

FALL 2013

City of Isanti isantian



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A Community For Generations.
Isanti 



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Letter from the Mayor



**Mayor
George A. Wimmer**

CITY MEETING DATES:

All meetings are held at
City Hall:
110 1st Ave. NW

CITY COUNCIL
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 p.m.

**CITY COUNCIL
WORKSESSION**
Held at 5:45 prior to the
2nd City Council Meeting
of the month as needed.

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**
2nd Tuesday of the month
at 7:00 p.m.

**PARKS,
RECREATION &
CULTURE BOARD**
4th Tuesday of the month
at 5:00 p.m.

**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**
4th Tuesday of the month
at 7:00 p.m.

We have had another great summer of activities in Isanti. Our soccer fields and BMX track have hosted State and National events once again, which help to showcase our great community. Our Redbirds Baseball Team has been doing great once again this summer. Playing hard and providing free entertainment to the public. Vision Wake Park has been humming along and made a \$1,400 payment to the City out of its profits from last year. As long as the facility continues to operate the City will be receiving 5% of its gross revenues per their agreement with the City. Our parks and trails are being heavily used, especially Legacy Park located in the northwest quadrant of the City. The City is interested in several other parcels of land, similar to Legacy Park. These parcels are in tax forfeiture and may go back to the DNR or to the City of Isanti to develop other nature areas on the south side of our community.

We have brought back the Farmers Market and Street Dances to Downtown Isanti. I want to thank the Economic Development Authority and City Council for adopting my plan to market Isanti. The Farmers Market grows stronger every week and I look forward to a vibrant market for years to come. The Street Dances have been a huge success with roughly a thousand people at our last dance. Highlighting downtown keeps Isanti strong and tied to the roots of our Community. We have seen more inquiries into the use of downtown properties. The viability of businesses in this area can be further enhanced with more events and foot traffic. We are planning 3 Street Dances next year and for the Farmers Market to start earlier next year with even more vendors.

The Railroad Avenue SE/South Passage SE road and trail project should be completed soon and the completion of the sidewalk on the south side of Heritage Boulevard NE will be finished this fall. These projects provide safer routes and easier travel through some of Isanti's busiest areas.

I want to thank Duff Consulting, Startac Construction and My Geeky Guy for sponsoring this year's Mayor's Great Yard Awards. I want to continue to highlight the positives in Isanti and with the help of these great companies; we are able to do so without any taxpayer funds.

As I had mentioned in the summer edition of the Isantian, we are faced with new storm water regulations amounting to an annual estimated cost of \$250,000. These State mandates have to be complied with and have led to the creation of a storm water utility to pay for this cost. The estimates we have at this point are \$6.50 a month on average for a residential lot. We are looking at a dedicated fee to help pay this new state mandate, as it will be fairly distributed to every property owner including developers. Another benefit of a fee versus property tax increase is that the fee can only be used for the mandated storm water cost and not spent on anything else. A property tax increase could result in funds being spent on other items. This is not what any Council member wants to do, but we must obey mandates from the State.

We had another great showing at the Mayor's Employer Celebration Luncheon with over 140 employers in attendance. I started this after becoming Mayor to thank all of our Community employers for investing in Isanti. We also have representatives of State Government, regional economic development entities and local officials present for the event. This allows our employers to discuss issues, help identify funding sources, and discuss ideas they may have to improve our business climate with all levels of government. I want to thank Senator Nienow, Representative Johnson, Commissioner Warring, the Initiative Foundation, ECRDC, Employers and all those who came to join us for the event.

I am happy to announce we have completed our Residential Handbook. This will include information for new and existing residents. Everything from approved garbage haulers to contact information for elected officials has been included. This will be available electronically at www.cityofisanti.us and hard copies will be at City Hall and the Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce Office.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please contact me at 763-442-8749 or email me at George@georgewimmer.com. You may also follow me and keep up to date on all things Isanti on Twitter at twitter.com/mayorwimmer Facebook at www.facebook.com/MayorGeorgeWimmer or my blog at georgewimmer.blogspot.com



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City Offices & Staff Directory

City Staff

763-444-5512

Administration

City Administrator/City Clerk Donald Lorsung dlorsung@cityofisanti.us

Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk Karissa Henning..... khenning@cityofisanti.us

Building Department

Building Official Rick Sames..... building-inspections@cityofisanti.us

Finance

Finance Director Sarah Cotton..... scotton@cityofisanti.us

Economic Development

Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan..... ssullivan@cityofisanti.us

Municipal Liquor Store

Manager John Jacobi jjacobi@cityofisanti.us

Planning & Zoning/Park and Recreation

Planning & Park Director Lisa Wilson..... lwilson@cityofisanti.us

Public Works

Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker..... nfleischhacker@cityofisanti.us

Police Department

Police Chief Ron Sager ChiefSager@cityofisanti.us

City Council Members

Mayor	George A. Wimmer	Cell 763-442-8749	e-mail: george@georgewimmer.com
Council Member	Dan Collison	Phone 763-444-4298	e-mail: djcollison@msn.com
Council Member	Steve Lundeen	Phone 612-203-8957	e-mail: sdlundeen@yahoo.com
Council Member	Sue Larson	Phone 763-286-9964	e-mail: larson2854@aol.com
Council Member	Adam Johnson	Phone 651-331-1084	e-mail: adam.johnson@sunlifesalon.com

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Ryan O'Leary, Senior Pastor

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CITY CONTACTS:

CITY HALL:

110 1st Ave. NW
PO Box 428
Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-5512
Fax 763-444-5560
isanti@cityofisanti.us
www.cityofisanti.us

POLICE:

401 1st Ave. NW
Non-Emergency
763-444-4761
Emergency
911
Fax 763-444-4868

PUBLIC WORKS:

100 Isanti Pkwy NW
763-444-0459
Fax 763-444-5125

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE:

400 W Dual Blvd NE
763-444-5063
Fax 763-444-8044
www.isantiliquorstore.com

Meeting dates as noted
on page 2 and all
changes will be posted
on the website, at
City Hall and the
Post Office. Special
Meetings & times will
also be posted on the
website, City Hall and
Post Office.

Community Development

Yard Waste in City Streets

The City has experienced some issues with grass clippings, leaves and other types of yard waste being deposited from residential lots into City streets and storm drains. These items obstruct the flow of rain water that runs through the public street drains and gutters, causing flooding on residential lots that surround these areas. Isanti Code section 216-2 identifies the placement of trash, grass, and other yard waste or other materials as a public nuisance affecting health. Please avoid using the public street for the disposal of these items. Failure to do so may result in a citation for violation of Isanti City Code.

Isantian Deadlines & Contact Info

The Isantian is published four times a year. The next edition of the Isantian newsletter will be sent out December 9th with an advertising deadline of November 18th.

If you would like to advertise in the Isantian, please contact Sue Beckman, 763-691-6035 at the Scotsman/Isanti County News.

For additional information regarding any of the content of the Isantian, please see our website or contact the city staff at the numbers listed on Page 3 of this newsletter.

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Building Department

building-inspections@cityofisanti.us • 763-444-5512

Unfortunately, there was a house fire in the City of Isanti on August 6th. Fortunately, no one was hurt but that fact leads to further discussion. As the Building Official for the City of Isanti, one of my responsibilities is to evaluate a structure after it has experienced fire damage to see if the structure is safe enough to be used as it was prior to the fire. Evaluation of the structure showed that the 30 minute fire wall and fire door required by the Building Code were installed properly and worked as designed. This is why these systems are in place and should be maintained by the homeowner. The wall and door created a temporary fire block which gave valuable time for anyone inside the premises to evacuate and temporarily kept the fire from spreading into the home. The Isanti Fire District was quick to respond and did another great job of extinguishing the fire which minimized the damage to the structure and personal property. Thanks again to the Isanti Fire District and the Isanti Police Department who do an outstanding job protecting residents and property within the City of Isanti.

New residential construction

There are seven new home starts to date in 2013 and that number could very well increase before the end of the year. That compares to two at this time in 2012, 1 in 2011, 10 in 2010, 0 in 2009 and 3 in 2008.

New commercial construction

One new commercial building has been built in 2013 and that is the Therapy Associates Building located at 904 6th Avenue Court NE. Construction is nearing completion and the final inspections have been scheduled.

Vacant Homes

As of June 5th, we had 28 vacant foreclosed homes compared to 55 in June of 2012.

Rental licensing

The City of Isanti does have a Rental License Ordinance that requires all residential rental properties to be licensed. Currently there are 549 units, with 37 units added in 2013. Please contact the Building Department with any questions.

Have a great fall everyone, and as always, please feel free to contact me with any of your building, rental licensing or permitting questions.

City of Isanti Building Official – Rick Sames

Fall Cleaning Tips From Your Post Master

- If your mailbox is mounted on a pole or post, check its stability and make sure it is properly anchored.
- Your mailbox identifies your address, not only for the letter carrier but for the police, the fire department, emergency workers and other service providers. Make sure your complete address including your directional (NE, NW, SW, SE) appears on both sides of the mailbox, so people who need to find you can do so, and so can your mail.
- Please ensure that all obstructions such as vehicles and garbage containers are not in the path or in the way for the letter carrier to properly deliver your mail.
- During the winter months ensure that the approach area for your mail box or receptacle is clear of snow and ice.
- Check the door and its hinges. Make sure it closes properly to keep your mail in and the wind, rain and snow out.
- Do you see any sharp edges or nails sticking out? Protect your own hands as well as those of your letter carrier, by filing them off. Also sand and repaint or replace your mailbox if it's rusty – you don't want to have to get a tetanus shot, and neither does your letter carrier.

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ISANTI COUNTY NEWS

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Community Development

Economic Development Authority

ssullivan@cityofisanti.us • 763-444-5512

Welcoming New Businesses to Isanti

China House, The Warrior's Forge, and Cylinder Head Express are just some of the new businesses that have chosen Isanti this year. City Staff continues to work with existing businesses looking to expand and is working to recruit more from outside the City. Utilization of city development tools such as the City Revolving Loan Fund, Tax Abatement and Tax Increment Financing helps create tax base and employment opportunities for Isanti residents. If you are a new or existing business, and you are not receiving City correspondence please contact Economic Development Director Sullivan to get you on the City business listing.

City of Isanti SAC and WAC Deferral Development Incentive Program for 2013

In December 2012, the City Council of the City of Isanti adopted a new SAC and WAC deferral program. This program is designed to help increase both commercial/industrial and residential development within the City limits of Isanti. Generally speaking, the program allows these specific development costs to be financed "interest free" for a period of 120 days. Seven new single family housing permits have been pulled in 2013 and all of these projects have utilized the new deferral program. The term of this incentive program has not been guaranteed to exist after 2013 so be sure to take advantage of it now. To learn more about the development incentive please contact Economic Development Director Sullivan.

Street Dances and Farmer's Market Well Attended

The Farmers Market opened June 14 and is scheduled to run until September 13. The Farmers Market started slow but has come on strong for the second half of the season. Local farmers and vendors have committed to the event on a weekly basis and the foot traffic has steadily increased. Feedback from vendors and local businesses has been positive and the City hopes to help this event grow in success next year. On July 27th, 2013 the downtown Street Dance was officially brought back to the City of Isanti. The event was well attended and the Killer Hayseeds put on quite a show. On August 24th the last street dance of the year was held featuring Boogie Wonderland. Nearly 1000 people came out to enjoy a warm, windy summer evening in historic downtown Isanti. Staff is beginning to plan for next year's Street dances and will come out with dates and bands over the winter/spring months. Be sure to mark your calendars when the dates and bands are announced so you don't miss this event. It's a great place to visit local businesses, meet your neighbors and celebrate our community. For Farmer's Market Information please be sure to look us up at the Isanti Family Farmer Market on Facebook or look at the city website at www.cityofisanti.us for information on upcoming events.



Mayor's Employer Celebration Luncheon a Success

The Isanti Economic Development Authority was a proud sponsor of the Mayor's Employer Celebration Luncheon that was held on June 18, 2013 at Isanti City Hall from 11:30-1:00. Over 140 business owners, employees and development professional shared the lunch hour at City Hall which is 20 more than last year's mark. Great conversation between businesses, elected officials and employees led to a successful business community networking event. In 2013, the following Employers were recognized for milestone anniversaries with the years in parentheses: Bohnen Chiropractic Center (30), United Parcel Service (30), Isanti Rental (20), Johnson's Decorating (20), SHR Sales (20), Embroidery and Ink (10), Great Clips (10), Isanti Physical Therapy (10), Charisma Boutique (5), North Metro Judo and Ju Jitsu Club (5), and Room in a Day (5). Congratulations to all!

Isanti Industrial Sites "Shovel Ready Certified"

The City of Isanti completed the "Minnesota Shovel Ready" certification process for its vacant industrial sites in 2011. This program removes hurdles often in place that delay property acquisition that can lead to prospects selecting other locations. This certification puts Isanti in a more competitive position and should lead to more interest in developing our industrial park and bringing in new businesses and job opportunities. The past year has seen an increase in industrial activity in Minnesota and the nation. Isanti is positioned well to attract expanding businesses. The City of Isanti has Minnesota Shovel Ready Certified lots available in the Isanti Centennial Complex Industrial Park with lots ranging from 1.21 acres to 15.49 acres. All city utilities and fiber optic service are to the curb at each site which makes your decision to locate to the City industrial park easy. You can't beat lots for \$1.00 and the lower property taxes Isanti boasts over neighboring cities. The City has a number of economic development tools in place to help businesses make the move to Isanti or to remain within the community. If you want to learn more please contact Economic Development Director Sullivan at ssullivan@cityofisanti.us or 763.807.4339.



Minnesota Manufacturer's Week October 20-26

Isanti is home to 18 manufacturing companies that together employ nearly 300 people. The manufacturing sector makes up over 20 percent of the workforce in the City limits of Isanti. Please take the time to acknowledge our local manufacturer's when you get the chance. October 20-26 is the one week that we formally acknowledge all these companies do but their work over the remaining 51 weeks of the year is just as important to the customers and families they provide products and living wages for. Thanks to the businesses that have chosen Isanti as their home – We appreciate all you do.

Wise Ways to Use Water

• Fall and Winter are generally wet months therefore this reduces the need for watering but does not mean you do not water at all. Always check soil for moisture when there is a dry fall or winter. Water your lawn only when it needs it.

• Check faucets and pipes for leaks.

• Install covers on pools and spas. Check for leaks around your pumps too.

• Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.

• Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.

If you dig a hole:

Please call Gopher One State at 1.800.252.1166 to Locate your utilities for Free!

Administrative/Finance

City Offices Closed

October 14

Columbus Day

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 28 & 29

Thanksgiving

ARE YOU CLEANING-UP AFTER YOUR PET?



It is your responsibility as a pet owner to clean-up after your pet. When taking your pet for a walk, please show courtesy to other public and private property owners by removing the excrement deposited by your pet. City Code 87-5.1 requires pet owners to immediately collect and remove dog feces deposited by their animal on public or private property. A container, equipment, or other device is required for transport of the fecal material to an appropriate disposal receptacle located on the property of the pet owner. Please help us in keeping our neighborhoods and public spaces clean and sanitary.

2014 Budget

The Isanti City Council plans to approve the 2014 preliminary budget and tax levy at the September 3, 2013 City Council meeting. Property owners will receive notices from the County in mid November providing information on their proposed property taxes for payable year 2014. You will also be able to find this information on the City's website. The final 2014 budget and tax levy will be considered for approval by the Isanti City Council on December 3, 2013.

Burning Permits

City code prohibits burning by MN State Statute 88.1 and 88.22 and the MN Uniform Fire Code. Recreational fires are permitted, if applied as follows: a recreational fire is a fire set for pleasure, cooking, warming, ceremonial purposes or other similar purposes, which is not more than three (3) feet in diameter by two (2) feet high. Recreational fires must be at least twenty-five (25) feet from all building or combustible materials. A combustible material includes wood, paper, and plastics.

Any fire larger than the above stated dimensions is considered "open burning" and is regulated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Burning grass, leaves, brush, and lumber requires a permit. For additional information regarding burning permits contact Urban's Isanti Hardware Hank at 763-444-5565 or the Isanti Fire District at 763-444-8019.

Seasonal Tips from Isanti's Safety Committee

1. Yard work: Make sure you are using a rake that is comfortable for your height and strength; additionally, never throw leaves over your shoulder or to the side, the twisting motion required to do so places undue stress on your back.
2. Back to school: Overloaded backpacks continue to cause injuries, including bruises, sprains and strains to the back, and shoulder fractures. Lighten the load and use both straps!
3. Halloween: Give your children flashlights with fresh batteries to help them see and for others to see them.
4. Halloween: Do not cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards and never walk near lit candles or luminaries.
5. Halloween: Children should only wear well-fitting costumes and shoes to avoid trips and falls. Did you know that falls are the leading cause of injury on Halloween?? Have a safe fall season!

Recreational Vehicle Parking Ordinance

Chapter 227, Article III of the Isanti City Code; establishes regulations for the parking and storage of recreational, commercial, and other equipment within residential areas of the City. The Ordinance also establishes location, surface type, size limitations, and screening requirements as well. A copy of the ordinance can be found on the city's website at www.cityofisanti.us. If you have questions regarding the ordinance provisions, please contact Lisa Wilson, Planning and Parks Director at lwilson@cityofisanti.us or (763) 444-5512.



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Public Works/Engineering/Police Department

Snow Removal

It is the homeowner's responsibility to clear sidewalks abutting or serving their property that are not on a designated school route as part of City Code §284-14. No person shall permit an accumulation of snow or ice to build up or remain on any public sidewalk abutting or otherwise serving lots or parcels located in the City of Isanti.

A full copy of the City Code can be found on the city's website at www.cityofisanti.us.

If snow or ice is not removed, the City will hire a company to remove snow and ice and bill back to the owner or renter the fee per incident for said removal; an additional \$25 non-compliance fee will also be billed to the owner or resident per incident.

Isanti Police Department

Lieutenant Gene Hill • 763-444-4761

This summer the Isanti Police Department has responded to three separate pedestrian/train accidents. Freight trains do not travel on a predictable schedule. Always expect a train at every rail intersection. A train may extend three feet or more outside the steel rail, which makes the safety zone for pedestrians well beyond the rails themselves. Never step on the rails when crossing the tracks. They are slippery, especially when wet. Step clear of any switch or apparatus on the tracks. Railroad switches and sidings are controlled from a centralized system many miles away; switches can move quickly without warning and could trap or injure hands and feet.

Train tracks are private property, no matter which railroad owns them. Trains have the right of way 100% of the time — over ambulances, fire engines, cars, the police and pedestrians. Never walk down a train track; it's illegal and it's dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer can see a trespasser or a vehicle on the tracks, it is too late. The train cannot stop quickly enough to avoid a collision.

A typical locomotive weighs approximately 400,000 pounds or 200 tons. When 100 railcars are added to the locomotive, the train can weigh approximately 6,000 tons. The weight ratio of an automobile to a train is proportional to a soda can and an automobile.

Trains cannot stop quickly. It is a simple law of physics: the huge weight and size of the train and the speed of the train dictate how quickly it can stop under ideal conditions. A 100-car freight train traveling at 55 miles per hour will need more than a mile to stop — that's approximately 18 football fields — once the train is set into emergency braking.

There are roughly 200,000 miles of railroad tracks in the United States. Modern trains are quieter than ever, with no telltale "clackety-clack." Also, an approaching train will always be closer and moving faster than you think. Cross tracks ONLY at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings. Observe and obey all warning signs and signals.

2013 Railroad Avenue & Walk Improvements

The 2013 Railroad Avenue & Walk Improvements project is well underway.

Railroad Avenue SE has been closed to thru traffic for more than a month now and the City would like to thank motorists for avoiding the project area. The storm sewer system has been installed and the street has been cut to the proposed subgrade elevation. In the coming month you will see the Railroad Avenue roadway get shaped into a bituminous paved road with concrete curb and gutter and a 10-foot wide bituminous path paved along the west side.

South Passage SE has also been under construction for the past month. The storm sewer on this street has also been completed and fill has been placed for the bituminous path planned along the north side of the roadway. In the coming month the fill will be graded and prepped for a concrete curb and gutter to be installed along South Passage SE and a 10-foot bituminous path will be paved behind the back of the curb.

A 5-foot wide concrete walk is proposed along Heritage Boulevard NE from Elim Lane NE to Credit Union Drive NE. Work on this project is expected to begin the week of August 26th, 2013 and be completed by mid-September. Traffic disturbance will be minimized as much as possible, but access to the Isanti Retail Center will be reduced to one access at a time while concrete is poured. Please watch for these closures and be mindful that the remaining entrance will need to handle two way traffic.

A bituminous overlay is proposed on Penny Lane SE from Main Street SE to Broadway Street SE to extend the life of the existing roadway pavement. This work is planned to coincide with the bituminous paving on Railroad Avenue SE.

The overall project is expected to be complete by mid to late September.

Please call City Engineer Brad DeWolf P.E. at 612-756-1032 if you have any questions.

In Other News

The Isanti Police Department received another grant to conduct Safe & Sober enforcement. Officers will be paid overtime to enforce our traffic laws. Please ask your bartender to call Safe Cab if you need a ride home. Some places even offer a discount on the taxi ride home. Please drive safely, especially now when school is in full swing. There are many kids, bicycles and buses to keep an eye out for.

Thanks to all who attended the City wide National Night Out event at the Isanti Community Center. The Isanti Police Reserves put on another great program with a good attendance. Thanks to all the businesses through the Isanti Chamber of Commerce who donated door prizes to be handed out to the attendees. We have committed ourselves to another National Night Out next year, the first Tuesday in August, and hope that you can join us.

Minnesota weather...if you don't like it...wait fifteen minutes and it will change. Soon the snow will be here again and last year we had too many complaints of snowmobile misuse. Snowmobiles are not allowed to drive on another's property without permission. Please keep your snowmobile on the trail or right of way. All property in Isanti is owned by someone. Snowmobiles may not be driven in the City parks or on school property unless it is part of a marked state or local trail system. Lastly, watch the Winter Isantian for dates of the youth snowmobile safety certificate course held at the police department.



Public Works/Engineering/Police Department

Water Shutoffs

Due to a change in seasons and on-coming cold weather if your home is going to be vacant for any reason; please call City Hall to have the water shut off to prevent freezing pipes and other water damage.

City Code section 325-9 E. authorizes the City to disconnect services due to electric and/or gas utility services being shut off between October 15 and April 15 and the City determines in good faith that the premises has been vacated by the former account holder and no transfer of the account has been made.

Winter Parking Restrictions

Parking of vehicles is not allowed on city streets between the hours of 1:00 am and 8:00 am from November 1st through March 31st of every year. Parking is permitted on streets between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 am provided that snow removal has been completed or there is no snow. Parking is not permitted in the City's downtown municipal parking lot (located south of Main Street W and west of the BNSF railroad tracks) between the hours of 1:00 am and 5:00 am. Your cooperation will help make the snow removal process more efficient and effective.



Isanti Fire District

The Isanti Fire District had an active year in many different aspects. Some interesting numbers I'll share briefly are this year's run counts for the City of Isanti, year to date. Since January 2013, we have responded to 180 calls in the City of Isanti. These calls have ranged from medical emergencies to car accidents to structure fires. Our busiest day of the week is tied so far at 32 calls each, for Mondays and Fridays. Time of day is also tracked and tied year-to-date with 40 calls each, occurring between 8:00 am and noon and 4:00pm-8:00pm. What significance does this data have besides being interesting? The officers and Fire Board staff are continually reviewing statistics like this to tailor the structure of the fire department to meet its demand. One cannot predict when an emergency is going to occur, but using data like this we can focus on target areas and strive to make our department as efficient as possible while providing the service you as a citizen of our beautiful city expect. Some of you may have seen our newest piece of equipment, a 2012 Chevrolet Impala. This car is a take-home car for our firefighters who are fulfilling a duty shift. These duty shifts ensure quick response from one of our firefighters during those target times, providing services until an ambulance is able to respond or more firemen/women, if needed.

Isanti Fire will be adding to the roster January 1st at all 3 stations. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying to be a paid-on-call firefighter, please visit www.isantifiredistrict.org or call (763) 444-8019 to start the application process. Applicants must live within a 6 minute drive (following speed limit regulations) of one of our stations and be able to pass physical, mental and background check screenings.

As the winter season approaches, get yourself prepared by making sure your heating systems are up to the task of providing clean, safe heat for the months to come. Isanti Fire recently received a donation from Junction Bowl in the City of Isanti of a 4 gas meter. If you have a suspicion of carbon monoxide being present in your home, call the sheriff's office at (763) 689-2141 or 911 if it's an emergency. The new gas meter will detect the smallest amounts of carbon monoxide, a deadly gas that our noses can't detect.

Grass fire season is already upon us as we've had a few running grass fires in the last week in our rural coverage areas. Even though the grass/weeds are green, there is underlying dried grasses there that are capable of maintaining a fire if left unattended. A reminder that all campfires in the city must be contained in an approved ring, must be 3' in diameter or smaller, be attended at all times, and only be burning natural vegetation. Remember that just because the flame is out, doesn't mean that a gust of wind won't grab a hot coal and blow it onto some dry surrounding grass, which could easily ignite and take off.

Technical Rescue is a hot topic at Isanti Fire as some of the members have recently completed a 9 month course on Technical Rope Rescue. Larger, full time departments often build teams of this nature to specialize and prepare for the unknown situations some people are capable of getting themselves into. Isanti Fire is the first fire department, outside of those mentioned, in the State of Minnesota to obtain this certification with the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board. Our baseline firefighter certification includes some rope rescue techniques, but the crew wanted more. Mari Bostrom at Isanti County Emergency Management was able to secure some grant funding to make it possible, and our crew ran with it.

Watch for us practicing our new technical rescue techniques around the area in months/years to come, and rest assured your fire department is highly trained, and efficient, in all aspects.

See you at the Isanti Bluejacket 5K at the Isanti Intermediate School on October 12th!

Train Safety Tips 101: Pedestrian Safety Around Tracks and Trains

Operation Lifesaver: Stay Off, Stay Away, Stay Alive

Walking or playing on railroad tracks or the right-of-way on either side of the tracks is trespassing. It is illegal and can be deadly.

Find A Safer Place

Railroad tracks, trestles, yards, and equipment are private property. Never walk, jog, fish or hunt from railroad tracks. If you are found on this property you can be arrested or fined.

Crossbuck Sign

This sign tells you trains run at this location. Cross tracks at the crossbuck sign only, not anywhere along the tracks.

Use Only Designated Crossings

The only legal and safe place to cross railroad tracks is at a designated public crossing with a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate. Crossing at any other location is illegal.

If You See a Train Coming, WAIT !

If you see flashing lights or a lowering gate, it means a train is approaching. Do not proceed until the gates go completely up and the lights go off. It is illegal to go around lowered gates.

Community Events

Isanti Ambassador Program



The Isanti Ambassador program has once again selected 3 amazing young women as representatives for our community. Ambassadors Emma, Kaitlin, and Kellie (as pictured) will all be seniors this fall. Kellie and Kaitlin at the Christian school in Cambridge and Emma at CIHS. Since crowned in mid-July the three young women have bonded already and have participated in several events including volunteering at the Isanti County Fair, Brahm Pie Days, Relay for Life and the sidewalk sales event. The ambassadors will continue to make appearances throughout the state this year and will be spreading the word about Isanti and our Rodeo Jubilee Day festival. This year, the goal of these good-will ambassadors is to give back to our community in any way

possible and to help increase desire for volunteerism in the young people of Isanti. If you have an event you would like to have the ambassadors participate in, please contact isantiambassador@yahoo.com. Also, be sure to check out the ambassador page on Facebook!

Friends of the Isanti Area Library



Our group helped the ECRL to establish and has continued to support the Isanti Library Link Site, which is located in Isanti City Hall. The Librarian is there to serve you on Wednesdays from 10 am to 4 pm with books, movies, and audio books. You are welcome to request items and pick them up here in Isanti. Checking out movies and DVDs for 3 weeks from the library makes it easy to catch up on past seasons of your favorite TV show or have entertainment on hand without that last-minute return rush. Children's

Story Time will continue this fall too.

The Friends of the Library group has many volunteer opportunities and our Board meets monthly. Contact Susi McCune for more information at Susi@IsantiLibrary.org.

Isanti Redbirds Finish Successful Season



The Isanti Redbirds amateur baseball team just completed another excellent season. The team played a total of thirty-seven games in approximately a thirteen week time period! They ended up with 24 wins and 13 losses while playing in a very competitive league with a very challenging schedule. The Redbirds finished in second place in the Metro Minny League with 13 wins and 5 losses. The 'Birds also went on to do extremely well in both the sectional and super-sectional playoffs. Jake Maros, Wyatt Soderquist and Kyle Johnson were the team's leading hitters and Dallas Nelson, Adam West and Cole Bakke were the team's pitching leaders.

Amateur baseball is truly played for the "love of the game". Not enough can be said about the level of commitment that it takes to have a successful team. The Isanti Redbirds have been lead in recent years by a group of players who enjoy playing together and who enjoy the time that they spend together at the ballpark each summer.

The Redbirds sincerely appreciate all their loyal fans, area businesses, donors, volunteers and the City of Isanti for all their help and support.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for something to do while helping your community at the same time? Please see below for some options. They can use your help and can be satisfying at the same time!

FAMILY PATHWAYS

Lori Damann
763-444-9551

ISANTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tracy Neifert
763-444-7368

ISANTI COUNTY PARKS

Barry Wendorf
763-689-8220

ISANTI COUNTY TRAIL & GREENSPACE

Bill Carlson
763-689-1442

ISANTI SOCCER ASSOCIATION

763-552-GOAL (4625)
cambridgeisantisoccer.net

ISANTI HOCKEY

David Englund
763-444-6432

MEALS ON WHEELS/ SENIOR DINING

Edie Frison
763-689-5992

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Susi McCune
763-444-4585

VFW

Kim - Manager
763-444-1787

ISANTI LIONS

Joe Mau - 763-444-4107

If your organization is not listed, please contact City Hall at 763-444-5512 or www.cityofisanti.us

Community Events

CITY PARKS:

RIVERSIDE PARK

503 Rum River Drive NW
Corner of Rum River Drive NW & Hill-
ock St. NW



RUM RIVER

MEADOWS PARK

1108 South Passage SW
Along the north side of South Pas-
sage SW, just west of County Rd.
23 SW.



MATTSON PARK

311 5th Avenue NW
Intersection of Main St. W & 5th
Ave. NW.



WHISPER RIDGE PARK

795 3rd Ave SW
Nestled behind homes on the corner
of Cottonwood St. SW & 3rd Ave.
SW.



ISANTI TOT LOT

518 Dogwood Street SW
Nestled behind homes on the corner
of Cedar St. SW & 6th Ave. SW.



VFW PARK

410 Railroad Avenue SE
Intersection of Railroad Ave. SE and
Palomino Road SE.



UNITY PARK

420 3rd Avenue NW
North of Unity Blvd. NW.



BLUEBIRD PARK

201 Isanti Parkway NW
Intersection of 3rd Ave. NW and
Isanti Parkway NW.



LEGACY PARK

NW corner of Villages on the Rum

KEY		
Skate Park	Swings	Horseshoes
Picnic Shelter	Trails	Basketball Court
Picnic Tables	Softball Field	Volleyball Court
Tennis Court	Hockey Rink	Playground Equipment
Toddler Equipment		

Isanti Community Center



The Isanti Community Center is a great place to hold your event! Dances, Luncheons, Graduation Parties, Fund Raisers, Seminars, Business Presentations, Birthday Parties, and many other activities that are held year round. Located at 208½ First Avenue NW, next to City Hall, our rates are very reasonable. For information and reservations call City Hall at 763-444-5512.

The Community Center Task Force has been successfully raising awareness and money to support keeping your Community Center open. You can help! Sponsorship opportunities are available starting at only \$50 and volunteers are welcome. Call City Council Member Sue Larson for more information 763-286-9964.

Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce

The Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Rodeo Jubilee Days and the Jubilee Parade was a great success this year. Many volunteers put in long hours to make these events continue for yet another year. We were still able to keep the Kids Fun Day, free to all participants. Thanks for the many donations from businesses in the community and the Cambridge-Isanti Hockey Charitable Gambling Association. The outhouse races were enjoyed by participants and spectators alike. And, on Sunday, the 2013 Ambassadors were crowned at the Coronation at Spirit River Community Center.

Looking ahead, we have the Buds, Suds, and Vino premier wine and beer tasting event at Wintergreens on Friday, October 11th. Enjoy tasting a wide variety of beer, wine, and cordials. There will be something for everyone! The Isanti Liquor Store will be supplying the vendors and you will be able to order your new favorites that evening. Each attendee will receive a flower for coming to the event. The event is open to the public. Tickets are only \$20.00 each. Chamber members will receive a \$2.00 discount, if tickets are purchased by October 4th, 2013. Call the Chamber at (763) 444-8515 to reserve a spot at this event.

The Annual Bridal Fair will be held at Spirit River Community Center on October 19th. Come check out all the wedding vendors. You'll be surprised what you can get locally at usually a better price than the cities. Vendors can call the Chamber for details and registration forms or go to our website www.isantichamber.com.

"Home for the Holidays" will be kicking off the holiday season once again on November 9th and 10th. The local business community welcomes you to stop in and visit, admire their holiday decorations, partake in refreshments and goodies, and allow them to show you what they have to offer. In addition, a craft fair will be held at the Isanti Community Center. Visit the Isanti Chamber at www.isantichamber.com or watch your local newspapers for dates, times, and location updates.

Santa Days will be held again at the Harvest Christian Center on December 7th. Bring your kids and get pictures with Santa and his elves. Kids will also be making decorations for the Town Tree Lighting later that day. Spend the morning and start your Christmas Tradition with Santa!

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please call the Chamber at (763) 444-8515.

Open Skate September and October Adult \$2.00 Student \$1.00 • Subject to time change

September 3rd, 5th, 6th
3:30pm – 5:30pm

September 7th
1:15pm – 3:15pm

September 11th, 12th, 13th
3:30pm – 5:30pm

September 14th
1:45pm – 3:15pm

September 19th, 20th, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 30th
3:30pm – 5:30pm

October 1st thru 4th
3:30pm – 5:30pm

October 7th & 8th
3:30pm – 5:30pm

October 10th & 11th
3:30pm – 5:30pm

October 14th thru 18th
3:30pm – 5:30pm

October 21st thru 24th
3:30pm – 5:30pm

Scotsman

234 South Main Street, Cambridge
763-689-1981
www.isanticountynews.com



Isanti Chapel – 409 E. Broadway – 444-5212
Cambridge Chapel – 720 1st Avenue E. – 689-2070
Hugo and Brian Strike, Directors and Owners
www.strikefuneral.com

Community Events

Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Isanti Senior Dining

Entertainment will be provided by Kelly Weaver at the Isanti Community Center. Contact Edie Frison for details at (763) 689-5992.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Rum River BMX Track Open House

Bring a friend to the track open house day! If you and your friend come to the track together to check it out, you both will ride for free. Practice time is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (763) 444-5429 for details.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Isanti Senior Dining

Entertainment will be provided at the Isanti Community Center by Marie Grunberg. Contact Edie Frison for details at (763) 689-5992.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Rum River BMX Fall Classic

Family Fun Day! You do not want to miss the action, sign-up is from noon until 1 p.m. Call (763) 444-5429 for details

OCTOBER

Isanti Senior Dining

Tony Jambor will be providing entertainment at the Isanti Community Center. The date has yet to be determined. For additional information, please contact Edie Frison at (763) 689-5992.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Buds, Suds, and Vino Event, 5 - 7 pm

A Premier Wine and Beer Tasting Event! Receive a flower just for coming. Event will be at Wintergreens Bar and Grill and is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased through the Isanti Chamber at (763) 444-8515 or at the door. The Isanti Liquor Store and Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce are hosting this event.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Bridal Fair

The Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual Bridal Fair at Spirit River Community Center. Vendors should call now to reserve their spot! To download registration forms go to www.isantichamber.com (see event Registration Forms on left). For details call (763) 444-8515.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Isanti Senior Dining

A craft program will be provided by Carri Scott at the Isanti Community Center. For questions/details regarding the event, please contact Edie Frison at (763) 689-5992.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Trick or Skate

6:00 - 9:00 pm. Free open skating at the Isanti Ice Arena located at 600 1st Avenue NW. For details call (763) 444-6432.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 & 10

Home for the Holidays/Craft Fair

Visit the local businesses to enjoy their Christmas decorations, special values, and refreshments. Check out the Community Center for the Holiday Craft Fair. Craft vendors can call Tracy (763) 444-8000 or download Registration forms at www.isantichamber.com (see Event Registration Forms on left). For additional information call (763) 444-8515 or e-mail admin@isantichamber.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Santa Days at Harvest Christian Center

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Bring your kids for a morning of pictures with Santa and Christmas crafts. Help make decorations for the Isanti Town tree and then decorate it later that afternoon at the lighting event. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras to capture memories with Santa. Check the Isanti Chamber website at www.isantichamber.com for further information or call (763) 444-8515.

OTHER EVENTS

Exercise Class at the Isanti Community Center every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. U Care Insurance sponsors the event, which is free and open to the public.

Nutrition Education Program is sponsored by the University of Minnesota the first Monday of each month at the Isanti Community Center. Questions can be directed to Edie Frison at (763) 689-5992.

Blood Pressure Checks are provided at the Isanti Community Center the second Monday of each month.

Book Sales are located at the Isanti Community Center the last Wednesday of every month.

Other Isanti Area Recreational Sites

Soccer Complex

BMX Track

Isanti Ice Arena

Martin's Landing

(DNR Canoe Landing)

Redbirds Baseball Field

Vision Wake Park

For links visit:

www.cityofisanti.us

Mayor's Great Yard Award Sponsors

The City of Isanti would like to take the opportunity to thank this year's sponsors for the Mayor's Great Yard Award. Without their generous support, the Mayor's Great Yard Award would not be possible.

This year's awards were sponsored by the following businesses: First Place (\$100) Alan Duff, Duff Consulting, LLC; Second Place (\$50) Aaron Zdon, Startac Construction, Inc.; and Third Place (\$25) Aaron Andrews, My Geeky Guy, Inc.

Isanti Senior Dining

Catholic Charities sponsors the noon meal. Reservations can be made by calling Edie Frison at (763) 689-5992, Marilyn at (612) 501-2524, or the Isanti Community Center on Monday and Wednesday between 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at (763) 444-6100 or the Food Preparation Center in Cambridge at (763) 689-4691. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 for persons 60 and older; or \$7.00 for persons under 60. This includes home delivered meals and/or site dining. Come join us!



City of Isanti
110 1st Ave NW • PO Box 428
Isanti, MN 55040

Phone: 763.444.5512
Fax: 763.444.5560
Email: isanti@cityofisanti.us
Website: www.cityofisanti.us



Isanti City Flower: Rudbeckia



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City of Isanti City Engineer
612-756-1032 (cell)