



NEWSLINE



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February 2021

Member Appreciation Open House Drive Thru



Many cars pulled through the parking lot at Itasca-Mantrap on December 18 for the Member Appreciation Open House Drive Thru. Members enjoyed treats, warm drinks, an appreciation gift, and a friendly visit with the Itasca-Mantrap team members.

The generous donations from members helped the Salvation Army collect a total of \$927 at our 2-Hour event. Our local Salvation Army has seen an increase of \$6,734.40 in donations this year compared to last

year. Many thanks for your contributions toward a good cause.

Many of our traditional events have been canceled over the past year and we have missed our members greatly. The Drive Thru provided an avenue for us to safely engage with our members. Thank you to the approximately 375 members who swung by Itasca-Mantrap to visit. We appreciate our members and enjoyed visiting with you again!



See Page 3 for details on the open director nominations in districts 6 and 7.



CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

As I write this, there are many things I am eager to share with you. Because of the time it takes to write, edit, print, and distribute

the newsletter, my deadline for this February article is early January. As such, some of what I want to share with you will seem like old news by the time you read it and some of it is so new right now, that I do not have the particulars yet.

For the old news:

We had a great turnout at our member appreciation event. I want to thank all of you who stopped by. We had approximately 375 members drive through. In fact, we had more people attend our two-hour drive thru event than what we would have expected for our two-day appreciation open house. We had so many more than we anticipated that many of you did not get a cookie to go with your coffee. We simply ran out. I apologize to those who missed out on the cookie and hope to make it up to you during our next event. I also want to applaud

those that attended and donated to the Salvation Army. Your generosity is unending. Because of you, the Salvation Army collected over \$900. Thank you!!

Now, despite some nervousness earlier this year, anticipating the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a good year financially. Back in March, when the pandemic started, we had no idea what the financial impact would be to Itasca-Mantrap. We knew we needed to keep our very talented pool of team members safe by keeping them at home and we did not want to risk losing any one of them. For this reason, we chose to pay them during our brief shutdown and applied for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. We were approved for a loan of approximately \$550,000, which was completely forgivable. In September, after reviewing our financial condition, we decided to pay the loan back in hopes that those funds could be used by others in greater need. This past month, we reviewed our forecasted margins with the Board. The forecast showed an excess margin of approximately \$1.5 million. The Board elected to return over \$1 million to our members in the form of an \$85 bill credit. You should have noticed this

credit on your January bill. The Board also deferred approximately \$500,000 to help defray the expenses of our new Advanced Grid Infrastructure (AGI) project, for which construction will begin this fall. The hope being that we will be able to weather this very expensive project without having to raise rates for this purpose.

And the new news:

By the time you read this, the Board will have decided to retire capital credits. As I write this, it is far too early for me to know how much will be retired, but because of the great year we have had in 2020, I am confident they will elect to retire some. Capital credits are usually retired in February and I anticipate you will see a check from us soon.

We are very happy to have been able to give back to our members during a year that has been very difficult for a lot of people. We will do our best to keep the electricity flowing consistently at a reasonable rate for years to come.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

Shop Local this Winter Season



Pictured (L-R): Aunt Belle's Confectionery (Grandpa's Cabin), Amish Oak & Americana Furnishings, and 3rd Street Market.

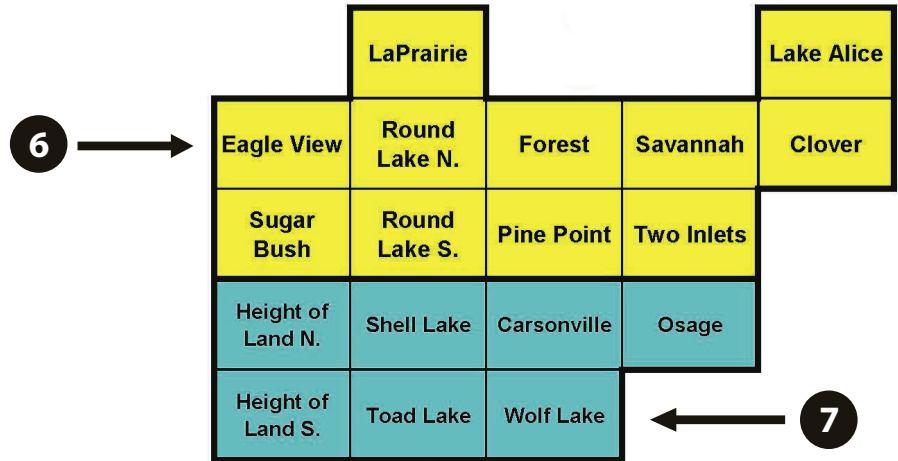
Take your Co-op Connections card with you when you go shopping locally this winter season. We encourage supporting the small businesses in the Itasca-Mantrap area. Aunt Belle's Confectionery, Amish Oak & Americana Furnishings, and 3rd Street Market are just a few participating businesses in a long list of businesses that offer a discount with the Itasca-Mantrap Co-op Connections card. Visit our website to view the full list of participating businesses!

Director Nominations Open in Districts 6 and 7

Nominations are open for director candidates who live in district 6 and district 7. Nominees must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. Copies of the bylaws are available at www.itsasca-mantrap.com and at our office.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, call our office to request a director candidate packet. The packet contains the nomination petition form and other information.

Completed petitions and forms must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12.



DISTRICT 6 – includes Eagle View, Forest, Pine Point, Round Lake North, Round Lake South, Savannah, Sugar Bush and Two Inlets Townships in Becker County; Clover and Lake Alice Townships in Hubbard County; and LaPrairie Township in Clearwater County.

DISTRICT 7 – includes Carsonville, Height of Land North, Height of Land South, Osage, Shell Lake, Toad Lake and Wolf Lake Townships in Becker County.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Itasca-Mantrap is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the Cooperative prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Cooperative (not all bases apply to all

programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

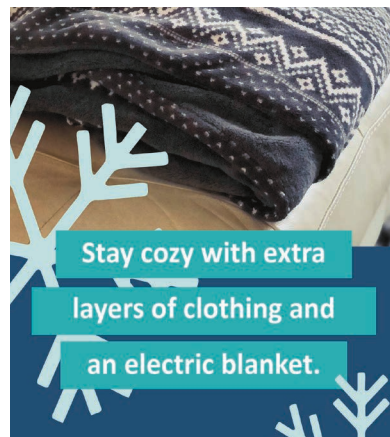
Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Cooperative or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program

Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intakeusda.gov.

Three Tips to Save Energy this Winter



Stay Comfortable.

Space heating and cooling account for a large portion of the average home's energy use. A programmable or smart thermostat can help you control the temperature of your home and save energy.

Photo Credit: Consumers Energy

Follow us to stay
updated on the latest!



Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Heard the Operations and Safety report and the Marketing and Member Services report
- October financials were received and filed subject to audit.
- CEO Christine Fox gave her monthly CEO report.
- Reviewed the 2021 Construction Work Plan
- Heard an update to the Vegetation Management Plan.
- Approved revisions to Board policies.
- Directors and CEO Christine Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

The February meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:00 a.m.

2021 Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Rebates

Itasca-Mantrap has many Commercial & Industrial rebates available for 2021, including rebates for lighting, compressed air systems, ground source heat pumps, cooling, heating, ventilation, motors and more.

• Agricultural

- Dairy-Free Heater
- Dairy Plate Cooler (Well water pre-cooler)
- Ventilation
- Robotic Milking

• Building Studies &

Benchmarking Programs

- **Commercial Food Service**
- **Compressed Air**
- **Electric Forklift**
- **Lighting - Custom or Retrofit**
- **Motors/Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs)**
- **Vending Machine Controls**
- **Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning**
 - Air Source Heat Pumps
 - Chillers

- Economizers
- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners (PTAC)
- Rooftop Units
- Split Systems
- Mini-splits

Contact the Itasca-Mantrap office to see if your energy saving project qualifies for a rebate.

2021 Residential Member Rebates

Heating & Cooling

• Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)*

14.5 SEER	\$500
15 SEER	\$650
16+ SEER	\$800

*Installed ASHPs must be separately metered and controlled and installed by a participating quality installation contractor to qualify for rebate.

• Air Conditioner or Air Source Heat Pump Tune-Up

\$25

• Dual Fuel Heating Systems (per kilowatt installed*)

\$25/kW

*Installed dual fuel must be separately metered and controlled on the dual fuel program to qualify for a rebate.

• Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

\$300

• Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) (per qualifying ECM*)

\$50

*ECM must be part of a new HVAC system or a new ECM replacement on existing HVAC system to qualify for a rebate.

• Ground Source Heat Pump* (5 ton maximum per Member*)

Residential per ton	\$400
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• Off-Peak Storage Space Heating (per kilowatt installed*)

\$100/kW

*Installed storage space heat must be separately metered and controlled on the off-peak program to qualify for a rebate.

• Smart Thermostat

\$25

Water Heating

• High-Efficiency Water Heating

Storage Water Heating*	\$600
Peak Shave Water Heating**	\$300

*Installed water heaters must have an energy factor of .90 or higher and have a combined capacity of at least 100 gallons to qualify.

** Installed peak shave water heaters must have an energy factor of .90 or higher and have a capacity of at least 50 gallons to qualify.

Appliances & Lighting

• ENERGY STAR® Appliances

Refrigerator - replacement with proof of recycling	\$75
Freezer - replacement with proof of recycling	\$75
Dehumidifier	\$25

• ENERGY STAR Lighting* (online only)

LED Bulb	\$2/bulb
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*Rebate only available through online store at www.energywisemnstore.com

Electric Vehicles (EV)

Level 2 EV Charger*

\$500

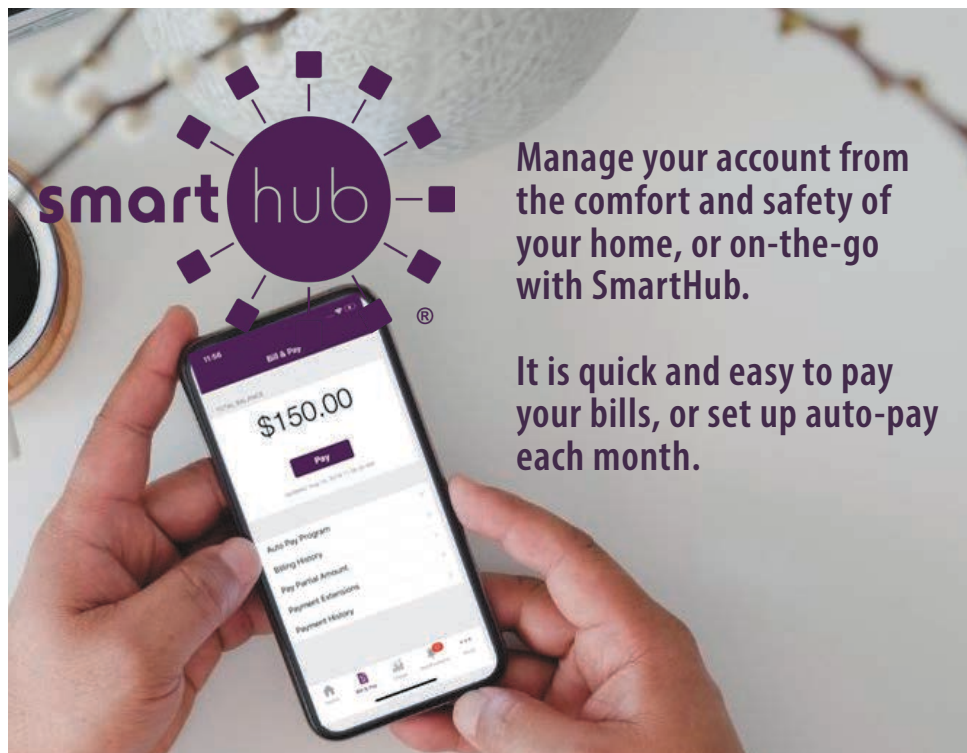
*EV Charger must be on whole house time-of-use rate or separately metered and controlled on the off-peak program to qualify.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source:
www.energy.gov



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Your continued support of the Operation Round Up® program to help local civic and charitable organizations is appreciated.

Thank you!

ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE

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OFFICE HOURS

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Phone: 218-732-3377 or 888-713-3377
Fax: 218-732-5890
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Dist. 7 – Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair
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