

SUMMER 2023

# THE ISANTIAN

Official Newsletter of the City of Isanti



## Letter from the Mayor

BY JIMMY GORDON

Well it's mosquito season and the weather is fine! In my short time as mayor I've never had so many calls on a single topic as I did when the mosquitoes first started swarming our children this spring. Public Works has begun spraying for the season and I can assure you they are using chemicals that are safe but highly effective against mosquitoes.



**Council Update:** We've been working hard at the City Council to serve your interests. We've started taking brush at the compost site. We've expanded property rights by allowing for more secondary structures. These structures can be much larger than they previously could be and we now allow secondary dwelling units like mother in law apartments or guest houses. We've protected our small town values by pulling out of the Green Step City Program due to their new commitment to social equity policies that have nothing to do with being green. We're also putting extra planning and work into reaching our goal of a significantly reduced tax rate.

**Out & About:** There's a ton of things to do around town this summer. We have the City of Isanti Street Dances coming up, Rum River Rods Car Show, Jubilee Days and the Isanti Firefighters Rodeo. Isanti Fire District is also putting on a Hairball Concert in August. Rum River BMX always has something fun going on for the entire family and the Isanti Redbirds' season is off to a great start!

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](mailto:jimmy.gordon20@yahoo.com).

## This Issue:

City Offices & Staff Directory  
PAGE 02

Community Development  
PAGE 03

Police Department  
PAGE 04

Fire District  
PAGE 05

Public Works  
PAGE 06

Parks & Recreation  
PAGE 07 & 08

Community Programs & Events  
PAGE 09 & 10



## 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

jimmy.gordon20@yahoo.com  
djcollison@gmail.com  
georgehemen@mail.com  
sdlundeen@yahoo.com  
merri392@hotmail.com

### 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  
Building Official  
Permit Technician

Stephanie Hillesheim  
Matt Small  
Candy Conrad

shillesheim@cityofisanti.us  
buildingofficial@cityofisanti.us  
permits@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:

June 19 - Juneteenth  
July 4 - Independence Day  
Sept 4 - Labor Day

 @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**



**CONNEXUS  
ENERGY**

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](http://connexusenergy.com) to  
maximize your summer savings.**



## Community Development

BY STEPHANIE HILLESHEIM- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

### Stormwater Ponds

Along the city streets, you can see the City of Isanti's stormwater system in the form of catch basins. These function as a way to discharge rainfall from the street, ensuring proper drainage and filtration which eventually goes to the Rum River. Stormwater Ponds, located all over the city, act in a similar way. These ponds exist as a way to naturally drain and filter water that falls on impervious surfaces, such as driveways, rooftops, and patios. Water that falls on city structures and on development sites can collect pollutants like fertilizer, oil, sediment, and litter from ordinary human activity. Thus, it's vitally important to the health of our watershed and our city's water to keep our stormwater ponds as clean and healthy as possible. Uncontrolled stormwater runoff can cause flooding, water quality issues, loss of wildlife habitat and causes increased erosion.



Here are some tips to keep these stormwater ponds clean and healthy:

- Keep litter, yard waste and pet waste out of drainage ditches and storm drains.
- Pesticides and fertilizers need to be used and disposed of properly. Fertilizers should never be broadcast over streets or sidewalks.
- Properly dispose of oil and antifreeze.
- Never hose chemicals off on impermeable surfaces.
- Reduce erosion from your property by planting plants and grasses over exposed areas.
- Allow natural plants to grow up around your pond to help filter runoff water.

Thank you for keeping the City of Isanti an environmentally friendly place to live!

## Economic Development

We are excited for the following businesses to open new locations in 2023!

**Rockstad and Co. Relics and Wares**  
**Dairy Queen Grill and Chill**  
**American First CDL Academy Truck Driving School**  
**Unlimited Welding**  
**Midco**

For more information regarding Isanti businesses please visit our website Business Directory at:

[cityofisanti.us/business-directory](http://cityofisanti.us/business-directory)

If you want your Isanti business to be added to the directory please email Stephanie Hillesheim, Community Development Director at [shillesheim@cityofisanti.us](mailto:shillesheim@cityofisanti.us)

## Congratulations

### Isanti businesses!

#### 30 Years

Isanti Rental  
Johnson's Decorating  
SHR Sales  
United Parcel Service

#### 20 Years

Isanti Physical Therapy

#### 10 Years

Chanticleer Pizza  
Classical Homeopathy  
Cylinder Head Express  
NHH Building and Restoration  
Vixen Defense

#### 5 Years

Best Western Plus  
Cellular Clinic LLC  
CMK Financial Services  
Granny May's  
Help Your Shelves  
Hydraulic Cylinders  
Joseph Otto Enterprises  
Kwik Trip  
Liberty Title  
LJ Level  
Max Tech Inc.  
New Hope Community Church  
The Old Chrysler Garage

Local Isanti businesses will be recognized at the 16th annual Mayor's Luncheon on July 26th, 2023





## Police Department

BY TRAVIS MUYRES - POLICE CHIEF

### Water Safety

Within the City there are rivers, ponds, ditches and private pools. According to the National Safety Council 74% of drowning incidents are children younger than 15. Parents need to be diligent in supervising their children as they enjoy outdoor activities.

- Never leave your child alone; if you have to leave, take your child with you.
- Find age-appropriate swim lessons for your child, but keep in mind that lessons do not make your child "drown-proof".
- Lifeguards are not babysitters; always keep your eyes on your child.
- Never consume alcohol when operating a boat, and always make sure everyone is wearing U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- Don't underestimate the power of water; even rivers and lakes can have undertows.
- Always have a first aid kit and emergency contacts handy.
- Get training in CPR.
- If a child is missing, check the water first.

Every pool, every lake and every warm summer day holds the possibility of new, fun summer experiences. All you need to add is your undivided attention.

Please enjoy all of your outdoor activities. Remember to always be thinking about safety!!

## Peddlers Permit

With warmer weather and storm season ahead of us, reports of solicitors and peddlers going door-to-door often increases. In accordance with City code, all for-profit sales of products and services in Isanti require a license from the City. Only licensed peddlers and solicitors will have a license and photo ID badge issued by the City.

**Solicitor/Peddler:** A license is needed if you plan to go door-to-door selling products or services, or taking future orders within the City.

**Transient Merchant:** A license is needed if you are planning on selling products from a temporary location within the City, such as in the parking lot of a retail business.

Every resident has the right to prohibit peddlers and solicitors from their property. If you post a sign on your home or business that prohibits solicitors, they are not permitted to approach your property. If a peddler approaches you, you also have the right to request their City-issued ID badge. If they cannot supply their badge or state they are licensed by the State of Minnesota, you have the right to call 763-689-2141 as a non-emergency to report an unlicensed solicitor in the neighborhood.

You may also view the list of licensed peddlers at [CityofIsanti.us](http://CityofIsanti.us)







# Isanti Fire District Update

BY AL JANKOVICH - FIRE CHIEF

Campfire season is here!

Many of us have heard a story about a campfire going out of control. The big fires in the forests up north, out west, in Canada- and not uncommonly in Isanti.

A statistic posted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources states that 98% of wildland fires in 2019 were because of people. To dive a little deeper, our reports show that four out of ten wildfires are caused by debris fires burning out of control. Statistics like this guide our policy making to help protect us from 1) people and 2) burning debris. Minnesota State Statue 88.17 is adopted by City of Isanti code 119-2 which lists several conditions to allow open burning in the City limits. Out of control fires cause hardship to many people, guilty or not, which is always our goal to minimize.

A few frequently asked questions:

Can I have a campfire (in the City of Isanti)? Yes, without permit, a recreational/campfire is allowed in the City. Keep in mind the definition of a campfire is three feet square (or round) with flames no higher than three feet tall. A proper campfire is used for cooking, heating or ceremonial purposes and per the definition shall not create an air quality nuisance, health or safety hazard. A few other tips, natural vegetative material which is not painted or treated is permitted to be burned, garbage is strictly prohibited, and no recreational fires shall be allowed within 25 feet of a structure.

Can I burn a pile of brush? In certain circumstances, yes. The procedure to burn a pile of brush begins by contacting the fire station and acquiring a permit. Permits in the City of Isanti are only issued by the Isanti Fire District or Fire Agency, per city code 119-4.

My neighbor's campfire is sending smoke into my windows, and it is a nuisance to me- is this allowed? No. Recreation fires which create an air quality nuisance, health or safety hazard are not permitted. If this occurs and it is not an immediate emergency, we encourage the use of our non-emergency dispatch center to report the situation (763) 689-2141. Are there any precautions I should take before I have a campfire? Yes, great question. A means to extinguish a fire if it did get out of control is a great tool to have staged before you light the campfire, these can include a garden hose, a bucket of water, rake, shovel and/or a fire extinguisher. The removal of combustible materials from five feet around the base of the fire is also necessary.

Is a recreational fire allowed to be unattended? Absolutely not. A responsible adult must be present at a recreational fire at all times. When we are done with our campfire, it must be extinguished and cold to the touch at all depths.

Please don't hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions related to campfires, or the fire department in general at (763) 444-8019.



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

## Mosquitoes

Its that time of year and the mosquitoes have been in full force this spring. Just a small amount of standing water can breed thousands of mosquitoes in just a few days. Even something as small as a bottle cap filled with water can hatch thousands of mosquitoes in a single season. Any water that has pooled in buckets, gutters or ditches are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Pet bowls and bird baths should be refreshed every few days. Public Works has been fogging as needed beginning at dusk. It generally takes about three hours to complete and they will treat the whole town each time they go out. Weather conditions need to be ideal in order to be able to apply. Wind conditions need to be less than 10 mph and when applying the fog solution, the operator needs to drive less than 10 mph as-well. The fogging solution will only kill the adult mosquitoes, it does not stop the mosquitoes from further hatching.



Some interesting facts about mosquitoes and some things to consider:

- Only the female mosquito bites.
- They are terrible flyers. A simple fan can help keep them away. They fly at roughly 1-1.5 mph.
- Put down cedar mulch. Cedar oil is a common mosquito repellent.
- Mosquitoes are attracted to us by our Carbon Dioxide.
- They live less than 2 months but have been around dating back to the Triassic Period.
- There are over 3,000 different species of mosquitoes around the world.
- Mosquitoes are among the world's deadliest creatures because of the diseases they are known to spread.
- Consider a bird feeder as many birds are natural predators to mosquitoes including purple martins, swallows, and migrating songbirds to name a few.

## Lawn Irrigation Notice Per City Code 325-17

Property Addresses that end with an odd number may be sprinkled, watered or irrigated only on odd-numbered days, and property addresses that end with an even number may be sprinkled, watered or irrigated only on even-numbered days. No lawn sprinkling, watering nor irrigation is allowed from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm each day.

The water tower currently is currently undergoing an improvement project. Due to this project the water tower is being bypassed and the City's water system is running on pressure based well pump speeds. Normally the city's water pressure is around 60 psi. During the bypass the pressure can fluctuate greatly depending on demand.

At this time it is critical to conserve water usage to prevent water pressure loss. Thank you for your cooperation!

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



### Online Registration Coming Soon!

The City of Isanti will soon be rolling out an online registration/reservation system. We are excited to offer an online option that will allow residents to make park shelter or Community Center reservations. A web calendar will show availability for each facility, eliminating the need to call City Hall.

Through this system you will also be able to purchase your tickets for Illuminate Isanti, reserve a plot at the Community Garden, or register as a food or merchant vendor for one of our many events!

### Questions?

Contact Isanti, Parks, Recreation & Events at 763-762-5754 or [IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us](mailto:IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us)



# Family Summer Entertainment Series!

Fun for the whole family! ~ Bluebird Amphitheater ~ Food Trucks ~ 5-7PM



Magician Matt Dunn  
June 13th

Teddy Bear Band  
June 27th

Tricia & The Toonies  
July 11th

Wendy's Wiggle Jiggle Jam  
July 25th

Mixed Nuts  
August 8th

The Jolly Pops  
August 29th





## Parks and Recreation

BY JORDAN CLEMENTSON - PARKS, RECREATION & EVENTS COORDINATOR

This summer is shaping up to be a fun one! Our Family Summer Entertainment Series is expanding in it's second summer at the Bluebird Amphitheater. In addition to the main performance each event we have worked with other local groups to enhance the experience.

The East Central Regional Library will be out to do a "Story Strolls" on August 29th. Ashley Messer from Creative Studio 23 will be coming to provide acrylic paint and clay projects on June 27, July 11 and August 8th. The art projects will be free for the first 40 kids in attendance.

Climb Theatre will also be on hand for a performance on July 25th compliments of Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ISANTI  
**STREET DANCE SERIES**  
**AMP IT UP**  
@ Bluebird  
AMPHITHEATER  
JUNE 17  
7-11pm  
FREE & FUN FOR ALL AGES!  
FREE! • LIVE MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS • BEER WAGON

MINUTE MAJOR  
JULY 15  
GOOD FOR GARY  
AUGUST 12  
STONE DAISY  
SEPTEMBER 16  
DOWNTOWN ISANTI  
**STREET DANCE**  
Main Street & 1st Ave  
7-11pm  
FREE & FUN FOR ALL AGES!  
FREE! • LIVE MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS • BEER WAGON



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](http://CityofIsanti.us) for an application.

**Summer is here!**  
.....  
We still have space in several camps & programs including Rookie Rugby, Challenger Soccer Camp, Top Fuhol, and Middle School Hangout.  
Registration for Fall Preschool and Adventure Center is open. Registration for all other fall opportunities begins August 15. Fall brochure will be in homes mid-August.  
PFCT  
Pinnocchio Fall Theater  
Looking for fall theater options for your child? Join us for Pinnocchio starting September 11. Performance tickets also available for all community members.  
Registration and more information at [c-ischools.ce.eleyo.com](http://c-ischools.ce.eleyo.com) or contact us at 763-689-6189.



## Community Programs

The Friends of the Isanti Area Library is a nonprofit group ([IsantiLibrary.org](http://IsantiLibrary.org)) that helped to establish and continues to promote East Central Regional Library's 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 am to 3 pm. Check with the Librarian about special events, too.



Make sure to stop in this summer for books or media or even just to browse and get your Treat 'n' Treasures Mystery Bag! They are for both adults and kids and are available from 11 am to 1 pm. Bring your bag back each week and get a refill. It's our way of helping you have fun this season.

You are welcome to request items by phone or on the East Central Regional Library (ECRL) website ([ecrlib.org](http://ecrlib.org)) to pick up here in Isanti. And 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 without a last-minute return rush.

Mark your calendar for our Annual Used Book Sale October 14th and 15th—last year our community donated more than 5,000 items! In addition to our 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 from any of them and let us know if you would like to sponsor one at your home or business.

We're always taking donations! Please remember us when you're cleaning, downsizing, or moving. We gladly accept your tax-deductible donations of gently used books, DVDs, audiobooks, and of course, cash. We especially need children's, westerns, and large-print books. Cookbooks and picture books are popular, too. (But please, no Encyclopedias, X-rated, or VHS tapes). 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 annual sale are still a great deal at only 25¢ each, and other items are also available.

Help us spread the fun! We greatly need and appreciate volunteer help with various community events and are actively seeking new members. Some volunteer tasks may even be done from your home. 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](mailto:Susi@IsantiLibrary.org) or 612-345-0311.



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

The Isanti Lions Club is busy preparing for the upcoming events in Isanti. We will be selling beer at the street dances again this year. Rodeo and Jubilee days we will have free corn on the cob and turtle races. Watch for us in the parade handing out candy.

Our concessions will be open at the Rodeo when you're hungry or thirsty. The Isanti Lions Thank you for your past support and look forward to seeing you at the events. All the profits from these events goes back to help the community.

We could do more if we had more of you to help! Contact Lion Lorenz 763-670-7367, Lion Joe 612-790-9529, or Lion Dwayne 651-706-4235 to learn about becoming a Lion.







## Community Programs



The North 65 Chamber of Commerce and the Isanti Firefighters Rodeo Association proudly present the 2022 Isanti Rodeo & Jubilee Days festival, July 6-9. A wide variety of activities are held in partnership with many community organizations, including fireworks after the parade and a Splish Splash Summer Bash sponsored by the City of Isanti. The crowning of the 2023-24 Isanti Ambassadors wraps up the weekend.

Volunteers are needed to make this annual favorite a success! A variety of opportunities are available to fit your schedule and interests.

Be sure to register on the chamber website for the parade, business booths, Kids' Day, Outhouse Races and more.

For more information, contact the North 65 Chamber of Commerce at [www.north65chamber.com](http://www.north65chamber.com), 763-689-2505, [info@north65chamber.com](mailto:info@north65chamber.com) or follow the event on Facebook @IsantiRodeoJubileeDays.



## Golf Outing

Join us for an afternoon of networking and fun at the Annual Chamber Cup Golf Outing. Your participation supports the work and mission of the North 65 Chamber of Commerce. Registration is now open for teams and sponsors. Visit [www.north65chamber.com](http://www.north65chamber.com)

Monday, July 24, 2023  
Purple Hawk Country Club  
12:30pm shotgun start

## New Teacher Luncheon

The Cambridge-Isanti Rotary Club and North 65 Chamber of Commerce are pleased to partner in welcoming our new teachers at a luncheon to be held on Friday, August 25. Businesses and community organizations are encouraged to attend as well as support the event through teacher sponsorships and contributing items for the gift bags. More information available at [www.north65chamber.com](http://www.north65chamber.com).

## Scan to Become a Volunteer!

