

Fall/Winter 2026-2027 Isantian

Want to know whats
going on in the City?
Check our website for
news and events.



Visit:
cityofisanti.us

Season Calendar

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

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29	30					

DECEMBER

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

City Hall Closed

City Meeting

Illuminate
Isanti

****Dates in Pink Indicate
Compost Site is Open.**

JANUARY

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31						

FEBRUARY

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28						

MARCH

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Mayor's Memo

By Mayor Luke Merrill

City council and I have made many great improvements over the last 6 months, including fully staffed police and public works departments, new squad cars, grounds equipment, additional water infrastructure, and significant (tax-free) park additions. We have also cut the tax rate for the 4th consecutive year, totaling a rate decrease of nearly 25% since 2022. Despite large inflationary figures hitting the state, the city portion of your taxes has remained constant or decreased. No other city in Minnesota has cut their rate more than Isanti, leaving more money in your pocket. Efficiency and bang for your buck is what we promised, and we delivered.

The new skatepark will be finished soon, at \$0 cost to taxpayers. These improvements were made possible by volunteers, donors, developers, and a community build day. I have personally worked on the park, it's been fun! Additionally, we are building a natural-based park named "Woodland Park" on the east side of town. It will be unique, budget friendly and should be complete in October. Through a DNR grant, this spring, we are also building an 8-court pickleball facility, a better outdoor skating rink, more skatepark features, and installing new lighting and additional ADA accessible walking paths. This project marks over \$1,100,000 of total park improvements in the last 3 years, with \$0 of city taxpayer funds used!

Myself & Aaron Zdon formed a fundraising group, named "Play Isanti" to cover costs of some of these additional park amenities and long-term maintenance. This fundraising reduces taxpayer burden through business partnerships, donations and advertising. These community-based projects meaningfully improve the city without burdening your wallet.

This summer, we partnered with the U of M on an emerald ash borer research study. This first-of-its-kind relationship started with an email I sent to a researcher, ultimately saving our city over \$250,000 of tree removal costs. Fingers crossed that their treatment yields systemic results and saves the beautiful ash trees that have lived in Isanti for generations.

The Creamery restaurant will re-open before year-end! This was made possible with an innovative city restaurant recruitment program and state grant funding to revitalize downtown Isanti. 10+ new businesses came to town in the last 12 months. Illuminate Isanti (Christmas light show) returns this year, run by volunteers & donors rather than taxpayers.

A new city water well was creatively designed to save \$500,000 in build costs. The roundabout came in nearly \$500,000 under budget. An improved pedestrian crossing by the intermediate school was also completed under budget. And much more! What else can we do, together, for Isanti? Thank you to everyone who makes Isanti a great place to live; we are excited for the future!

★ ★ ★ ★
General Election
November 3, 2026
City of Isanti

3 Open Seats • 4-Year Terms:
Mayor | City Councilmember (2 Seats)

**You can vote from 7 AM-8 PM
at your precinct.**

Precinct 1:
Isanti City Hall
110 1st Ave NW
Isanti, MN 55040

Precinct 2:
Isanti Community Center
208 1/2 1st Ave NW
Isanti, MN 55040

STAY AHEAD OF EMERGENCIES



SCAN HERE



ISANTI COUNTY USES
REGROUP NOTIFICATION AS A
TOOL TO REACH OUR
CITIZENS IN TIMES OF
EMERGENCY/URGENT
COMMUNICATIONS. BY
SUBSCRIBING, CITIZENS CAN
QUICKLY LEARN ABOUT
SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS,
ROAD CLOSURES, FLOODING,
EVACUATION/SHELTER-IN-
PLACE DIRECTIVES,
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL
SPILLS, AND OTHER URGENT
MESSAGES.



REAL-TIME
ALERTS



SEVERE WEATHER
WARNINGS



LOCAL
EMERGENCY
UPDATES

Stay Connected:

Website: cityofisanti.us

Call: 763-444-5512

Follow us on Facebook.

Community Development

- **Single-Family Residential Growth:** Preliminary and final plans were approved this summer for Rum River Meadows 3rd Addition, bringing 40 new single-family homes to Isanti. Construction is also currently underway on the final phase of Fairway Greens North 4th Addition, adding 46 single-family homes. Looking further ahead, the City received a concept plan for Sanbrook Greens, a long-term phased proposal for up to 448 single-family market-rate homes.
- **Expanded Multi-Family Housing:** Work is wrapping up on two major multi-family projects: Centennial Apartments is finishing construction on 28 market-rate units near Isanti Middle School, and Park Brook Apartments is completing its final phase, adding 49 market-rate units.
- **Approved Commercial Projects:** Commercial and civic development continues to move forward across the city. Site plans have been approved for construction on several local projects, including the Wolf River Electric expansion (accessory building), Circle K carwash, Isanti Eye Clinic, Serenity Circle West, and New Hope Church.

Isanti Fire District



This year's National fire safety message definitely impacts us locally. Keep these simple tips in mind daily!

1. Cheap chargers? Don't chance it! Often times "good deals" on battery devices are less expensive because they have used sub-par equipment or assembly.

2. Soft surface? Hard pass. I/we have made determinations at local fires that ignition was due to a device being left on the charger on a couch cushion. That cushion holds charging heat and can cause fires!

3. Fully charged? Time to unplug. If it is not being used, unplug it to remove the risk of charging fires.

4. For tools and rides, charge outside. Remember to not block exits when charging!

5. Feels hot? Stop using it. Often times fires from these devices "ramp up". If we feel something getting hot- give it a break!

6. On a flight? Keep it in sight.

Thank you for keeping fire safety a priority.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our elite team of paid on call firefighters, we would love to connect with you.

Parks and Recreation

**COMING
IN 2027**

**Bluebird Park
Wingspan Project**

Funded in part by the MN DNR
Outdoor Recreation Grant and
Park Dedication Funds.



**NEW AND
UPGRADED
AMENITIES:**



8 Pickleball Courts



Larger Lighted Ice Rink



Final Skate Park Phases



ADA Trail Connections

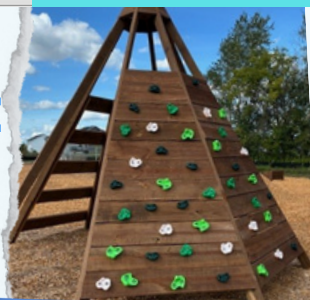


**WOODLAND PARK
GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!**

**October 27, 2026
5:00PM - 7:00PM**

905 Triumph Trail NE
Isanti, MN 55040

Ribbon Cutting at 6:00pm



Council Corner

- **Tier One Zoning Removal:** Ordinance No. 844 updates Chapter 350 of the City Code to officially remove the "Tier One Zoning District" (residential, business, and industrial). Under Minnesota law, cities cannot enforce zoning rules in neighboring rural areas where county or township zoning is already active. Removing Tier One aligns city code with state law and clarifies that local counties or townships handle zoning for those surrounding properties.
- **Special Event Permit Changes:** Expedites permit processing by allowing a streamlined process to approve routine event applications. City Council approval is now required only for events involving major road closures, substantial traffic impacts, alcohol service, or gambling. These updates shorten approval timelines for organizers and provide clear, transparent guidelines on fees and deposits.



Police Department

Back-to-school season brings extra traffic: buses, kids on bikes, and parents dropping off students. Drivers must slow down, stay alert, and practice safe driving:

- Drive cautiously: Slow down and watch for children in unexpected places or turning unexpectedly on bikes.
- Avoid dangerous stops: Do not double park or drop off students across the street from the school.
- Yield at crosswalks: Stop when pedestrian flashers are blinking. Stop for School Buses: It's the Law! State law requires all vehicles to stop when a school bus activates its flashing lights and extends its crossing arm.
- Drivers who violate the law face a minimum \$500 fine.
- Passing a bus on the right, passing when a child is outside, or injuring a child can result in criminal charges.

Public Works

To help keep Isanti safe and running smoothly through the changing weather, a little teamwork goes a long way. Public Works is clearing leaves from storm drains and gutters to prevent street flooding, and we ask residents to assist by properly disposing of all leaves and yard waste.

Our team is also getting equipment ready for snow and ice removal, prioritizing major roads, emergency routes, and school zones when winter hits. You can help keep our streets clear by following winter parking regulations from **November 1st to April 1st**, keeping shoveled snow off the street, maintaining clear access to mailboxes and fire hydrants, and removing all structures from the road right-of-way.

Public Works will handle the initial sidewalk clearing, but we appreciate residents keeping them free of drifting snow and ice throughout the season.

Liquor Store

DID YOU KNOW?

In the most recent State Auditor's Municipal Liquor Report (2024), what did Isanti Liquor rank in **Net Profit as a Percent of Sales**?

41st out of 174 municipal liquor operations

In the most recent State Auditor's Municipal Liquor Report (2024), what did Isanti Liquor rank in **Gross Sales**?

23rd out of 174 municipal liquor operations

When did Isanti Liquor begin operations?

December 20th, 1967 - We're celebrating 60 YEARS next year!

How much has Isanti Liquor sent to the city's general fund from 2021 - 2026?

\$2,573,745

What has Isanti Liquor done in eCommerce sales through August of 2026?

\$170,284.39 - (IsantiLiquor.com & DoorDash Marketplace)

How many sales transactions has Isanti Liquor had through August of 2026?

121,627



SHOP ONLINE ANYTIME @ ISANTILIQUEUR.COM

