

FALL 2023

THE ISANTIAN

Official Newsletter of the City of Isanti



Letter from the Mayor

BY JIMMY GORDON

Well, the summer just seemed to fly by this year. The street dances were well attended, and we had great weather for all the performances. Jubilee Days was a blast. Thanks to the Chamber for all the work they do in putting that celebration together. The Isanti Firefighters Rodeo had record attendance numbers. Isanti was the place to be this summer.



With school back in full swing, the weather getting cooler, and the days getting shorter my mind turns to archery season. If you're looking to hone your skills the archery range is open from 7AM till 10PM every day. It's also a great time of year to walk through the nature trails in Legacy Park or River Bluff Preserve. If you're looking to do some fall cleanup around the yard the compost site is open extended hours at the end of October.

We had plenty of work being done throughout the city this summer with the largest and most important project being the water tower refurbishment. Pavement management was completed in the neighborhood off of 6th Ave SW and South Passage. The roof at Isanti Indoor Arena and City Hall will both be replaced soon due to hail damage from last summer. Due to the historic drought conditions and the rapid pace of new construction water use was pushing our limit set by the DNR. We decided to look into adding a 4th well house to our water infrastructure, as it may be needed sooner than had previously been expected.

As we settle back into our routines after that busy summer now is a great time to start attending council meetings. It's huge to have residents in the chambers giving the council feedback on issues that are important to them. Budget meetings have started already, but things really start to heat up as the year comes to a close. If you're unable to attend in person, the meetings are streamed live on Facebook and are archived on YouTube a couple of days later. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

If you ever have any questions or suggestions for me call or text my cell number anytime (763) 587-5633 or send me an email at jimmy.gordon20@yahoo.com.

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City Offices & Staff Directory

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Jimmy Gordon
Council Member Dan Collison
Council Member George Hemen
Council Member Steve Lundeen
Council Member Luke Merrill

763-587-5633
763-444-4298
612-701-7293
612-203-8957
763-516-5082

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CITY STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

City Administrator
Human Resources Director
City Clerk

Josi Wood
Katie Grotte
Jaden Strand

jwood@cityofisanti.us
kgrotte@cityofisanti.us
jstrand@cityofisanti.us

PUBLIC SERVICES

Public Services Director

Matt Sylvester

msylvester@cityofisanti.us

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief

Travis Muyres

tmuyres@cityofisanti.us

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director

Stephanie Hillesheim

shillesheim@cityofisanti.us

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE

Liquor Store Manager

Keith Lusk

klusk@cityofisanti.us

FINANCE

Finance Director

Mike Betker

mbetker@cityofisanti.us

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator

Jordan Clementson

isantiparks@cityofisanti.us

City Hall

110 1st Ave NW

PO Box 428

Isanti, MN 55040

763-444-5512

Isanti@cityofisanti.us

www.cityofisanti.us

City Hall Hours:

Monday thru Friday

8:00am-4:30pm

City Hall will be closed for
the observance of the
following holidays:

Oct 9 - Columbus Day

Nov 10 - Veterans Day

(observed)

Nov 23 & 24 - Thanksgiving



@CityofIsanti

Police

401 1st Ave N

Isanti, MN 55040

Non Emergency

763-444-4671

Emergency

911

After Hours

763-689-2141



@IsantiPD

Public Works

763-444-0459

Municipal Liquor Store

10 6th Ave SE

Isanti, MN 55040

763-444-5063



@IsantiMunicipalLiquor

**PEAK-TIME
REBATE**



**We will pay YOU for
reducing energy**

PEAK-TIME REBATE OVERVIEW

Help us save energy on days when it's most expensive.
We will pay you \$1 for each kilowatt-hour of energy
you save when compared to your normal usage.

- You choose to participate in any or all of the
peak-time events.
- The more you do, the more you save.

Sign-up now at connexusenergy.com.



Community Development

BY STEPHANIE HILLESHEIM- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Do you have some old paint, oil, or gas laying around your garage? Did you know you can safely dispose of it by bringing it to a household hazardous waste facility? Proper disposal ensures that we are doing our part in preventing illicit discharges into our groundwater and storm water system. Isanti County contracts this service with Chisago County.

Isanti County Residents can use the Chisago County HHW facility in North Branch, once per year free of charge. To do this, a voucher needs to be obtained and approved by Isanti County Zoning Office. Scan the QR code to download the voucher form and send completed form to erica.wilson@co.isanti.mn.us

Chisago County Household Hazardous Waste
39649 Grand Avenue
North Branch, MN 55056
651-213-8920



Mondays Noon-7:00pm
Last Saturday of the Month: 9:00am-1:00pm

Note: Hazardous waste that was generated by a business will not be accepted! For loads larger than a full pickup truck, please make an appointment, 651-213-8920.

Household Hazardous Waste Program

ITEMS ACCEPTED

Max size 5 gal. **Don't mix products!**

Automotive/Petroleum Products:
Antifreeze, brake fluid, charcoal lighter fluid, gasoline, kerosene, oil & oil filters, power steering & transmission fluid, cleaners, etc...

Home Improvement Products:
Adhesive, driveway sealer, paints, paint stripper and thinner, roofing tar, rust remover, solvent, stain, varnish, wood preservative, aerosols ...

Batteries - Sort into:

- * Rechargeable Ni-Cd & Ni-MH
- * Button
- * Lithium (must clear-tape the ends)
- * Sealed Lead Acid <11 lbs. (must tape terminals)

* NO VEHICLE BATTERIES!

Household Cleaners:

Cleaning products, drain cleaner, metal polish, oven cleaner, spot remover, bleach, ammonia...

Lawn & Garden Chemicals:

Fertilizer with weed killer, flea killer, herbicides, mothballs, pesticides...

Miscellaneous items:

Acids/bases, ammunition, cell phones, fire extinguishers, LED & fluorescent bulbs, inkjet cartridges, holiday lights, mercury, PCB ballasts, pool chemicals, propane cylinders <20#...

Sharps:

Self-serve. Drop in red bin at HHWF.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Disposal options:

Appliances, Electronics, Tires & Mattresses:

- AAA Recycling (651) 238-0226
- ECSWC, Cambridge (763) 689-4056
- Evergreen, Rush City (320) 358-3988
- REW, Harris (651) 304-7512
- Steel Chick (651) 269-6412

Alkaline Batteries (& Zinc Carbon):

Dispose of in trash.

Vehicle Batteries:

Automotive, marine, motorcycle, lawn tractor, etc., RETURN for free to any MN business that sells them.

Construction/Remodeling Debris:

Call your local garbage hauler or DKV Demolition Landfill at (320) 358-4911.

Trash/Empty Containers:

Throw in your trash: alkaline batteries, empty containers, fertilizer **without** weed killer, empty dried out paint cans with lids removed, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors...

Pharmaceutical Drop Boxes:

Sheriff's Offices: Center City & Rush City; Police Departments: North Branch, Wyoming & Lindstrom.

Building Permits

The City of Isanti is now contracting with Rum River Consultants as the Designated Building Official. For questions regarding building permits and inspections please contact them with the following information.

Andy Schreder
Chief Building Official
Rum River Consultants
23306 Cree St NW - Suite 103
St Francis, MN 55070

andy@rumrivercc.com
Office/Scheduling 763-331-7722
Cell 763-291-3704
www.rumrivercc.com

Permits should still be applied for online via the City of Isanti website at www.cityofisanti.us

- For portal and payment or Planning and Zoning related questions or concerns please contact Stephanie Hillesheim at 763-762-5761





Police Department

BY TRAVIS MUYRES - POLICE CHIEF

As summer comes to a close the children of our community make their transition back to school. While we embrace the annual return to school, please be aware and alert of the school safety zones around all three schools in Isanti. The speed limit is reduced around the school zone during specified times.

School days bring congestion. School buses are picking up their passengers, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, hurried parents are trying to drop their kids off before work. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present, especially before and after school.



- Slow down and drive extra cautiously.
- Don't load or unload children across the street from the school.
- Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles.
- When flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection.
- Be prepared for kids to appear in unexpected places, like from between parked cars; if they're on bikes, prepare for them to turn in front of you without looking or signaling.

Stop for School Buses: It's the Law!

- State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the crossing arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine.

Tips to Avoid Distracted Driving

Cell phones: turn off cell phones, or place them out of reach to avoid the urge to dial or answer. If a passenger is present, ask them to handle calls/texts.

Music and other controls: pre-program favorite radio stations for easy access and arrange music (mp3 player/CDs/tapes) in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and heat/AC before traveling, or ask a passenger to assist.

Navigation: designate a passenger to serve as a co-pilot to help with directions. If driving alone, map out destinations in advance, and pull over to study a map.

Eating and drinking: try to avoid food/beverage, at least messy foods, and be sure food and drinks are secured.

Children: teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle; do not underestimate how distracting it can be to tend to children while driving.

Passengers: speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior. When making/receiving a call, ask if the person is driving. If so, ask them to call back at a safer time.

Cell phone use is totally banned for school bus drivers.

Cell phone use is totally banned for teen drivers during their permit and provisional license stages.





Isanti Fire District Update

BY AL JANKOVICH - FIRE CHIEF

Fall is fire prevention season, and time for you to consider joining our team! Did you know you are eligible to join your Isanti Fire Department if you:

- Are 18 years old, or older
- Male or Female
- Have zero training or experience as a firefighter or first responder
- Plan on living in Isanti for the foreseeable future
- Are active, appreciate a challenge and being a part of a team and helping the community
- Are interested in earning spending money and a sizable pension after serving full term

Check us out! We train all our firefighters at no cost to them and, our application process has no strings attached. We have a website, isantifiredistrict.org, we are on Facebook, email, call or stop by the fire station at your convenience to chat! Our hiring process starts by filling out an application which is available on our website or printed and waiting at the fire station.



A sincere thank you to everyone that supported the Isanti Firefighters 47th Annual Pro Rodeo and the Jubilee Days this July. The firefighters could not have done it without many great sponsors, volunteers, and overall community support. A special appreciation to all City Staff, Police Department, Public Works and Chamber of Commerce for the work you all put in to make the weekend so remarkable.

Don't forget to pin your calendars for the 48th Annual Pro Rodeo on July 12-13, 2024!

Alan Jankovich | Fire Chief
Isanti Fire District
aljankovich@isantifiredistrict.org



If any people you know may be interested in joining our team, we would love to hear from them.

mnfirehire.com is a great resource to learn about becoming a paid-on-call firefighter and will connect you with us or whichever fire department is in your/their area. If you follow the link and look close you may recognize the fire engine in the background of the opening video, its ours!

-Chief Jankovich





Public Works

BY MATT SYLVESTER - PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR

As summer starts to slip away and the leaves begin to turn, the Public Works Department is beginning to prepare equipment for winter and snow events. Here are a few friendly reminders of some things that you can do to help with a snow event.

Parking Regulations - Parking is prohibited on public streets, November 1 - March 31 from 1:00 am - 8:00 am. Parking is permitted 6:00 am - 8:00 am so long as street is plowed curb to curb.

Snow Plowing - The City will plow all storms over 2". Snowfalls less than 2" may be removed depending on road conditions. A typical plow start time is 3:00 a.m. but may start during the day or evening as conditions warrant. During a heavy snow event, the priority will be made to keep snow emergency routes open. Plowing snow onto roads Minnesota State Statute (169.42) prohibits relocating snow and ice from private property (including driveways and parking lots) to a roadway, sidewalk, or adjacent property.

Snow Plowing Cul-de-sacs - During snow events, the snowplow may complete a portion of the cul-de-sac during its first initial pass. The major portion of the cul-de-sac will be plowed as the snow has stopped. Specialized equipment may be brought in for further cleaning. An effort will be made to distribute the snow as evenly as possible.

Garbage Receptacles - Garbage or recycling receptacles are not to be kept in the street or beyond the concrete curbing. They are also not to be kept on the sidewalk. The city is not responsible for damage to cans or cleanup of waste. The garbage or recycling truck will be able to reach your can if left at the end of the driveway.

Fire Hydrants - The City does clear an area around fire hydrants but only in Industrial Park Areas. Residents do not have to clear an area around fire hydrants but it is recommended in the case of a fire.

Mailboxes - It shall be the responsibility of the City to plow to the curb for traffic flow and mail delivery. It is the property owner's responsibility to keep piled snow away from mailboxes for mail delivery. If damage has been done to a mailbox, it will be investigated by the Public Services Director. If it is determined that the weight of the snow did damage to the mailbox, the resident will assume responsibility for repairs to the mailbox. If the plow physically struck the mailbox, it will be repaired or replaced not to exceed \$100.00.

Boulevard Damage - The City will repair physical damage to boulevard areas. Typical repairs will be with dirt and seed. Boulevard repairs are generally made in the spring as the snow recedes. The city will not repair winter kill or lawns damaged by salt. The city will not repair or replace sprinkler or irrigation systems, landscaping, or other structures in the right-of-way areas.

In closing the Public Works Department will do their best to make the roads as safe as possible throughout the winter season. If you're a new resident or have lived here for some time I hope this article helps you understand the plowing process, responsibility, and some things that residents can do to help.

Water Meter Replacement Notice

The City of Isanti is replacing water meters. The City has contracted with Keystone Utility Systems to replace your water meter at no cost to you.

Please schedule an appointment promptly by contacting Keystone Utility Systems. Convenient times are available that include evening and weekend hours.

Phone (toll free): 877-587-2279
Email: OFFICE@KEYSTONEUTILITIES.COM
Web: www.keystoneutilities.com/schedule



Compost Site
Public Works Garage
100 Isanti Pkwy NW

Currently accepting grass clippings, leaves, and brush under 3 inches in diameter!

April 15-November 5
Tuesdays & Thursdays
1-7pm

Saturdays 12-5pm
Select Sundays 12-5pm*
*October 22, 29 & November 5

Parks and Recreation

BY JORDAN CLEMENTSON - PARKS, RECREATION & EVENTS COORDINATOR



COMMUNITY CENTER

The City of Isanti strives to offer the facility for reasonable fees

Private Reservation Rates

Special Events
50+ ppl, full-day
\$295.28 inc. tax

Private Event <50 ppl
Full-day - \$107.38 inc. tax
Half-day - \$53.69 inc. tax

Non-Profit Event < 50 ppl
Full-day - \$50 + tax
Half-day - \$25 + tax

Visit CityofIsanti.us for an application.

NORTH 65 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon & Employee of the Year Award

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Nominations will open in October for the North 65 Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Year Award. Details at www.north65chamber.com

North 65 Chamber Meetings
Monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at noon.

Features lunch, presentation, networking and business promotional opportunities. Just one of many benefits of chamber membership. Not a member yet? Attend a meeting as a guest to learn more about our active and growing chamber. Details at www.north65chamber.com

Contact: info@north65chamber.com with questions



Community Programs

The Friends of the Isanti Area Library is a nonprofit group (IsantiLibrary.org) that helped to establish and continues to promote our Isanti Library Outreach Site, doing our part to guarantee access to high-quality educational resources for everyone. Located inside Isanti City Hall, the Outreach Library offers books, movies, audiobooks, and e-books on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check with the Librarian about special events, too.



Did you know you are welcome to request items by phone or on the East Central Regional Library website (ecrlib.org) to pick up here in Isanti? Checking out DVDs for three weeks makes it easy to catch up on past seasons of your favorite TV show, or have entertainment on hand at no cost to you.

Our Annual Used Book Sale is October 13-14. Last year our community donated more than 5,000 items! We are seeking volunteers to help with this huge sale (get “first pick” of books!).

In addition to this main fundraiser, our Friends accept and actively “recycle” donated items back into our community and promote literacy all year long. Our Give & Take boxes and bookshelves are strategically placed around town—give a few books or take some to read. Let us know if you would like to sponsor one at your home or business.

Yes, we’re always accepting donations! Please remember us when you’re cleaning, downsizing, or moving. We appreciate your tax-deductible donations of gently used books, DVDs, audiobooks, and of course, money. We especially need children’s, westerns, and large-print books. Cookbooks and picture books are popular, too. (But please, no Encyclopedias or X-rated items). All proceeds and donations are used for projects promoting the Isanti Outreach Library and encouraging literacy and learning in our community. Books for sale at the Library Outreach Site and the Used Book Sale are still a great deal at only 25¢ each.

Help us spread the fun! We greatly need and value volunteer help at various community events and from home, and we are actively seeking new members. Interested adults are always welcome to attend our monthly planning sessions. Contact Susi McCune for more information or to arrange a donation drop-off: Susi@IsantiLibrary.org, or 612-345-0311.



Isanti Lions...Going strong in Our Community for 49 years!

The Isanti Lions Thank You for your past support and look forward to serving our community into the future. All the profits from our events goes back to help the community.

Our club is preparing for Kid Sight vision testing in our schools. Our biggest project, Christmas is soon approaching where we provide food and gifts for kids and families in need in our county. Volunteers and donations are always welcomed on this project.

Our motto is simple, “WE SERVE.” Lions are part of a global service network, doing whatever is necessary to help our local community.

We could do more if we had more of you to help! Contact Lion Lorenz 763-670-7637, Lion Joe 612-790-9529, or Lion Dwayne 651-706-4235 to learn about becoming a Lion.

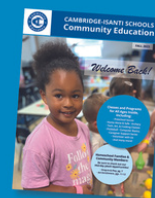
It's Fall already!

We have many opportunities for you and your family members of all ages!

Have you seen:

- Our preschool classes?
- Our Fall Family Events - Spooky Swim, Open Swim, and the Halloween Bash?
- Our newest Adult Enrichment & Recreation courses?
- Our ECFE Classes for parents and grandparents?
- Our Adult Basic Education courses?

Register today at c-ischools.ce.elevo.com.



For more information visit our website at c-ischools.org/community-ed, follow us on Facebook, or call us at 763-689-6189.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!