fellow CEOs from Great River Energy's system. We will meet on Monday morning to go over our monthly Member Manager Group agenda. Right after that I head down to St. Paul for three days of action. I have a meeting with Minnesota Rural Electric Association in the afternoon then I'm going to meet with our Board of Directors.

Monday night we team up with Arrowhead Electric Cooperative, North Star Electric, Cooperative Light and Power, and Lake Country Power. We invite all our legislators to supper to meet and greet and get to know one another a little better. We talk about the issues facing our cooperatives and communities. Tuesday we all head to the Capitol, we visit with our legislators and have the necessary

conversations about the impacts of the bills proposed.

I enjoy these trips to the Capitol. We are a very diverse group with expertise in many different areas. We use this passion to connect with all our legislators. We need relationships with Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. We listen to the concerns of the legislators; we have open and honest conversations about our concerns and the potential impacts of proposed legislation.

These meetings are respectful and full of good information, I always learn a lot from our time at the Capitol. I have respect for our legislators, I couldn't imagine being pulled in so many directions at once.

They have a difficult job; we strive to be a trusted source of information to support their difficult decisions. I take a lot of

pride in the relationships we have built with all our legislators.

I'm heading over to the great St. Urho celebration this weekend. The community and Leino family have always put on quite a show. For those of you not familiar, St.

Urho ran the grasshoppers out of Finland saving the grape crop. Without the grape crop. Without grapes, it's pretty tough to make wine. People grab their purple and green head to Leino's Pub; they aren't disappointed.

*By your side! Miigwech Brad*

## Electrical Inspections

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

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

The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

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



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# WATTS NEWS

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

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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      Pending, District 7  
Jeff Kilian, District 8

# Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 22, 2024

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

**End time: 11:55 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on February 22, 2024.

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

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

**Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:30 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 shared a chainsaw safety video.
  - o Tina reviewed the January Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports as they were presented. Seconded; motion passed.
  - o A motion was made to leave directorship of District 7 vacant until June 2024 when an election can take place to finish out the current term. Seconded; motion passed.
  - o Daryl gave the Line Department report. We have been working with Star Energy on a new grant opportunity. Powell is currently clearing right of ways in the Talmoon area.
  - o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report.
  - o Tina gave the Office Report. Workers Comp Audit is now complete. We have started working on the Civil Rights Review which is done every two years.
  - o Brad gave the CEO report.
  - o Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
  - o Lloyd gave the GRE report.
  - o A motion was made to approve travel and expenses for Todd Christensen to attend the meetings in Washington DC April 21-24, 2024. Seconded; motion carried.
  - o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.
- 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.*

## Reasons why bills might seem high

>from p.1  
fails to communicate with the office, the billing software will see it as general service usage and bill it at that rate instead of the off-peak or dual fuel rate.

This also happens when breakers to the off-peak equipment get turned off. If there is no power to the meter it can't communicate the reading to the office. This is why North Itasca Electric asks members to leave their breakers on.

To the right is a five-day example of a main and dual fuel meter where all energy flows through the main showing how the submeter usage is subtracted. If the submeter doesn't communicate the reading to the office, energy doesn't get subtracted from the main meter at the reduced rate.

Problems with submeters not communicating are very small but can happen. The largest reason for high bills is related to other issues, mostly members being unaware of the amount of energy plug-in appliances consume, such as electric space heaters, heat tapes, head bolt heaters, water tank heaters for cattle, and such. The average family consumes between 800 to 1,200 kWhs per month. At the general service rate this would equate to \$104 to \$154.

Submeters on a space heating load control rate can vary widely depending on many conditions such as thermostat settings, outdoor temperatures, how tight homes are built to retain heat, windows, and such.

Efficient heating equipment does play a role in saving heating costs, but the largest savings is

Both main and submeter usages				Dual Fuel submeter only		
Date	Meter Reading	kWh per day	Max Demand	Meter Reading	kWh per day	Max Demand
Thu Feb 01, 24	22083	143	22.488	31396	70	13.197
Fri Feb 02, 24	22232	149	21.139	31478	82	13.36
Sat Feb 03, 24	22394	162	14.2	31570	92	13.298
Sun Feb 04, 24	22558	164	6.444	31661	91	0.187
Mon Feb 05, 24	22709	151	22.209	31746	85	13.389
	22709	Ending read		31746	Ending read	
	22083	Beginning read		31396	Beginning read	
	626	kWh		350	kWh	
626	Total energy through the main					
350	Total dual fuel kWh					
276	Total general service kWh.					

in keeping the heat inside and not escaping to the outdoors. Once a heat loss is calculated for equipment sizing, infiltration (also known as air changes), this is the number to look at. Not only does infiltration affect heating costs and comfort but cooling costs and comfort as well during the summer months. Below are some examples of the effects of infiltration from a heat loss calculation done some time ago.

**Poor:** (old house poorly built) may have an air exchange rate of 1 per hour.

1 ACPH = 28,238 BTUs (8.27 kWhs) x \$0.0673 = 0.57 x 24 = \$13.37 per day.

**Average:** (normal construction, poor vapor barrier) .7 air changes per hour.

.7 ACPH = 19,692 BTUs (5.77 kWhs) x \$0.0673 = .39 x 24 = \$9.36 per day.

**Excellent:** (Excellent construction and sealed vapor barrier) .3 air changes per hour.

.3 ACPH = 8,360 BTUs (2.45 kWhs) x \$0.0673 = .16 x 24 = \$3.84 per day.

With today's building codes we see only excellent construction, but

if one has an older home, it could be average or poor depending on its age.

Getting back to and listing other reasons for higher bills other than plug-in appliances: Higher hot water usage, well pumps when watering, sump pumps during wet seasons, just to name a few more.

To reheat 50 gallons of water in a water heater, for instance, takes 5.47 kWh or \$0.71. An average shower head dispenses water at a rate of 2-3 gallons per minute. It takes

741 Watts of electricity to produce the work of 1 horsepower (HP). If one has a 1/2 HP well pump to water the garden or lawn, consumption would be 370 watts per hour or \$0.04 per hour.

From this I hope you can get somewhat of an idea for reasons behind higher energy bills.

My retirement date is now set for May 3, 2024. You will have a month for any questions I may be able to answer for you.

Until then...



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**Jason Waldron Band 7-9 p.m.**

### Scholarship application deadline is Friday, April 26

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

Scholarship applications are now available from your high school counselor or by emailing Christine Lundin at [clundin@northome.k12.mn.us](mailto:clundin@northome.k12.mn.us). You can also contact the North Itasca Electric office at (218) 743-3131. Information is available on the Northome School counselor's web page at [www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2460](http://www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2460).

The deadline for applications is April 26, 2024.

These scholarships are funded through unclaimed capital credits. Children of families who live out of the area but are Members of the cooperative (such as seasonal properties with a meter) are eligible to apply.

### Cold weather rule & energy assistance program notice

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

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

#### North Itasca Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

#### Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2024. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.

- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance, Kootasca Community Action (218) 999-0800. North Itasca Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Sheila Hafeman at (218) 743-3131 to set up a payment plan.

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## GRE's Resource Plan approved

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) gave the green light to Great River Energy's integrated resource plan (IRP), which outlines the cooperative's 2023-37 generation portfolio investments.

Great River Energy's integrated resource plan outlines its plan to procure or construct more than 1,200 megawatts of wind power by 2037.

The plan is aimed at maintaining costs for Great River Energy's 27 member-owners while significantly increasing the amount of renewable energy. It was unanimously accepted by the commission on March 7 after being submitted more than a year ago.

IRPs serve as strategic roadmaps for utilities, outlining their anticipated electricity generation methods over the next 15 years, with the PUC providing advisory guidance.

Under the accepted IRP, Great River Energy plans to procure or construct more than 1,200 megawatts (MW) of wind power, 200 MW of energy storage and 200 MW of solar energy capacity by 2037. With this trajectory, the cooperative is poised to achieve its 30% carbon-free objective by 2025, with an expected 90%



Great River Energy's integrated resource plan outlines its plan to procure or construct more than 1,200 megawatts of wind power by 2037.

reduction in carbon emissions by 2035 compared to 2005 levels.

Commissioner Joseph Sullivan commended Great River Energy's efforts and the outcomes contained in the IRP.

*"When you look at the high levels, the numbers are quite impressive. You're going to be reducing carbon emissions by 90% by 2031. If everybody were reducing their carbon emission by 90% by 2031, I would feel a lot better about where the world is going."*

— Minnesota Public Utilities Commissioner Joseph Sullivan

Commissioner John Tuma also praised Great River Energy and its efforts during the IRP process.

*"I really appreciate the outreach you did compared to previous IRPs I've seen," Tuma said. "There was a lot of good outreach to your members, the general public and stakeholders. It was a good piece of work."*

The PUC asked Great River Energy to submit its next IRP by April 1, 2026, with an interim update scheduled for 2025. The update will cover expanding solar resources, electric vehicle adoption rates and updated carbon pricing models.

## GRE: Powering what's possible for its membership

Great River Energy continues to transition its power supply portfolio to serve members and adapt to a changing market while charting a path to achieve carbon-free energy requirements — all while recording the strongest financial results in the organization's history.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, GRE operates at cost to keep rates low for its members. Its competitive advantage widened again in 2023 and GRE currently offers wholesale electric rates approximately 20% below the weighted regional average.

### Making electricity

GRE has been thoughtfully planning and

executing the transition of its power supply portfolio for more than a decade. The cooperative began 2023 by adding two new wind agreements to its growing portfolio of renewable resources that will collectively add more than 300 megawatts of nameplate generating capacity — and zero emissions.

GRE now has power purchase agreements for the output of nine wind facilities located throughout Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas.

### The electric system

By making strategic investments in the grid, GRE and its member-owners are helping keep electricity reliable and affordable as it reduces

carbon dioxide emissions.

GRE is teaming up with Minnesota Power to build the Northland Reliability Project, an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line between northern and central Minnesota. When completed in 2030, the line will bolster the power grid in northern and central Minnesota by allowing more renewable energy sources to be delivered where needed.

GRE is a member of Grid North Partners, a group of utilities that collaborate on projects to improve the electric system. The coalition has announced 19 transmission upgrade projects.

### Federal funding

GRE, along with a majority of its member-owners, filed a Letter of Interest with the United States Department of Agriculture to participate in its Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program to become eligible for nearly \$1 billion in federal funds to advance the work of Minnesota's electric cooperatives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and modernizing the region's power grid.

The \$9.7 billion New ERA program was created as part of the Inflation Reduction Act with the goal of helping rural America transition to cleaner, reliable and more affordable electricity.

## Drew Francisco joins co-op

>from p.1  
in energy management and began looking at where energy was being lost in a facility.

In his new position at North Itasca Electric, he has become the energy provider instead of the consumer, helping co-op members to become more energy efficient and save money. He also is hoping to help the co-op

succeed in its effort to "go green" by 2030.

And he'll be looking at untapped potential: what else could North Itasca Electric do for its members?

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### Falcons return to Elk River nest



A sure sign of spring at Great River Energy's Elk River campus is the return of peregrine falcons to the nesting box located onsite. Brooklyn, the male falcon, has returned for a 10th consecutive year and Breezy, the female falcon, has returned for a seventh year. Breeding pairs tend to be monogamous and return to the same nesting location year after year. Great River Energy placed its first nesting box at the Elk River Campus in 2006. Since then, 54 young falcons have successfully fledged from the site. The pair may begin producing eggs in late March. Watch the falcons on GRE's peregrine falcon birdcam: [greatriverenergy.com/birdcam](http://greatriverenergy.com/birdcam).

## Shaping our energy future through innovation

by Anne Prince

The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by technology and the transition to more sustainable forms of energy. Innovation is essential in addressing these challenges and ensuring a continuous, reliable and affordable power supply.

Electric co-ops are no strangers to adapting to the needs of the local communities we serve. North Itasca Electric has always leaned into change as we explore new ways to meet your energy needs.

### Preparing for increased energy use

Today, we depend on electricity more than ever before. From vehicles to farming equipment to home heating options, more products and appliances that we depend on run on electricity.

Interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing. North Itasca Electric is available to help our members make informed decisions about EVs, including electric charging options and capacity requirements for the home.

Automakers are transitioning many or all new vehicles to electric-only models in the next 10 years. North Itasca Electric, like all electric providers, must plan now to have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs—without jeopardizing the ability to provide reliable power.

### Innovative efficiency solutions

North Itasca Electric is driven by a commitment to community and member satisfaction. As

consumers become more proactive in managing their energy use, we are providing new ways to help our members lower their use and save money.

Energy evaluations for a home or business can help you take advantage of actionable energy-saving advice as well as efficiency services offered by the co-op. Rebates, pay-as-you-go bill flexibility, and financing for new Energy STAR®-rated appliances and heating/cooling systems are just a few examples of how North Itasca Electric can help you take control of your energy use.

### Cooperation among cooperatives

You may not realize it, but North Itasca Electric is part of a larger network of 900 electric co-ops nationwide. While we are locally-owned by you, the members of the

co-op, we also have the advantage of working with co-ops across the country to share ideas and leverage the innovations our colleagues might have tried out first. As cooperatives, we're collaborators instead of competitors—it's a unique aspect of our business model, and we're stronger because of it.

Our energy future will look different than it has in the past, but North Itasca Electric is prepared to adapt for the members we serve. Our mission and commitment to you remain steady—to provide reliable power at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



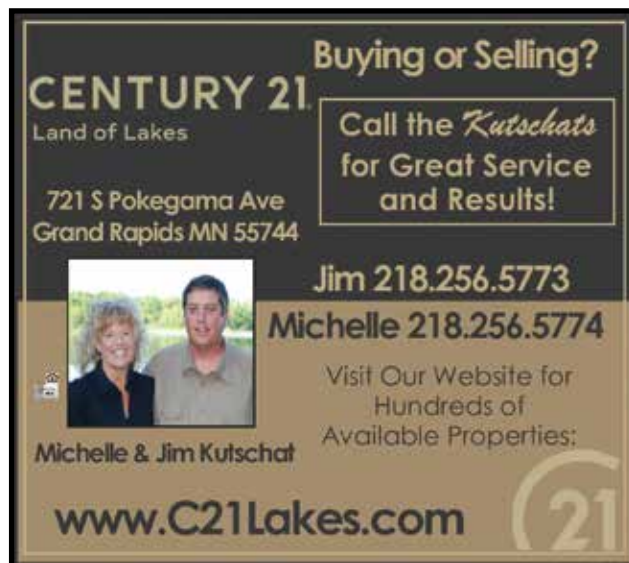
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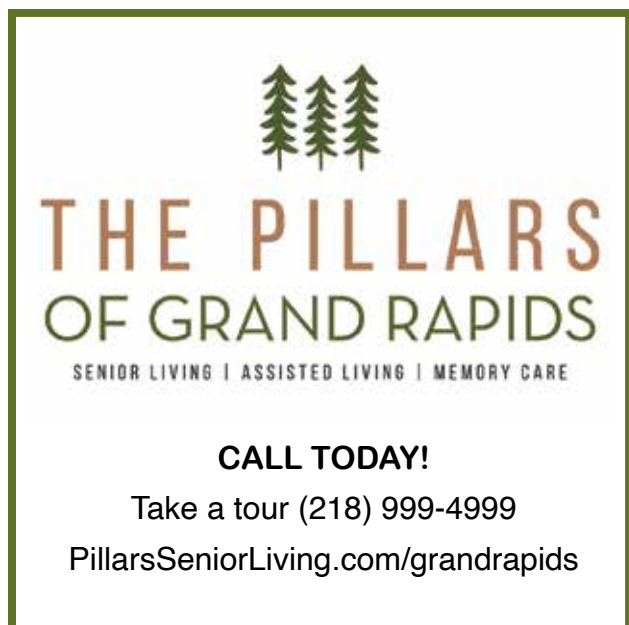


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# Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

This has been such a nice mild winter, hasn't it? I just heard that the last four leap years have been the same. Very mild and not much snow. I think it was perfect! A nice change from last winter. Now we need some rain, and it will all be good!

I want to let you know I have a showroom full of appliances, so if you are in the market for appliances please stop in and check us out or give me a call at (218) 743-3132. Our office is open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday – Friday, and I'm here from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. I run a different sale every month so watch our WATTS News or go to our website to see what's on sale.

Remember if you are buying three items you will get 8% off. Purchasing four appliances would be 10% off and five or more would be 15% off. Financing is available to members who have been current on their accounts with us for 3 months in a row. You can take a contract out for up to three years with a 20% down payment. Our interest rate is 4%.

I learned something new this month. Did you know they make a magnetic dryer vent?

This does not sound like such a big deal to some of you, but for those of you like me who have your dryer in a tight spot where you must lay on the floor and try to reach around the machine to get the vent lined up and then try to secure it.

This is a game changer. The last time I purchased a new washer and dryer my husband was trying to get the vent on in a small utility room where my pressure tank, dryer and the washer are located, in that order. He was on the floor between the pressure tank and the dryer trying to reach around to get the vent hooked up to the dryer. After struggling for about an hour he finally got it on and kind of rolled over a little and he accidentally shouldered into the water line and broke it off right at the bottom of pressure tank.

Ice cold water was shooting everywhere, and he was trying to stop the water with his hand. I heard

the water spraying and ran in to see what was happening. I thought he was going to drown! The water was going right in his face, and he was stuck there. I ran and shut the main breaker off, and the water finally quit.

What a mess, it was a really hot day, and the water was ice cold, and we were both soaked! He looked at me and said, "Well, did you get cooled off?" At first, I was mad, mopping up all the water with every towel I had in the house, but then I looked at my drowned rat husband and he looked at me, and we both busted out laughing.

I would not have had the mess if I had a magnetic hose connector on the dryer. You just get the hose end close to the vent opening on the dryer and it pulls it right over to the dryer and snaps together tightly. Whoever invented this was really thinking. The next time I need a new dryer we will purchasing one of these.

# Roxanne's Repair Tips:

## Why my front load washer stinks – and how to fix it!

The odors come from mold and mildew. Front load washers are designed in a way that water easily gets trapped in the rubber gasket and becomes stagnant.

To help eliminate the smell there are a few things you can do:

1. Wipe the rubber gasket to get rid of any extra water, dirt or debris that might have got caught,

after every use.

2. Clean your washing machine with baking soda, vinegar or washing machine cleaner.

3. Make sure you are using the proper soap for your machine.

4. Clean your washer at least once every 2-3 months.

5. Leave the washer open between washes, so it can dry out.

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 401 Main Ave., Bigfork 56628 next to the post office

# Gina Vickerman joins the co-op

>from p.1 in a vacancy as the Squaw Lake city clerk for eight months.

It's a busy day for her with an early commute from the family's farm near Deer River, but it's been a great winter on the roads, she pointed out. She and her husband Jason have 60 red angus cattle and are well into calving. The farm also houses two quarterhorses and chickens as well as cats and dogs.

Outside of farm life and work, she loves to spend time with her grandchildren ages 10, 3 and 1, and is looking forward to their second child being married this fall.



A picture of her grandchildren sits on Gina's desk.

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## WASHER AND DRYER SALE



### DLE3600V \$1023.23 Sale \$865.81

LG 7.4 c.f. dryer, Energy Star, sensor dry, Thin Q app, Flow sense indicator, 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, energy saver, 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 Assistant, 4-way venting.



### MLTW44A4BW \$510.17 Sale \$459.15

Midea 4.4 c.f. top load washer. Receive notifications and preload your favorite wash cycles from the app. Two stage dispensers. Power wave agitator, easy reach raised tub. Soft close glass lid. 10 cycles: normal, bedding, heavy duty, towels, whites, quick wash, delicates, rinse & spin, tub clean, My Cycle. 6 options: delay, extra rinse, fabric softener, My Cycle, smart control, signal. 4 soil levels: extra heavy, heavy, medium, light. 4 temperature selections: hot, warm, cold tap, cold. Two-stage dispenser, bleach, softener, delay start up to 24 hours.



### DLE7150W \$827 Sale \$744.30

LG 7.3 c.f. dryer, sensor dry, SmartDiagnosis™, 3-minute installation check, reversible door, LoDecibel™ quiet operation, end of cycle signal, wrinkle care option, child lock. 8 programs: cotton/normal, perm press/casual, heavy duty, bulky/bedding, delicates, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), freshen up (manual dry), wrinkle care, control lock, more time, less time, damp dry signal, energy saver, signal. 3 temperature settings, 3 drying settings, manual dry 60, 40, 20 min.



### HTX24EASKWS \$543.74 Sale \$489.37

Hot point 6.2 c.f. dryer. auto dry, up to 120 ft. venting capability, aluminized alloy drum, 3 heat selections. Delicate cycle, side swing door, upfront lint filter, end of cycle signal, reversible door.



### WT7400CW \$941.59 Sale \$847.43

LG 5.5. c.f. washer. 8 programs: normal, heavy duty, bedding, deep wash, prewash+ normal, delicates, waterproof, downloaded. 16 options: soak, extra rinse, add garments, delay wash, control lock, water plus, cold wash, rinse+spin, spin only, stain care, tub clean, signal, remote start, Wi-Fi, turbo wash, speed wash. 5 wash/rinse temps: hot, warm, semi warm, cold, tap cold. 5 spin speeds: extra high, high, medium, low, no spin. Automatically adjusts to the size of load. TurboWash™ Technology TurboWash3D™ smart rinse, jet spray system, cold wash option, SenseClean system, slam proof lid true balance, anti-vibration system, SmartDiagnosis™ 3-tray dispenser, load sense, status indicator(s), end of cycle signal, child lock, auto suds removal, forced drain system, add a garment indicator LoDecibel™ quiet operation. Energy Star.



### WT71500CW \$828.24 Sale \$745.42

LG 5 c.f. mega capacity washer. 8 wash programs: deep wash, normal, bedding, heavy duty, speed wash, delicates, waterproof, tub clean. 9 wash options: soak, extra rinse, delay wash, control lock, water plus, cold wash, signal, rinse+spin, spin only. 3 wash/rinse temps: hot, warm, cold. 3 spin speeds: high, medium, low. Water levels automatically adjust to the size of load. Smart rinse, jet spray system, cold wash option, SenseClean™ system, 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, leveling legs.



If you have questions, please call Roxanne at (218) 743-3132; email [roxannep@nieci.com](mailto:roxannep@nieci.com).





**WA50R5200AW \$837.79 Sale \$754.01**

Samsung 5.0-cu. ft. capacity washer, active waterjet, easy access tub design, deep fill option, Energy Star certified. Smart Care allows you to quickly troubleshoot from your smart phone. VRT plus technology. Swirl+ drum design prevents snagging. Self-clean cycle eliminates 99.9 percent of germs and bacteria from the drum. Soft close lid, 750 RPM maximum spin speed. 10 preset wash 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: presoak, steam, delay end, alarm off, child lock, smart care, spin only. 5 temperature levels: hot, warmer, warm, cool, cold. LED display in ice blue, dispenser trays: main wash, softener, bleach. Child lock for safety.



**DLE7000W \$744.47 Sale \$670.02**

LG 7.3 c.f. ultra large high efficiency dryer. 8 programs (sensor dry), normal, perm press, heavy duty, bedding, delicates, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), freshen up (manual dry), 7 options: wrinkle care, control lock, more time, less time, damp dry signal, energy saver, signal, 3 temperature settings, 3 drying levels, 3 manual dry times 60, 40, 20 min, more-less. Fabric care features: sensor dry, precise temperature control with variable heater. Features: 3-minute installation check, quiet operation, end of cycle signal. Reversible door, flow sense duct clogging indicator, wrinkle care option, child lock, venting option electric: 4 Way venting. Adjustable legs, remaining time display/status indicator(s) SmartDiagnosis™, Energy Star.



**DLE7400WE \$983.45 Sale \$885.10**

LG 7.3 c.f. ultra large high efficiency dryer with easy load door. 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, 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, more-less, sensor dry. Precise temperature control with variable heater, 3-minute installation check, LoDecibel™ quiet operation, end of cycle signal, drum light, reversible door flow sense duct clogging indicator, wrinkle care option, child lock, LG ThinQ® technology, proactive customer care, SmartDiagnosis™, Wi-Fi connectivity. Remote start and cycle monitor, energy monitoring.



**DLE7400VE \$926.47 Sale \$833.82**

LG 7.3 c.f. ultra large dryer. 8 programs: (sensor dry) normal, perm press, heavy duty, bedding, delicates, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), freshen up (manual dry), 7 options: wrinkle care, control lock, more time, less time, damp dry signal, energy saver, signal. 3 temperature settings, 3 drying levels, 3 manual dry times 60, 40, 20 min, more-less. Fabric care features: sensor dry, precise temperature control with variable heater. Features: 3 minute installation check, LoDecibel™ quiet operation, end of cycle signal, reversible door, flow sense duct clogging indicator, wrinkle care option, child lock, 4 way venting, 4 adjustable legs, remaining time display/status indicator(s), SmartDiagnosis™, Energy Star qualified.



**WT7000CW \$851.32 Sale \$766.19**

Samsung 4.5 c.f. dryer, 8 wash programs: normal, heavy duty, deep wash, waterproof, bedding, delicates, speed wash, tub clean. 9 wash options: cold wash, signal, delay wash, rinse+spin, water plus, soak, extra rinse, control lock, spin only. 3 wash/rinse temperatures: hot, warm, cold. 3 spin speeds: high, medium, low water levels: load sensing. 3 soil levels, fabric care features cold wash option. Slam proof lid, anti-vibration system, smart diagnosis, 3-tray dispenser, load sense, status indicator(s), end of cycle signal, control lock, auto suds removal, forced drain system, add garment.



**WT7400CV \$926.47 Sale \$833.82**

LG 5.5 c.f. mega capacity top load washer. 8 programs: normal, heavy duty, bedding, deep wash, prewash+ normal, delicates, waterproof, downloaded. 16 wash options: soak, extra rinse, add garments, delay wash, control lock, water plus, cold wash, rinse+spin, spin only, stain care, tub clean, signal, remote start, Wi-Fi, turbo wash, speed wash. 5 wash/rinse temps: hot, warm, semi-warm, cold, tap cold. 5 spin speeds: extra high, high, medium, low. Water levels automatically adjust to the size of load. 3 fabric features: TurboWash™ Technology, TurboWash3D™, SmartRinse™ Jet Spray System, cold wash option, sense clean system. Features: slam proof lid, true balance anti-vibration system, SmartDiagnosis™, 3-tray dispenser, load sense, status indicator(s), end of cycle signal, child lock, auto suds removal, forced drain system, add garment indicator, quiet operation, leveling legs, LG ThinQ® technology, proactive customer care, SmartDiagnosis™, Wi-Fi connectivity, remote start, and cycle monitor, energy monitoring.



**DVE50BG8300AV3 \$865.15 Sale \$778.63**

Samsung 7.5 c.f. Smart electronic dryer with Steam Sanitize+, Energy Star certified, flexible installation, Wi-Fi connectivity, sensor dry, 7.5 cu. ft., ultra capacity, vent sensor, lint filter indicator, stainless steel drum, premium tempered glass door, closet-depth fit, internal drum light, reversible dryer door, smart care, ADA compliant, 21 total drying cycles, 10 options, 5 temperature settings. 4-way venting convenience, child lock, filter check indicator.



**WM3400CW \$901.55 Sale \$811.39**

LG 4.5 cu.ft.. capacity, 6Motion™ Technology, cold wash technology, direct drive motor, 10-year limited warranty Energy Star certified LG SideKick™ compatible, closet depth, never rust stainless steel tub, 8 programs : normal, perm. press, heavy duty, delicates, towels, speed wash, bedding, tub clean, 6 options: prewash, delay wash, cold wash, extra rinse, rinse+spin, child lock, 5 wash/rinse temps: hot, warm, semi warm, cold, tap cold. 3 spin speeds high, medium, low max RPM 1300, water levels: load sensing, adjusted by sensor, except during speed wash. 3 soil levels. 4 tray dispensers: prewash, main wash (with liquid detergent cup), bleach, fabric softener. LoDecibel™ quiet operation, end of cycle signal, load sense, child lock, auto suds removal, 4 leveling legs, easy loading TiITub™, smart diagnosis, remote start, and cycle monitoring.



**WF50BG8300AVUS \$865.15 Sale 778.63**

Samsung extra-large 5.0 cu. ft. capacity super speed wash, Energy Star, most efficient, flexible installation, Wi-fi, connectivity, steam, antimicrobial technology, self-clean+ closet depth fit, premium tempered glass door, vibration reduction technology+, swirl+ drum interior, smart care, ADA compliant, 1200 RPM maximum spin speed, direct drive motor, 23 total washing cycles, 9 additional options.



**DLE3400W \$\$901.55 Sale \$811.39**

LG 4.5 cu.ft. capacity 6Motion™ Technology Cold Wash technology direct drive motor, 10-year limited warranty Energy Star certified, LG SideKick™ compatible, closet depth, never rust stainless steel tub, 8 programs: normal, perm. press, heavy duty, delicates, towels, speed wash, bedding, tub clean. 6 wash options: prewash, delay wash, cold wash, extra rinse, rinse+spin. 5 wash/rinse temps: hot, warm, semi warm, cold, tap cold. 3 spin speeds: high, medium, low. Max RPM 1300. Load sensing water levels adjusted by sensor except during speed wash. 3 soil levels: TrueBalance™ anti-vibration system, 4 tray dispenser, prewash, main wash (with liquid detergent cup), bleach, fabric softener LoDecibel™ quiet operation, end of cycle signal, load sense, child lock, auto suds removal, 4 adjustable leveling legs, easy loading TiITub™, smart diagnosis™, remote start and cycle monitoring.

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# Arts on the Edge

April 19-20 | Finals Week at the Edge

by Valerie Conner

This spring some of the EdgeWild Players have been participating in an educational experiment. Artistic Director Patricia Feld is ready to pass her directing baton (or magic wand) to the next generation of talented local directors. To do this, she and producer Valerie Conner have been guiding four EdgeWild actors as they try their hands at directing one act plays. Stephanie Kessler, Pete Pellinen, Mary McReynolds, and Kayla Scrivner are each directing a one-act play to be presented at 6:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20 and 2 p.m., Sunday, April 21.

Pete's play, *The Ever After: A Musical*, has an all-child cast. It is about favorite fairy tale characters and their adversaries 20 years later. The book is by Nathan Hartswick, and the music and lyrics are by Bill Francoeur. It is being produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Denver, Colorado.

Kayla Scrivner's "Flora's Monologue" is an excerpt from *Heartland Echoes: Lives and Legends of the Bigfork Valley*. It is an original work from a major history and playwriting project developed and performed in the area in 1999.

Stephanie's play, *Jerry Girls*, is an original comedy by Joshua Cagle, which was a product of the Grand Rapids Players' *Insomniacs 5*.

Mary McReynolds' play, *Waiting for the End of the World*, is a futuristic allegory by John Shanahan and produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company.

Join us at the Edge Center for the Arts in Bigfork to have a fun evening and see how these fledgling directors do on their final exam! Tickets will be available at the door, online ([www.edgecenterarts.org](http://www.edgecenterarts.org)), and at the Timber Rose downtown Bigfork.

## SWCD Native Plant Sale

The Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District is offering its annual Native Plant Sale with an order deadline of Friday, April 19. Order online at [itascaswcd.org](http://itascaswcd.org), where growing details and pictures of plants are shown.

This year there are 12 tree species, 3 grasses and 14 wildflower varieties. In addition there are 2 seed mixes: Lovely Lake-shore Blend and Pollinator Paradise Blend and three browse prevention products for trees and plants.

Order early as supplies may be limited. Pick up update are May 16 or 17 at the SWCD office in Grand Rapids.

For more information, visit the website or call (218) 326-5573.

## Bigfork Valley Community Foundation donations



(left) The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently contributed \$768.04 to the Bigfork Youth Baseball program. (1 to r)



The BVCF recently contributed \$1430.17 to the Wilderness Wheelers ATV Club to provide assistance with fulfilling the club's mission. (1 to r) Nanci Zeine, BVCF board member, Ron Danielson, trail coordinator Wilderness Wheelers ATV Club.

## B.I.G. donation

The Bigfork Improvement Group Donated \$250 to the Effie American Legion Auxiliary for their Annual Easter Egg Hunt. (right) Lil Longtine accepts a check from Brian Erickson.





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## Fairbanks recognized by DNR

CO Mike Fairbanks, who is stationed in Deer River, received the Waterfowl Enforcement Achievement Award from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The award was presented at Camp Ripley in February by Col. Rodmen Smith, director of the DNR Enforcement Division.

Fairbanks has been a conservation officer since 2005 and works with his K9 partner Fenec. It's common for hunters to see the two of them early and

late in the day, and in the hard-to-reach areas that waterfowl hunters often target.

"Mike is well-known to the waterfowl hunters in the area he patrols - whether because he's checked them in previous seasons, provided them tips for having a successful hunt, or coached or mentored them in the past," Smith said. "It takes dedication to be a good waterfowl enforcement officer, and Mike is among the best of the best."

## Classic Movie Series

By Jack Nachbar

*Blazing Saddles* (R) (1974), the April movie in the Classic Movie Series in Bigfork, is crude, rude, rambunctious, racy, and quite possibly the craziest Western since Frank and Jesse tried to rob the Northfield bank in 1876. The American Film Institute named it the sixth funniest movie ever made. It was also, at the time, the most successful at the box office of any Western ever made.

*Saddles* stars Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder, Madeline Kahn, and features the legendary Mel Brooks in three roles. Brooks also wrote and directed the movie. It was Brooks's biggest movie hit.

*Blazing Saddles* will be shown Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. This zany parody of Westerns and biting satire of racism is FREE, Old Pards. So jump on yer cayuse and mosey on over to Bigfork. You'll laugh yer innards off.

## AARP Defensive Driving

A 48-hour refresher class will be held on Monday, April 8 at the Deer River Community Center next to King School. Cost for the class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. To register, call (218) 246-8241, ext: 60227. Please arrive 15 minutes early for paperwork.

Contact Peggy Brennan at (651) 895-6465 with any questions. If interested in becoming a Smart Driver instructor, please call Marn Flicker, (763) 291-4411.

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

Coffee Club Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.  
Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.



### NORTHERN ITASCA HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD VACANCY

Residents of the following city are invited to submit a letter of interest to fill the vacancy on the Bigfork Valley Board of Directors:

### CITY OF BIGFORK

**Deadline: 04/19/2024**

**Send letters of interest to:**

Board of Directors  
Bigfork Valley

P.O. Box 258, Bigfork, MN 56628

**By email: WeCare@bigforkvalley.org**

## Empty Bowls is Sunday, May 5! Annual "Treasures" garage sales on Sat., May 4

by Lynn Schleicher

Northern Itasca (Bigfork) Emergency Food Shelf will again be having our Empty Bowls Fundraiser at Bigfork City Hall, in the basement, on Sunday, May 5. Come join us for a Cinco de Mayo breakfast of pancakes, Sausage and breakfast burritos. This is a freewill donation.

Empty Bowls is an international project to fight hunger. Money raised is donated to many organizations that fight hunger locally. Empty Bowls was started in Michigan back in 1990 as a way to have art students make a personal difference. Many communities have taken this idea and use it as an annual community fundraiser event. Bigfork is no exception; this is our one fundraiser every year.

Bigfork art teacher Roberta Steinhart was the driving force approximately 15 years ago, recruiting Nancy Moland, Judi Nixon and Rose Danielson to start our local Empty Bowls event! Many years and volunteers have kept Empty Bowls going until the dreaded pandemic changed the world. We took a pause until 2023 and decided to keep it simple and have a pancake breakfast last year. The spirit of Empty Bowls is still alive even though we are changing from soup to breakfast.

Emergency food shelves strive to provide three days of meals per person, per month. NIEFS-Bigfork has been seeing an increase of need in the last few years. We averaged nine households per week in 2021 and that went up to 13 households in 2023.

All funds raised will be used to continue to offer grocery staples, a selection of fresh produce when available and frozen/fridge items. Our food shelf is set up as a "choice" model that lets our neighbors select what items they need and like.

Please stop by Sunday, May 5 at 200 Main Ave, Bigfork MN 56628 between 9 a.m. and noon for a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, breakfast burrito and coffee/juice. Take out will be available. Don't forget to "like" our Facebook page, Bigfork MN Food Shelf.

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

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

It's free to be on the Treasure's published map to direct people to your sale. Print off a registration form from the Facebook page @Treasures6429. To be included, the registration needs to be received by April 12..

This is an all volunteer community event. Paul Bunyan Communications is the major sponsor.

Send a message from Facebook at Treasures6429 or email to bowstringchapel@gmail.com. For more information, see the Facebook page.

## SAIL classes

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:

- 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.

## Blandin Foundation Scholarship deadline extended to May 1

For more information, visit [blandinfoundation.org](http://blandinfoundation.org)

## area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: April 9, 30; May 21

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: April 11; May 2, 23

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

Mondays: April 8, 29; May 20

12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Gemmel; Community 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*

### 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

12:30-4:30 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 News

Email editor at [sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net),

## ~ April Calendar ~

### Deer River

DRHC Volunteers invite you to a Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 11 starting at 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$12. Pick up ticket at Daylily Gifts starting April 15 through May 10. Tickets also available at the door. DRHC Volunteers invite you to a Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 11 starting at 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$12. Pick up ticket at Daylily Gifts starting April 15 through May 10. Tickets also available at the door.

### Marcell

Northwoods Quilters meet the 4th Tuesday of the month March-Oct . 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Marcell Town Hall. There are no dues. Lots of Show 'n Tell and learning quilting techniques, etc. Need more info? ...email [starr5848@arvig.net](mailto:starr5848@arvig.net)

### General Interest

“Loon Restoration in Minnesota” is the March First Thursday online program with Itasca Waters. Explore loon biology threats to loons and howto support loon conservation and participate in the effort. Presenter is Jayden Jech, loon speicalist with the MnDNR Nongame Wildlife Program. Register at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org). Free.

### Correction

The Itasca Waters March program, “Living With Zebra Mussels In Your Lake - A Cautionary Tale” identified one of the presenters as Phil Thompson (Bay Lake, NW shoreline of Mille Lacs Lake). Phil Thompson actually lives on Sand Lake in northwest Itasca County.



## 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 Operation Round Up applications due at North Itasca Electric headquarters, 3:30 p.m.
- 3 “The Club I Never Wanted to Join” breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, [lynn\\_ettl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_ettl@msn.com).
- 4 First Thursday “Practical Water Wisdom” online programs over the lunch hour, register at [withitascawaters.org](http://withitascawaters.org). April program is “Loon Restoration in Minnesota” with Jayden Jech, DNR loon specialist.
- 6 Ortman benefit at Effie Neighborhood Tavern starting at 1 p.m.
- 8 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 8 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 8 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 8 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 8 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Administrative Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids or at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org), 6 p.m. Information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from board meeting link at [isd318.org](http://isd318.org).
- 9 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503.
- 9 Bigfork City Council at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 10 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11 Lineworker Appreciation Day – Thank a lineworker today!
- 11 Deer River Health Care Volunteers “Enchanted Garden Luncheon” at Bethany Lutheran Church, 11-1:30. Tickets available at the door, \$12.
- 11 Classic Movies at the Edge Center in Bigfork presents *Blazing Saddles (R)* (1974) starring Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder and Madeline Kahn., 6:30 p.m. Free. Last movie until fall.
- 16 Free community meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 4-6 p.m. Open to everyone on the third Tuesday of the month. This month: hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes and vegetable.
- 17 Stitch-n-Bitch meets at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 5-7 p.m. Finish your crafts projects! For more information, call Krista at (218) 410-2258
- 19 Order deadline for the Native Plant Sale through the Itasca County Soil and Water District. Order form and plant information online at [itascaswcd.org](http://itascaswcd.org). Plant pick-up dates are May 16 and 17 at the SWCD offices at 1895 U.S. Hwy 2.
- 19 Arbor Day
- 19-21 Four One Act Plays at the Edge Center, 6:30 p.m. Firday, Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets at the door and Timber Rose, \$10, 12 and under free.
- 20 Fire & Ice Gala benefitting Health Career Scholarship Fund at Deer River’s Forward Health Foundation at the Timberlake. More information at [forwardhealthfoundation.org](http://forwardhealthfoundation.org).

## 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 8:00a**  
25747 Co. Rd. 340  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953

**Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a** Mass also Tu, W, 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](http://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**  
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](mailto:wildernesschurchMN@gmail.com)

**Wilderness Church Sun 9:30a**  
City Hall  
200 Main Ave.  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3500  
[wildernesschurchMN@gmail.com](mailto:wildernesschurchMN@gmail.com)

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

- 22 ISD 318 School Board meeting in Grand Rapids or at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org), 6 p.m. Information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at [isd318.org](http://isd318.org).
  - 23 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call (218) 659-2157.
  - 23 Northwoods Quilters meet the 4th Tuesday at the Marcell Town Hall, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.. Show ‘n Tell and quilting techniques. [starr5848@arvig.net](mailto:starr5848@arvig.net)
  - 26 Application deadline for North Itasca Electric Scholarships. Open to high school seniors whose parents are co-op members. Application at [www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2731](http://www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2731)
  - 30 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. For information on joining the meeting online, call (218) 743-1772.
- MAY**
- 2 Itasca Waters First Thursday program: “How the State Determines Fish Management Strategies, Including Stocking”
- 4 Treasures Are Fine garage sales along highways 6, 4 and 29. Pick up maps at local stores.
- 5 Empty Bowls hosts Cinco de Mayo breakfast of pancakes, sausage and breakfast burritos, 9 a.m.-noon at Bigfork City Hall. Freewill donation.

**Heating & Cooling**



**Itasca Services, LLC**  
218-245-5449

Maintenance, Service & Replacement

**Fighting Hard Against Sticker Shock**

**Sat, May 4** **Treasures Are Fine**  
8a-5p 60 mile long garage sale  
in NW Itasca County  
Hwys 6-4-29

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
-SERVICES- -SERVICES-



**SharMar Optical Solutions**

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Exceptional Bargains  
(218) 452-1134

Marcell Family Center • Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
or by appointment

**Grief Support Group**

Thursday mornings at 10am  
Jesse Lake Lutheran Church  
45834 County Rd 4, Talmoo

For more information, contact  
Marion Leimbach, 320-293-5741 or  
email pineloft@bigfork.net



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**Eric Elhardt**  
Owner

www.lakesidemarcell.com | 49208 State Hwy 38  
eric@lakesidemarcell.com | Marcell, MN 56657

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Pastor Sam Ketchum  
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Sunday Worship Service: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
<https://www.oldscenic.com>

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Flexible rental times!  
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**Jean Ellen's Taco Salad**

*Thank you to Lori Hendrickson for this April recipe!*

Brown 2 lbs. ground beef and drain until totally dry. Add 2 envelopes of dry Taco Seasoning – do not add water. Chill for a few hours, then loosen meat with a fork and add the other ingredients:

- 3 packages shredded lettuce
- 2 large tomatoes, chopped
- 2 bunches green onions, chopped
- 2 packages (4 cups total) shredded cheese (regular, taco or Mexican flavored, or other you prefer)

Wait to add dressing and chips until you are ready to serve.

- 1 24-ounce Italian dressing
- 1 large bag crushed (crush in bag before opening the bag.) taco chips, Nacho Cheese Doritos, or whatever chips you want to use.

This is a flexible recipe - be creative and adjust to your personal preferences!

**A family favorite recipe!**

**Wild Rice and Butternut Squash Salad**

- 1 1/2 cup wild rice, rinsed well
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 butternut squash, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 Tablespoons avocado or olive oil
- 2 Tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 cup dried cranberries

Cook 1 1/2 cups of rinsed wild rice in 4 cups of water with 1 teaspoon of salt. Mix with 1 cup mayonnaise and 1 teaspoon cumin, and cool.

Cut up a butternut squash into 1/2 inch cubes and toss with 2 Tablespoons oil and 2 Tablespoons maple syrup. Place on cookie sheet lined with parchment paper and bake in 380° degree oven 20-25 minutes or until tender.

Pour hot water over 1 cup of dried cranberries, drain and dry. Combine cooled rice mixture with cranberries and hot squash mixture and serve. Also good cold. Serves about 6.

*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.*

**AD DEADLINE**  
for the MAY issue: Weds., April 17

# CLASSIFIEDS

**-HELP WANTED-**

*Wanted:* Dock boy, 16 or older; cabin cleaners. At Georgene's Haven on Bowstring Lake 218-832-3076 or cell 218-244-5615 5/24

*Wanted:* Someone to help 200 ft.-300 ft. fishing dock this spring. At Georgene's Haven on Bowstring Lake 218-832-3076 5/24

**-FREE-**

*Free:* Women's 16 ct. new Prevail daily (pullup) underwear. 12 pkgs of 16 ct. in boxes, XLarge ,lilac color, Squaw Lake. Call (218) 256-0016 5/24

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Brown steel roof panels, 3 ft. on center, varied lengths 16-27 ft. long. \$2 per linear foot or best offer. At Georgene's Haven on Bowstring Lake 218-832-3076 or cell 218-244-0832 5/24

*For sale:* One propane stove, Frigidaire self-cleaning, almond color, one burner's igniter does not work. \$250. Located NW corner of Bowstring Lake. Call Brian (612) 408-9079 5/24

*For sale:* 40 acres north of Effie. Call (218) 969-6266 5/24

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* LG 29 cu.ft. French door refrigerator, 2015 model LFXS29626 in white, used for 5 years, exc. cond. New cost was \$2,500 then, sell for \$1,050 now. Home Comfort wood cook stove gray w/warming bins, \$250. Powermate 5 kW generator, \$475. Genesys automotive scanner, needs update, \$275. Frigidaire 25 pt. dehumidifier, \$35. Howard Miller tall clock w/Westminster chimes, \$300. Call (218) 308-1335 5/24

*For sale:* China cabinet, 2 piece. 6 ft high by 4 ft wide, \$100. Older love seat & chair \$225. Old dresser, 3 drawers, good shape, \$100. Coffee table, \$20. Older rocking chair and ottoman, \$40. 2 Heavy Line sleeping bags good for -20°, \$20. Storm Buggy power steam cleaner, \$30. 2-12 ft wood extension ladders \$20. Call (218) 743-3375 eves. 4/24

*For sale:* DISH - portable satellite antenna, receiver and remote Tailgater model. Great for fishhouse or camper. New \$600, sell for \$275 Call (612) 300-7705 4/24

**TOWN OF CARPENTER, ITASCA COUNTY**  
**NOTICE**  
Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.  
This may affect your 2025 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for *Carpenter Township* shall meet on April 16, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Carpenter Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

Cheryl Steege, Clerk

**-FISHING-  
BOATS, DOCKS**

*For sale:* 2017 Yamaha 8 hp short shaft boat motor, 4 stroke like new. \$2,100 obo. 612-919-3678 5/24

*For sale:* Evinrude 7.5 outboard motor Model E8RCSS. Gas tank included, \$100. Call 218-777-6464 5/24

*For sale:* Used two-seater Sun Dolphin pedal paddle boat (no canopy) for sale, \$150. 218-743-2320 5/24

*For sale:* Strikemaster electric ice auger. 24 volt, 2 batteries. Extra set of blades. Used 2 seasons. \$325. Call (218) 245-0112 (home phone) 5/24

*For sale:* Two 20 ft sections steel frame dock, wood top, 3+ ft. wide. \$500 per section. Good condition. Dock is very manageable for two people. Call Brian (612) 408-9079 5/24

**-VEHICLES-  
SNOWMOBILES, ATVs**

*For sale:* 2002 Toyota Corolla , 248,000 miles. \$2,300. Call (218) 259-5217 5/24

*For sale:* 2004 Toyota Camry 237,000 mile. \$3,200. Call (218) 259-5217 5/24

*For sale:* 2012 Polaris 500 HO 910 mi, winch, bumpers. Adult ridden. \$5,000. Call (218) 910-5566 5/24

*For sale:* 2002 Toyota Corolla. 248,000 miles. \$2,200. Call (218) 259-5217 4/24

**-FARM-**

*For sale:* Hay, square bales, mixed grass. Baled dry, stored dry. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 4/24

**NOTICE**  
**ASSESSMENT NOTICE – MARCELL TOWNSHIP**  
Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.  
This may affect your 2025 property taxes.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Marcell Township shall meet on 4/25/2024 at 9:30 AM at the Marcell Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

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

**REQUEST FOR ROAD & BRIDGE QUOTES**  
**MARCELL TOWNSHIP**

Request for quotes for the Road Grading & Summer Maintenance and the Snowplowing & Winter Maintenance contracts for Marcell Township. For details, please contact the Marcell Township at 218-832-3965 (leave message) or email us at marcell.township@yahoo.com.

For consideration, quotes must be received, with the required paperwork, by April 10th, 2024, 5:00 PM. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all quotes.

Quotes must be accompanied by verification of general liability and Workman's Comp.

Quotes can be directed to:  
Marcell Township  
PO Box 141  
Marcell, MN 56657  
218-832-3965  
marcell.township@yahoo.com

**NOTICE**  
Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.  
This may affect your 2025 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Ardenhurst Township** shall meet on **April 18, 2024 1:00 PM at Ardenhurst Community Center**. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

**NOTICE**  
**Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting**

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Wirt Township shall meet on April 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Wirt Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

Cheryl A. Carrigan, Clerk  
Wirt Township

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P.O. Box 43  
Spring Lake, MN 56680 or  
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or email: sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

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

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

# Bigfork Volunteer Fire Department gets new tender

by Sally Sedgwick  
It's a big new addition to the Bigfork Volunteer Fire Department's fleet of firefighting vehicles. Really big.

The department has taken delivery of a 3,000 gallon, 6-wheel drive tender. And it is mammoth. It's job is to carry water to remote locations, and, says Fire Chief Drew Francisco, the extra water it carries could potentially save a home.

With a new tank mounted on a 2010 chassis, the new truck carries 50% more water than the other vehicles the department owns and can take hills easily where other vehicles struggle. The truck is designed to transfer water to other firetrucks for pumping out firehoses.

The Bigfork Fire Department is a part of the city, but has one of the largest coverage areas in the state, serving over 700 square miles. Its 22



Jeremiah Gilbertson and Matt Stone did most of the legwork on the truck project.

firemen are trained for even hazmat incidents. and take 55-60 calls a year There is reason to be for primarily structure concerned, especially this fires, but also wildland year. The dry conditions fires, helicopter landing are expected to lead assists, medical assists, to extremely high fire vehicle accidents and danger, says Francisco.



# Outdoor Skills webinars

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources offers an Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series over the lunch hour on Wednesdays. Register at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), search on "outdoor skills." April 3: No country for old bears with Andy Tri, DNR. April 10: Climate impacts on cold water fisheries with Derek Bahr and Heather Baird, DNR. April 17: Southeast brook trout conservation with Melissa Wagner, Lanesboro DNR. April 24: Experience the spring warbler migration with Amy Simso Dean.

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**218-832-3121**



**Now Hiring at Marcell!  
AIS Watercraft Inspectors**

*The Turtle Lake Association is hiring AIS Watercraft Inspectors for the 2024 boating season.*

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

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

**Job Overview:** Inspect watercrafts for AIS (aquatic invasive species). This position works outside and interacts with the public. Paid training by the DNR through Itasca County AIS program.

**Hourly Pay:** \$16.00 an hour.

**Interested?** Call Bill Grantges, 218-259-8797 or email [Bill.Grantges@itascawcd.org](mailto:Bill.Grantges@itascawcd.org)

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**Call-Email-Stop in - for Appointment**  
[sixand14repair@yahoo.com](mailto:sixand14repair@yahoo.com)  
43576 Co Rd 14 Bigfork, MN 56628



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