



NEWSLINE



November 2022



EV Ride and Drive Event

On September 22, our parking lot became an electric vehicle (EV) display and test drive center. 40 attendees made it to Itasca-Mantrap's first-ever EV Ride and Drive! There were a variety of test drive & display vehicles, such as the Chevy Bolt, Kia Niro PHEV, Tesla Model 3 and Model Y, and a Ford Mustang Mach-E.

Members enjoyed cookies, had their EV questions answered, and had the chance to explore and test drive the electric vehicle of their choice. Of the attendees who took our survey, 63 percent indicated they already own or are actively looking into purchasing an electric vehicle.

Thank you to Clean Air Initiatives, Great River Energy, and Thielen Motors in Park Rapids for partnering with us on this event!



Member Appreciation Open House

Friday, December 9
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate YOU!

Register to win door prizes
Receive an attendance gift

Salvation Army will be
available for donations.



CEO Update - *By Christine Fox, President-CEO*

I hate to say it, but we are headed into the winter season. Summers go by so fast and it can be hard to face the colder

months ahead. But for some of us, the winter season is the best season of all because of the holidays, family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It is a time of giving and spreading joy.

This time of year reminds me of the many good things in our community and why it is so important to spread good at every opportunity. Think about our great community and the significant impact we can have when we work together.

As a member of Itasca-Mantrap, you have an opportunity to spread the good throughout the year. When members "round up" their monthly bill from Itasca-Mantrap, they donate to the Operation Round Up program. Through this program, grants are awarded to non-profit or community-based organizations

that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the region. Contributions are distributed primarily in the local area served by Itasca-Mantrap. Local organizations that have received Operation Round Up grant funding include the Akeley Regional Community Center, local fire departments, local food shelves, and senior meals to name a few.

One of our seven cooperative principles is "concern for community." These principles define who we are as an organization. The concern for community principle was evident when Itasca-Mantrap first brought electricity to this community in 1939. The quality of life immediately improved. But we all know a community needs more than just electricity and Itasca-Mantrap has been at the forefront of bringing other improvements to this area. Operation Round Up was created for this very purpose.

To date, Itasca-Mantrap members have donated nearly \$1.2 million dollars to local families, individuals, and charities through the Operation Round Up

program. Most recently, the Board awarded \$58,280 during their October meeting. Watch the December Newsline to see which organizations received the latest funding.

Across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round-Up program. Together we have raised millions for our local communities. This is proof that small donations from members like you can make a substantial impact.

Itasca-Mantrap has a stake in the community and are proud to support our local organizations. We like to think of ourselves as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in the community. We hope that you think the same.

I hope you all have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!

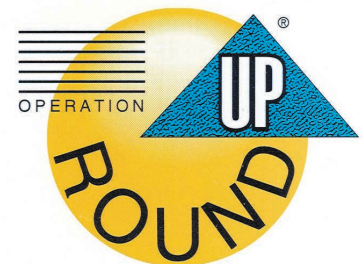
Thank you for allowing me to serve you!!

Operation Round Up

The Operation Round Up® program helps local civic and charitable organizations complete projects that will benefit the Itasca-Mantrap area. When members participate in rounding up their monthly billing statement to the next whole dollar amount, the extra change is collected and kept in a separate Trust account.

This money is distributed to applicants that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the region.

93 percent of Itasca-Mantrap members participate in the Operation Round Up program. Thank you to each and every one of you for making this program possible!



Shop local this holiday season with your Co-op Connections Card!

Shop locally and save this holiday season with your Co-op Connections card! Simply show your Co-op Connections card at any local participating business to save. 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

5%-10% off store wide, excluding new gift items

Amish Oak & Americana Furnishings

10% off storewide, non-sale

Aune's Kauppala Gifts & Collectibles

5% off storewide, non-sale items

Aunt Belle's Confectionery

10% off any regularly priced item

Beagle and Wolf Books & Bindery

10% off one Midwest Connections pick

Bella Caffé

Free flavor in coffee drink

Beyond Juice

10% off

Brothers Self Storage

10% off any size unit (1 year term limit) or 15% off 10x10 unit (1 year term limit)

Character Challenge Course

Buy 1 Ultimate package, get the second 1/2 price. (Limit one per reservation). \$25 value. Not to be used with other discounts or promotions. reservations required. Weight limit.

Citizens National Bank

Receive \$50 in Chamber Bucks for one originated Consumer Loan; Open a Hometown Free Checking account to receive a \$20 deposit into your account* (Account must be current and in good standing for 60 days after opening)

Dorset Corner Liquor

10% discount on wine purchase, cannot be combined with any other discounts, not valid on sale items

Ecowater Systems

1 year supply of salt with purchase of a new residential water softener and reverse osmosis system

Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park

5% off any purchase

Flying W Gardens

10% off trees, shrubs & perennials, only non-sale items

Haas Printing, Inc.

10% off on color copies.

Hafner's Greenhouse

10% off storewide, non-sale items

Jerry's Budget Auto

10% off service and repair on all small engines

Kathy's on Main

10% off any one regularly priced item

Lyle's Shoes

10% off all in-stock items

Max Bailey Photography

10% off original print order

Minnesoda Fountain

10% off total purchase, cannot be combined with other discounts, not valid on sale items

Orton's Holiday Menahga

5 cents off per gallon

Orton's Cenex Park Rapids

5 cents off per gallon

Owl's Nest Resort

10% off weekly rate

Park Rapids Auto Centre

5% off parts and labor

Park Rapids Building Supply & Rental

5% off, non-sale items

Park Theatre

Free bag of popcorn with purchase of ticket

Pixie Point Resort

10% off

Quietwoods Resort, LLC

10% off new lodging reservations, camping and cabins

Rapid Spirits Liquor Store

10% off wine purchase, cannot be used with any other discount

Smokey Hills Outdoor Store

25% discount on any live bait

Strandell Kennels

5% off any training service, 5% off puppy purchase, \$3 off daily boarding services (limit 2 days)

Summerhill Adventures

Purchase one admission ticket to the Back 40, get the second one 1/2 price. (\$10 limit per group. Not valid with other discounts or promotions.)

Tamarac Resort & Campground

5% off with five-day stay or more

The Flower Boutique

15% off storewide

Utke's Country Pine Furnishings

5% off in-stock merchandise, includes gifts, accessories and furniture

Warnick's Janitorial Service

20% discount on any service excluding house cleaning

3rd Street Market

Free coffee with the purchase of a pie

Automated Phone Options

Due to the growth in our area, we have had an increase in phone calls. Our phone system will be adapting accordingly, to better streamline calls and increase efficiency for our members' inquiries. When calling in, our members will be given a few options to help direct their call to the proper department. Members will be asked to press 1 to report an outage, press 2 to make a payment over the phone, or press 3 to speak with an Itasca-Mantrap representative.



Make smart payments with SmartHub

Save time.

Avoid service interruptions.

Eliminate late fees.

Log in to SmartHub online or download the SmartHub app.

Sales Tax Exemption

Members who use electricity as their primary source of residential heat are exempt from paying taxes on the electricity purchased during the billing months of November through April. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable only if it is the primary source of heat for the largest period of time during the heating season.

To apply for the sales tax exemption, Members must complete the exemption form, available at www.itsca-mantrap.com or in our office. If you have already applied for a sales tax exemption, there is no need to re-apply; your enrollment will automatically carry forward each year.

Itasca-Mantrap Electricity Bill Payment Options

AUTO PAY



**ONLINE
THROUGH
SMARTHUB**



**ONLINE WITH
PAY NOW**



MAIL



**DRIVE-UP
DROP BOXES**



OFFICE



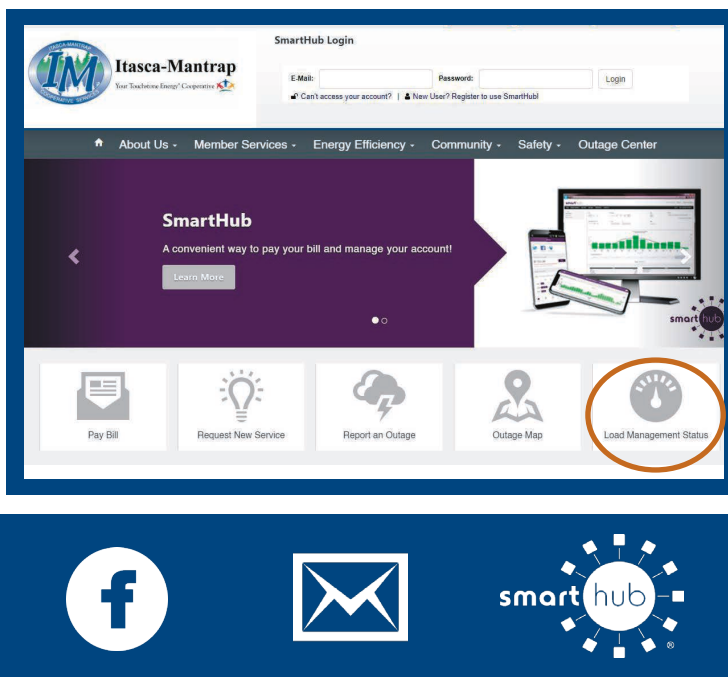
Note: Potential for Increased Morning Control

This past heating season we experienced the addition of morning load control for dual fuel and water heating. We expect to see more of that this heating season as early morning peaks are occurring due to low morning temperatures. Morning control events tend to occur between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. Members on these programs can check our website for load management updates.

Load Control Notifications

Load management is an approach by which the peak demand of electric energy can be curtailed to allow better use of existing generating capacity. Lowering the peak benefits all members by reducing our wholesale power cost. These savings are passed along to participating members through lower rates on our dual fuel and off peak programs. New systems may also be eligible for installation rebates. Contact our office to learn more about our load management programs.

Check social media or our website for load control notifications. Sign up for email notifications to receive notice during business hours Monday through Friday. Enroll yourself in text notifications through SmartHub.



Follow us to stay updated on the latest!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: *energy.gov*



Source: *energy.gov*

Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent Agenda
- July financials, subject to audit
- Director Utke as voting delegate for the Federal Rural Electric Insurance Exchange annual meeting and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation annual meeting.
- Five-year contract with Brady Martz for auditing services.
- The termination of Connexus Energy's membership with Great River Energy

Reports Heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO report
- Directors and CEO Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Great River Energy PCA detail for June 2022
- NRECA Director Certification Program
- Supply Chain Environment
- Total membership numbers by district
- Governance Talk video on Board Succession Planning

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

**Our office will be closed
Thursday, November 24
and Friday, November 25**



ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE

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OFFICE HOURS

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Fax: 218-732-5890

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www.itasca-mantrap.com



GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

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

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Dist. 1 – Brian Behrens, Chair
Dist. 2 – Patricia Roehl, Director
Dist. 3 – Terrence Cook, Treasurer
Dist. 4 – Al Czczok, Asst Sec-Treas
Dist. 5 – Nancy M. Utke, Director*
Dist. 6 – Tim Kivi, Secretary
Dist. 7 – Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair
President-CEO – Christine Fox
*GRE Director Representative