



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL. 29 NO. 6

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JUNE 2026

Bring your
registration cards
to the meeting!

86th Annual Meeting

Headquarters Building, Bigfork

Thursday, June 18, 2026 • 2 p.m.



Attendee will
receive a \$25
bill credit!
Limit (1) per
membership.



Line Department
Safety Demonstration!

Prizes!
1- \$100 bill credit
2- \$50 bill credits



Message from the Board Chair

CEO Report



Larry Salmela,
Board Chair

Greetings to all members of the North Itasca Electric Cooperative. On behalf of the board of directors, I thank you for attending the annual member meeting of our local co-op. The co-op exists for the benefit of the members including everyone here today. The board's responsibility at every annual meeting is to help you, the members, understand the big picture of the cooperative's business and the long-term challenges and opportunities in front of us.

First, the challenges.

The business of supplying electric power has challenges as any business does. Last year I was most concerned about the tariff tax. Everyone here was paying the tariff tax, but it was very sneaky. It's not like the sales tax which is listed separately on the store receipt. No one could really tell where tariff tax was or how much they were paying. That's why some politicians like it. With the tariff tax no one can tell where it is or how much it is. The federal courts finally declared the first tariff tax to be illegal. OK, illegal.

Did you get a refund? Nope! A few large corporations affected by the tariff tax are filing claims for refunds, but no one who is reading this in the WATTS News or who is present at the annual meeting will get a refund of the illegal tariff tax. North Itasca Electric Co-op also did not get any refund of the tariff taxes it paid. The little guy got pinched again.

This year the much bigger challenge for the North Itasca Electric Co-op and every individual citizen is

Chair to p.2>



Brad Dolinski, CEO

Good afternoon, North Itasca!
I am pretty sure the ice is off most of the water we fish. Lake of the Woods had a little floating around last weekend, but Mother Nature helped us out with a little wind. I'm gearing up to head to Canada. It's that time of the year and I couldn't be more excited. I have a ton to do

before we head out but that's ok. We'll relax when we get there.

This Thursday we have the Member-Owner Appreciation Day. Sounds like Andrew has a good variety of business partners coming to share information with all of us. I'm looking forward to visiting with the air-source heat pump professional. I have an idea; I just want to see if I can accomplish it. I'm crossing my fingers I can get one outdoor unit to run both my house and garage. This would cut down on my expenses and make the space more comfortable. Daryl and I will be busy cooking for the event. I'll try to catch this gentleman before we start cooking.

I met with my office professionals this morning. We are getting ready to host the 86th Annual Meeting of North Itasca on June 18th at 2:00 p.m. in Bigfork, Minn..

We will hold the Annual Meeting at our office. Our line crew is preparing a safety demonstration for the event. The office and I are ensuring we are following the protocols set by our by-laws. We need to ensure mailings are sent per the by-laws. We will provide \$25 bill credit for attending the Annual Meeting. There is a Zoom option you will receive if you cannot make the meeting in person. Watch your mailbox around the first of June for your ticket to the show.

CEO to p.3>

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

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the membership of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the North Itasca Electric Headquarters in Bigfork, MN on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 2:00 p.m., at which time and place the following business will be transacted:

1. To elect three (3) directors for the Cooperative, each to a three-year term in Director Districts 4, 5 and 6.
2. To hear, examine and approve reports of Officers, Directors and Committees.
3. And for the transaction of such other business as might lawfully be brought up before the members of this Cooperative and as may be deemed to be for the best interest of said Cooperative.

Lloyd Kongsjord, Secretary

Message from the Board Chair

>from p.1

inflation. We already see the shocking increases in gasoline and diesel prices. Everything that we citizens buy in any store - it doesn't matter where you shop - arrived in a truck with a diesel engine. The diesel fuel costs are all passed through to the consumer. Just like the retail store, everything that the co-op buys to maintain its system gets here on a truck. We will all be paying more, sorry to say.

Also related to the conflict with Iran, farmers around the world are facing similar large increases in fertilizer prices and shortages of some types of fertilizer.

This will cause inflation for almost all types of food.

Next, the opportunities.

It seems that we see things change slowly or in very small ways in our small corner of the nation. We don't see new industries developing here. But right now there is a big exception, and it's very exciting. Mesabi Metallics, the new taconite iron ore mine near Nashauk, is a huge development. I have visited the new Mesabi Metallics plant. The people working there are justifiably very excited about the new investment, its utilization of the latest technologies

and the opportunities it brings to this region of the state. It is a little distant from here, but we can anticipate that some of the mine employees will live in the North Itasca service territory and that some service businesses located here will have new opportunities. A small business, Polar Insulating, owned by North Itasca member Tom Kallio and located in Squaw Lake, has already been completing projects for Mesabi Metallics.

Now let's shift our attention to look at the picture nationwide. For about 12 - 15 years beginning about 20 years ago, the consumption of electric energy in the US increased very slowly from one year to the next. About 10 years ago I attended a national electric cooperative conference where the situation of slow growth was discussed. At lunch I sat at a table with people mostly from other states whom I did not know. Several of them commented about the "no growth" situation, which they recognized as very unusual. The group talked about this situation and wondered about the reasons. Most of the credit for slow growth went to energy efficient

devices: LED lamps, Energy Star appliances, newer technologies for heating and cooling, etc.

More recently the picture has changed greatly. Significant changes are affecting the electric power industry nation-wide. The growth of electric energy consumption is increasing very fast over most of the country. We listen to news items about artificial intelligence and data centers. Totally new, we never heard those terms 10 years ago. They both require thousands of powerful computers analyzing information. The large, powerful computers consume electricity in unimaginable quantities. Many large data centers have already been built in the large metropolitan areas along the east coast of the United States and some areas in the South, especially Texas. More are now being proposed, and some under construction, across the rest of the country.

Most people nowadays have experience ordering merchandise online. Amazon is a huge and powerful competitor in the online marketplace. I will bet that many people here have ordered from Amazon. Amazon has large, automated warehouses that they call "fulfillment

centers." The modern fulfillment centers, whether owned and operated by Amazon or some other large corporation, process orders and arrange the goods for shipping with very little human input. The computer systems control automated machinery which can get the job done without paying wages to very many people. The computers require a lot of electrical energy. The fulfillment centers are large power consumers.

The other large new loads are needed for very large computer banks employed to enable artificial intelligence, frequently shortened in conversation to AI. AI is enabled by computers which feed each other information. Supposedly the networks connecting many computers together and exchanging information are imitating human thinking processes. These systems need very large power supplies to keep their computers working.

I was at a family gathering recently in Duluth. One of my relatives asked me if I was in favor of the new data center proposed by Google to be in Hermantown. My answer was my opinion doesn't matter. Large data

centers are coming. They are a part of the way that modern life works.

On the near horizon we can see the modernization of transportation as cars, trucks and buses convert to all-electric drive systems. All-electric automobiles are becoming increasingly common. Yes, we hear from some doubters, and I have my own doubts. The conversion trend line will not always be consistent, and we observe the argument going hot and cold as the political climate changes. There is little doubt that we will see a greater percentage of all-electric vehicles as time goes by.

These new loads are causing massive investments in new power sources and modernization of the grid which connects the sources to us the consumers. Regardless that we won't see an Amazon fulfillment center or an artificial intelligence installation at North Itasca Electric, we will benefit in the long term by the modernization of the grid. The conversion to battery-electric vehicles over the long term will cause growth of power sales and revenue for the North Itasca Electric Co-op.



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Send all calendar items, recipes, advertisements and other correspondence for WATTS NEWS to the Editor at: P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680

Visit your co-op at
www.NorthItascaElectric.com

North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors

Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3

Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2

Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9

Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

James White, District 1

Mary Rahier, District 4

Todd Christensen, District 6

Tom Kallio, District 7

Jeff Kilian, District 8

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 23, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on April 23, 2026.

Directors Present: J. Kilian, M. Rahier, L. Salmela, W. Waller, L. Kongsjord, R. Bain, T. Kallio and T. Christensen.

Directors Present Via Zoom: J. White.

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Dan Heinecke, Andy Shaw, Drew Francisco, Daryl Pederson and Gina Vickerman.

Also Present: Matt Laughlin – Brady, Martz & Associates PC

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

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Matt Laughlin gave the audit review for Brady, Martz & Associates PC. Motioned to accept the report as presented by the Auditor. Seconded the motion; motion carried.
- A motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held. Brad presented & reviewed the Wildfire Mitigation Plan with the Board. A motion to approve the plan as written. Seconded the motion; motion carried.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Made a motion to approve Dan's report. Seconded; motion carried. Work orders 24725 -24731 to be closed were also reviewed. Made a motion to approve all work orders to be closed; motion carried.
- Board Policy: Policy 100.20 – Policy Development & Policy 100.30 – Statement of Ideals. Motion to show the policies were reviewed on 4/23/26. Seconded the motion; motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. Crews have completed the conductor upgrade on CR 228 & CR 229 east of Effie.
- Drew presented the Member Services report. New warranty coverage is now available for members on appliances. Operation Round Up grant is completed. \$10,200 was awarded to 27 applicants. Bigfork Revitalization grant meeting is to be held on April 29th and we received 8 applications.
- Dan presented the Office Report. Motioned to approve the Resolution of the Secretary Certificate to allow Dan to send in the Form 7 and Dan as Secretary Administrator and Brad as Alternate. Supports; motion carried.
- Brad presented the CEO report. He was able to secure \$10,000 sharing success grant from CoBank. GRE's solid March financials help us continue to chip away at the January PCA charge.
- Wes gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report. Nominated Lloyd to represent NIECI and delegate at the GRE meetings. Seconded; motion carried. Made a

In Memoriam: Ray Swang

Ray Swang served on the North Itasca Electric Board of Directors for several three year terms. He represented the Northome area with zeal and fierce loyalty. I can remember many times we would be discussing a project or upgrade and he would say, "What is Northome going to get out of this?"

Ray was also a great jokester, sometimes to his own detriment. I remember a remark he made in front of his beloved Marlene. She swatted him with her purse and stomped off. I could hear her muttering, "Shees! Shees!" as she left him standing with a sheepish look on his face.

I will always owe a debt to Ray for teaching me how to talk to farmers. Most coop directors in Minnesota are farmers and I know nothing about farming so had trouble striking up a conversation with some of these fellows. I noticed that Ray was always jabbering with complete strangers so watched carefully.

He would walk up to a fellow farmer and simply say, "Getting any rain?" Those seem to be the magic words to start an unending conversation. I have since learned that there is never the perfect amount of rain.



Thank you for your service and friendship, Ray.

Wes Waller

CEO Report, continued

>from p.1

This year Dan, our Office Manager, will present the financials at the Annual Meeting. I am pleased to report that our Board of Directors approved the 2025 audit at our April meeting. The finances turned out very positive for 2025. One line to point out is our allocation from Great River Energy. In 2025 Great River Energy had a great year financially. This turned into an allocation much larger than what we budgeted in 2025. This is the biggest driver of our significant margins for the end of the year. Dan or I can go into further details about this at the meeting or if you want to, give us a call. The allocation is not physical money. This will be paid to today's members in roughly

twenty plus years from GRE.

I want to close today by telling you how proud I am of Trevor and Eli. These two gentlemen come to work daily with a great attitude, work safely, and work hard for the Member-Owners of North Itasca Electric. Recently Trevor Michienzi and Eli Rahier received their Journeyman Lineman status. There are many books and tests these professionals need to study and pass along with learning the skills necessary to perform the work safely.

Congratulations and thank you to our Operations Department. Stay safe out there!

By your side! Miigwech

Brad

motion to approve Wind Resolution. Seconded; motion passed. Motioned to approve the Contract Extensions. Supports; motion passed with 8 ayes and 1 opposed.

- Made a motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Regular board meetings are generally held the fourth Thursday of every month.

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Business Office: Capital Credits

What are Allocations?

When income exceeds expenses in any given year, margins are allocated to each member's capital credit account according to their usage; this is called capital credit allocation.

Active members can find their 2025 capital credit allocation on their June statement. This number represents the members

Since 1985, North Itasca Electric has returned \$7,566,297.92 back to members.

individual share of our \$822,153.00 margin this past year. If the cooperative continues to be successful, it will all eventually be returned to the member in a General Retirement.

North Itasca Electric is currently returning Capital

Credits on roughly a 20-year rotation and since 1985, has returned \$7,566,297.92 back to our members.

Members with active accounts can keep track of their capital credits by simply reviewing their June statement. Patrons

who no longer have active accounts receive allocation notices and checks by mail. Unfortunately, many former members miss out on these communications because they have not provided the co-op with a current address. Be sure to keep us updated with your address changes because we want to make sure you receive your capital credits!

North Itasca Electric Scholarship Awards

Unclaimed capital credits are donated to the Scholarship Committee at Northome High School to create scholarships for children of Member-Owners of North Itasca Electric. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded scholarships this spring.

- \$1,000
Charli Hallstrom, Northome
John Kopacek, Grand Rapids
Josee Lindley, Northome

- \$700
Noah Calhoun, Bigfork
Salvator David, Bigfork
Hannah Holloway, Bigfork
Kambry Pearson, Bigfork
Soren Pollard, Northome
Baily Porter, Bigfork
Tessa Weddle, Bigfork

- \$500
Nicholas Scheff, Bigfork
Madelyn Westermann, Blackduck

Member Appreciation Day

Almost 80 members attended the Member Appreciation Day at the Squaw Lake Community Center in May, enjoying brats and burgers grilled by CEO Brad Dolinski and Line Superintendent Daryl Pederson. There was lots to do as well, browsing energy ideas from vendors that lined the room. To follow up with any of the vendors, contact Drew Francisco at andrewf@nieci.com or call (218) 743-1313.



Jamie Stallman represented Great River Energy, the generation/transmission cooperative owned by North Itasca Electric and 25 other rural electric cooperatives in Minnesota which provides power and other services to North Itasca Electric, including the member rebate structure. Stallman

commented on the friendly relationship that members had with cooperative staff.

Shirley Montgomery (right), president and Kathy Johnson, secretary of Northland Progressive were present to showcase businesses and events in Northome. Saturday, June 20 is Crazy Day in Northome this year, with many events including the Grand Opening of the new Ita-Bel-Koo DAC IDK Thrift Store. See page 16 for more.



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Dean Havel of Electro Industries, Monticello displayed the company's plenum insert used for electric heat in forced air systems. Placed in the plenum above a propane furnace which acts as a backup system, the solution is eligible for load management electric heat pricing. The company also provides air source heat pumps.

Tony Kassa representing STAR Energy Services brought whole house generators, both propane generators that sit outside and modular battery generators great for new builds that can recharge from solar or the grid. The latter comes in 6.6 kWh Briggs & Stratton units that can be stacked to provide almost 20 kWh quickly (shown). STAR Energy Services was formed as an engineering group for the utility industry by Stearns Electric Assn., Todd-Wadena Electric Coop. and Agralite Electric Coop.

K&E Distributing was present to talk to contractors about the close to 30 companies they represent in the HVAC industry. Among other brought tools, an adjustable accordion air filter and an LG forced air furnace with a plenum attachment that circulates air conditioned air from an outside unit through existing ductwork.



Kassa stacks modular battery generators, each delivering 6.6 kWh.



Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Why do most people prefer not to have an agitator in their washer?

Most people prefer washing machines without an agitator for several reasons:

1. **More capacity** (especially for bulky items): With no center post taking up space, you can fit larger loads, comforters, and blankets more easily. (Be careful not to overload your washer though, keep in mind that even though you can fit a big bulky comforter in your washer, you may not want to do this. (Think about how heavy it will be when all the batting in the comforter gets wet.) It's hard on your washer if it's too heavy.

2. **Less wear and tear on fabrics:** Agitators scrub and twist clothes against the post, which can cause pilling, stretching, fraying and fading over time.

3. **Less tangling:** Items (sheets, straps, active wear) are less likely to wrap around a post, so loads come out less knotted and stretched out.

4. **Often better water/energy efficiency:** Many "impeller" or "wash plate" designs use less water than older agitator top-loaders (though it varies by model and settings).

5. **Easier loading/unloading:** There's more open space in the drum, so it's simpler to move laundry in and out.

Why do some people still like agitators:

1. They can be very **good at heavy soil cleaning** (work clothes, muddy items), and cycles can feel more "aggressive" when you want that effect.

Why vegetation management matters

There's something timeless about trees. They ground us. They remind us of where we've been, and they stretch toward what's ahead. Here in our community, we take pride in the natural beauty that surrounds us—the shade on a summer afternoon, the colors that mark the changing seasons, the quiet strength of something that grows slowly but endures.

At the same time, we share another responsibility—one that's just as essential to our daily lives. The responsibility to keep the lights on, to power our homes and businesses, to make sure that when you

flip a switch, the energy you depend on is there.

That's why North Itasca Electric works every day to strike a careful balance between preserving the beauty we cherish and delivering the reliable electricity you expect.

One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming.

Now, it may not always be obvious, but keeping lines clear of overgrown vegetation plays a major role in preventing power outages. We've all seen what can happen when severe weather rolls in—strong winds, heavy ice or sudden storms can

From the Line Department

by Daryl Pederson, Line Superintendent

The 2025 construction year was a busy one. Our crew installed 5.25 miles of new underground cable and have retired out nearly 7 miles of old overhead line. The main project in 2025 was around the Bello Lake area, where we installed much-needed underground and fusing equipment to strengthen reliability and improve outage response.

Over this last winter we completed three overhead conductor

upgrades in the Turtle Lake, Effie, and Bigfork areas. These projects totaled 7 miles.

This year's main project will be relocating approximately 4.5 miles of underground line along County Road 52 from the Owen Lake Campground Road to the Horsehead Lake Trail to accommodate the new route for County Road 52. Additional projects for 2026 include converting the Matt Zimmer Road and MacKenzie Island

overhead lines to underground.

We anticipate installing about 60 new services for new members across our system, along with additional sectionalizing equipment to improve reliability and speed up outage restoration. We will also complete the replacement of older hydraulic reclosers with new electronic reclosers. The new reclosers offer more flexibility, allowing us to fine-tune settings by



area to reduce unwanted blinks and false outages.

Please remember if you see trees down or leaning on or near a power line, please stay away from them and call us. We will send a crew out to take care of the trees as safely as possible.



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TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Protect your accounts by enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) wherever possible. MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second step—like a code sent to your phone or an authentication app—beyond just your password. Even if a scammer steals your login information through phishing or data breaches, MFA can stop them from accessing your account. Choose app-based authentication over text messages when available, as it's more secure. Taking a few minutes to turn on MFA for email, banking and additional online accounts can significantly reduce your risk of identity theft and financial loss.

Source: staysafeonline.org



bring down branches and, they start.

And it's not just good practice—it's required. Electric utilities across the country are obligated to manage vegetation near power lines. Scheduled trimming helps remove dead or weakened limbs and keeps fast-growing trees from becoming hazards. It's about staying one step ahead, especially as we prepare for the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events.

NRECA is the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives.

with them, power lines and poles. In fact, nearly half of all power outages can be traced back to trees and vegetation coming into contact with electrical infrastructure.

That's why you may notice crews from North Itasca Electric or our trusted contractors working in neighborhoods throughout the year. Our crews are highly trained and certified, following the latest industry standards to ensure the job is done safely and effectively. Their work might seem routine, but it's anything but—it's a proactive step that helps prevent problems before

June Range Sale

- Through June -

Upgrade your kitchen with a new range and save during our June Range Sale. For a limited time, all featured ranges are 10% off at North Itasca Electric.



Model Number - GCRE3060BF \$998.00 SALE \$898.20
30" Electric Range with Total Convection - Stainless



Model Number-GCRG3060BS \$1119.13 SALE \$1007.22
30" Gas Range with Total Convection and Air Fry – Stainless



Model Number - FFGH3054UB \$588.17 SALE \$529.35
Frigidaire 30" Front Control Freestanding Gas Range-Black



Model Number-FCRE3083AS \$901.52 SALE \$811.37
30" Electric Range with Air Fry – Stainless



Model Number – FGEW3066UFC \$653.45 SALE \$588.09
Frigidaire - Gallery Series 30" Built-In Single Electric Convection Wall Oven - Stainless Steel



Model Number - MER3052AWW \$763.10 SALE \$686.79
Midea 30" Oven Range: Electric, 4 Burners, Self-Clean - White



Model Number - FCR33012BW \$637.49 SALE \$573.74
30" 4-Burner Freestanding, Self-Cleaning Range - White



Please call Roxanne with any questions; 218-743-3132 or roxannep@nieci.com.



Welcome to the 86th Annual Meeting of your cooperative!

Board of Directors: North Itasca Electric Co-op



Jim White
District 1



Wes Waller
District 2



Larry Salmela
District 3



Mary Rahier
District 4



Lloyd Kongsjord
District 5



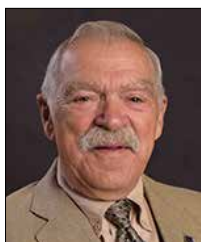
Todd Christenson
District 6



Tom Kallio
District 7



Jeff Kilian
District 8



Roy Bain
District 9

MINUTES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM - April 29, 2026

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

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

District 1	Myron Albrecht, Mizpah MN 56660	218-897-5048
District 2	Dale Quandt, Wirt MN 56688	218-659-2601
District 3	Brandon Francisco, Effie 56639	218-244-6452
District 4	Jesse Rahier, Bigfork 56628	218-810-8405
Alt	Troy Beckner, Bigfork 56628	218-244-3272
District 5	Eric Handyside, Bigfork 56628	218-766-6312
District 6	Crystal Braunwarth, Squaw Lake 56630	218-779-3249
District 7	Lisa Peterson, Squaw Lake 56681	218-760-6741
District 8	Les Jensen, Marcell 56657	218-832-3410
District 9	John (Jack) H.Schultz, Deer River 56636	218-259-4429

- OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney Andrew Shaw, CEO Brad Dolinski, Office Manager Dan Heinecke.
3. The minutes of the last Nominating Committee Meeting held April 30, 2025, were reviewed.
 4. Attorney Called for approval of Minutes. Motioned by Lisa Peterson, Seconded by Crystal Braunwarth. Motion Carried.
 5. Attorney called for nominations for Chairperson. Motion made by Jack Schultz to appoint Attorney Andrew Shaw as Chairperson, Seconded by Myron Albrecht. Motion Carried.
 6. Chairperson called for nominations for Secretary. Motion made by Les Jensen to appoint Dan Heinecke as Secretary, Seconded by Brandon Francisco. Motion Carried.
 7. Chairperson called for nominations for candidates for Districts 4, 5 & 6. Candidates to be listed in alphabetical order and incumbents be identified on ballots.
 8. Nominating Committee Member for District 4 presented their candidate. Motion made by Jack Schultz, seconded by Dale Quandt to approve Mary Rahier (Incumbent) as candidate for District 4. Motion Carried.
 9. Nominating Committee Member for District 5 presented their candidate. Motion made by Jack Schultz, seconded by Dale Quandt to approve Lloyd Kongsjord (Incumbent) as candidate for District 5. Motion Carried.
 10. Nominating Committee Member for District 6 presented their candidate. Motion made by Jack Schultz, seconded by Dale Quandt to approve Todd Christensen (Incumbent) as candidate for District 6. Motion Carried.
 11. The Chairperson stated that the incumbent candidates are consuming members and residing in the districts nominated for.
 12. CEO Dolinski gave an update on North Itasca Electric to the committee.
 13. There being no further business, motion by Les Jensen to adjourn the meeting.

Dale
Nominating Committee Secretary (Acting)

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

NOTICE

POSTING OF THE CANDIDATE LIST

At the meeting of the Nominating Committee, held April 29, 2026 the following names were selected and placed in the nomination for the position of director of North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc.

- District 4** Mary Rahier (Incumbent)
- District 5** Lloyd Kongsjord (Incumbent)
- District 6** Todd Christensen (Incumbent)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S CERTIFICATE

I, Andrew Shaw, Nominating Committee Chairperson, have posted this Notice at the office of the North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc., County of Itasca, Bigfork, Minnesota. In accordance with Article IV Section Four, of the Cooperative's By-Laws this 29th day of April 2026 at 5:30 PM.

Andrew Shaw, Chairperson

Call before you dig.



800-252-1166
or 811

Whenever you plan to dig over 12 inches deep, 2 days before you start, call Gopher One at 811 or (800) 252-1166.

When you call, be sure to have available your township name and legal description (township, range and section numbers).

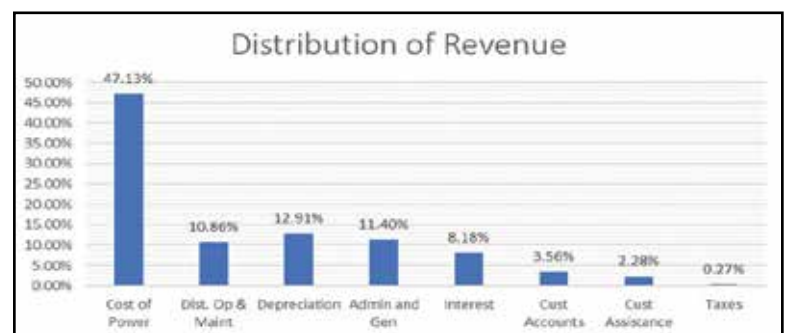
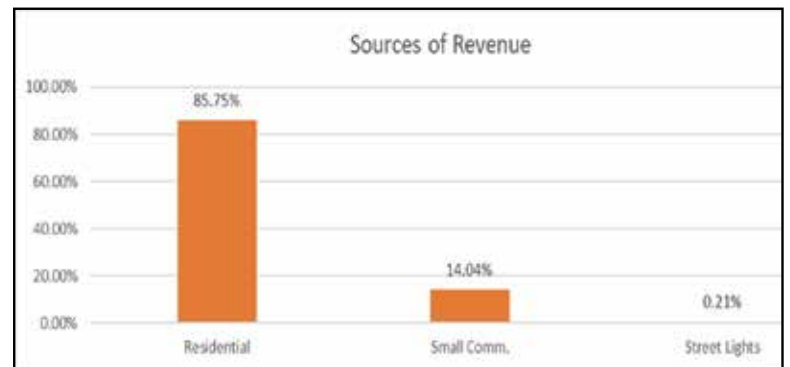
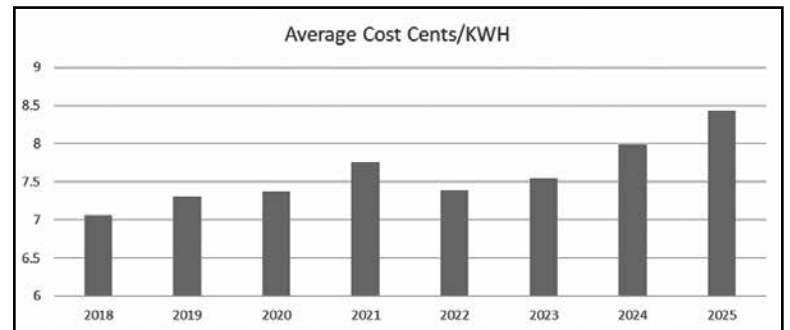
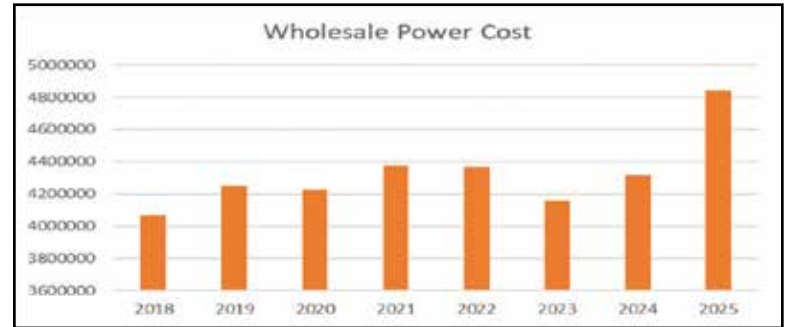
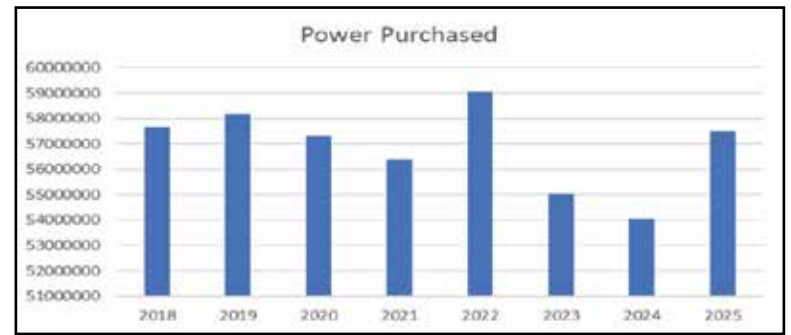
By calling Gopher One, homeowners only need to make one call to alert utilities like telephone, electric or gas so any underground services can be located.

Homeowners should also know that underground lines are only located up to the meter.

BALANCE SHEET
North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Dec. 31, 2025

ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS		LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS	
1. Total Utility Plant in Service	46,061,750	30. Memberships	0
2. Construction Work in Progress	1,326,330	31. Patronage Capital	8,238,983
3. Total Utility Plant (1 + 2)	47,388,080	32. Operating Margins - Prior Years	0
4. Accum. Provision for Depreciation and Amort.	16,405,485	33. Operating Margins - Current Year	0
5. Net Utility Plant (3 - 4)	30,982,595	34. Non-Operating Margins	0
6. Non-Utility Property (Net)	28,609	35. Other Margins and Equities	4,443,882
7. Investments in Subsidiary Companies	198,399	36. Total Margins & Equities (30 thru 35)	12,682,865
8. Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Patronage Capital	3,772,895	37. Long-Term Debt - RUS (Net)	0
9. Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Other - General Funds	6,135	38. Long-Term Debt - FFB - RUS Guaranteed	22,310,585
10. Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Other - Nongeneral Funds	223,813	39. Long-Term Debt - Other - RUS Guaranteed	0
11. Investments in Economic Development Projects	19,210	40. Long-Term Debt Other (Net)	5,229,878
12. Other Investments	29,220	41. Long-Term Debt - RUS - Econ. Devel. (Net)	13,810
13. Special Funds	0	42. Payments - Unapplied	5,018,489
14. Total Other Property & Investments (6 thru 13)	4,278,281	43. Total Long-Term Debt (37 thru 41 - 42)	22,535,784
15. Cash - General Funds	323,547	44. Obligations Under Capital Leases - Noncurrent	0
16. Cash - Construction Funds - Trustee	0	45. Accumulated Operating Provisions and Asset Retirement Obligations	0
17. Special Deposits	0	46. Total Other Noncurrent Liabilities (44 + 45)	0
18. Temporary Investments	153,635	47. Notes Payable	0
19. Notes Receivable (Net)	63,481	48. Accounts Payable	890,390
20. Accounts Receivable - Sales of Energy (Net)	1,035,583	49. Consumers Deposits	48,700
21. Accounts Receivable - Other (Net)	42,707	50. Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	1,014,458
22. Renewable Energy Credits	0	51. Current Maturities Long-Term Debt - Economic Development	5,400
23. Materials and Supplies - Electric & Other	438,760	52. Current Maturities Capital Leases	0
24. Prepayments	127,010	53. Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	242,001
25. Other Current and Accrued Assets	2,774	54. Total Current & Accrued Liabilities (47 thru 53)	2,200,949
26. Total Current and Accrued Assets (15 thru 25)	2,187,497	55. Regulatory Liabilities	0
27. Regulatory Assets	0	56. Other Deferred Credits	91,949
28. Other Deferred Debits	63,174	57. Total Liabilities and Other Credits (36 + 43 + 46 + 54 thru 56)	37,511,547
29. Total Assets and Other Debits (5+14+26 thru 28)	37,511,547		

The year in graphs



SUMMER RATE REMINDER

Starting June 1st, summer rates will take effect and will be reflected on your statements for July, August and September.

RATE DEFINITIONS

Rate Definition	❄ Winter	☀ Summer
⚡ KWH	0.1447	0.1657
🏠 Whole House	0.1113	0.1379
🏢 Small Commercial	0.1447	0.1657

Electrical Inspections

Except for minor repair work, all electrical work you do at your home, cabin, or property is required to be inspected by a State Electrical Inspector. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required.

Please visit www.electricity.state.mn.us for more information.

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

- **Itasca County** – Eric Kluge (612) 772-6659
- **Koochiching County** – Brian Johnson (612) 757-9458
- **Beltrami County** – Wade Koons (218) 580-8589

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

Mission - Delivering value to our members and communities by providing safe, reliable and progressive energy and other services.

Values - North Itasca Electric Cooperative values honesty, integrity and high ethical standards. We are accountable to our members and committed to our communities.

North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc.

Minutes of the 85th Annual Meeting held June 12, 2025

The Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric Co-op was held on June 12, 2025, at the Koochiching County Fairgrounds in Northome, MN.

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

Larry recognized and thanked all the Veterans that were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Larry recognized: the retired board member: Walt Breeze and retired lineman: Jerry Pula, who were in attendance.

Larry introduced Brad Dolinski the CEO and Daryl Pederson from the Operations Department who are on our Safety Panel. Brad encouraged everyone to watch the safety demonstration narrated by Lineman Josh using a thumper to find an underground fault.

Larry asked the secretary if we had a quorum. Lloyd reported that we had 110 members in attendance, it was noted that a quorum of at least 50 members was present.

Larry introduced Andy Shaw, our corporate attorney. Andy went through another explanation of the acclaimed winners. He gave the Nominating Committee report. He referred to the meeting minutes that appeared in the Watts News.

The following directors were acclaimed as winners:

- District 7 – Tom Kallio
- District 8 – Jeff Kilian
- District 9 – Roy Bain

Lloyd Kongsjord read the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting & Notice of the Mailing Certificate List that were posted in the Watts paper. He referred to the Annual Meeting Minutes that appeared in the Watts News. Motion was made to accept the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, seconded; motion carried.

CEO Brad Dolinski, began his speech by thanking the Koochiching County Fairgrounds and Edge of the Wilderness Golf Course for helping make this day happen. He then thanked and introduced staff and his employees including thanking the line department for the safety demonstration and for always working to safely maintain our lines. He thanked the office professionals for all they do at the coop. He thanked the board of directors for their continued leadership and support, and always being prepared to tackle the challenges that the coop faces. He went on to discuss our 2024 financial and operational review, financially 2024

was a pretty good year for the coop. He discussed how we continue to see price increases on material and equipment, we have been doing what we can to maintain expenses as low as possible to help offset, while also continuing to provide reliable and efficient energy as well as maintaining and improving our system. As part of this discussion, funding options available to the coop were mentioned as well as why we have seen rate increases in the past years. Next, he discussed updates to the member services department; members were encouraged to reach out to Drew Francisco to discuss options available for energy efficiency equipment and improvements that may be available. Next, he touched on the new Local Development Grant for business improvements that the coop is involved with. If businesses are looking at future projects please reach out to the coop to see if it's something that may fit into this grant. He also discussed current legislative updates including the push for nuclear power in Minnesota and the Carbon Free by 2040 Minnesota state mandate that will continue to be a massively expensive challenge we will face going forward. He urged everyone to make their voice known to their representatives on this issue. He also mentioned that North Itasca had been awarded a grant to establish a wildfire mitigation program. Brad answered questions from the audience, including a reminder that should members come across downed powerline to keep their distance and not approach the lines.

Larry gave a brief summary of the challenge of increasing cost of supply and equipment that the coop faces, as well as the increased lag time needed between order of equipment and delivery which can also create timing issues as we budget for projects and equipment needs.

Larry called for any old business. There was none.

Larry called for any new business. There was none.

Brad spoke about the good things that the Operation Round Up program does. He also announced that GRE will be donating \$1,636 to the program this year.

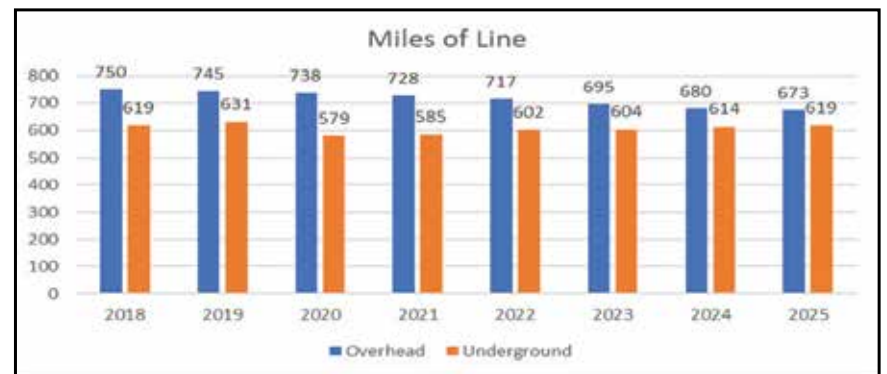
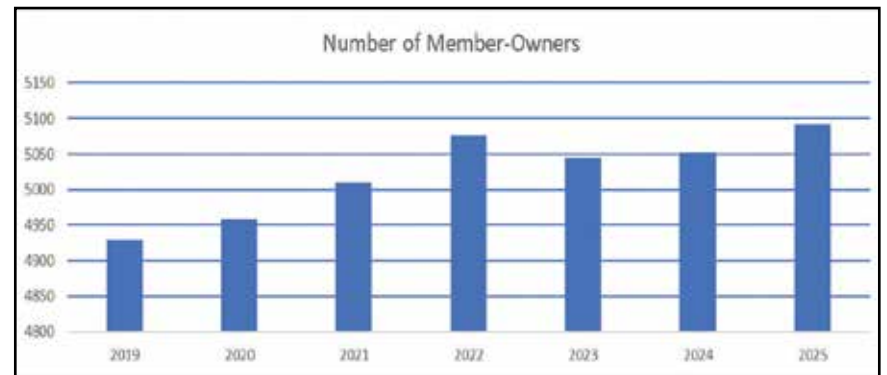
Prizes were drawn.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded; motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Annual Meeting Secretary
Lloyd Kongsjord

Statement of Operations		
	2024	2025
1. Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	9,545,075	10,277,988
2. Power Production Expense	2,405	1,828
3. Cost of Purchased Power	4,315,472	4,843,574
4. Transmission Expense		
5. Regional Market Expense		
6. Distribution Expense - Operation	238,333	266,690
7. Distribution Expense - Maintenance	976,228	849,641
8. Customer Accounts Expense	322,774	366,379
9. Customer Service and Informational Expense	228,626	234,845
10. Sales Expense	769	
11. Administrative and General Expense	1,095,679	1,171,968
12. Total Operation & Maintenance Expense (2 thru 11)	7,180,286	7,734,925
13. Depreciation and Amortization Expense	1,276,014	1,326,504
14. Tax Expense - Property & Gross Receipts	26,204	27,246
15. Tax Expense - Other	510	511
16. Interest on Long-Term Debt	781,204	840,865
17. Interest Charged to Construction - Credit		
18. Interest Expense - Other	59,016	
19. Other Deductions	284	
20. Total Cost of Electric Service (12 thru 19)	9,323,518	9,930,051
21. Patronage Capital & Operating Margins (1 minus 20)	221,557	347,937
22. Non Operating Margins - Interest	32,169	36,644
23. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction		
24. Income (Loss) from Equity Investments		
25. Non Operating Margins - Other	(16,150)	(39,965)
26. Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	111,546	392,292
27. Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	72,606	85,246
28. Extraordinary Items		
29. Patronage Capital or Margins (21 thru 28)	421,728	822,154

Membership



North Itasca Electric Co-op is on Facebook!

Third Coast Chamber Collective Recital at Edge

The Edge Center for the Arts will present Third Coast Chamber Collective's Adult Chamber Music Retreat Faculty Recital on **Saturday, June 13 at 7 p.m.**



Featured artists include Clare Longendyke on piano, Evgeny Zvonnikov (shown) on violin, Madlen Breckbill on viola, Magdalena Sas on cello (shown), Devin Cobleigh-Morrison on horn, and Šarūnas Jankauskas on clarinet.

The chamber retreat is a week-long intensive artistic collaboration between participants and internationally renowned musicians, culminating in public performances which highlight selections from the classical genre. Tickets at the door: Adults \$10, youth FREE.

Caleigh comes to Edge Center stage

The Edge Center for the Arts is pleased to present "They Brought Their Songs: International Folk Music in Minnesota" by musical trio, Caleigh.



"They Brought their Songs" weaves together stories and history of Minnesota with musical genres that highlight the diverse ethnic make-up of the state. Caleigh pairs harp, fiddle, bodhran, banjo, accordion, guitars, mandolin, bass and captivating vocals for a

program that is a perfect harmony of Minnesota history.

This delightful musical experience connects listeners with musical selections including Scandinavian, German, Italian, Finnish, Native America, French-Canadian, Irish and more. The program is approximately 1 1/2 hours in length, and is suited for adults and children ages 10 and up.

Performance is on **Saturday, June 6 at 7 p.m.** in the Edge Center Theatre. Tickets at the door: Adults \$10, youth Free.

Juried Art on the Edge

Art on the Edge is on whether their work has exhibit from August 7 to August 29. Entries begin on May 14, 2026. **The deadline for entries is June 14.** Artists will be notified by July 18 about

Edge Center Gallery. There are no geographic limitations. Please think about entering this Juried Exhibit, or tell your friends and relatives about this opportunity. Artists must be 16 years or older. There are no geographic limitations. Check the Gallery page at www.edgecenterarts.org for the prospectus with information and an online application form.

Take out available **Jesse Lake & Suomi Lutheran Free Community Meal**

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Tuesday, June 16 • 4-6 p.m.

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Edge Center Gallery

From Forest to Savanna: Elich Taxidermy
June 4-27; Artist reception June 4, 5-7 p.m.

The Edge Center Gallery presents Jeff Elich's taxidermy, on exhibit during June 2026.

Jeff has been providing customized services to his clients in the Bovey-Grand Rapids area and participating in competitions for over 35 years.

Jeff has received five state taxidermy championships in the Masters Division, and two WASCO Awards for Most Artistic Entry, presented to the most artistic piece in a taxidermy competition and judged based on tasteful and professional display, original creativity, and artistic merit.

He uses his artistic vision and acute attention to detail to provide realistic posturing and mounting for species ranging widely in size and geographic origin. Backgrounds are designed based on the natural



habitat the specimen came from.


Jeff provides taxidermy services to the Bovey and Grand Rapids areas, and handles all sizes and types of specimens, "from weasels to elephants."

Specimens from North America and Africa will be featured in this wildly unexpected exhibit. The Edge Center Gallery is open to the public Thurs.-Sat., from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Exhibit dates: June 4-27. Artist reception is on June 4 from 5-7 p.m.

ALS family programs

The Arrowhead Library System is bringing two special family programs to the Grand Rapids Area Library in June: *Creature Connections: The Reptile Experience* with Sarah's Serpentarium on Tuesday, June 9 at 3:30 p.m. and *We Are Happy Dads* with the Jolly Pops on Wednesday June 17 at 1 p.m.

Creature Connections features live animal ambassadors—including snakes, lizards, turtles, and is sponsored by the ALS. *We Are Happy Dads* sing about alligator dancing, popsicles, trains, pet dinosaurs...and everything in between! It is sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF).



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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.

- 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.

Bigfork names city softball field after former VFW Post

by Sally Sedgwick

After research did not show a name had been selected already, the Bigfork City Council voted at its May 12 meeting to name it Veterans Memorial Field Post 1764 for the contribution the Post made during the planning process.

Three maintenance projects were approved: repairs at the replica of the Wanigan donated by Gene Madsen at the kiosk on Highway 38 by the shop class at Bigfork High School, seal coating on hospital loop of the RiverWalk by Lakes and Lines Sealcoating, and a perennial planting around the Lumberjack Statue in front of City Hall by Jeff Powell Excavating.

The council discussed the increasing number of municipalities that are choosing to fly the 1983 state flag over the 2024 design. Currently the city flies the American flag and the POW flag on its flagpole. Comments by city residents are invited during public forum at the June meeting.

In other business, the council approved Resolution 2026-05 to decertify the Scenic Estates TIF 1-1.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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.

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.- 6:00 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

Squaw Lake Fire Department



2026 Schedule of Events

June 6th - Take A Kid Fishing 9am-Noon
Sept. 12th - Hog Roast 5pm-7pm



To stay up to date, follow us on Facebook

Itasca Waters Webinars

Practical Water Wisdom: A Virtual Learning Series, is hosted by Itasca Waters. This FREE, hour-long program takes place online at noon on the first Thursday of each month (except July, when it's on the second Thursday). Each session includes a live Q&A. Register at <https://itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2026>

June 4: Potential Impact of Fireworks on Lakes and Other Waters

Presenter: Dr. Andrew Jackson is Chair of the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering at Texas Tech University and a board-certified environmental engineer.

Topic Summary: Each year in the U.S., hundreds of millions of pounds of fireworks are used, releasing perchlorate—a key fireworks ingredient and a known drinking water contaminant—into the environment. Perchlorate can disrupt thyroid function, and studies have shown that fireworks can elevate perchlorate levels in nearby surface and groundwater.

July 9: Septic Compliance

Presenter: Katie Benes is the director of Environmental Services for Itasca County, administering the county's planning and zoning regulations, solid waste program, septic program, shoreland program, and more.

Topic Summary: An overview of how septic systems are regulated, what standards and inspections are required, and how compliance helps protect public health, groundwater, and nearby lakes and streams.

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 Weds., June 10, 9 a.m.-1 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.

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.

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12:30-3 p.m.
3rd Thursday
12:30-4:30 p.m.
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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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.



TO ALL THE AMAZING DADS OUT THERE,



area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: June 15; July 6, 27

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments
4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

Tuesdays: June 16; July 7, 28

10:00 -11:00 a.m. Deer River: Comstock Ct.
11:30-12:30 p.m. Bowstring Store
1:45 - 2:45 p.m. Effie: Country Store
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: June 18; July 9, 30

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 News

~ June Calendar ~

Bigfork

Bigfork Wilderness Days have been moved to July 17-19 with new events, entertainment and vendors. This year's theme: In the Stix in 2026! Sign up for the BBQ contest. Plan to be in town for the Street Dance and Parades. Preliminary schedule on Facebook under Bigfork MN Wilderness Days, Stages will also be at the Edge Center Theatre with their 2026 production: Shrek, Jr.

Effie

Effie Fredheim church will be holding their annual Pie Social on Saturday and Sunday, July 25th & 26th, starting at 2 p.m.-until ?. Stop in for coffee and a piece of homemade pie. Hope to see you there!

Marcell

The Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center is open for the 2026 summer season, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days a week. Interpretive displays, events and gift shop. Watch for summer naturalist programs on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. starting June 16. Kids Fishing Day will be on Saturday, June 13, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Preregister at the Center. More information: (218) 832-3161.

Northome

The 2026 Northome Farmers Market will be held on Fridays, 3-6 p.m. starting June 5 at the Koochiching County Fairgrounds. (note earlier start date). Questions can be directed to Northome Farmers Market Facebook page or leave a message at (612) 201-4519.

Talmoon

The Flea Market at the Little Turtle Lake Store at the intersection of Hwys 6 and 286 in Talmoon will run from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- 1 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 2 Last day to file for many elected offices for Nov. 3 elections. Candidates for city, township, school district and Hospital District offices (without primaries) may file for office at their respective clerk's office in July.
- 3 Last day of school, Bigfork, Deer River schools.
- 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_etl@msn.com.
- 4 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 4 Practical Water Wisdom online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Potential Impacts of Fireworks and Lakes and Other Waters" with Dr. Andrew Jackson of Texas Tech University. Register at itascawaters.org.
- 4-27 Edge Gallery, Bigfork hosts award winning taxidermy by Jeff Erlich of Bovey featuring specimens from North America and Africa. The gallery is open Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Artist's reception Thurs., June 4, 5-7 p.m.
- 5 Start of Northome Farmers Market, each Friday, 3-6 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.
- 6 Musical trio Caleigh comes to the Edge Center theatre presenting a program of heritage international folk music in Minnesota. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Admission adults \$10, youth free.
- 6 Take a Kid Fishing sponsored by the Squaw Lake Fire Department on Round Lake, 9 a.m.-noon.
- 8 ISD 318 School Board meeting, Administrative Board Room, 650 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org.
- 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. .
- 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 meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Kids Fishing Day at Discovery Center in Marcell, 8:30-noon. Preregister at Center.
- 13 Swampsiders Annual Spring ATV and Side-by-Side Ride. Leaves at 10 a.m. from clubhouse, 29730 Co.Rd.52. Pancake breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m., freewill donation.
- 13 Third Coast Chamber Collective Chamber Music faculty recital at the Edge Theatre, Bigfork, 7 p.m. Tickets at the door: adults \$10, youth free.
- 14 Flag Day
- 14 Open House for Wirt Town Hall renovations, 2-4 p.m.
- 14 Third Annual Rhubarb Social, 2-4 p.m. at the Mizpah Community Center. Bring a rhubarb dish to share, beverages provided. Cards, cribbage and games.
- 14 Deadline for submission of entries to the Edge Gallery Juried Exhibit in Bigfork. More information at EdgeCenterArts.org.
- 16 Jessie Lake & Suomi Lutheran free community meal, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon, 4-6 p.m. Sloppy Joes and sides, takeout available.



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	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 218-556-8640
Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	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
Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783	Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:30a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953
Bethany Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a 35297 State Highway 6 Deer River, MN 56636 218-246-8398	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
Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	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
Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	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
Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	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
Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	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
Clara Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a 41447 Little Clara Drive Deer River 56636 218-360-1503	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

- 17 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Northome School.
- 18 Edge of the Wilderness Book Club meets 3rd Thursday of every month (except Dec) at the Marcell Family Center at 10 a.m. New members welcome.
- 18 North Itasca Electric Annual Meeting in Bigfork, 2 p.m.**
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 Crazy Day in Northome starting at 8 a.m. with rummage sales on Main St. Food, races and crazy competitions. See p.16.
- 20 Bigfork Valley Community Foundation Golf Tournament fundraiser 9 hole scramble. Cash prizes. Benefits BVCF Grant program. Call (218) 743-4116 or sign up at Golf on the Edge.
- 21 Father's Day
- 22 Women of the Woods meet 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson (218) 659-2157.
- 23 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.
- 25 Community Music Jam at Marcell Family Center, 5-8 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- 29 ISD 318 School Board meeting, Administrative Board Room, 650 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org.
- 30 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m.

BVCF makes donations



The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation (shown above) Bigfork High School students and BVCF representatives recently contributed \$500.00 to Bigfork School. Funds were contributed to assist with expenses for a school trip. Nanci Zeine, board member and Kristen Huot, chief operating officer

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently contributed \$500 to Bigfork Valley. Funds were contributed to purchase EMS/Ambulance apparel.

(l to r) Nanci Zeine, BVCF board member and James Parks, RN, EMT, Bigfork Valley Hospital.



Bridge 31036

Bridge 31036 will be the new name of the bridge on Highway 6 which crosses the Big Fork River between Co. Rd. 14 east and west about 6 miles west of Bigfork. The original bridge, 31001, was built in 1965 and is currently weight restricted due to poor condition.

Planning started in 2023 and construction will start on June 8 this year. Like the old bridge, the new bridge will be a 3 span, 200 ft. concrete structure. Redstone Construction out of Mora was the winning bidder at \$3,870,463.

For residents, it will be a significant project with a detour running from Talmoon via Highways 286 and 38 to Bigfork and then back to Highway 6 along Co. Rd. 14. Construction is expected to be complete by Nov. 14.



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AD DEADLINE

for the JULY issue: **Tuesday, June 16**

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-FOR SALE-

For sale: Building? Remodeling? Need a nice bathtub? Call (218) 259-4456 to talk. 7/26

For sale: Power wheelchair, Jazzy Select Elite-2S-C \$650. Call Allan (818) 644-1417 7/26

For sale: Rabbit stuff. 8 cages, feeders, waterers, etc. \$50 for all. Call (218) 246-9183 6/26

For sale: '87 Felling skid steer trailer, 74" x 16' bed, (22' overall), 10,000 lb. Elect. brakes, tool box & spares. \$1,700, Call (612) 300-7705 6/26

For sale: 4-way hydraulic skid steer bucket, 6' wide, brand new. \$850. Call (612) 300-7705. Sand Lake 6/26

For sale: Power Mobility Chairs, Golden Power Scooter, Like new XL Invacare Wheelchair, transfer poles, wheelchair pressure cushions. Call (218) 553-1805, text or call 6/26

For sale: Tongue & groove stained lumber, 1950 Text or call (218) 553-1805 6/26

CLASSIFIEDS

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Ridgid 13" Planner, model R4330, used very little. \$200 or best offer. Call (218) 659-4222 6/26

For sale: Winchester SX3 automatic 12 ga. 3-1/2" shotgun . Good condition & Shadowgrass camo, \$625. Please text (218) 404-0209, I can then send photos to you as needed. 7/26

For sale: Many brand new boxes of 12 ga —3" steel shotgun shells to sell Cost depends on the exact type. Please text (218) 404-0209 7/26

For sale: Old Town canoe, used very little. Red "Guide" series, approx. 14'6". \$400 firm. Call (218) 831-8656 7/26

-FISHING-BOATS, GEAR

For sale: Shoremaster Boatlift Model 2596. Very good condition with wheel kit. 2500 lb. lift, 96 inch inside width. Good cables and crank mechanism. Located at Turtle Lake between Bigfork and Marcell. \$950. Call (612) 670-6487 6/26

-FISHING-BOATS, GEAR

For sale: Strikemaster 8" Lazer ice auger. 2.5 hp, 2 cycle gas motor. \$150 or best offer. Call 218-659-4222 6/26

For sale: Strikemaster 8" 4 stroke auger with extension. Runs good, blades dull. \$40. Call (218) 246-9183 6/26

-POWER SPORTS-ACCESSORIES

For sale: Rear window (tinted) for Polaris Ranger, new in box \$50. Call (218) 835-8720. Leave message, will call back 7/26

-AUTOMOTIVE-VEHICLES, PARTS

For sale: Gray Leer 180 truck topper (6.5 ft) with a concealed and lockable gun cabinet/storage in ceiling. Very good shape and stored inside. \$1500 or best offer. Call (218) 659-4222 6/26

For sale: 1950 Ford block engines & parts. Call (218) 553-1805, text or call 6/26

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BIGFORK BUSINESS REVITALIZATION GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

We are pleased to announce the award of grants through the Bigfork Business Revitalization Grant Program. Thank you to all who applied and for your interest in investing in the future of our community.

After careful review, the following organizations have been selected to receive funding:

Page	Applicant Organization	Amount Awarded
1	Hoot N Holler/ K&J Boyer of Alwood	\$5,000.00
2	Haleys RV Park	\$5,000.00
3	Timberwolf Inn	\$5,000.00
4	Northern Itasca Hospital District	\$1,193.54
5	ITA-BEL-KOO DAC	\$4,928.21
6	R&G Trails End LLC	\$1,250.00
7	Effie Country Service	\$5,000.00
8	City OF Effie	\$4,999.37
9	Kootasca Senior Center	\$2,250.00
10	Camp Deer Resort	\$5,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED		\$39,621.12

These grants will support a wide range of projects that strengthen our local economy, enhance community vitality, and create lasting impact.

Congratulations to all award recipients! We look forward to seeing the positive results of your work.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the North Itasca Electric Office.

Sincerely,
Bigfork Business Revitalization Committee

 For questions, please contact:
Drew Francisco | andrewf@nieci.com | 218-743-1313

June 20 is Crazy Day in Northome

From Bed Races to the famous annual Turtle Race, it will be a Crazy Day in Northome on Saturday, June 20!

Most events will take place on Main Street, starting at 8 a.m. with activities for the whole family. At the end of the day, Northome First Responders will hold Bed Races on the road in front of the park. Races are for ages 12 and up. Hot dogs, hamburgers, dessert and sides will be served for a free will donation.

The new ITA BEL Koo DAC Thrift Store will hold its Grand Opening. Replacing the woodshop, the store will offer an opportunity to develop new skills for its clients.

During the week, the store will be open 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Visit Northome on June 20 for a full day of events and good food!

NORTHOME CRAZY DAY ON JUNE 20

8:00 a.m. Rummage Sales Open on Main Street
9:00 a.m.-1 p.m. Family activities at Northome Community Church
10:00 a.m. Medallion Hunt starts
10:30-11:00 a.m. Stinky Sneaker Contest sponsored by Bear Country Chronicles
11:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Salad Luncheon at Senior Center
1:00 p.m. Minnow Races
2:00 p.m. Turtle Races
3:00 p.m. Reptile Experience in Community Room
4:00-6:00 p.m. Bed Races at park, prizes and food sponsored by Northome First Responders
 --Visit the New ITA BEL KOO DAC Thrift Store--



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