



NEWSLINE



September 2022

CONSIDERING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?

Join us at Itasca-Mantrap
for an EV Ride and Drive

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
4 – 6 PM



WHAT TO EXPECT

Test drive an EV. See EVs on display. Visit with EV experts.

brought to you by



**GREAT
RIVER
ENERGY.**

and



Payment Options

Itasca-Mantrap offers several different options for members to pay their electric bill:



SmartHub – Pay online or through the SmartHub app! Also view detailed information on energy use and manage your account while you're on the go.



Auto Pay – Payments can be made automatically through a checking or savings account, or debited from a Visa, Mastercard or Discover card. Contact our office to sign up today.



Office – Pay in person at 16930 County 6, Park Rapids, MN.



Drop Box – Drop boxes are located in the Itasca-Mantrap parking lot or behind the Park Rapids Post Office. Drop boxes are checked daily during business hours.



Mailbox – Mail payment to: Itasca-Mantrap, PO Box 192, Park Rapids, MN 56470.



Pay Now – Pay online without creating an account. Click the blue 'Pay Now' button at the top of our website, enter your account number and name and quickly pay your bill online.



CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

Recently, my husband and I were playing trivia. A question came up regarding the periodic table

and, of course, my husband, being a former science teacher, knew the answer. The question spawned a bit of fascination for me. When I looked at the periodic table, I was awestruck by a few things. First, that there are these few basic elements with distinct properties that exist in our world. Second, that Dmitri Mendeleev could create a table of known elements and arrange them in such a way that he could identify the properties of elements that were yet to be discovered. And third, that there is someone with such organizational skills (this takes arranging soup cans to a whole new level) that they would even fathom categorizing those elements in such a way that a person can quickly discern their properties such as mass, electron number, electron

configuration and other unique chemical properties.

And with that, there goes my brain - down the rabbit hole of how everything in nature has come together to specifically form what is around us and what we are. Did you know that we have over 60,000 miles of blood vessels within our bodies? Here we go with trivia again!

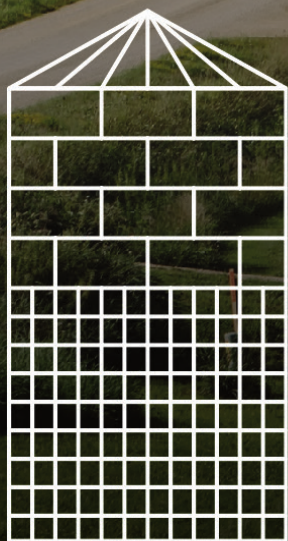
Then, as I write this newsletter, I think about electricity. Not all that long ago, the existence of electricity was unfathomable. Without Benjamin Franklin and his kite, Thomas Edison and his lightbulb, and Nikola Tesla and his coil technology (to name a few), we would still be using oil lanterns. I know I take the advancement of these concepts for granted. Think about where we would be as a society without electricity. There is a direct correlation between access to affordable, reliable electricity and the wealth of a nation. I, for one, am grateful our ancestors took risks, experimented and no doubt, went down a few rabbit holes to bring us

our modern-day technology and electricity.

But even beyond all that, electrical cooperatives were created for the seemingly impossible task of bringing electricity to rural areas.

With that in mind, we, at Itasca-Mantrap, are here to serve our members. As part of that mission, we, in tandem with our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, make it our priority to provide reliable, affordable, and increasingly environmentally friendly electricity to you, our members. Itasca-Mantrap is just one small part of the entire universe that has come together so that when we flip that switch, the lights come on. I am and will forever be in awe.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!!



Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.

Electrical Inspections

Generally, Minnesota law requires all electrical work be performed by licensed, bonded and insured electrical contractors and their employees. Homeowners, with strict limitations, are exempt from licensing, but not from inspection. A separate request for electrical work with the required fees must be submitted to the Department of Labor and Industry at or before the commencement of any electrical installation. If you have had electrical circuits added, extended or altered you should have also had a visit from your local electrical inspector.

To find out more about the requirements for electrical inspections, how to file a request for electrical inspection or to find your local electrical inspector, visit: www.dli.mn.gov.

Electrical Inspectors in your area:

Becker County:

Terry Lane - 218-237-8467

Hubbard and Cass Counties:

Brandon Disselbrett - 218-640-0187

Bull Moose Township in Cass County:

Michael Wenzel - 218-270-2265

Wadena County:

Adam Sorensen - 320-304-3927

Electrical inspectors can be reached by phone Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Life-Support Equipment

Electricity can be a lifeline for family members or friends who use medical life-support equipment such as respirators, oxygen concentrators, home dialysis, or other equipment. Itasca-Mantrap maintains a list of members who require medical equipment to sustain life and will attempt to notify them prior to a planned outage.

We strongly urge you to have an emergency plan in place in the event of an unplanned outage. Members with critical health should always be prepared with back-up plans in case of an outage.

Contact our office to notify Itasca-Mantrap of life-support equipment you may have at home. You'll need to fill out a form and include supporting documentation from your doctor. Once we receive these items, we can mark your account as having this equipment and will attempt to notify you by phone prior to a planned outage.

Please also let us know if you no longer need this special consideration so our list remains current.



Go Ahead, get the popcorn.

Co-op Connections® Card

Itasca-Mantrap
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Because Co-op Connections® helps you save big and enjoy more. Like a free bag of popcorn with purchase of a ticket at Park Theatre.

The One Card That Does It All®.
www.connections.coop

AGI Project Update

Itasca-Mantrap crews will be out in the field installing new meters as part of our advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system. The new meters will improve reliability and give you more tools and opportunities to manage and save energy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(218) 732-3377

(888) 713-3377

www.itsca-mantrap.com

Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out

Severe winds, lightning and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out. We understand power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your fridge is stocked with perishable foods.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures to take to avoid illness.

Here are a few food safety tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

Before an outage

A good rule of thumb is to keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars in your emergency kit.

If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice—just in case the outage spans several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated, perishable items.

During an outage

If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A

half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours and a full freezer for about 48 hours. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

After an outage

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. If any foods have an unusual color, odor or texture, they should be thrown away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40+ degrees:

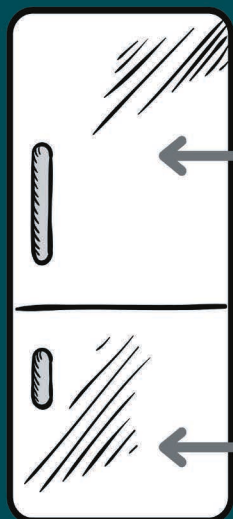
- hard cheeses that are properly wrapped
- butter or margarine that is properly wrapped
- taco, barbecue and soy sauces
- peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish

The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule of thumb. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming and remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit www.ready.gov/food.

Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

Food in a **half-full** freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a **full** freezer will last 48 hours.

Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!



Military Assistance

Utility payment arrangements

When a household member has been ordered into active duty, for deployment, or for a change of duty station, some members may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota law protects these military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their utility bills in full.

How to apply

Contact Itasca-Mantrap to obtain an application and make a payment plan, which you must keep to qualify for protection.

Payment plans

- If your household income is below the state median household income, pay ten percent of your household's gross monthly income toward your electric bill; or
- If you receive energy assistance, pay ten percent of your household's gross monthly income toward your electric bill; or
- If your household income is above the state median household income, make and keep a payment plan.

Seeking Applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award

Apply today if your organization has a positive impact on our community!

Itasca-Mantrap is seeking applicants for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes community groups or businesses that have demonstrated a strong commitment to the community. The winning organization that has helped make the Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative service area a better place to live and work will receive a plaque and a \$500 cash award for its cause.

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business by completing an application form, available at our office or online at www.itsasca-mantrap.com. The application requires a description of the project, program, or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Completed applications must be received at Itasca-Mantrap's office by Oct. 31, 2022.

The award recipient will be announced in November and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of



2020 Touchstone Energy Award winner: Akeley Regional Community Center (ARCC).

\$1,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting in 2023.

The Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 700 electric cooperatives in 46 states that adhere

to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

The Touchstone Energy Community Award highlights the Seventh Cooperative Principle - *Concern for the Community*.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills.

To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified

Source: Dept. of Energy



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, June 30, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- May financials, subject to audit
- Draft minutes of the June 9, 2022 Annual meeting for publication in the 2023 annual meeting notice
- Director Utke appointed as delegate for the National Rural Electric Association's regional meeting

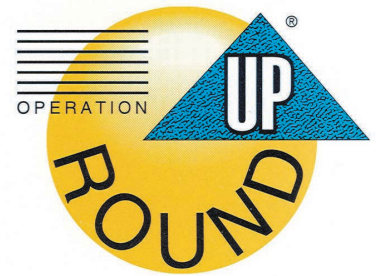
Reports Heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- Financial report
- CEO report
- Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program Onsite Observation report
- 2021 Reliability report
- Directors and CEO Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Plans for the 2023 Annual Meeting
- Itasca-Mantrap's Crisis Communication plan

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.



Application Deadline Thursday, Sept. 15

To be considered at the October Trust Board Meeting, grant applications must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by September 15.

Download the application form at www.itasca-mantrap.com or pick one up at our office.

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

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Dist. 1 – Brian Behrens, Chair
Dist. 2 – Patricia Roehl, Director
Dist. 3 – Terrence Cook, Treasurer
Dist. 4 – Al Czezok, 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