



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL. 28 NO. 4

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2025

CEO Report

The first day of spring is here! We made it through more of a normal winter and now bring on the spring. I'm ready to see the trees and start the spring activities.

I know I'm getting a little ahead of myself. We won't be working in the gardens and fields for a while, but we should be through the thick of the winter season at least.

My youngest daughter decided to take up golf this year. I'm very excited to see if she takes a shine to pasture pool, even if it's not for her she'll learn about the game I love to hate.

I sat down with Andrew this morning. We are preparing to discuss our Off-Peak system with our directors next week. We must replace the system that we use today. Currently, Great



Brad Dolinski, CEO

River Energy manages the existing system. Parts have become unavailable for the system we have benefitted from over the past 20 years. We worked with GRE to get
CEO to p.2>

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone!

Spring is in the air, and I can't wait for warmer temps and for things to finish thawing out. Crazy to think I've been in this position a year already!

I've spent the last few weeks roaming our service territory checking and replacing troublesome sub meters. Sub meters are the meters that control electric heating; whether it be dual fuel, storage heating or water heaters.

If I didn't get a chance to see you at the homes/cabins I've visited, there would be a tag on your door indicating so.

A lot of the properties I've visited have had their controlled services breaker off while they're away. I wanted to take some time to explain what happens to our meters when there isn't power

supplied to it. Once the power is shut off for the controlled service, the meter loses power and communication to our reporting system. This causes the meter to go into an "estimating" state. You can see this on your energy bill

Member to p.2>

Thank a lineman on:

Lineworker Appreciation Day, Monday, April 14

Line Department

**Jake Bowers
Bruce Carlson
Cody Eichens
Joshua M Hubbard
Chris Larson
Richard "Dick" Lind**

**Trevor Michienzi
Charles "Chuck" Peck
Daryl Pederson
Eli Rahier
John Rahier
Cole Serfling**



Spotlight on Service: Sam's Place

by Sally Sedgwick

About eight years ago, Charlie and Jess Hazzard started a heating and air conditioning business and named it Spring Lake Heating and Air.

They built their business helping residents in northern Itasca County, but when Charlie was asked to help with ideas to fix the heating at the Riverside Residence in Bigfork, he had to share bad news. "There was no easy fix," he recalled. The vintage equipment included three cast iron oil fired boilers. The original equipment from 1938

Sam's Place to p.6>

< Charlie and Jess Hazzard



North Itasca Electric Co-op crews are rebuilding a 4.5-mile section of line along County Road 14. Here they are setting new poles and stringing new overhead line to accommodate the larger wire being installed.

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

Scholarships

page 7

April Washer & Dryer sale

pages 8-9

Wired for Service!

page 5

Office Hours

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

CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1
some extra time out of the existing system; time is almost up.

The good news is we found a replacement option that is much more economical to transition to. We will be able to team with other cooperatives at GRE to reduce costs for all. This is what is called a “door swap.” When we begin to deploy the new hardware, we will not have to replace all the parts. Rather, we will cut the seal, replace the outer door on the control device and finish the paperwork and computer work back at the office.

Now, the bad news. This technology comes at a price. I will make a recommendation to our board next week; how will we fund this project? Off-Peak equipment is not used by all North Itasca Member-Owners. The new expenses and equipment must be

paid for by the users of the program. We had estimates for a new system of different technology of over two million dollars. We will be spending less than four hundred thousand dollars on the door swap option. My recommendation to the board; add a small equipment charge of roughly \$2 per month and also increase the kWh charge on Off-Peak rates roughly \$0.002/kWh. This will cover the expenses of the new system without a large increase in Member-Owners bills. If you were a large user of Off-Peak electric heat (4,000 kWh/month), I would expect your bill to increase by about eleven dollars that month.

I heard from many of my Member-Owners this past month. What is going on with Canada and the tariffs on electricity? I reached out to Great River Energy. They assured me there will be little to no

impact on North Itasca. Manitoba Hydro represents about 1% of the MISO market. Ontario specifically represents about half of that. Great River Energy secured about 2% of our power from Canada in 2024. We would be able to secure energy from other sources if need be. I am not concerned about the tariffs on electricity currently. If something changes, I will communicate that with you.

Another conversation I had this month was related to the mail. When you send a piece of mail today, it sounds like it makes quite a trip before it makes the Bigfork Post Office. I was asked to give you a heads up, you might want to send your bill payment a little earlier than you expected.

*By your side! Miigwech
Brad*

Member Services

>from p.1
right before the kWh reading. If the meter is in an estimating state, it will use the electrical usage from the prior year for billing purposes. The bad thing about that is the usage from the prior year could be way less, causing a low bill amount. Or it could estimate high, causing an over payment on kWhs that weren't really used.

This can all be avoided by just making a phone call to the North Itasca Electric office. Letting us know that the breaker for your sub meter is off gives us the chance to move your meter into a “breaker off” category in our billing system, taking away the risk of estimated usage and saving your checkbook! This can be the case for your main residential meter on your property as well. If you have questions or want



Drew Francisco

some more information, please contact us.

As we move into spring and those winter projects begin, please keep in mind there may be some opportunities for North Itasca Electric to help you get those projects completed.. It never hurts to give me a call and see what we can provide or come up with! Hope to hear from you and I look forward to continuing to serve the membership of North Itasca Electric.

*Until next time,
Drew Francisco*

Are you tax exempt?

If you have a second meter for either Dual Fuel or Storage Space heating to heat your home with electric heat, you qualify for a tax exemption status for the energy consumption by your heating equipment. It is easy to check by adding up all charges on your bill and multiplying them by \$0.07875. If the answer equals that shown on your bill, you are paying tax on your electric heat. You can avoid this tax by going to North Itasca Electric's website www.northitascaelectric.com, then go to the FIND A FORM tab and select Minnesota Sales Tax Exemption form. Complete and send to our office.



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 (800) 762-4048

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James White, District 1 Mary Rahier, District 4
 Todd Christensen, District 6 Tom Kallio, District 7
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Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 27, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on February 27, 2025

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

Directors Present via Zoom: W. Waller & T. Kallio.

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Daryl Pederson, Tina Danielson, Drew Francisco, and Gina Vickerman.

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- A motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- Tina presented the Operating Report. Motion to approve. Seconded; motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. There were only 3 outages for the month of January. The reconductor job on CR 152 is completed. We have now moved up to CR14 where the crew is reconducting approximately 4.5 miles from Hwy 6 to 1/0 ACSR. Powell Excavating is currently tree trimming on Map 62 in the Bowstring area.
- Drew gave his Members Service report. Zero Homes is underway and will help streamline energy audits and necessary updates needed to help membership be more efficient. IRRR decided to match our original amount of \$16,500, bringing the Bigfork Revitalization Grant to \$33,000 in funds for local businesses.
- Tina presented the Office Report. The office is working on Audit. Work order closes no.s 247016 - 24720 were presented to the board. Moved to close all five Work Orders. Seconded; motion passed.
- Brad presented the CEO report. He will update the board with a recommendation on Eaton at the next board meeting in March.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report.
- Round Table discussion was held.
- Brad requested a resolution from the Board to allow him to update all the necessary documents such as account access, signature cards, etc. Motion to authorize Brad. Seconded; motion carried.
- Moves on all the nominating committee delegates and alternates selected. Supports; motion carried.
- A motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried.

The regular meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

To be placed on the board meeting agenda:

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.

Projecting the impact of electric vehicles

Great River Energy team recognized for application of novel EV

A team of Great River Energy employees was recently recognized by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for the application of an interactive, online tool for understanding where, when and how much electric vehicle (EV) charging load is likely to materialize on the U.S. grid.

GRE is one of 500 utilities, vehicle manufacturers, charging providers and other organizations collaborating on a three-year initiative known as EVs2Scale, which is designed to address challenges faced by these groups as they prepare to support EV goals that have targeted up to 50% market share by 2030.

Part of the EVs2Scale initiative is the “eRoadMap” planning tool, which highlights both immediate and future EV charging needs by allowing users to explore how quickly EVs are expected to be on the road in different regions and identifying the energy needs at approximately the level where critical utility planning occurs

GRE employees Jeff Haase, director of member services; Rodney De Fouw, member electrification strategist; and John Williams, III, senior forecaster, were selected to receive a 2024 EPRI Technology Transfer Award for their application of the EVs2Scale eRoadMap for EV planning.

GRE was one of the first utilities to request the EVs2Scale eRoadMap dataset for the purpose of developing an internal geographic information system (GIS) tool. Once the team received a data shape file of Minnesota, it worked with Jeff Grussing, manager of GIS development and technology at the cooperative, to develop a plan on how to best incorporate the data into the cooperative’s system.

This data is ultimately providing valuable insights



for GRE’s system engineers, planners, key accounts and energy services employees across its membership.

The data and eRoadMap tool will assist several challenges in planning for EV adoption, including:

- Identifying areas and businesses with high EV growth potential
- Predicting impacts of EV load growth for forecasting and planning purposes
- Aiding in equipment sizing and procurement decisions
- Improving understanding of the timeline and impacts EVs will have on cooperatives

“By using the eRoadMap tool, we have been able to take a new set of data to integrate into our planning process,” Haase said. “Unlike planning for building load,

EVs can be added at a site in a much shorter timeframe, often leaving utilities little time for necessary electrical upgrades.”

GRE intends to continue growing

the tool’s functionality for the benefit of its membership as the tool’s dataset expands and is integrated into the cooperative’s GIS.

“Incorporating this set of data into our planning practices will allow Great River Energy and our member-owners to identify and plan for large transportation loads earlier than we would have otherwise.”

– Jeff Haase, director of member services at GRE

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, 2025. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance, Kootasca Community Action (218) 999-0800. North Itasca Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Sheila Hafeman at (218) 743-3131 to set up a payment plan.

Energy assistance

If you cannot pay your winter heating bills, contact one of these locations for energy assistance help.

KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T.
822 NE 5th Ave.
Grand Rapids MN 55744
218-999-0800, 877-687-1163

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Great River Energy: Powering what's possible

Great River Energy provides wholesale electric service to Minnesota electric cooperatives with an eye toward its triple bottom line of rates, reliability and environmental stewardship.

Great River Energy's wholesale electric rates stand approximately 20% below the weighted regional average cost of electricity. Its reliability scores remain strong, and the cooperative is testing leading-edge technologies to make the electric system even more robust and resilient.

Because of strategic, forward-thinking business decisions made over the last decade, Great River Energy has seen its greenhouse gases emissions fall and renewable energy resources grow, putting the cooperative in a strong position to achieve Minnesota's carbon-free standard by 2040.

Building a better grid

Great River Energy is involved in several transmission projects that will help maintain a reliable and resilient regional power grid as

more renewable energy is brought online, existing power plants are retired, electrification continues to expand and more frequent extreme weather events occur.

A historic buildout of transmission infrastructure is underway in the Midwest, and Great River Energy is developing critical pathways and making strategic investments.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power have made progress on the first project of the planned grid expansion: The Northland Reliability Project, a 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line extending from northern to central Minnesota.

The cooperative will also be involved in three upcoming projects, including a new 765-kilovolt transmission backbone that will start in South Dakota, traverse across southern Minnesota and into Wisconsin and Iowa.

Electricity is evolving

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission unanimously

accepted Great River Energy's latest integrated resource plan, which outlines the cooperative's expectations for member load growth and new generation resources.

Under the plan, Great River Energy anticipates procuring or constructing more than 1,200 megawatts (MW) of wind power, 200 MW of energy storage and 200 MW of solar power by 2037.

Membership pays

Cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations that are owned by the members they serve with services provided at cost. They only collect enough revenue to run the business and meet financial obligations.

Great River Energy's board of directors approved the payment of \$15 million to member-owners through its 2024 patronage capital return, marking the sixth consecutive year that a return was made.

Lineworkers: Wired for Service!

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on Monday, April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical.

Whether battling inclement weather,

troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

North Itasca Electric crews travel across our 3-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system.

Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out

and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

North Itasca Electric lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one



embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power,

let's recognize those who make it possible—lineworkers, to the local communities who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember

Move over to keep utility workers safe

Electric utility employees at North Itasca Electric work on overhead and underground power lines, perform work at electric substations, use heavy equipment and check electric meters every day. Electricity can be extremely dangerous and is one of the biggest hazards that our employees encounter. But another big threat is traffic.

Oftentimes, utility employees must park alongside a road, turn on flashing lights and place traffic cones in the roadway as an indication to passing motorists that work is being done. Doing so creates a work zone. It's important to move over when you see

flashing lights to keep our co-op workers safe. Failing to do so endangers the lives of utility workers and other emergency responders.

Minnesota's Ted Foss Move Over Law states that when traveling on a road with two or more lanes, drivers must move one full lane away from stopped emergency vehicles with their flashing lights activated. Most drivers are aware of this law as it applies to police officers, firefighters and ambulances but it also applies to utility, maintenance and construction vehicles.


Working along roadways can be dangerous and moving over is the law. If it's not possible to move



over one full lane, drivers are required to reduce their speed until their vehicle has completely passed the parked or stopped vehicle.

North Itasca Electric employees are working to ensure that our communities have reliable electric service. Please follow safe driving practices when you see them and move over so that everyone can go home safely at the end of each day.

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ADDRESS CHANGE

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A bedroom at Sam's Place. Photo submitted.

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Sam's Place opens in Bigfork

>from p.1
 but even this equipment was beyond its usable life..

The owner was receptive to selling, so he took the idea back to Jess. In five minutes, he said, the decision was made. "Yes! We're going to look into it," they said.

It fit a vision that the Hazzards had held for a long time. When the family had moved up to the northwoods, it was to relocate to a safe environment for their much loved but autistic adult child away from the congestion of a city. Another son, Sam, was enrolled in a master's program at Mankato State. Then, in 2022 he passed away. The couple thought that in the future, they might find a way to use their



Jim Vojta has donated many volunteer hours to renovating Sam's Place.

life experiences to help fill needs for those facing similar challenges.

But, said Jess, they didn't envision a project quite this large. "I guess God had a different plan for us," she said with a smile.

The project was named "Sam's Place" after Jess's son, a person they remember as full of love for people. "His heart," recalled Charlie, "was as big as the Montana sky."

But first, said Charlie, they needed a plan. And that plan had to include correcting plat lines that hadn't really been looked at for

decades. In fact, a street was platted through the middle of the building. With the city of Bigfork, they worked through the changes needed.

Then all the major systems needed to be updated. The electrical systems were first. Some of the old fuses had actually caught on fire. A new boiler system was installed, and all the windows on the first floor replaced to hold the heat. A new roof on the back section was needed and built with trusses and metal roofing to correct leaking issues. The major systems alone required an investment of over \$160,000.

Then there was scrubbing. And cleaning up the outdoor grounds. And painting and patching. And trim work. And outside doors. And a security system.

This all required hands-on work. A lot of work. And the community responded. Outside contractors like Lovdahl Electric, Storlie Construction and Lakeside Lumber helped with pricing. Spring Lake Heating and Air donated the boilers and installation. Dahlke Dumpsters donated dumpsters and fees. The hands that scrubbed, painted and nailed came from many community volunteers, some of whom had their own life experiences to share, and who understood the importance of the project.

After the structure came the furnishings. First Presbyterian Church secured new mattresses, box springs and linens. Handsewn quilts were provided by other churches and quilting groups. Volunteers made roman shades and put together



Women's wing with chess board donated by Jess and Charlie in memory of Sam.



Dining area.

A medicine dispensing window, dining room, kitchen and apartment for overnight staff are also complete with exercise and conference rooms planned. Two people and the overnight staff are currently in residence.

A men's wing is next. Also planned are a new handicapped ramp and elevator, new paint on the building, an outside sitting flower garden overlooking the river and a vegetable garden for the residents. Charlie is hoping to install air conditioning by summer 2026. Jess



Staff member Jody David with a dessert just out of the oven.

hopes to start a mentorship program to connect community members to residents for conversation, classes or outside events.

People are often not aware of the need for housing and help with living, said Jess. For instance, there are those who have no family and just need a little assistance, she pointed out. When finished, 15 men and women can be served at Sam's Place.

Sam's Place to p.7

Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

How induction cooking works

An induction cooktop looks pretty much the same as a ceramic cooktop with distinct zones where you can place your pots and pans.

Inside the cooking zone there is a tightly wound coil of metal. When the power is turned on, there is an alternate current that flows through the coil which produces an invisible high frequency alternating magnetic field all around it. Without a pan on the burner, the burner will not heat: the cooking zone remains cool.

The reason we need high frequency is because your home power supply alternates at about 50-60 Hz (50-60 times per second), an induction cooktop boosts this by 500-1000 times (typically to 20-40 Hz). Since this is well above the range that most of us can hear, it stops any annoying, audible buzzing that prevents magnetic forces from moving the pan around on the cooktop. When you put the pan

on the cooking zone, the magnetic field produced by the coil penetrates the iron inside it. The alternating magnetic field makes a whirling (eddy) current inside the pan, turning it into a heater.

Magnetic hysteresis (energy loss during the repeated cycle of magnetizing and demagnetizing) also helps to heat the pan. The heat flows directly into the food or water that is inside the pan (by induction).

Induction cooking is much faster than regular cooking and because the burner never gets hot it is a lot safer to use. It's especially great if you have young kids running around.

Cost used to be a drawback, but the price of an induction range has dropped tremendously in the last few years. It is now very similar to that of regular ceramic ranges.

Another drawback could be that induction cook-

ing only works properly with stainless steel cooking pans containing iron. Iron is the only practical metal that efficiently produces electrical (eddy) currents and has enough resistance to generate heat as they circulate. Copper and aluminum pans also produce eddy currents and conduct electricity very well, but they have much lower resistance. That means they don't generate useful heat in the same way. Glass doesn't conduct electricity, so it doesn't work at all.

There are lots of different induction pots and pans on the market today, so I guess the only drawback would be if you love your old pots and pans and don't want to buy new ones!

I will tell you it is amazing; the heat is instant, and it is so easy to control the temperature.

Sam's Place

>from p.6

Clients generally are on county housing programs, but there are no age limits. Senior living is an option, either over 65 with assistance due to low or no income, under 65 with low income and a qualifying disability, or private pay. Meals and medication management are provided, but at present hands-on services like showering are not available.

Sam's Place has been fortunate in finding staff who go above and beyond, and who have a passion for taking care of people, said Charlie. There are currently four staff plus

Charlie and Jess.

Immediate needs? The facility needs a van in good working condition to take residents to outside activities. For the new wing, dressers are needed. Cash donations to help with operating capital are welcome; a Blandin Foundation grant application has been submitted.

For more information or to visit Sam's Place, contact Jess or Charlie at (218) 256-9154, by email at SamsPlaceBF@gmail.com, or online on Facebook or at SamsPlaceNorth.com.

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Scholarships

The deadline for application for the North Itasca Electric member college scholarships is Friday, April 25. High school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of North Itasca Electric can apply for these through the Northhome High School scholarship committee.

Information is available on the Northhome School counselor's web page at www.northhome.k12.mn.us/scholarship-information-links or by emailing the school counselor at clundin@northhome.k12.mn.us.

Applications are available online (see above), at schools in the service area or at the North Itasca Electric office.

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.

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Visit North Itasca Electric's Facebook page for storm outage information or important Member updates!

April Washer & Dryer Sale

WT6105CW-Regular \$567.23 SALE \$510.55

LG, white 4.1 c.f. ultra large capacity top load washer with 4-Way® Agitator. SlamProof glass lid, deep fill option, Intelligent electronic controls with dual LED display. Dial-a-cycle control knob, never rust stainless steel drum, true balance anti-vibration system, smart Diagnosis, direct drive motor with 10-year warranty. Eight wash programs: normal, heavy duty, deep wash, bedding /waterproof, delicates, speed wash, tub clean, spin only. Four wash options: extra rinse, control lock, deep fill, rinse+spin. 3 wash/rinse temperatures: hot, warm, cold. Water levels: load sensing.



Sale prices good through April.

WM3400CW Regular \$871.43 SALE \$784.29

LG, white 4.5 c.f. front load washer. Closet depth, Energy Star certified, Direct drive motor with 10-year limited warranty. NeverRust stainless steel tub, ColdWash Technology, 6Motion Technology, 4 tray dispenser. 8 wash programs: normal, perm. press, heavy duty, delicates, towels, speed wash, bedding, tub clean. Eight wash options: prewash, delay wash, cold wash, extra rinse, rinse+spin, child lock. Five wash rinse temperatures: hot, warm, semi-warm, cold and tap cold. Three spin speeds: high, medium and low. Max RPM 1300. Water levels: load sensing, adjusted by sensor except during speed wash.



WT7005CW-Regular \$849.33 Sale \$764.40

LG, white 4.3 c.f. ultra large capacity top load washer with 4-Way® Agitator. TurboDrum and 6Motion Technology, deep fill option, ColdWash Technology. Eight wash programs: normal, heavy duty, deep wash, waterproof, bedding, delicates, speed wash, tub clean. Nine wash options: ColdWash™, signal, delay wash, rinse+spin, deep fill, max, extra rinse, control lock, spin only. Three wash rinse temperatures: hot, warm and cold. Three spin speeds: high, medium and low. Load sensing water levels, 3 soil levels. Add garment indicator.



WT7150CM Regular \$ 872.70 SALE \$785.43

LG, Middle Black 5.0 c.f. ultra large capacity top load washer. SpeedWash cycle, slam proof glass lid, water plus & cold wash options, intelligent electronic controls with dual LED display, Dial-a-cycle control knob, NeverRust stainless steel drum, TrueBalance anti- vibration system, Energy Star certified, direct drive motor with limited 10-year warranty. Eight wash programs: normal, heavy duty, deep wash, waterproof, bedding, delicates, speed wash, tub clean. Nine wash options: soak, extra rinse, delay wash, control lock, water plus, cold wash, signal, rinse+spin, spin only. Three wash temperatures: hot, warm and cold. Three spin speeds: high, medium, low. Water levels automatically adjust to the size of the load. Three soil levels.



WT7000CW-Regular \$770.03 SALE \$693.03

LG, white 4.5 c.f. ultra large capacity, TurboDrum Technology creates a powerful water flow for an enhanced but more gentle clean, SpeedWash cycle, 6Motion technology, SmartDiagnosis, or with a simple app on your smartphone, Water Plus option, ColdWash Technology. nine wash options: ColdWash™, signal, delay wash, rinse+spin, water plus, soak, extra rinse, control lock, spin only. Three wash & rinse temperatures: hot, warm and cold. Three spin speeds: high, medium and low. Water level: load sensing.



DLE7150M Regular \$852.93 SALE \$767.64

LG, Middle Black, 7.3 c.f. ultra large high efficiency electric dryer. Intelligent electronic controls with dual LED display, Dial-a-cycle control knob, reversible door, FlowSense duct clogging & clean filter indicators, wrinkle care option, low decibel quiet operation, smart diagnosis, Energy Star certified. Eight programs: normal, perm press, heavy duty, bulky/bedding, delicates, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), freshen up (manual dry). Seven dryer options: wrinkle care, control lock, more time, less time, damp dry signal, energy saver, signal. Three temperature settings: high, medium and low. Three drying levels: very dry, normal dry and damp dry. Manual dry times: 60, 40, 20 min, more-less.



LTW454MBWW Regular \$641.33 SALE \$577.20

Midea, white 27-inch top load smart washer with 4.5 c.f. capacity, 10 wash cycles, 700 RPM, quick wash, Wave™ Impeller, smart control, two stage dispenser, soft close glass lid, quick wash, rinse & spin, end-of-cycle signal, Wi-Fi Connectivity, 10 wash cycles.



Prices are good on stock inventory!



DLE360OV Regular \$1023.22 SALE \$920.90

LG, Middle Black 7.4 c.f. vented stackable electric dryer with sensor dry technology. Dry cycles: air fluff, bedding, cotton, delicates, heavy duty, permanent press, quick dry, sensor dry, timed dry, towels and sheets, wrinkle free. Dryer features: adjustable legs, control lock, damp alert, door window, 4-way venting, front controls, lint filter, moisture sensor dry, timed dry. Aluminized steel drum.



DVE55CG7100W Regular \$777.86 SALE \$700.07

Samsung, white 27" 7.4 c.f. smart electric dryer with steam sanitizer+ 12 preset drying options: refresh, steam sanitize + normal, heavy duty, permanent press, bedding, delicates, activewear, time dry, air fluff, quick dry, downloaded. Nine drying cycles: wrinkle away, Eco normal, Towels, wool, sanitize, shirts, denim, low temp., rack dry. Ten options: damp alert, wrinkle prevent, adjust time (up), adjust time (down), child lock, sound on/off, smart care, drum light, smart control and lint filter indicator.



WM3407OCM Regular \$1079.00 SALE \$971.10

LG, Middle Black 5.0 c.f. capacity front load washer with ColdWash. capacity, 6Motion Technology, cold wash technology, direct drive motor 10-year limited warranty, Energy Star, closet depth, NeverRust Stainless Steel Tub, True Balance Anti-Vibration System & LoDecibel Quiet Operation, Tub Clean, System, Smart Diagnosis. Eight wash programs: normal, perm press, heavy duty, delicates, towels, speed wash, bedding, tub clean. Eight wash options: pre-wash, delay wash, cold wash, extra rinse, rinse + spin, control lock, spin only, signal. Five wash/rinse temperatures: extra hot, hot, warm, cold, tap cold. 3 soil levels. Load sensing water levels. Five spin speeds: extra high, high, medium, low, no spin.



WA54CG7105AW Regular \$778.76 SALE \$700.88

Samsung, white 5.4 c.f. smart top load washer with ActiveWave agitator and SpeedWash. Twelve preset washing cycles: normal, bedding, waterproof, heavy duty, colors, whites, Activewear, delicates, quick wash, self-clean, rinse + spin, deep wash, downloaded. Five downloaded cycles: permanent press, wool, eco cold, denim, power rinse. Ten additional washing options: delay end, presoak, sound off, child lock, fabric softener, deep fill, super speed, smart care, smart control, spin speed. Five temperature settings: hot, warmer, warm, cool, cold. Five spin speeds: high, medium high, low, no spin. Active waterjet, child lock.



DLE7400VE Regular \$983.45 SALE \$832.00

LG, graphite steel smart electric dryer with easy load door. Drying cycles wrinkle care, custom program, PGM save, child lock, more time, less time, signal, damp dry, energy saver, default on/off, Wi-Fi connect, remote start. Options and programs: normal, heavy duty, bedding, delicates, perm press, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), downloaded (manual dry), wrinkle care, custom program, child lock, more time, less time, signal, damp dry signal, On/Off, Wi-Fi connect, remote start. Five temperature settings: high, medium high, medium, low, ultra-low.



DVE41A3000W Regular \$603.90 SALE \$543.51

Samsung, white 7.2 c.f. vented electric dryer. Air dry/air fluff cycle, auto temperature control, check lint screen light, child safety lock, custom program cycle, cycle status lights, delay start, 4-way venting, wrinkle free cycle, touch up cycle, time dry cycle, sound reduction, sensor dry cycle, reversible door, Quick express cycle. Four temperature selections, eight cycles.



HTX26EASWW Regular \$546.65 Sale \$491.98

Hotpoint, white 6.2 c.f. electric dryer with up to 120' venting and shallow depth. Auto dry, large diffuser for even drying, reversible door, temperature selector, up front lint filter.



MLTE45N4BWW3 Regular \$602.55 SALE \$542.29

Midea, White 7.0 c.f. smart tumble dryer. Smart control, drum light, sensor dry, wrinkle care, reversible door. 10 cycles: normal, bedding, heavy duty, towels, sanitize, (manual dry): quick dry, time dry, air fluff, delicate and download. Six options: (eco dry, wrinkle care, time adjust, smart control, my cycle, damp dry signal). Four dryness levels: very dry, more dry, normal dry and less dry. Four temperature selections: high, medium, low, ultra-low.



HTW265ASWW Regular \$546.65 SALE \$ 491.98

Hotpoint, white 4.0 washer with stainless steel basket, cold plus and water level control. Heavy duty agitator, late lid lock-only locks on final spin, deep rinse.



GTD38EASWWS Regular \$569.56 SALE \$512.60

GE, white 7.2 c.f. electric dryer with up to 120' venting, reversible door, moisture sensor.

GTW385ASWWS Regular \$ 572.16 Sale \$514.94

GE, white 4.3 c.f. top load washer with dual action agitator and sanitize with Oxi, water level control, deep rinse, stainless drum, late lid lock safety, status notification lights.

Call Roxanne with any questions 218-743-3132

Email : roxanep@nieci.com

Fish Fry at Squaw Lake

The Squaw Lake Fireman's Relief Association will hold its annual Fish Fry Fundraiser and Pie Auction on Saturday, April 12 from 4-7 pm. at the Squaw Lake Community Center.

They will be serving fish, potato salad, beans, coleslaw, bread and cookies with a suggested donation of \$12 per adult and \$8 for children under 12.

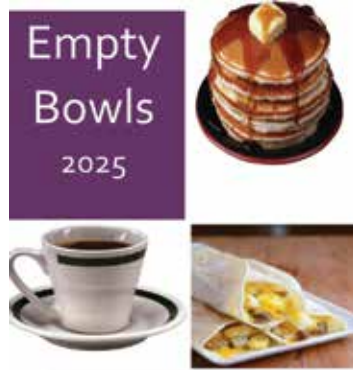
The highlight of the evening will be the pie auction. (Pie donations greatly appreciated!) Go home with a special dessert. There will also be a 50/50 contest.

Bigfork's Empty Bowls May 4

Please join us on Sunday, May 4, 9 a.m.-noon at the Bigfork City Hall for our Empty Bowls Breakfast Fundraiser.

This is the only fundraiser Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf holds each year. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, make your own breakfast burrito, coffee and juice.

NIEFS (Bigfork) food shelf serves between 50-60 neighborhood families per month. Your donations help us provide healthy food choices.



Annual "Treasures" garage sales on Sat., May 3

The 2025 Treasures Are Fine on 6, 4 and 29 garage sales in northwest Itasca County are returning on Saturday, May 3, 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 Alwood.

As of March 30, over 25 sales have signed up to be on the map. The map will be available on Facebook at @Treasures6429 and at local stores. Sign up by April 4 to be listed free; a registration form is available on Facebook. All registered sales can access a special Facebook page to advertise their sales.

Take the day and enjoy browsing vintage, cottage and household treasures, big and small, at the annual sales along the country roads of northern Itasca County.

This is an all-volunteer community event. Thank you to our major sponsor Paul Bunyan Communications. The event is also sponsored by Barney's Resort, Max Mini Store, Spring Lake Store, Riley's Cannibal Junction, Fish Tails Bar and Grill, the Gentry and Kitterman Families.

First Thursdays from Itasca Waters

Register for Itasca Waters' First Thursdays online webinars at itascawaters.org/. Each webinar runs between 12-1 p.m. and is free.

April 3: Beaver Dams, Ponds and Effects with Emily Fairfax, an Assistant Professor of Geography at the U of M and an affiliate faculty member at the Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory.

Topic: Beavers are powerful ecosystem engineers capable of radically transforming the landscapes they inhabit. From lakes, to rivers, to streams - beaver dam building, tree cutting, and canal digging influence a multitude of biological and physical processes.

May 1: Climate Change Effects on Fisheries with Dr. Hadley Boehm, a fisheries research supervisor at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Duluth.

Topic: Recent research from the MNDNR Fisheries Research Unit.

Fridays with a Forester

The University of Minnesota Extension is hosting a series of free online forestry webinars. They start with a brief presentation on a topic, then address participant questions. Register just once for the series at extension.umn.edu /courses-and-events/fridays-

forester. Miss one? Recordings are on YouTube.

All webinars are on Fridays, 9-10 a.m.

April 11: Finding and working with a local woodland service provider with Eli Sagor

April 18: 2025 participatory science projects with Angela Gupta; how to join in.

April 25: Forestry for Minnesota Birds with Jayme Strange

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'Anne of Green Gables' comes to the Edge Center

Do you remember the adventures of Anne of Green Gables? Of course you do! This enduring classic is coming to the Edge Center in Bigfork in a play put on by the EdgeWild Players community theatre. It's a great night out for the whole family.



Performances are Thursday, April 3 – April 6; 7 p.m. except on Sunday when the curtain will rise at 2 p.m. Stephanie Kessler is directing the play written by Sylvia Ashby based on the book by L.M. Montgomery. Tickets are available at the door; \$10 adults, \$5 children, and ages 5 and under free.

Actors have been rehearsing for several months preparing for the play, and past theatre-goers at the Edge know that there is both amazing talent and well-developed directing ability locally. All this with the superb acoustics and comfortable seating at the Edge Center – and you can expect an enjoyable evening!

This production is sponsored in part by Bigfork/EOW Age to age. Anne of Green Gables (Ashby Non-Musical) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. at www.concordtheatricals.com.

SWCD Native Plant Sale

The Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District is offering its annual Native Plant Sale with an order deadline of **Thursday, April 10**. Order online at itascawcd.org, where growing details and pictures of plants are shown. You can also stop in at the office at 1895 West Highway 2 in Grand Rapids.

New this year are swamp white oak and Dutch elm disease resistant elm. There are a dozen other tree varieties as well as 14 wildflower varieties, 3 grass species, 7 types of shrubs and 2 seed mixes: Lovely Lakeshore Blend and Pollinator Paradise Blend.

This year there are four new kit items.

-Rusty Patched Bumblebee kit: 36 plants of species loved by the endangered Minnesota State Bee

-Shoreline stabilization kit: 36 deep-rooted wet-soil plants covering 50 square feet at 15-inch spacings

-Woodland edge kit: 36 total plants for mixed sun and shade

-Buckthorn replacement kit: 36 plants of fast growing species for woodland areas

The online listing will show items still available; quantities are limited and some are sold out.

Pick up dates are May 15 or 16 at the SWCD office in Grand Rapids.

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

Bigfork discusses ball field

by Sally Sedgwick

At the March 11 Bigfork City Council meeting, new councilor Matt Jorgensen was sworn in, and the city expressed support for expanding the softball field to make it Minnesota State High School League compliant.

Mike Olson of the Bigfork Youth Baseball Association suggested that improvements at the softball field start with power at the field; Lovdahl Electric has volunteered to work on the setup and North Itasca Electric will donate the electricity. Concession stand equipment was quoted at \$4,400; the council approved its purchase.

The council also supported developing a second field toward making the site MSHSL eligible for high school team use. Grants are being researched to accomplish this. The council voted to approve this initiative

excerpted from an article in Scenic Range NewsForum

Effie American Legion Auxiliary

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 19

11 a.m.

12 and under

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Effie Community Center



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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.

Online 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.

ADULT FITNESS AT LOCAL SCHOOLS:

Register through Community Education at getlearning.org or call the school.

BIGFORK: OPEN BASKETBALL
(218) 743-3444

Weds. Nights through April
7-8:30 p.m. in small gym
\$10: all skill levels welcome

DEER RIVER: OPEN VOLLEYBALL
(218) 246-8241, Ext. 60227

Sunday through April 13
6:30-9 p.m. in HS East Gym
\$10: league play, 18 and up

DEER RIVER: FITNESS WALKING

(218) 246-8241, Ext. 60227 or register at office
Any day school is open
3:30-7 p.m.
\$2

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area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: April 21, May 12

1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alwood; Hoot-n-Holler
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

Tuesdays: April 1, 22; May 13

12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store
2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Country Store
4:00-5:15 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: April 3, 24; May 15

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

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

— **Community Education** —

Bigfork: Register for classes at 743-3444, Ext. 42503, or online at www.getlearning.org,

DRAWING ADVENTURES

Date: Wednesday, April 23

Time: 4:40-7:30 p.m.

Location: Bigfork School Art Room

Cost: \$25

Create a sketchbook to take home (included in fee). For ages 8 and up, workshop is designed for fun.

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

AARP DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Date: Monday, April 14

Time: 4 – 8 p.m.

Location: King Elementary Senior Center

Cost: \$20 for AARP members, \$25 non-members.

Defensive Driving

Retired Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Mike Flatley offers a defensive driving class by Zoom for ages 55 and older. A class is scheduled for Tues., April 14, 5-9 p.m. Cost is \$15. Preregister at (218) 750-3189 or by email at mnflats@hotmail.com. Early registration is suggested. See mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com for more information.

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

Coffee Club/Cribbage, Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.

Bingo every Thursday, 1-3 p.m.

B.I.G. meetings 1st Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

Crafting Group 3rd Wednesday, 5-7 p.m.

Community Cafe in Deer River

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. Each Monday - Thursday, 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

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

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.

**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

**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

Northome Library
(218) 897-5952

Mon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tues: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Wed: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thurs: noon - 6 p.m.

Fri: 9 a.m.- noon

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:
(218) 835-5768

Northome:
(218) 897-5952

Community News *Email editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net, with subject Community News*

~ April Calendar ~

Bigfork

Come to the Bigfork B.I.G. Community Center (formerly the Over 50 Club) for a Biscuit and Sausage Gravy (and scrambled egg) fundraiser breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 13 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Effie

The Easter Bunny is paying a call to Effie on Saturday, April 18! Kids ages 12 and under are welcome to come to the Effie Community Center to search for Easter eggs starting at 11 a.m. The annual event is sponsored by the Effie American Legion Auxiliary.

General Interest

Paul Bunyan Communications sponsors one of the biggest esports gaming events in the country - this year on April 12 starting at 10 a.m. at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. This year Duncan Wardle, former head of innovation & creativity at Disney will be the guest speaker at 2 p.m. Find out more about this free event at gigazonegaming.com

How to place an ad

Display ads

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

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

Classifieds

Contact the editor by one of the ways in the coupon at the bottom of page 15 or bring your ad into the office.

Classified ads are free to members, \$5 per insertion to non-members or businesses. as service classifieds (text only, limited in size).

- 1 **Operation Round Up applications due** at North Itasca Electric headquarters, 3:30 p.m.
- 2 "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.
- 3-6 EdgeWild Players present Anne of Green Gables, 7 p.m. Thurs.- Sat.; 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets at the door and online at edgecenterarts.org, \$10, \$5 children, 5 and under free.
- 3 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 3 First Thursday "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Lakeshore Development and Natural Shoreline Protection to Preserve Biotic Health" with Mike Isensee and Tom Langer. Register at itascawaters.org.
- 7 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org, 6 p.m. Information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 7 Classic Movie at the Edge Center in Bigfork, *The In-Laws*, 6:30 p.m., free.
- 8 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 8 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.
- 8 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 10 Order deadline for Itasca SWCD Native Plant Sale. See itascaswcd.org. Plant pick-up dates are May 15 and 16 at the SWCD offices at 1895 U.S. Hwy 2, Grand Rapids
- 12 Squaw Lake Fire Department Fish Fry and pie auction, 4-7 p.m., community center.
- 13 Biscuit and sausage gravy breakfast fundraiser at B.I.G. Community Center on Palm Sunday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Freewill donation (\$10 suggested). Also scrambled eggs and juice.
- 14 Lineworker Appreciation Day – Thank a lineworker today!
- 14 Perry Heide VFW Post 9703 meets the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Everyone is welcome.
- 14 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- 14 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 14 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 15 Free Community Meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon 4-6 p.m. Takeout available. Rigatoni, salad and dessert.
- 16 Stitch-n-Bitch meets at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork the 3rd Weds of every month, 5-7 p.m. More info, call Krista at (218) 410-2258.
- 16 DRHC Volunteer Fundraiser Cancer Care Bake Sale at the Deer River hospital lobby 9 a.m. until gone. Benefits infusion center patients.
- 16 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Northome School
- 18-21 No School, all schools. Easter Break.
- 20 Easter



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.

Area Church Directory

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783	Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:00a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953
Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a 10609 Town Rd 34 Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966	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
Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	Good Hope Church - Bigfork Sun 10:00a 101 Golf Course Ln. Bigfork, MN 56628 218-556-9856	Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 55581 Co. Rd 4 Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872 Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org
Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368	St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p 52265 State Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255
Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m. 12234 Third St. Northome 56661 218-897-5654	St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p 12026 Lake St Northome 56661 218-743-3255
Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a Hwy 38 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275	Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a 42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 218-832-3883
Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a 45834 Co. Rd. 4 Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883	True Life Church Sun 10:00a 45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089
Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a 33276 State Highway 6 Deer River 56636 218-246-9570	Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a 49103 State Hwy 38 Marcell 56657 218-832-3200	Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net
Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 218-659-4551	Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St. Northome 56661 218-897-5040	
Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 218-743-3368	Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a 50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622) Deer River 56636 218-659-2784	

- 22 ISD 318 School Board meeting 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org, 6 p.m. See March 7 entry for more info.
 - 22 Northwoods Quilters meet 4th Tuesday of the months April - October at Marcell Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Show 'n Tell and quilting techniques.
 - 24 King School RoundUp for entering Kindergarten next fall, 5-6:30 p.m. in Senior Center. More info, call (218) 246-8860.
 - 25 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/scholarship-information-links or in the headquarters office.
 - 28 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Lori Dehn (218) 659-4796.
 - 29 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m.
- MAY**
- 1 Itasca Waters First Thursday program: "Climate Change Effects on Fisheries."
 - 3 Treasures Are Fine 60 mile long garage sales in northwest Itasca County along Co. Rds. 6, 4 and 29. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. See @Treasures 6429 on Facebook.
 - 4 Empty Bowls at Bigfork City Hall. Pancakes, burritos, sausage. 9 a.m.-noon. Benefits Bigfork food shelf.

DNR Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series

Learn about or sharpen your outdoor skills with these upcoming online webinars in our Minnesota outdoor skills and stewardship series.

Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and last less than an hour. Contact Benji Kohn for additional information at benjamin.kohn@state.mn.us or 651-259-5178.

April 9: Southeast Minnesota trout fishing

If you haven't been to southeast Minnesota to explore its bluffs and cold water streams you're missing a special area! Join Vaughn Snook, DNR assistant area fisheries manager, as he talks about this special area of our state, stream access, water temperature logging and of course, tips on how to catch some trout!

April 16: You had a successful turkey hunt, now what?

Join us as we explore how to prepare your turkey after a successful harvest. We are joined by two chefs to explore recipes from both the Karen culture and American style of dishes. This will be a fun webinar to help you ensure a meal to impress your friends and family.

April 23: Exploring spring ephemerals

These tiny, early blooming plants are among the first signs of life after a long winter, but they only stick around for a short time. Join three local experts for a fun and fascinating exploration into the world of these early bloomers.

April 30: Scientific and natural areas: Natural places worth knowing

What is a Scientific and Natural Area? The short answer... lands that protect natural features including native plant communities, rare species, and geological features. The long answer? Attend this presentation with Kelly Randall, SNA outreach coordinator!



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BLT Soup

- 1/2 pound bacon
- 2 Tablespoons bacon drippings
- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 head lettuce, shredded
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 14-oz. can diced tomatoes
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups water
- Dash pepper



Fry bacon, drain and chop (but reserve 2 Tablesooons drippings). Add bacon, dripping and butter into large saucepan. When butter is melted, add lettuce and cook 2 minutes. Whisk in flour, add tomatoes, chicken broth and water. Simmer 10 minutes, stirring regularly. Add pepper to taste. Serve with crusty bread.

Soft Molasses Cookies

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup lard (Crisco)
- 1 cup sour milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 Tablespoon ginger
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 cup molasses
- 4 1/2 cups flour, more or less

Frosting

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup milk
- piece of butter

Cook in saucepan until soft ball can be formed. Beat until thick and creamy. While beating add vanilla if desired.

Cream shortening, add sugar and molasses. Sift dry ingredients and add alternately with milk. Use enough flour so mixture will be stiff enough to roll. Use large cookie cutter. Bake 10 minutes at 350°. Frost when cool if desired.

A childhood favorite.

AD DEADLINE

for the MAY issue: Friday, April 18

-SERVICES-

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

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Used auto parts, steel, tires and bridge beams.
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DahlkeForestry.com
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√ Tree Removal
√ Trail Development
√ Habitat Improvement
√ Private Forest Mgmt.
√ Firewood processing

-FARM-

For sale: Five 1000 lb hay bales, mixed hay. Stored inside. \$40 per. Call (218) 832-3050 5/25

-SERVICES-

Dahlke Dumpsters
218-929-7228
DahlkeDumpsters.com
Flat rates on dumpster rentals!
Flexible rental times!
Great Customer Service!

-FOUND-

Found: Circular blade on Co. Rd. 134 near Jesse Lake. Text for information: (320) 250-7543 5/25

-SALES-

Moving Sale: Electric Earthquake log splitter, Cub Cadet self-propelled lawnmower, gas Swisher trim weed whipper, 15 ft. stepladder, Toro gas trimmer, Ryobi blower, pontoon (good condition, \$7,000), 9ft. Sea Eagle raft with trolling motor (218) 832-3363 or cell (218) 360-9798

-FOR SALE-

For sale: 11 assorted styles outdoor porchlights. New in box. \$5-\$15 each (60% off retail). Wasson Lake area. Call (218) 331-1220. 4/25

For sale: Upright freezer Approx. 2 3/4 cu. ft. 19"W x 20"D x 33"H. Works great, no longer needed. \$80. Wasson Lake area. Call (763) 331-1220. 4/25

For sale: Wayne convertible well pump. 1/2 hp with eep well jet, 110 volt. Marcell area, \$60. Call (612) 961-7337 4/25

For sale: 26 volumes of TimeLife series "The Civil War," \$150. Call (218) 743-3921 4/25

For sale: Floe V3000 lb. vertical boat lift. 12 volt electric winch. Motor stop. Pivot bunks. \$1900. Call (218) 256-0381 4/25

For sale: Alpine 7 foot cross country skis. poles included. good condition. \$50. Call (218) 256-0381

CLASSIFIEDS

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Strike Master Ice Auger. XL 3000. 3 hp 8 inch auger. Good condition. \$50. Call (218) 256-0381 4/25

For sale: Alpine 7 foot cross country skis. poles included. good condition. \$50. Call (218) 256-0381 4/25

-WATER SPORTS-boats, fishing-

For sale: Used Banks-Maxwell pusher prop for air sled or airboat. Has been refurbished, has brass tips and leading edges. 69.5' long, used on a Continental 85 hp engine. Pictures available. \$650. Call (320) 249-0330 5/25

For sale: 16 ft. Grumman aluminum boat, console. 25 hp Evinrude electric start. Trolling motor, depth finder. Brand new tires on trailer. Always kept inside. Very nice condition. Call Doug at (218) 244-1147 5/25

For sale: Floe dock sections. 4 ft. by 16 ft. cedar decking, adjustable wheel sections. 5 pieces avail. \$1000 per section. Good condition. Call (218) 256-0381 5/25

For sale: 2014 Grand Island 20 ft. pontoon, 50 hp 4 stroke motor, trailer. \$13,900 obo. Call (218) 246-8531 4/25

For sale: 18' Lund fishing boat, trailer, 30 hp Honda Tilt & Trim. \$4,900. Call (218) 246-8531 4/25

-WATER SPORTS-

For sale: Vexlar Fish Locator. FL18. Black, with screen protector. Good condition \$200. Call (218) 256-0381 4/25

For sale: Fishing jig making supplies. C Palmer Hot Pot lead melter. 4 jig molds for different weights and styles, Lil Mag Midjet, Jimco, C Palmer 560 and Snag hook. Over 500 new jig hooks, 6 sizes. \$75. Call (612) 961-7337 4/25

For sale: Strike Master Ice Auger. XL 3000. 3 hp 8 inch auger. Good condition. \$50. Call (218) 256-0381 4/25

For sale: Alpine 7 foot cross country skis. poles included. good condition. \$50. Call (218) 256-0381 4/25

-POWER SPORTS-

For sale: Artic cat snowmobiles - 2003 Pantera and 1991 Cougar. Both in excellent condition with many extras including helmets and a trailer. \$4,750 for everything. Call (218) 553-0632 4/25

-REAL ESTATE-

For sale: 3+ acre wooded lakeshore lot located on Hatch Lake, the driveway and electric are in. 970+ feet of lakeshore with lots of ATV and walking trails. There is culvert access to Turtle Lake from Hatch Lake. \$175,000 mickie1020@yahoo.com or (612) 401-0959 5/25

NOTICE

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2026 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Wirt Township shall meet on **April 29, 2025 at 10:00 AM at 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

Notice of Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Ardenhurst Township shall meet on April 17, 2025 1:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting is provide an opportunity for Ardenhurst Township taxpayers to assure that their property has been properly valued and classified by the assessor. Meeting place will be Ardenhurst Township Hall, 66733 State Highway 46.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office (218-327-2861) to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

TOWN OF CARPENTER, ITASCA COUNTY NOTICE

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.
This may affect your 2026 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Carpenter Township shall meet on April 15, 2025, 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

NOTICE

ASSESSMENT NOTICE – MARCELL TOWNSHIP
Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.
This may affect your 2026 property taxes.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Marcell Township** shall meet on **4/24/2025 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 9th, 2025, 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

Bigfork's Backwoods Bots wins regional robotics competition

Congratulations to the Bigfork High School Backwoods Bots, who were regional winners at the Northern Lights Regional competition in Duluth for First® Robotics Competition Minnesota/Dakotas, Feb. 26-March 1.

Competing since 2014, the team is advised by Stu Ostendorf and Erin Pocquette.

What happens? First Robotics is set up as a game, with teams designing industrial-sized robots to do certain tasks and earn points, all within a 2.25 minute time limit. In the 2025 game, Reefscape®, robots earn points for their teams by harvesting "algae," placing "coral" on different levels on a reef and returning to their barge by hanging off the ground on either a deep or shallow cage structure. At the regional competitions, alliances are selected with three teams and points are also given for "coopertition®" between



Senior members of the Backwoods Bots, Dalton Johnson and Ana Haataja.

teams.

The Bigfork Backwoods Bots, Team 5253, and their robot "Frankie" were allied with teams from two other states in the Duluth regional event. Narrated matches can be watched at <https://frc-events.firstinspires.org/2025/team/5253>.

Bigfork High School robotics team, the Backwoods Bots: (back, l to r) Erin Pocquette, teacher/advisor; Ana Haataja; Evan Mount; Stu Ostendorf, teacher/advisor; Dalton Johnson; Aspynn Reigel; Rory Ernhart; Vianna Hyde; Kahlyn Hyde. (front, l to r) Marley Mount, Ella Root, Stephanie Hill, Ben Schlangen, Elijah Mount, Josselyn Kinn.



BIGFORK BUSINESS REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM 2025

**REVITALIZE YOUR BUSINESS
ENERGIZE YOUR COMMUNITY**

The Bigfork Business Revitalization Grant Program to help boost the local economy through the appearance of our small business community.

The aim of this grant fund is to help local businesses by enhancing the external or internal appearance of their business premises within our community. By recognizing our roles as both business owners and community members, it holds significance for us to cultivate and sustain an impression of advancement and prosperity.

USES

- Improvement of exterior building and/or entry aesthetics.
- Replacement of weathered awnings or signage.
- Exterior business area revitalization to existing structure(s)
- Interior improvements to existing structure(s)

APPLICATION PERIODS

- Application Period 1:
 - January 2nd, 2025 - April 30th, 2025
 - Funds awarded & distributed in May of 2025
- Application Period 2:
 - June 1st, 2025 - October 31st, 2025
 - Funds awarded & distributed in November of 2025

LEARN MORE:
QUESTIONS? LEARN MORE BY CONTACTING DREW FRANCISCO:

- andrewf@nieci.com
- 218-256-4142
- 301 Main Ave, Bigfork, MN, 55628

Apply for grant program by April 30

Applications are open for the Business Revitalization Grant program set up by the Itasca Economic Development Corp. and is available to business owners in Bigfork and surrounding communities. The purpose of the grant funding is to match business investment in improving either external or internal aesthetics or structures.

Need to replace an awning or signage? Make your investment go further by applying for this grant.

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218-256-9575

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ttdoglodge@gmail.com Home For Your Pet!

Find us on Facebook

An Old Fashioned General Store

Spring Lake Store

218-832-3626

Happy Easter!

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

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

**Visit us during Treasures Are Fine
Food and Garage Sale · Sat, May 3**

All are
Welcome!

Jesse Lake Lutheran Free Community Dinner

Tuesday, April 15 ◊ 4 - 6 p.m.

*Hamburger gravy, mashed
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Drawing for a \$25
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