



NEWSLINE



April 2021



Thank a Lineworker on April 12 *Lineworker Appreciation Day*

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Itasca-Mantrap, you would probably picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

A lineworker position is one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Our brave lineworkers are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job. Every task is done with safety in mind so that our lineworkers can return home after the job is done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside April 12 to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

Itasca-Mantrap is proud to honor the lineworkers that maintain more than 2,000 miles of power lines in our service territory.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Itasca-Mantrap

and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

When you see our lineworkers, first and foremost, do not interrupt their work – what they are doing is very hazardous and requires their undivided attention, but if you happen to catch them between jobs give them a big thank you from all of us for their exceptional service.

And remember, you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at Itasca-Mantrap who work together with the lineworkers to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. The team at Itasca-Mantrap has a strong commitment to service and to “bringing the light” to our community.



CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

The reliability of our electric grid has been on many people's minds lately...and for good reason. Our recent (I am writing this at the beginning

of March) weather pattern has put the grid to the test. And many systems failed that test. The Southwest Power Pool, commonly referred to as the "SPP," initiated the first rolling blackouts in their history. Our neighbors as close as Moorhead and much of North Dakota were affected by them. As we have all seen in the media, ERCOT (Texas Power Grid) failed miserably, initiating their first rolling blackouts in decades. While there is much speculation of what happened and who is to blame, I want to focus on the fact that we, at Itasca-Mantrap, had nothing to worry about.

Our wholesale supplier, Great River Energy (GRE) is no stranger to cold weather. Its system is designed to provide reliable electricity in extreme weather conditions. GRE's facilities – coal, gas, fuel oil and wind – performed as planned. These facilities were under a maximum generation directive from our Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) and all facilities performed well.

MISO North never even considered rolling blackouts. Although the market price to purchase electricity went sky high, GRE was generating and selling into the market as much as we were buying from the market. Additionally, GRE stocks fuel oil and was able to mitigate the absurdly priced natural gas by burning their reserved fuel oil at several of their peaking facilities. We, at Itasca-Mantrap did our part by controlling load at optimal times to help reduce our cost. Thank you to all our members who are on our load-control programs!!!

So, what does this mean for a "renewable energy future"? As the independent system operator, MISO takes responsibility for ensuring the region's grid has sufficient energy, capacity, and transmission. As a member of MISO, GRE is required to have the capacity to meet peak demands. This is not optional. As the electric system evolves, so will MISO's reliability requirements. MISO has been a leader in establishing and monitoring requirements for utilities that ensure the region has reliable energy. MISO continuously studies the needs of the regional grid, and GRE is a key part of those studies.

At this point, GRE has planned to close Coal Creek Station and will not have any coal-powered generation facilities in the future. They, and we at Itasca-Mantrap,

are doing everything in our power to do our part in slowing/preventing climate change. But we are still reliant on fossil fuels to run peaking plants when severe conditions occur. The good news is that these peaking plants are only called upon during these severe conditions. This latest weather event only emphasizes the fact that although we can reduce our carbon footprint substantially, we still do not have the technology to be completely free of fossil fuels. We have not yet invented the battery (or alternative) that will last for ten days. Although, here at Itasca-Mantrap, our energy future relies much less on fossil fuels. The latest prediction is 94% carbon-free, not including market purchases, by 2025. While this is great, we do not have the technology to get to 100% yet. Hopefully by the time we get to 94%, we will have the technology to make that final step without risking reliability. The last thing any of us wants is to be in a situation like the one Texans just endured.

Please know that GRE is committed to Itasca-Mantrap and our members and we are all committed to reliable, affordable, and clean energy. The future is bright!

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UP TO \$2,000 REBATE WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$450



Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces. Get up to a \$2,000 rebate when you install one.

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts are subject to change without notice. Installed centrally ducted ASHPs must be separately metered & controlled and must be installed by a participating quality installation contractor to qualify for rebate.

Shop local with Co-op Connections!

Don't forget your Co-op Connections card when you are out shopping locally! Simply show your Co-op Connections card at any local participating business to save. Participating businesses have a Co-op Connections sticker on the business' door or cash register. This free program is one more way you benefit from being a cooperative Member.

Co-op Connections® Card



Itasca-Mantrap

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Abigail's Attic Antiques, Collectables & New Gifts	612-720-8833	5%-10% off store wide, excluding new gifts
Amish Oak & Americana Furnishings	218-732-9544	10% off storewide, non-sale
Aune's Kauppala Gifts & Collectibles	218-573-2520	5% off storewide, non-sale items
Aunt Belle's Confectionery	218-732-7019	10% off any regularly priced item
Beagle and Wolf Books & Bindery	218-237-2665	10% off one Midwest Connections pick
Bella Caffé	218-732-7625	Free flavor in coffee drink
Beyond Juice	218-732-0422	10% off
Blue Sky Beads	218-652-3212	10% off when you spend \$30, excluding commissioned pieces
Brothers Self Storage	218-255-7057	10% off any size unit or 15% off 10x10 unit (1 year term limit)
Character Challenge Course	218-760-8442	Buy 1 combo package (\$50), get \$20 discount towards second
Citizens National Bank	218-732-3393	\$50 in Chamber Bucks for one originated Consumer Loan; \$20 deposit in your account after opening E-Checking account
Delaney's Sports	218-732-4281	Free fatheads with a \$5 tackle purchase
Dorset Corner Liquor	218-732-1770	10% discount on wine purchase, excluding sale items
Ecowater Systems	218-732-4332	1 year supply of salt with purchase of a new residential water softener & reverse osmosis system together
Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park	218-732-9609	5% off any purchase
Flying W Gardens	218-732-9782	10% off trees, shrubs & perennials, non-sale only
Haas Printing, Inc.	218-732-1430	10% off on color copies
Hafner's Greenhouse	218-732-8033	10% off storewide, non-sale items
Jerry's Budget Auto	218-732-8809	10% off service and repair on small engines
Kathy's on Main	218-366-2231	10% off any one regularly priced item
Lickin' Good Whole Pet Foods	218-237-7812	5% off Darford Dog Treats
Max Bailey Photography	218-732-7979	10% off original print order
Minnesoda Fountain	218-732-3240	10% off total purchase, cannot be combined with other discounts, not valid on sale items
New Frontier Resort	218-732-3643	5% off lodging for stays over three days
Orton's Menahga BP	218-564-4545	5 cents off per gallon
Orton's Park Rapids	218-237-2220	5 cents off per gallon
Owl's Nest Resort	218-252-2105	10% off weekly rate
Park Rapids Auto Centre	218-732-7210	5% off parts and labor
Park Rapids Building Supply & Rental	218-732-7633	5% off, non-sale items
Park Theatre	218-732-3461	Free bag of popcorn with purchase of ticket
Pixie Point Resort	218-652-2342	10% off
Quietwoods Resort, LLC	218-675-6240	10% off new lodging and camping reservations
Rapids Spirits Liquor Store	218-732-0998	10% off wine purchase, may not be used with other discounts
Smoky Hills Art	218-237-7625	50% off up to 3 bead strands
Smokey Hills Outdoor Store	218-237-5099	25% discount on any live bait
Strandell Kennels	218-652-6502	5% off training service & puppy purchase, \$3 off daily boarding services (limit 2 days)
Tamarac Resort & Campground	218-573-3262	5% off five-day stay or more

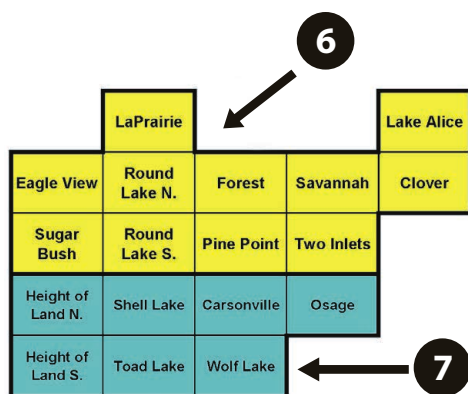
The Flower Boutique	218-237-7449	15% off storewide
The Wild's Resort & Campground	218-573-3515	15% off
Tim Parker Family Glass	218-237-2300	10% off all windshields
Utke's Country Pine Furnishings	218-732-3860	5% off in-stock merchandise. Present card at time of purchase
Warnick's Janitorial Service	218-732-5019	20% discount on any service, excluding house cleaning
3rd Street Market	218-732-9063	Free coffee with purchase of a pie

Director Nominations will close April 12

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.itasca-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

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

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

Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 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
- December financials were received and filed subject to audit.
- CEO Christine Fox gave her monthly CEO report.
- Heard quarterly reports for Board Expenses, Strategic Plan, Safety Incidents, Financial Ratios and Vegetation Management.
- Approved the retirement of capital credits through 2003 and Great River Energy capital credits through 1990.
- Approved the cogeneration and small power production (ARCER - R199 and SC299) rates

for residential, small commercial, large commercial, and irrigation accounts.

- Reviewed the 2020 Distributed Energy Resource Facilities report.
- Heard the Privacy Committee report.
- Discussed the intent of Itasca-Mantrap to begin disconnections for non-payment.
- Appointed Director Roehl as the voting delegate for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) PowerXchange conference and annual business meeting. Director Cook will serve as alternate delegate.
- Director Roehl was appointed as the voting delegate for the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC).
- Directors and CEO Christine Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

The April meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Volunteers Needed for GreenTouch Event



We are looking for volunteers to help ready Itasca State Park for visitor season! GreenTouch is an annual event sponsored by Minnesota's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in partnership with Minnesota State Parks.

EVENT DETAILS:

We will meet at Itasca State Park Saturday, May 1 at 8:00 a.m. No park pass is required that day. A free lunch will be served around noon to close out the day.

Volunteers are needed for pruning, transplanting trees and shrubs, installing tree cages, high pruning, removing bud caps, raking and various other projects.

Volunteers can RSVP by calling Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 1-888-713-3377.

BUILT by our community.
SHAPED by our community.
LED by our community.

**WE'RE PROUD TO
POWER YOUR LIFE.**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source:
www.energy.gov



SmartHub App

The SmartHub online and mobile app help you manage your account by providing many features including, but not limited to:

- Billing & Payment Information
- Outage Reporting
- Quick, Easy Communication
- Billing Alerts
- Detailed Usage Reports



**Build. Maintain.
Repair. Repeat.
That's how lineworkers
power our lives.**

THANK YOU!

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



ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE

16930 County 6, PO Box 192
Park Rapids, MN 56470

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Phone: 218-732-3377 or 888-713-3377
Fax: 218-732-5890
E-mail: itasca@itasca-mantrap.com
www.itasca-mantrap.com



GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

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Dist. 2 – Patricia Roehl, Director
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Dist. 4 – Al Czczok, Asst Sec-Treas
Dist. 5 – Nancy M. Utke, Chair
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Dist. 7 – Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair
President-CEO – Christine Fox