

WINTER 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 if 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.

A lot of changes are occurring in Isanti this year, which are giving us the opportunity to increase the services we provide as well as increase our operational efficiency. Within this article, I will be discussing the 2012 City Audit results, Community Center operations, Parks, Recreation and Culture Board activities, WAC/SAC deferral program, the budget, and utility billing.

The 2012 City Audit Report shows once again that we are performing far above our peer group of cities on all measures of efficiency and financial management. As our nation is coming out of the Great Recession, Isanti has improved and increased City services and efficiency. We are judged against a peer group of cities which range in size from 2,500 to 10,000 in population; while our current population is at 5,369. The ratios are on a per capita basis, to ensure an "apples to apples" comparison. Our peer group of cities spends 36% more on administrative costs, a whopping 60% more on parks and recreation, and 65% more on public works than Isanti. We deliver a lot of services for the amount of money we spend. A number that I am particularly proud of is the net debt ratios and long term improvements in this area. Isanti's net debt per resident before I became Mayor was over \$2,500. We have reduced this through my Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to \$630, which is 60% lower than our peer group of cities. The removal of the debt chain from around our neck gives us financial freedom. The LTFP has also allowed us to nearly double our cash on hand. These cash reserves are being used to help fund the budget until 2018, filling the gap between lower property tax revenue due to lower valuations. In essence, we can maintain all of our services without raising taxes during these tough economic times. I believe strongly through good operational and fiscal management, we will continue to be an example of how local government should function.

We have taken over operations of the Community Center, which enables the City to cut costs while fully booking the facility. In the few months we have been operating under the new arrangement, the operational deficit has shrunk by over 60% going into 2014. We continue to work to improve this situation by developing programs for the facility and booking paying events to cover operational costs. We also received a generous gift to help with the other financial issue the Community Center faces, which is capital improvement needs. The Ruby Johnson Estate donated \$120,000 to the City Council to be spent at its discretion on improvements to the Community Center. This incredible donation will allow us to make needed improvements to the facility. Along with the operational changes, this will allow us to keep this important Community Asset in operation for Generations to come.

We are working to create a number of low cost or free, educational, and fun activities for the Community. These activities range from a movie night each week at the Community Center to a Nature Detective Club to historical activities celebrating our rich heritage. We will be presenting these at a future Council meeting for final approval.

Our SAC/WAC deferral program has been a huge success. SAC/WAC are development fees (roughly \$7,500 for a single family home) paid by new residential, commercial, or industrial projects. We were originally asked to waive or dramatically reduce these fees to get new construction started. I felt this was not acceptable because I believe development should pay for itself. If development is not paid for; those cost are then transferred to existing property owners. Low development fees were in place before I became Mayor, which led to significant City debt. The solution I negotiated was to defer the payment up to 120 days. This allows construction to move forward and the fees to be paid in full before the project is completed. The builder lowers their upfront cost and the City is made whole. A prime user of this program is J. Robinson Construction, who in a letter to the Council said the homes he built (8 in total this year) and sold would not have been possible without the program. Truly a "win-win" for everyone concerned.

Our City Budget is once again on track with the LTFP. We will be spending less in 2014 than the budget that was put together in 2006 before I became Mayor. Inflationary cost over the past 7 years is making this more difficult but we will continue to make every dollar go as far as possible. We continue to increase the services in our City while addressing the ever more onerous State mandates. As space is limited in this article, I will address those mandates in the 2014 Spring Isantian.

Lastly the process of taking utility billing "in-house" has been completed. This cost saving measure enables the City to better serve our residents and businesses. Two added benefits we provide with the "in-house" billing is a payment drop box at City Hall and the ability to accept credit cards for all City bills and fees.

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



# City Offices & Staff Directory

## City Council Members

<b>Mayor</b>	George A. Wimmer	Cell 763-442-8749	e-mail: george@georgewimmer.com
<b>Council Member</b>	Dan Collison	Phone 763-444-4298	e-mail: djcollison@msn.com
<b>Council Member</b>	Steve Lundeen	Phone 612-203-8957	e-mail: sdlundeen@yahoo.com
<b>Council Member</b>	Sue Larson	Phone 763-286-9964	e-mail: larson2854@aol.com
<b>Council Member</b>	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 (position vacant) .....

### Public Works

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

### Police Department

Police Chief Ron Sager ..... ChiefSager@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:

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.

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**Elim Baptist Church**  
PO Box 96, 114 Dahlin Ave. NE, Isanti, MN 55040  
763-444-9221  
www.elimisanti.org  
Ryan O'Leary, Senior Pastor  
Worship Time: 9:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided)  
**OUR PURPOSE:**  
Elim exists to know and love God and to help others know and love Him.

**Isanti County Equipment**



763-444-8873 **JOHN DEERE**

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### JOSLIN & MOORE LAW OFFICES, PA

Clark A. Joslin • Patrick B. Moore • Heidi A. Swisher

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- Wrongful Death
- All Types of Personal Injury

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#### BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

#### FAMILY LAW

#### WILLS & ESTATES

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## Community Development

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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 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.

### Building Department

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

#### Home Safety Tip

Today's builders construct our homes tighter than ever before, in an attempt to be healthier and more energy efficient. This type of construction closes our homes up to the "fresh" outside air and has led to changes in the requirements in the building code. Mechanical ventilation became a requirement in April of 2000 to help bring in "fresh air" and help houses breathe. If your home is equipped with mechanical ventilation please make sure it is turned on, operating correctly, and all the filters have been either cleaned or replaced. Most units have internal filters as well as a screen on the intake port located on the exterior of the home.

Even if the home you live in was constructed prior to the year 2000, a combustion air supply is now required when certain alterations occur. Installation of attic insulation, wall insulation in more than 50 percent of the area of exterior above grade walls, insulation in at least 50% of rim joist spaces, siding replacement of greater than 50%, or replacement of more than 50% of the total number of windows and doors combined are alterations that will trigger installation of the combustion air supply.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

#### Permits

The total number of permits (residential plus commercial) can be seen in the following matrix. There have been 12 new home permits issued thus far in 2013 and most of the homes are sold. This compares to 4 in 2012 and 1 in 2011. One new commercial building was constructed and nine were remodeled or had additions.

Year	# of Permits	Commercial	New Homes	Value
2008	258	3	6	\$8,412,064
2009	274	0	3	\$1,227,615
2010	243	0	12	\$2,363,212
2011	322	2	1	\$3,124,785
2012	268	6	4	\$1,911,643
2013	262	10	12	\$2,638,592

#### Residential Rental Properties

Since May of 2008, the City of Isanti has implemented a Residential Rental Licensing program. Today, we have 554 rental units in the city of which 182 are single family homes. If you are renting and are unsure if the owner has a license, please call my office and I'll check on it for you. If you own a residential rental property and are operating without a license please contact my office ASAP so an inspection can be scheduled and application for a Rental License can be processed. Operation of a rental unit without a license can be prosecuted as a misdemeanor.

#### Foreclosures Status

Since starting to track in December of 2009, the November 20th, 2013 statistics show that 470 homes have gone through the foreclosure process and have been resold. Our statistics also show 22 homes remain unoccupied. That compares to 387 and 37 in September of 2012. One of the reasons we try to monitor this segment of the housing market is to track the vacant homes during the cold seasons. Identification of these properties gives the City an opportunity to turn the water supply off to the homes as soon as possible upon being vacated in an effort to prevent water damage from frozen water pipes. As the weather gets colder, time becomes extremely important. So if you are going to be vacating your home soon or you're aware of a recently vacated home in your neighborhood, it would be greatly appreciated if you would call my office and let me know.

**Have A Very Special and Safe Holiday Season!**  
**City of Isanti Building Official-Rick Sames**

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## Community Development

### SAC and WAC Deferral Development Incentive Program

Success of the Isanti SAC and WAC Deferral Incentive Program looks to have a bright future in Isanti. This new program has led to significant investment in our city. Twelve new single family housing permits have been pulled in 2013 and nine of these projects have utilized the new deferral program. This more than doubles last year's amount of new housing starts!!! The program allows developers to finance SAC and WAC charges (at 0 percent interest) for Commercial or Residential development at the time of permit for up to 120 days. To date, Developers have temporarily deferred nearly \$70,000 in charges to help their projects cash flow and to help Isanti grow. The City Council is expected to consider extension of this great opportunity for 2014 in December of 2013. If extended, the program would be available for all eligible projects that pull permits in 2014. To learn more about this development incentive please contact Economic Development Director Sullivan.

### Public/Private Business Partnerships Build Community

On November 6th, the City of Isanti facilitated a business meeting at Creamery Crossing in Isanti. The purpose of this meeting was to get public and private sector businesses together to discuss issues that are important to them and the success of their businesses. Twenty interested parties were in attendance for some great dialogue over coffee and a delicious breakfast. In 2013, the City of Isanti led the charge to bring back the "Isanti Family Farmer's Market" and Street Dances to help draw commerce to the City and to build community. Thank you to those who attended and enjoyed these wonderful afternoon and evening events in Isanti. The focus of the meeting held on November 6th was to discuss how area businesses could use these events to help increase business and how the City could structure events to get more business participation. Future meetings will continue to work on building good public/private sector relationships that benefit all. Isanti has played host to many prestigious events including, but not limited to: Rodeo/Jubilee, Minnesota State Soccer Cup, BMX Nationals and will certainly look to add more great activities for residents in 2014 and into the future. The next business meeting will be in February of 2014. If you are interested in attending please contact Economic Development Director Sullivan.

### Isanti Industrial Sites "Minnesota Shovel Ready Certified"

The City of Isanti completed the "Minnesota Shovel Ready" certification process for vacant industrial sites in Isanti Centennial Complex Industrial Park. 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 now that the economy has improved. The past year has seen an increase in industrial activity within the City industrial park.

Cylinder Head Express and X-Caliper Engineering both utilized the City Revolving Loan Fund to help with acquisitions of their business headquarters. Isanti is positioned well to attract expanding businesses. The City of Isanti has Minnesota Shovel Ready Certified sites 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 and new infrastructure Isanti boasts over neighboring cities. The City has a number of economic development tools in place, in addition to the revolving loan fund, 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](mailto:ssullivan@cityofisanti.us) or 763.807.4339.



### 2014 Street Dances and Farmer's Market Confirmed

The Farmer's Market and Street Dances are back for 2014. The City Council approved the 2014 budget that includes a Farmer's Market (Spring-early Fall) and multiple street dances. In order to help both of these events improve on the successes of 2013, Staff is already working hard on identifying vendors for the Isanti Family Farmer's Market held at Eagle Park and selecting popular bands for the whole family to enjoy. Stay tuned because the bands and dates for the 2014 street dances will be announced soon. If you are interested in being a vendor, or volunteering at the Isanti Area Family Farmer's Market, please contact Community Events and Parks Coordinator Josi Wood at 763.444.5512 or [isantiparks@cityofisanti.us](mailto:isantiparks@cityofisanti.us). There is also a website dedicated exclusively to the Isanti Family Farmer's Market that is located at <http://isantifamilyfarmersmarket.org/> where you can find updated information on the vendors and sponsors associated with the market or you can find us on Facebook. Last year the farmer's market was open on Fridays from 2:30-6:30 p.m.



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FDIC



## Public Works/Engineering/Fire Department/Police Department

### 2013-Railroad Avenue & Walk Improvements

The 2013-Railroad Avenue & Walk Improvements project is substantially complete.

Railroad Avenue SE and South Passage SE are complete and open to the public. A 10-foot bituminous trail was also constructed along these roadways to complete the trail system through this area.

A 5-foot wide concrete walk has been installed along Heritage Boulevard NE from Elim Lane NE to Credit Union Drive NE to complete the walkway along the south side of Heritage Boulevard from Highway 65 to Whiskey Road NW. Access to the Isanti Retail Center is open and has returned to the one-way in, one-way out traffic flow layout.

A bituminous overlay has been completed on Penny Lane SE from Main Street SE to Broadway Street SE to extend the life of the existing roadway pavement.

The project area has been stabilized and dormant seeded. This means the grass seed will not germinate and begin to grow until next spring. Until the grass is fully established, the silt fence and inlet protection will need to remain in place.

The City of Isanti would like to thank residents for their patience through this process and hope they will take advantage of the new trails and sidewalks through the City.

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

### Isanti Police Department

Lieutenant Gene Hill • 763-444-4761

The Isanti Police Department concluded its 2013 schedule of ATV Safety training on October 26. We offered four class sessions throughout the year certifying over 90 area youth. 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 ATVs, you can stop at the office to pick up a DNR booklet with all the rules and regulations.

It has already started snowing and soon it will stay. Again we are reminding all citizens of the City's Winter Parking Ordinance. There is NO street parking after 1:00 a.m. starting November 1st, 2013. If you have any questions or concerns about the ordinance, please call the Police Department.

A reminder, 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.

The Isanti Police Department received another grant to conduct Safe & Sober enforcement 2013-2014. 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.

Lastly, since the cold weather is approaching many of us tend to warm up our vehicles by letting them idle. Often we see vehicles running while still parked in the garage. Many garages are attached to residences and the carbon monoxide that comes out of the exhaust could still enter the home even if the garage door is open fully. Carbon monoxide poisoning may occur after enough inhalation of carbon monoxide (CO). Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas, but, being colorless, odorless, tasteless, and initially non-irritating, it is very difficult for people to detect. Carbon monoxide is a product of the incomplete combustion of organic matter due to insufficient oxygen supply to enable complete oxidation to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). It is often produced in domestic or industrial settings by older motor vehicles and other gasoline-powered tools, heaters, and cooking equipment. Exposures at 100 ppm or greater can be dangerous to human health.

Symptoms of mild acute poisoning include lightheadedness, confusion, headaches, vertigo, and flu-like effects; larger exposures can lead to significant toxicity of the central nervous system and heart, and even death. Carbon monoxide can also have severe effects on the fetus of a pregnant woman.



Isanti Police Department/MN DNR

## Youth Snowmobile Safety Certificate Course

Held at the Police Department  
CD Based Course Only

**Course Fee: \$10.00**

**February 8, 2014 - 8 to Noon OR 1-5 pm**

To obtain a CD, stop by the Police Department or call the MnDNR at (888) 646-6367, (651) 296-6157, or (800) 366-8917 or email your name and address to [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)





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# Public Works/Engineering/Fire Department/Police Department

## Isanti Fire Department

As of today, Isanti Fire has responded to 235 runs year to date in the City of Isanti while maintaining a 4 minute response time average. Of these calls, 75.3% were for emergency medical runs. These medical calls range from someone who is having a heart attack and needs CPR to someone that fell down and needs assistance getting to the hospital. Isanti County 911 dispatches our trained firefighters to rush to the scene in an attempt to save the life of these individuals. Sometimes we leave the scene smiling, knowing that we saved a life, knowing people will continue to celebrate life directly because of something we did. This is a very gratifying moment for any emergency responder. Sometimes we aren't as fortunate. A prerequisite to being on the department is to understand that we can only do so much. Be it at a medical, a fire or a crash on Highway 65, we can only do what we are trained to do, and sometimes that means someone isn't going home. Pretty humbling.

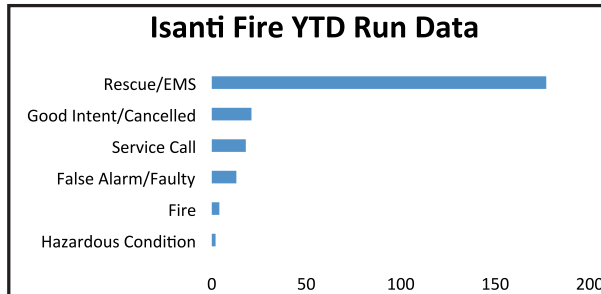
Winter heating season is among us. Those of you wood burners' remember to keep your chimney clean and only burn dry wood to ensure a clean chimney all heating season long. Another frequent issue this time of year is falls from ladders as people lean tall ladders up against gutters to rid downspouts plugged with leaves. If you are nervous about it, it's probably best to turn in an "I owe you" with a friend who is comfortable with it and you stay on the supervisor end of the ladder (on the ground).

I've heard several horror stories over the years in regards to buried fire hydrants. As you can imagine I'm sure, pulling up to a structure fire expecting a hydrant to be available within 1000', and having it "not be there", would be quite the surprise. Please help minimize those surprises by keeping the hydrants clear of trees, bushes, cars, and now snow as winter is right around the corner. Also a reminder, the start of the heating season is when we like to change out those smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries. Should you need our services; a fresh battery will ensure you have as much warning as possible with or without the power on.

Isanti Fire was invited to many area primary, intermediate, and middle schools this past October to teach the children about fire safety and prevention. If you live with one of these little people and have any questions about smoke alarms, residential fire pre-planning or the dangers of matches, lighters or the smoke that comes with them, your little one will be happy to share our training with you! It is always a good topic to keep fresh in their little minds even though we all hope they will never need it.

Lastly, as Thanksgiving quickly approaches us, please remember the guys and gals who are rushing from their beds in the middle of the night to help those in need. From the time the pagers go off to when they are walking through your front door, 4 minutes is no simple task. They are not doing it to be famous, and they certainly aren't doing it for financial gain, they are doing it as a way to give back to the community they live in. Thank you very much to everyone that came out and supported these humbling guys and gals at this year's Rodeo, they appreciate it very much.

Happy Thanksgiving from Isanti Fire.



## Water Shutoffs

Due to the upcoming 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 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. from November 1st through March 31st of every year. Parking is permitted on streets between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. 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 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Your cooperation will help make the snow removal process more efficient and effective.

\*\*\*\*\*

## If you dig a hole:

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

## Recreational Vehicle Parking Ordinance

Chapter 227, Article II of the Isanti City Code; establishes regulations for the parking and storage of recreational and other equipment within residential areas of the City.

The Ordinance 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](http://www.cityofisanti.us). If you have questions regarding the ordinance provisions, please contact Laura Leckband, Code Enforcement/Zoning Technician, at [codeandzoning@cityofisanti.us](mailto:codeandzoning@cityofisanti.us) or (763) 444-5512.

**Scotsman**

234 South Main Street, Cambridge  
763-689-1981  
[www.isanticountynews.com](http://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](http://www.strikefuneral.com)

## Administrative/Finance

### City Offices Closed

#### December 24

1/2 day Christmas Eve  
(Noon-4:30)

#### December 25

Christmas

#### January 1

New Year's Day

#### January 20

Birthday of Martin

Luther King Jr.

#### February 17

President's Day

\*\*\*\*\*

### Attention Dog Owners

Please be reminded that dog and kennel 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 license. A residential kennel license is \$50 per year. Please contact the Police Department to obtain information regarding a residential kennel license at (763) 444-4761.



### Snow Removal

It is the homeowner's responsibility to clear sidewalks abutting or serving their property that are not on a designated school route. City Code §284-14 states that "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: [www.cityofisanti.us](http://www.cityofisanti.us).

If snow or ice is not removed, the City will remove the snow and ice and bill back to the owner or renter a fee of \$30 per incident for said removal as well as an additional \$25 non-compliance fee per incident.



### Carbon Monoxide Prevention/Safety

**It is common for there to be a spike in home deaths during the winter season due to fires and CO gas poisoning. Below are tips on prevention and the State Fire Code requirements.**

Carbon monoxide poisoning occurs after enough inhalation of carbon monoxide (CO). Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and initially non-irritating, toxic gas. Carbon monoxide is a product of incomplete combustion of organic matter. The most common sources of carbon monoxide in homes are automobiles, gas cooking stoves, gas furnaces, and water heaters, as well as gas or wood fire places. It is NOT required, but a great pro-active idea is to never let your automobile idle in the garage and install a carbon monoxide detector in the areas of all other possible sources. It is important to keep your CO detector up to date with working batteries, and to also be aware of CO poisoning and its symptoms. Below are symptoms of CO gas poisoning and State Fire Code Requirements for carbon monoxide alarms:

Symptoms of CO gas poisoning include: headache, dizziness and other flu-like symptoms.

Carbon Monoxide Detector Requirements: Every single family dwelling and every dwelling unit in a multifamily dwelling must have an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within ten feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes. Carbon monoxide detectors can be either electrical or battery powered.

Effective dates:

January 1 2007-all new single and multiple dwellings

August 1, 2008- all preexisting single family homes

August 1, 2009-all existing multi-dwellings

Always install the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors according to the manufacturers' installation instructions. It is recommended that you test your detectors monthly and change the batteries twice a year. An easy way to remember is to change your batteries when you change your clocks ahead or behind.

### Fire Prevention/Safety

Remember throughout the holiday season to keep flammable objects at least three feet away from indoor heat sources such as space heaters and fireplaces, to check your home's smoke alarms and to make sure the models and batteries are up to date. Below are the State Fire Code requirements for smoke alarms:

Smoke Alarm Requirements: Every Minnesota home shall have at least one smoke alarm on each habitable level.

- Smoke alarms installed prior to March 31, 2003: Smoke alarms must be installed in hallways or areas that provide access to each separate sleeping area.

- Smoke alarms installed on or after March 31, 2003: A smoke alarm must be installed in each sleeping room in addition to a point centrally located in the corridor or area providing access to each separate sleeping area. Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed in a single family home, the smoke alarms must be interconnected so that the activation of one alarm will activate all the alarms in the home.

- For all smoke alarms installed prior to July 10, 2007: If any residential structure had code compliant smoke alarms installed prior to the current fire code adoption, then those smoke alarms are still permitted.

- For all smoke alarms installed on or after July 10, 2007: Any residential structure installing smoke alarms after this date must install the smoke alarms in all sleeping rooms, in all hallways leading to the exit and on each floor.

- In homes constructed prior to August 1, 1989: Smoke alarms may be battery powered only.

- In homes constructed on or after August 1, 1989: Smoke alarms must receive their power from the home's permanent primary wiring without a disconnecting switch and be equipped with a battery backup.

- Smoke detector location and spacing must follow manufacturer's instructions.



## Community Events

### Isanti Ambassadors

The 2014 Isanti Ambassadors Emma, Kaitlin, and Kellie have been busy representing the Isanti community this fall. The scholarship program the ladies are participating in focuses on poise, self-confidence, and community service. The Ambassador Program has made it a goal to participate in more community events this year and the three ladies have been doing so with grace and elegance. They have participated in many benefits for various organizations including Batten's Disease research, Down's Syndrome research and Cancer research. They have also volunteered their time at Prairie



Senior Cottages as well as various school and city events. The Ambassadors state that their favorite part of giving back is seeing the joy it brings to others. Whether it's a smile on a little one's face from "meeting a real princess" or the simplicity of a task completed, they enjoy giving back to our community. If you are in need of the Ambassadors' services please email [isantiambassador@yahoo.com](mailto:isantiambassador@yahoo.com) and be sure to keep up with them on Facebook!

### Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce

The Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce wishes all residents and businesses a Happy Holiday Season. The Chamber reminds you to support your community by Shopping Local. Our "Home for the Holidays" event highlighted businesses in Isanti the weekend of November 9th and 10th. When you shop independent businesses, 89 cents of every dollar returns to the community; while only 39 cents of every dollar spent at a chain store returns to the community. Many people came out on Saturday and Sunday to Kick-Off the Holiday Season!

The Bridal Fair at Spirit River Community Center had a wonderful turnout! We had 25 Brides come through, talk to vendors, and look at all they had to offer. The hour long Runway show by Cynthia's Bridal shop from Rush City was excellent! She had many designs and prices from which to choose.

The Chamber and volunteers invite you to attend Santa Day on December 7th at Harvest Christian Church. We will start at 9 a.m. and go until noon. Activities will include pictures with Santa as well as making crafts and decorations for the Town Tree which will be decorated later that day at 2:00 p.m. The Town Tree will be located on the west side of the Isanti Chamber of Commerce building. The Isanti Ambassadors will also be there to lend a hand. This event is free to the public!

The Snowmobile and ATV Parade will be held on New Year's Day. After the parade, enjoy a chili feed at the Isanti Community Center. Trophies will be handed out after the parade.

Be sure to watch your local newspapers for these spring events:

- 2014 Community Business Expo from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Isanti Intermediate School, Saturday, April 12th, 2014.
- Spring Fling 2014 – Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce Dinner and Fundraiser at Spirit River Community Center catered by Spectacular Events on Saturday, March 29th.

# SHOP LOCALLY

## FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### 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](http://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](http://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	Picnic Shelter	Swings	Horseshoes
Picnic Tables	Trails	Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Softball Field	Volleyball Court	
Toddler Equipment	Hockey Rink	Playground Equipment	

### Friends of the Isanti Area Library

Our group helped to establish and continues to support our Isanti Library Link Site, which is located in City Hall. The Librarian is there to serve you on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with books, movies, and audio books. Children's Story Time will continue this winter, just ask the Librarian for a schedule.

You are welcome to request items by phone or the East Central Regional Library website 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.

The Friends of the Isanti Area Library group greatly appreciates volunteers to help with events, and we are actively seeking new members. Interested adults are always welcome to attend our monthly Board meeting. Contact Susi McCune at [Susi@IsantiLibrary.org](mailto:Susi@IsantiLibrary.org) for more information.



### 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 208½ First Avenue NW, next to City Hall, our rates are very reasonable. For information and reservations contact Josi Wood, Community Events and Parks Coordinator at 763-444-5512.

The Community Center Task Force has been successfully raising awareness and money to support keeping our Community Center open. We are on track and about half-way to our goal for capital improvements thanks to our Sponsors and a generous bequest from the Ruby Johnson Estate received by Sue Larson on behalf of the Community Center.

You can help! Sponsorship opportunities are available starting at only \$50 and volunteers are always welcome. Call Josi Wood for more information at 763-444-5512.



### Students Visit Legacy Park

On a beautiful October day this fall students from School For All Seasons and Minnesota Center visited Legacy Park in Isanti to learn more about the park and to learn more about the area near the Rum River. Students from the Minnesota Center helped teach the younger students from School For All Seasons about the types of trees, rocks, soil, and plants that grow near the river and in the park. Students walked the trails and learned a great deal during their time at the park. City of Isanti staff and Mayor Wimmer welcomed them to the park and provided them with guidance and support to make their park visit a memorable experience. Mrs. Strand from Minnesota Center and Mrs. Gotfredson from School For All Seasons, along with other staff members helped coordinate and make the trip a success!

### Isanti Redbird Baseball

Another baseball season has come and gone, memories were built and great baseball was played. The Redbirds want to thank everyone who supports the team, from our dedicated volunteers to our fans who come out to cheer on the team.

The Redbirds had another very successful season, finishing with an overall record of 24 wins and 13 losses. The 'Birds finished in second place in the very tough Metro Minny League and qualified for the State Tournament preliminary Super Section Tournament that was held in Moorhead. Jake Maros lead the team in hitting with a .415 average and also had 8 home runs and 44 RBI's. Wyatt Soderquist hit .366 and had 15 stolen bases. Adam West and Dallas Nelson lead the 'Birds pitching staff with each pitcher getting 6 wins during the season. Adam pitched 86 innings during the summer and Dallas pitched 85 innings. Cole Bakke also picked up 5 wins pitching in his first season for the 'Birds.

The mission of the Redbird is to support baseball in our community. The team's hard work off the field this season made it possible to make donations to both the Cambridge Isanti Competitive Baseball League and the Braham Area Community for Kids organization.

Grab you lawn chair and come out to a game. Admission is free. See you at the game!

### Safety Upgrades Coming to Isanti Schools

As a result of the successful passage of the Cambridge-Isanti School District Bond Referendum, many upgrades and improvements are being made to the schools in Isanti. The Isanti Intermediate, Primary and Middle schools are all getting more secure entrances to their schools to help keep our students and staff safe. Each school is also getting things like improved parking lots to promote automobile safety during drop off and pick up of students.

## Community Events



### Open Skating at the Civic Arena

Check the website for current  
dates and hours:  
[www.isantiarena.org](http://www.isantiarena.org)



## Calendar of Events

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

#### LADIES AUXILIARY & MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIES PUP TENT #99 KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

12:00 p.m. (Noon) – 2:00 p.m. at the VFW. Food, refreshments and treat bags will be provided. A Special Drawing for prizes will be held at 1 p.m. You do not need to be present to win! Call (763) 444-9787 for more details.



### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

Isanti Civic Arena from 8:00 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. This is a free family event. Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

#### ANNUAL ATV/SNOWMOBILE PARADE

Isanti's annual New Year's Day Parade is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. with the line up at the Isanti Middle School at 2:30 p.m. The parade route will be determined by the Isanti Police Department. Chili will be served at the Isanti Community Center following the parade. Everyone is invited to come and join the fun – whether you are on a machine, watching the parade, or eating chili!!! The 2013 Isanti Ambassadors will be on hand to help present the awards. There is no entry fee and no need to pre-register. All ATVs and snowmobiles are welcome. Call (763) 444-8515 with questions.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 1 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 2 ANNUAL ARCTIC PLUNGE



Pre-registration begins on Friday. On Saturday, the event takes place on Long Lake beginning at 10:00 a.m. with the Arctic Plunge beginning at 2:00 p.m. Many events occur including Vintage Snowmobile Races, Englund Family Old Fashioned Ice Cutting Demonstration, Helicopter Rides, Food Concessions, and live entertainment. The event raises money for charities and organizations. To be a part of this event contact Warren at (763) 234-3068, via e-mail at [info@arcticplunge.com](mailto:info@arcticplunge.com); or visit the website at [www.arcticplunge.com](http://www.arcticplunge.com)

### OTHER EVENTS

- 2014 Community Business Expo – April 12th, 2014. Open to the Public! Check out what your local businesses have to offer! To be held at the Isanti Intermediate School from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interested Vendors please call 763-444-8515 or Tracy 763-444-8000 to reserve your spot.
- 2014 Spring Fling Chamber Dinner and Fundraiser – Saturday, March 29th. Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to our Dinner and Fundraiser at Spirit River Community Center, catered by Spectacular Events. Good food, Good People and lots of Fun!
- Isanti Senior Dining – Catholic Charities sponsors the noon meal. Reservations can be made by calling Edie Frison at (763) 689-5992 or the Isanti Community Center on Monday and Wednesday between 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at (763) 444-7539 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!

### 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](http://www.cityofisanti.us)

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### OPENING: Outdoor Ice Rink

Winter has arrived and so have the opportunities for outdoor winter sports activities. The City is beginning its preparations for the upcoming ice skating season. Both the pleasure rink and hockey rink are located in Bluebird Park. While the warming house will not be available this season for public use, the goal is to have ice available the weekend before Christmas. Weather permitting, of course. If the City is able to make ice prior to this date, it will do so. The pleasure rink is open to the public during regular park hours, which are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The youth hockey association is actively watching the weather to see if they can make ice this year. The youth hockey association will have exclusive use of the outdoor rink on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., November 1st through February 15th as well as exclusive use of the warming house being provided by the association. The public is permitted to use the hockey rink only, outside of these reserved times.







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](mailto:isanti@cityofisanti.us)

Website: [www.cityofisanti.us](http://www.cityofisanti.us)



*Isanti City Flower: Rudbeckia*



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Bradley DeWolf, P.E.  
City of Isanti City Engineer  
612-756-1032 (cell)