

SPRING 2014

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 if needed

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

PARK & RECREATION BOARD

4th Tuesday of the month
at 5:00 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

1st Tuesday of the Month
@ 7:30 or immediately
following the city
council meeting

The year 2013 ended with some great accomplishments, and set the stage for new challenges in 2014. We had 11 new and expanding businesses, a Long Term Budget balanced through 2020, debt payments reduced from 14% to 11% of our total budget, administrative costs were 33% less than our peer group of cities, and our commercial/industrial tax base expanded from 13% to 18% of our total tax base. The City took over operations of the Community Center and the facility is booked solid for 2014. We will begin renovations of the facility and parking lot this spring. The Downtown Street Dances and Farmer's Market were a success and we will continue these great events in 2014. We are planning for three Street Dances and an expanded Farmers Market calendar, which will offer more options.

We are starting some great new programming in 2014 through the Parks Division, which include a Junior Master Gardener Program, Nature Detectives Club, Free Movie Nights, and "From Lands to Legacy". These programs, other great activities, and community group information are detailed in the following pages. We are committed to bringing low and no cost program options for our residents to enjoy.

One of the trends I have been tracking since 2010 is the number of homes within the community that have been converted to rental properties. In 2010, 74% our homes were owner occupied homesteaded properties, by 2013 that number had dropped to 58%. Rental property has increased from 10% in 2010 to over 23% by 2013, stressing the importance of our strong rental and property maintenance ordinances. A bright spot is the growth of our commercial/industrial tax base increasing from 13% to 18%. As our housing mix changes, we must continue to be aware how this affects our City and prepare accordingly.

Through tight spending controls and strong financial planning, we maintain a healthy fund balance that ensures a good credit rating and reserve funds that help us weather difficult economic times. Following the Long Term Financial Plan I created, we are able to increase needed services while maintaining a balanced budget through 2020. I will be presenting an addition in this year's budget. I am asking for a Police Investigator position. This position will help to streamline our investigation process and ensure we do not lose valuable hours of police protection within our City. This would be a change and increased cost for the City, but will allow us to better serve our residents.

An item that will be getting a lot of attention this spring and summer is the future of the Isanti Fire District. The Fire District was created out of the former City Fire Department. The Fire Department was converted into a seven member Fire District whose membership included the City of Isanti and parts of six townships. The Fire District has a number of serious flaws that have not been addressed by the Fire Board; even after repeated attempts have been made by the City to address those issues. The two most critical are the lack of a fair cost formula and the lack of weighted voting. Currently, most City Fire District runs are medical and have a low cost to the District; while many runs to townships are more costly. The formula used to charge each entity is based on the number of runs made, not the actual cost of the run. If there is a grass fire in a township requiring a dozen firefighters and equipment versus a medical call in the City where one firefighter is needed for a short period of time, the formula counts each as one run for the sharing of cost. This is not equitable to the City and causes us to pay far more for services than we actually use. The other significant issue is the lack of weighted voting. This means that even though the City pays 35% to 40% of the Fire District cost each year, we only get one vote out of seven or 14% of the total votes. We are in a situation where we are overcharged for services and then are not given the appropriate voting power. The Firefighters themselves are doing a wonderful job, just as they had when it was a City Department. Unfortunately, it takes a unanimous vote to make any amendments to the agreement. This makes reform very difficult. We are exploring all of our options to try and bring equity back to our taxpayers, while ensuring the same level of great service.

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 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 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

City Staff

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

Community Development Director Roxanne Achman rachman@cityofisanti.us

Community Events and Parks Coordinator

Josi Wood isantiparks@cityofisanti.us

Public Works

Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker nfleischhacker@cityofisanti.us

Police Department

Acting Police Chief Gene Hill LtHill@cityofisanti.us

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:

Non-Emergency
763-444-4761
Emergency
911
Fax 763-444-4868

PUBLIC WORKS:

763-444-0459
Fax 763-444-5125

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE:

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.

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www.elimisanti.org
Ryan O'Leary, Senior Pastor

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Baptist Church

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(Nursery Provided)

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Community Development

Mayor's Employer Appreciation Luncheon

The Mayor's Employer Appreciation Luncheon will be held in June 2014. This event is held to recognize Isanti businesses and their role in making our community strong. Milestone anniversaries for area businesses will be celebrated. Invites will be going out to all Isanti businesses April-May.

SAC and WAC Deferral Development Incentive Program Extended Through 2014

Success of the Isanti SAC and WAC Deferral Incentive Program looks to have a bright future in Isanti. This new program, implemented in 2013 has lead to significant investment in our city with 9 residential projects utilizing the financing available. The program allows developers to finance SAC and WAC charges (at 0 percent interest) for Commercial or Residential projects at the time of permit for up to 120 days. To learn more about this development incentive please contact Economic Development Director Sullivan.

If you dig a hole:

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

Weed and Grass Nuisances

Summer is approaching and with that comes, lawn care. The City of Isanti would like to bring to your attention City Code – Chapter (§) 216 and the fees associated with this.

§216-2 (H) states that all noxious weeds and other rank growths of vegetation upon public or private property are considered a public nuisance affecting health. In accordance with the notification requirements of §216-6 of this chapter, and after seven (7) calendar days notice by the City, the Public Works Director shall implement the mowing and removal of noxious weeds and vegetation on the private premises.

The owner of the premises on which a nuisance has been abated by the City shall be personally liable for the cost to the City of the abatement, including administrative costs. Any unpaid charges will be assessed to the property. The costs associated with this are billed on a time spent basis. A \$25.00 non-compliance fee is charged in addition to the cost.

For complete copies of the Code and fee schedule visit our website at www.cityofisanti.us.

Ready? Set. Build!

Remember to get your zoning permit this spring and summer!

Zoning permits are required for:

- Accessory structures 120 square feet or less in floor area.
- Residential patios and decks not attached to a structure, which is less than thirty (30) inches in height above grade.
- Fences not meeting the requirements for a building permit.
- All new driveways construction, re-construction or alteration, driveway extensions or parking area construction for vehicles and equipment stored outside (unless having been issued a building permit for new residential home construction).

Each zoning permit fee is \$40. Applications are available online and at City Hall.

Please see the City Code at www.cityofisanti.us for more detailed information or contact the Community Development Department at 444-5512 or rachman@cityofisanti.us.

*Be sure to check with our Building Official for construction projects requiring a building permit.



East Central Minnesota Job Fair - April 22, 2014

Is your Business looking for qualified workers?
Are you looking for a new job or career?

East Central Minnesota is projected to be one of the fastest growing regions in Minnesota.

This event will bring job seekers together with businesses that are looking to hire local employees for their specific industry. Area businesses can rent a booth for a reasonable fee to market their business to active job seekers.

Sign up now to be a part of this exciting event.



Prime opportunity for employers to find quality workers

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, April 22, 2014
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
AFRC - Cambridge Community Center

Organized and hosted by



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TIRE & AUTO

CARE, INC.

763-444-6641

33 W
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Isanti

HOURS:
Mon - Fri 7:30
a.m. - 6 p.m.



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Isanti

711 6th Ave. NE
763-444-5528

www.landmark-bank.net

Community Development

Cambridge Medical Center Offers Free Health Screenings



On April 9th from 3-6 p.m. at the Isanti Community Center, Cambridge Medical Center will be offering free health screenings for adult community members at the Isanti Community Center as part of the Healthy Communities Partnership program. The screening takes approximately 30 minutes and registration is required. To register for this screening or find out about other local screenings, please contact Darcy Rylander, Program Coordinator at 763-688-6024 or darcy.rylander@allina.com.

The screenings will check participants' blood pressure, pulse, cholesterol, blood sugar, and body mass index (BMI). From there, participants will be given recommendations and resources for setting up a wellness plan, including follow-up care, goal-setting, and free wellness coaching.

Over the last year, the Healthy Communities Partnership team at Cambridge Medical Center has been working with local businesses and individuals to conduct over 300 free health screenings for adults throughout the community.

In addition to the free health screenings, Cambridge Medical Center's web site offers an interactive tool called "Family Health Manager," which allows all community members to register and take a free online health risk assessment.

Isanti Industrial Sites "Shovel Ready Certified"

The past year has seen an increase in commercial/industrial activity in Minnesota and the nation. The City of Isanti has Minnesota Shovel Ready Certified lots available in Isanti Centennial Complex Business 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. If you want to learn more please contact Economic Development Director Sullivan at ssullivan@cityofisanti.us or 763.807.4339.



Business List Updates, Business Meetings and Visits

The City of Isanti keeps a list of all known businesses located within the City. As of February, 2014 there were 143 total businesses employing upwards of 1481 people. The City of Isanti will be contacting your business over the next few months to update your business information for City records. If you do not receive a call or email from the City of Isanti requesting updated business information, please contact Economic Development Director Sullivan at 763.444.5512 to update your information. Thank you for your help with this matter. Current business information is important so that the City can better serve you with city mailings, pertinent business items and other options to increase commerce for your business in Isanti.

In November 2013, the City of Isanti hosted an informational business meeting for Downtown Businesses at the Creamery. A second meeting was held on February 25 that reached out to businesses throughout the City. Topics discussed included, but weren't limited to: traffic counts, community events/calendar, street dances, and Isanti Family Farmers Market. The meeting is always open to other topics of interest. The city will schedule meetings quarterly, or as needed, to continue open communication with businesses within Isanti.

Over the upcoming year many businesses will be visited by the Mayor and City Staff to sit down and learn more about what your business does and what the City can do to help improve your business as part of the City's retention program. Thank you for choosing to locate your business in Isanti!!

Additional Sign Reminders

- The City would like to remind local businesses that handwritten signs, whether temporary or permanent, are prohibited. All signs must be professionally made.

- Signs shall not be placed upon any public utility pole.

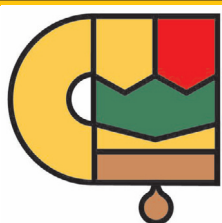
- Signs are not permitted within the public right-of-way.

- Temporary off-premises signs are permitted within the "B-1", "B-2", "B-3", "CBT", "RC", and "I" zoning districts, providing written permission is granted by the property owner and a temporary sign permit has been approved by the City. Temporary signs are allowed by an annual renewable permit.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** that properties along Heritage Boulevard and Highway 65 are subject to additional sign requirements as of 1/29/2014.

Master Gardener Spring Fling Event

Join the Isanti County Master Gardeners for their 11th annual horticulture day on Saturday, March 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A day of speakers, classes, vendors, door prizes and fun! The event is located at the Armed Forces Reserve and Community Center (AFRCC) 505 Spirit River Drive, Cambridge, MN. Learn many new and different ways to enhance or grow your "green thumb"! The cost is \$30 at the door which includes lunch. For more information please call 763-689-8254, email anderslb@umn.edu or check out on the web: www.isanticountymastergardeners.com.



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Community Development

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

Family and Youth Recreation Program

Nature Detectives Club – 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. –First Saturday of every month beginning April 5th.

Looking for something fun and local for your child to do? Register them for the Nature Detectives Club held at the Isanti Community Center! This year-round fun, nature centered program is geared for children ages 4-7 years old. There will be a mix of activities including education, stories, crafts, games and more! Register early for an early-bird discount. Cost is \$4 per child per session. You can register and find out more information by contacting Community Events and Parks Coordinator, Josi Wood, 763-444-5512 or isantiparks@cityofisanti.us. Health waiver forms will be required for any child being dropped off. It is recommended to register ahead of time to ensure your child's placement in that day's program. "Day of" drop-offs may not always be available.

From Lands to Legacy – 9:00-10:00 a.m. – June 21st, July 19th, and August 16th

What a great way to enjoy our park natural resources right at your fingertips! Bring the family out to enjoy the history of the great area known as Legacy Park. Legacy Park is a 20 acre natural wooded area with beautiful undisturbed forest land and natural trailways great for observing the ecological flora and fauna of the area. This series will focus on the Native American past and history along the Rum River. Learn about the Native American past, folklore and traditions that were prevalent in the area as well as how the river was instrumental to so many things. The program will be at Legacy Park. In the case of inclement weather, it will be held at the Isanti Community Center. Entrance to Legacy Park is located near the intersection of Bellaire Blvd. NW and Blossom Blvd. NW at the northwest corner of Villages on the Rum development. The cost is \$4 per person or \$12 per family per session. To register and/or find out more information, contact Community Events & Parks Coordinator, Josi Wood, 763-444-5512 or isantiparks@cityofisanti.us.

Students Enjoy Legacy Park

Students from the Minnesota Center and School For All Seasons programs in Isanti spent time in October and February visiting Legacy Park in Isanti. Minnesota Center students were tour guides and provided activities for School For All Seasons students related to climate, plants, animals, and other information about the park and the area. The students who led the groups studied the area extensively in their science classes prior to the park visit. The schools are pleased to partner with the City on the use of Legacy Park for educational experiences!

Junior Master Gardener Program Coming to Isanti!

The Junior Master Gardener program (JMG) is an international youth program of the University Extension 4H program and sponsored by the Master Gardener Program. Children engage in novel hands-on group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment and cultivate the mind.

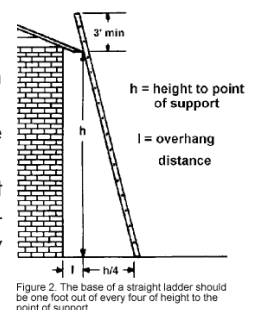
The Master Gardeners of Isanti County are starting a JMG group in Isanti. As youth go through the program, they will interact and bond with nature, learn how to conserve our natural resources, make knowledgeable decisions about the environment and connect with other children and adults in having a personal pride, love and responsibility for gardening. They will perform science projects, have a garden plot and be involved in service projects and horticultural events. The program is geared for grades 3-6 but is flexible. Look for upcoming information on registration and start date on www.isanticountymastergardeners.com or by contacting 763-689-1810.

Seasonal Tips from Isanti's Safety Committee

Ladder Safety

1. Look for the angle sticker on ladders and use accordingly.
2. Make sure your ladder is secure when transferring to other surfaces such as roofs, decks, etc.
3. If you plan to climb onto a roof or platform from a ladder, be sure the ladder extends above the edge at least three feet.
4. Stepladders should be fully opened with the spreaders locked. Straight ladders should be placed at a four-to-one ratio. This means the base of the ladder should be one foot away from the wall or other vertical surface for every four feet of height to the point of support.

Have a safe spring!



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

Public Works/Engineering/Fire Department/Police Department

Police Department

763-444-4761

On February 27, 2014 Police Chief Ron Sager retired after 24 years of dedicated service to the City of Isanti; most of those years were as Chief of Police. It is with mixed emotions that Chief Sager retired, but he did so because he could...versus having too. So if you see Chief Sager out and about, wish him well in retirement and thank him for all the years of service to the community of Isanti.

In the spring, we see a surge in thefts from automobiles. Please do not leave your vehicles unlocked, this invites crimes of opportunity. Do not leave items, especially electronic items, visible in your car; even visible power cords left in the vehicle can be a cause for a break-in to your vehicle. Always locking your cars when parked is the best deterrent for a crime of opportunity. In a few months the snow will begin to melt, as this happens the city parks begin to see heavier use by many. If you see suspicious behavior or acts of vandalism, PLEASE call the police immediately...many more crimes can be solved by getting involved. Your complaint can be made anonymously.

The 2014 annual Snowmobile /ATV parade was a success and good food was enjoyed by all. I want to thank Council Member Sue Larson for the excellent chili and Chief Sager for the hot dogs this year; and to the area businesses with their donations to the event. This year's trophy winners are Peter Thayer for "Ambassador's Choice" and "Most Unique," Corey Juimond for "Most Vintage" and Jim Hale for "Best Theme." We will look forward to it all again January 1, 2015!

Our snowmobile complaints in town are minimal because of positive reminders and courteous snowmobile operators. But a few need to be reminded that snowmobiles are not allowed to drive on another's property without permission. Please keep your snowmobile on the trail or right of way. If you operate your machines in town on the roadway, your speed can not exceed 20 mph. All property in Isanti is owned by someone, so please be respectful of others property. 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.

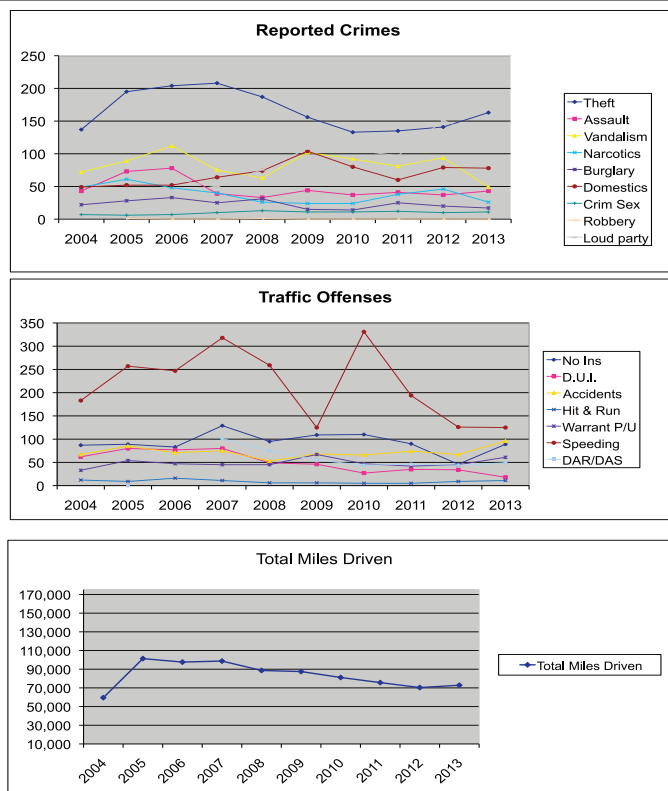
The Isanti Police Department concluded its second year of our annual youth snowmobile safety classes February 8 and 22, 2014; certifying approximately 140 young adults in the safe operation of snowmobiles. Any person operating a snowmobile in Minnesota born after December 31, 1976 must possess a snowmobile safety certificate. If you have any questions regarding snowmobile operating regulations you can stop at the office to pick up a DNR rules and regulations booklet.

The Police Department will be offering six ATV Youth Safety class sessions throughout the year in 2014, watch for future dates in June, August and October. All Minnesota ATV operators born after July 1, 1987 are required to have a MnDNR ATV Safety Certificate to legally operate on public lands or waters. If you have any questions regarding ATV's, you can stop at the office to pick up a DNR rules and regulations booklet.

Just a friendly reminder of the Cities Winter Parking Ordinance - There is NO street parking after 1:00 a.m. November 1st through March 31st. If you have any questions or concerns about the ordinance please call.

Lastly, watch for flyers and look in the Summer Isantian for the dates of Take-a-Kid-Fishing. This event is held in June, the date will be set in the near future.

Respectfully,
Lt. Gene C. Hill



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

Restrictive Watering Ban in Force

City Code § 325-2 provides regulations for annual sprinkling restrictions. During the period from May 1 through September 1 annually, all property with addresses that end with an odd number may be sprinkled on odd-numbered days, and property with addresses that end with an even number may be sprinkled on even-numbered days. During this time period, no sprinkling shall be allowed from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day.

This provision shall automatically apply unless superseded by action of the City Administrator should a water shortage exist. The City Administrator is authorized under City Code §325-1 to restrict the sprinkling of lawns by posting a notice at City Hall setting forth the restrictions.

A new property owner may request an exemption of the restrictions for the sprinkling of new sod. To request an exemption please contact Rick Sames, Building Official. For a complete copy of the Code visit our website at www.cityofisanti.us.

Isantian Advertising Deadline

The next edition of the Isantian newsletter will be sent the week of June 9th with an advertising deadline of May 26th.

Contact Sue Beckman, 763-691-6035 at the Scotsman/Isanti County News for advertising.

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Public Works/Engineering/Fire Department/Police Department

Burning in the City

City Code § 119 permits burning by reference of MN State Statute 88 and the MN Uniform Fire Code. Campfires are permitted if applied as follows: A campfire is a fire set for cooking, warming, or ceremonial purposes, which is not more than three (3) feet in diameter by three feet high and the ground surrounding the fire has been cleared of all combustible material twenty-five (25) feet from the base of the fire.



Attention Dog Owners

Please be reminded that dog licenses are due April 30, 2014. Dog and kennel licenses can be obtained through the Police Department located at 401 First Avenue NW. All dog owners must license their dogs annually. License fees are \$10 per year for fixed dogs and \$15 per year for non-fixed dogs. A late fee of \$5 will be charged if licensed after April 30, 2014.

Isanti City Code does require that any property owner who has more than two (2) dogs must obtain a residential kennel permit. A residential kennel license is \$50 per year. Please contact the Police Department to obtain information regarding a residential kennel permit at (763) 444-4761.

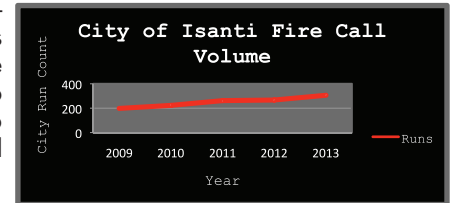
Isanti Fire Department

As the Isanti Fire District heads into Spring of 2014, the firefighters look back at their previous years in attempt to plan ahead as much as one can for unintended emergencies. Our call volume over the last 5 years, as you can see in the graph, continues to climb. 2013 brought us to your neighborhoods a total of 306 times. These runs equate to 44% of Isanti Fire Districts overall total call volume in 2013.

On the less tragic side of our operations, we participated in some great activities in the City, which we look forward to attending again. National statistics show a decline in civilian fire related deaths, and also in juvenile fire setting. For this, we thank our members, and you, for taking the time to educate each other, and participate in any opportunity to support these efforts. Through many different ways, Isanti Firefighters are working to educate anyone who will listen, in attempt to keep us all safe.

As our communities, our lifestyles and the expectations of the fire department change, so do the risks involved. Another national trend that is diminishing is the amount of firefighter deaths due to cardiac arrest. Hearts attacks on or after leaving an accident scene have been the leading killer of firefighters for a long time. This reduction is a great accomplishment. Unfortunately, the number of firefighters dying on scene from structural collapse is on the rise. Statistics show this is largely due to lighter weight building construction, streamlined construction methods, and also the materials we purchase and use in our homes daily. The material we're highlighting today is plastic. Plastic is an oil based product (made from petrochemicals, petro-short for petroleum or oil) which when burned, gives off toxic gasses and extreme heat. This plastic, or forms of it, are in a surprisingly large amount of products in our homes. This considered, structure fires burn hotter and faster than ever before, lessening the time a firefighter has to arrive and extinguish the fire before things get tragic. Please don't take this as an anti-plastic rant, poly based products are very much a part of our lives, and are here to stay. We Isantians simply need to make sure we are protecting ourselves at a rate equal to or greater than the implementation of all these new compounds we live in.

As the weather turns warmer, please continue to remember to be fire safe. Remind your loved ones to respect fire, change your smoke detectors batteries regularly, and call 911 as soon as possible if you think you may have any kind of uncontrollable fire in the making.



Building Department

763-444-5512

For many of us, spring time is often "clean up" and "repair" time. Here's a few items you may want to add to your list.

Clean Chimneys – For those folks who used solid fuel burning appliances such as wood, coal, corn, etc. this past winter, now is the time to clean the chimney so that it will be ready to use the next time you want it. Two homes in Isanti experienced extensive fire damage in 2013 and although neither was caused by a dirty chimney, they were great reminders of the devastation that can come from a house fire.

Smoke and C.O. detectors - Change batteries in your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors and install additional detectors as necessary to meet the minimum requirements of the State Code. If you have questions regarding the requirements please contact me at my office and I'll do my best to explain them to you. Most of the manufacturers suggest changing the batteries in the units twice a year. A good way to remember is to change the batteries whenever we change the times on our clocks to "spring ahead" or "fall behind."

HRV, ERV, Furnace filters – Some of the filters need to be replaced while others can be cleaned and re-used. Each manufacturer has their own recommendations for the frequency of cleaning/changing filters but all of them recommend at a minimum quarterly. The recommendations can usually be found on the inside panels. If you're having trouble locating them you may be able to access them on the internet. If you're still having trouble finding them, give me a call and I'll try to help. If you haven't cleaned/replaced them for a while, now is a good time to do it and while you're at it, check the intake screens on the exterior of your home. Cleaning the filters regularly will help the units last longer and run more efficiently which will cost you less money in the long run.

Building Project planned? If you are unsure if a permit is required, please talk to me before you start the project.

New Home Construction - In the last quarter of 2013 the City of Isanti issued 6 new home permits. Four of which were for custom built homes and two were for homes built on speculation. We have to go all the way back to the 2006 records to find a year with that kind of fourth quarter new residential construction activity. Hopefully, that momentum carries over into 2014. As this article goes to print in mid February, the City of Isanti has issued one new home permit in 2014.

Rental Licensing - The City of Isanti adopted the Rental Licensing Ordinance in 2008. If you or someone you know would like to rent out a residential property, or is renting without a license, please call my office ASAP so that all properties can be brought into compliance with the Rental Licensing Ordinance. Violations of this ordinance can be prosecuted as a misdemeanor.

Have a great spring everybody!

City of Isanti Building Official – Rick Sames

Administrative/Finance

City Wide Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 26, 2014

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Public Works Garage • 100 Isanti Parkway NW, Isanti

Directions: 3rd Avenue NW North to Isanti Parkway NW, right on Isanti Parkway to garage. Drop off on east side of garage. **City residents ONLY.** Must show driver's license. All items listed must be pre-paid at Isanti City Hall, 110 1st Avenue NW (Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.).

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

Brush, yard waste, and small miscellaneous items will be accepted at no cost. **NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE WILL BE ACCEPTED!** Other acceptable items and related fees are as follows:

Appliances: \$10 each: Air Heat Pump, Furnaces, Microwave Ovens, Water Heaters, Dishwashers, Garbage Disposals, Refrigerators, Washers, Dryers, Dehumidifiers, Trash Compactors, Vacuum Cleaners, Freezers, Ovens, Stoves, Gas Grill.

Air Conditioning Units & Water Softeners \$20 each.

Commercial & gas/ammonia appliance fees will vary. NO LP tanks will be accepted.

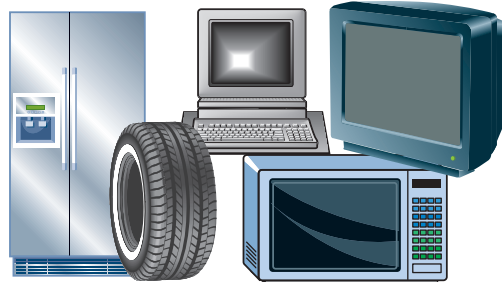
TIRES:

Passenger Car/ATV	\$5/Tire
Truck	\$10/Tire
Bicycle	\$1/Tire
Motorcycle.....	\$2/Tire
Tubes	Free

NO Tractor Tires will be accepted.

LARGE ITEMS:

Regular Sofas	\$15.00
Sleeper Sofas	\$25.00
Loveseat	\$10.00
Living Room Chairs	\$15.00
Mattresses.....	\$30.00
Box Springs	\$30.00



ELECTRONICS:

TVs 40" & under \$20.00; TVs over 40" \$40.00; Console TV \$55.00; Computer Monitors \$15.00; CPU Box \$5.00; Keyboard & Mouse \$5.00; Laptop Computers \$10.00; Scanner \$10.00; Copier \$25.00; Printers \$10.00; DVD/VCR \$5.00

Flushing of Water Mains Starts May 5

If you live in or near an area that is being flushed, your water may have some discoloration for a short period of time. You should avoid doing laundry at this time or running your water, as this can actually bring discolored water directly into your home's pipes. Run your tap after the flushing and it should clear up. Check our website: www.cityofisanti.us for the schedule and watch for ongoing updates as the schedule is subject to change daily.

Farmers Market

Buy fresh! Buy local! The kick-off of the Isanti Family Farmers Market is right around the corner! Last year's market was a success and this year it will be even bigger and better than ever. Come stop by to shop farm fresh produce, artisans, crafts, and homemade goods. The market is held every Friday starting May 30th from 2:30-6:30 p.m. (except July 4th). A few vendor spots are still available. If you are interested, please contact Community Events and Parks Coordinator Josi Wood, 763-444-5512 or isantiparks@cityofisanti.us.

Helpful tips for shopping at the Market:

- The Farmer's Market is outdoors so dress for the weather. Bring an umbrella if needed.
- Bring the kids to take part in the fun children's activities.
- Bring a bag to carry your produce.
- Bring change and smaller denominations of money as each farmer is an individual businesses. Some farmers take check or credit but cash is preferred.
- If you have certain questions about fruits or vegetables, ask the farmer. Most will be happy to tell you how it was grown and cared for an how to make the best selection. Many will even share their favorite recipe!

For more Isanti Family Farmer's Market information check out the website www.isantifamilyfarmersmarket.org or like us on Facebook: Isanti Family Farmer's Market.



City Service Billings

If you would like to sign up for paying via ACH or to receive your statement via e-mail please complete the form available on the City's web site, www.cityofisanti.us and mail to City of Isanti, PO Box 251340, St. Paul, MN 55125. Forms are also available at City Hall.

If you have any questions regarding your City Services bill please contact Customer Service at 651-255-0993.

In the future, the City will be exploring options such as online billing and online payments.

City Offices Closed

Monday, May 26
Memorial Day

Friday, July 4
Independence Day

Library Link

Through the efforts of the Friends of the Isanti Library, the East Central Regional Library hosts a Library Link site at City Hall located at 110 First Ave NW. The Link site is open on Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For additional information, please contact ECRL Librarian Kristin at 763-689-7390.

David C. Johnson Civic Arena Open Skating

Sat., March 1 3:30-5:30
Sun., March 2 2:30-5:30
Wed., March 5 3:30-5:30
Thurs., March 6 3:30-5:30
Fri., March 7 3:30-5:30
Sat., March 8 12:00-2:00
Sun., March 9 2:30-4:30
Tues., March 11 3:30-5:30
Thurs., March 13 3:30-5:30

Adults \$2.00 Students \$1.00
NO PUCKS OR STICKS ON ICE
DURING OPEN SKATING

Community Events

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

Calendar of Events

March 5	Kelly Weaver – Accordion player Isanti Community Center*	May 3	Nature Detectives Club for 4-7yr olds Isanti Community Center 9-10:30am Register/Info 763-444-5512
March 10	Blood Pressure Chk & AARP Info Isanti Community Center*	May 3	Isanti City Wide Garage Sale, Contact Hannah 763-444-5083 to get on the map
March 12	Rick Olseen – Congressman Nolan Info Isanti Community Center*	May 5	Flushing Water Mains Begins
March 12	VFW Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm	May 7	Joan Lassen – Gluten free cooking demo Isanti Community Center*
March 15	"Burst Into Spring" Master Gardener Event, Cambridge AFRCC 8am-3pm	May 11	Tribute to Moms Race BMX Track, free to spectators Call 763-444-5429 for details
March 16	Lions Pancake Breakfast 8-noon Isanti Community Center	May 12	Blood Pressure Screening Isanti Community Center*
March 19	Katherine McShee- Twinkle Toes Isanti Community Center*	May 14	Jim Rostberg – Veteran Admin Service Officer Isanti Community Center*
March 24	Collett Coucci – Family Pathways Senior Offering Information Isanti Community Center*	May 17	Bluebird 5K & Kids Run Contact Info 763-444-8515
March 26	Lisa Krahn- 7 County Sr. Federation Medical Session, Book Sale Isanti Community Center*	May 18	Lions Pancake Breakfast 8-noon Isanti Community Center
March 29	Spring Fling "80s Blast from the Past" Spectacular Events – 6pm Tickets/Info 763-444-8515	May 21	Angie Senger- Guitar & Singer Isanti Community Center*
April 5	Nature Detectives Club for 4-7yr olds Isanti Community Center 9-10:30am Register/Info 763-444-5512	May 26	VFW Memorial Ceremony & Program Union Cemetery Tribute to Veterans Race BMX Track, free to spectators Call 763-444-5429 for details
April 9	FREE Health Screenings by Cambridge Medical Center, Isanti Community Center 3-6pm, Info- Darcy @ 763-688-6024	May 27	Natlee Miller – Middle School Chorus, Book Sale, Isanti Community Center*
April 9	Dave McKeen, Guitar & Harmonica player Isanti Community Center*	May 30	Isanti Family Farmers Market Begins Fridays 2:30-6:30pm
April 12	Isanti Area Community Expo Intermediate School 10am-3pm	June TBD	VFW Bike Rodeo, Isanti VFW Call 763-444-9787 for details
April 12	Ladies Auxiliary Children's Easter Egg Hunt- Isanti VFW Call 763-444-9787 for details	June TBD	Take a Kid Fishing Day @ Martin's Landing
April 13	Lions Pancake Breakfast 8-noon Isanti Community Center	June 7	Nature Detectives Club for 4-7yr olds Isanti Community Center 9-10:30am Register/Info 763-444-5512
April 14	Blood Pressure Screening Isanti Community Center*	June 17	Tribute to Dads Race BMX Track, free to spectators Call 763-444-5429 for details
April 22	East Central MN Job Fair, 12:30-4:30 pm AFRCC Cambridge Comm Ctr	June 21	FREE Downtown Isanti Street 7-11pm Dance – Chris Brooks (Country)
April 23	Tony Jambor – Accordion player Isanti Community Center*	June 21	Family Program "Lands to Legacy" At Legacy Park 9-10am Register/Info 763-444-5512
April 26	City Wide Clean Up Day 8 am-12 pm		
April 30	Book Sale, Isanti Community Center*		
May 1	Redbirds Baseball Starts Check schedule on website		

*For more info on senior activities at the Isanti Community Center, contact Edie Frison 763-689-5992

Isanti Ambassadors



The Isanti Ambassadors are ready for spring! Pictured are Emma, Kaitlin, and Kellie the 2013 Isanti Ambassadors who have had a busy exciting winter. From holiday festivities to the Saint Paul Winter Carnival the young women have been up to it all. Spreading cheer and knowledge about the community of Isanti, Kellie, Kaitlin, and Emma report having "a blast". Soon however, the ambassadors reign will come to an end. The ladies are in search of candidates for the next great representative of Isanti. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteerism, are 17-20, and want to know more about the Isanti community, please contact isantiambassador@yahoo.com or check out Isanti Ambassador Program on Facebook.

Community Events

Friends of the Isanti Area Library



Our Friends of the Isanti Area Library group helped to establish and continues to support the Isanti Library Link Site, which is located in City Hall. The Librarian is there to serve you on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. with books, movies, and audio books. Ask her about Children's Story Time and other special events planned for this season.

You are welcome to request items by phone or on the East Central Regional Library website (www.ecrl.lib.mn.us), then pick them up here in Isanti. Checking out movies and DVDs for three weeks from the library makes it easy to catch up on past seasons of your favorite TV show, or have entertain-

ment on hand without that last-minute return rush.

The Friends of the Isanti Area Library greatly appreciate volunteers to help with events, and we are actively seeking new members. Interested adults are always welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings. Contact Susi McCune for more information: Susi@IsantiLibrary.org or 763-444-4585.

Isanti Redbirds Preparing for 2014 Season



The Isanti Redbirds are already preparing for the up-coming 2014 season. The 'Birds will again be in the Metro Minny League. The Metro Minny is made up of teams from: Anoka, Big Lake, Blaine, Champlin, Coon Rapids, East Bethel, Elk River, Forest Lake, Hamel, St. Francis and Ramsey (a new team this year). The 'Birds will again be playing about 40 games this summer. Usually games are on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Game times are typically 7:30 p.m. on weekdays. Times vary on the weekend. Plan on coming out to enjoy a game or two this summer!

A couple of the older Redbird players have recently retired, thus opening a couple of potential roster spots. If you have played high school and/or college baseball in the past and are interested in trying out for the 'Birds, contact coach Steve Allen at 763-689-4055 or sallen958@gmail.com.

Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Spring Fling

Come join the Isanti Area Chamber as we celebrate the 80s - Blast from the Past. Pull out those legwarmers and parachute pants, tease your hair and get ready to enjoy a wonderful night of good food, fun games and prizes! There will be a silent auction with "one of a kind" items, raffle games and a dessert auction. We are looking forward to seeing many of our local residents, business owners and their employees. Please join us March 29, 2014 at Spectacular Events, east of Highway 65, just off Heritage Blvd. Social hour will start at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. For more information, please call or email the Chamber office at 763-444-8515 or admin@isantichamber.com



Street Dances

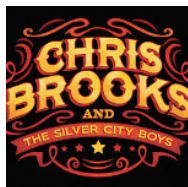
The City is excited to announce this summer's Downtown Street Dance dates! And guess what? They're FREE to the public! Last year's Street Dances had over 1500 in attendance who gathered for the two events. This year there has been a third performance added to bring in more genres of music. Come on out to socialize, meet new neighbors and get your groove on! Vendors will have food and beverages available for purchase. The band kicks-off at 7pm and plays until 11pm with minimal breaks. The Street Dances will be held on Main Street near the Creamery. In the case of inclement weather, the Street Dances will be held at the Rodeo Grounds. Be sure to mark your calendar!

June 21st – Chris Brooks and the Silver City Boys (Country)

July 19th – Boogie Wonderland (70's Dance Band)

August 16th – Rock It Science (80's All Genres)

Check out the Isanti Events and Community Center Facebook page for updates!



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 are held year round. Located at 208-1/2 First Avenue NW, next to City Hall. Our rates are very reasonable. For information and reservations call the Community Events and Parks Coordinator at 763-444-5512.

Isanti Expo

Mark your calendars for the Isanti Area Community Expo on Saturday, April 12, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Isanti Intermediate School. Come see the great products and services our local businesses have to offer! The Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce will be giving away 2 \$100 prizes with a GRAND PRIZE of \$500! Vendors will also be giving away door prizes at every booth! Check out what's new and meet the people who run businesses in your town. Concessions will also be available. (Vendors may register through March 25 – contact the chamber for more information, 763-444-8515, admin@isantichamber.com).



Isanti City Wide Garage Sale

Isanti City Wide Garage Sale: Saturday, May 3, 2014. Contact Hannah Christenson (763) 444-5083. Please get on the City Wide Map.



Minnesota

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)