



Ionia Downtown Development Authority

Newsletter

January 2022

Sidewalk Snow Removal

With the winter months upon us, please keep the sidewalk areas along your business storefront and exits clear of snow and ice. **All** entrances and exits must be clear of snow for easy access. When clearing your parking areas, please do not pile snow in front of the dumpster enclosures or any drive entrances / exits. Shoppers may avoid your business if an icy sidewalk restricts their safety.

Street Closure Requests

If you have an upcoming event or special activity that may require street closures, use of barricades or planned use of the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trail system, you must complete the proper application forms and receive prior approval. If you are planning a construction project that includes placing equipment, trailers or dumpsters in the downtown district, a permit must be submitted for the same. Each require a certificate of liability insurance. We also request all applications / permits be submitted 60 days in advance of the actual event or start of project. For more information, contact the DDA office at (616) 527-1420.

Welcome New Businesses to the DDA District

The DDA would like to welcome the following new businesses to the District. Kick off the new year with a visit to each. Many local businesses are owned and operated by friends, neighbors and in some cases, even family. To ensure a strong business district, we all need to remember to shop local!

Ionia Quick Lube 501 W Lincoln Avenue (616) 841-6008 9am to 6pm

NovaCare Rehabilitation & Physical Therapy 120 S Dexter (616) 527-0558

Grand Ionia Antiques & Estates 313 W Main (616) 523-6133

Thread White & Blue Boutique 313 W Main (616) 523-6133

Main Street Dance Academy 217 W Main Street

Riverbank Antiques 436 W Main (517) 526-4692

Brick Road Nutrition 432 W Main (616) 232-3950

Domino's Pizza 120 S Dexter (616) 755-6800

Whimsical Den 405 W Main



Ionia Downtown Development Authority



2021 Board of Directors

Mike Kirgis, Chairperson
John Krueger, Vice Chairperson
Margot Cook, Secretary
Tim Hemenway, Treasurer
Dave Cook
Cathy Hoppough
Paul Lentz
Mayor Daniel Balice, ex-officio

Contact Information

Director: Linda Curtis
Office: 203 W Main Street
(east of Ionia Theatre)
Mail: P.O. Box 496
Ionia, MI 48846
Phone: (616) 527-1420
Fax: (616) 527-0810
lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us
www.ci.ionia.mi.us

The DDA Board of Directors will be conducting their annual election of officers during the January 2022 meeting.



2022 Meeting Schedule

Regularly scheduled meetings of the DDA are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00AM at City Hall located at 114 North Kidd Street. The public is welcome to attend. COVID 19 guidelines will be maintained.

January 19

February 16

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15

DDA Committees

The DDA welcomes new members to their respective committees. If you have an interest in special events, promotion and marketing or business development, please contact us by calling 527-1420.



Upcoming Special Events

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 30th

Ionia Cruisin' Classic Car Show

Saturday, June 4th

Cow Pie Classic

Michigan Gravel Series Bike Race

Saturday, June 11th

Ionia Fireworks Display

Date to be announced soon!

Ionia Free Fair

July 15 - 23, 2022

Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival

Dates to be announced soon!



Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival

It is with great sadness that the Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival announces the passing of Mary Ellen St. Aubin at 101 years of age. She began her show business and movie career in 1933 at age 13 and continued star status throughout her life. Mary Ellen met and married the love of her life, Parnell St. Aubin in 1947. Parnell was the smallest actor on the set of the original movie "Wizard of Oz" playing the part of a Munchkin Soldier. Mary Ellen was our beloved Celebrity Guest each year, becoming a dear friend to so many. She and the Festival's Official Characters visited with guests from across the nation and made special visits to many sponsors of the annual event. We always treasure her beautiful smile, quick wit and kind heart.



Ionia Free Fair July 15-23, 2022

As we ring in the new year, the task of presenting one of Michigan's premier fairs is well underway. Behind the scenes, planning and programming is in full swing by the Board of Directors and staff members. Time honored activities and new events will fill the amazing 2022 schedule providing patrons with the best days of summer.

A new sponsorship program has been created to assist in covering the costs related to hosting the legendary Ionia Free Fair. As the sponsorship contact for the 2022 Fair, I would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the multi-tiered program and how we can provide you with added recognition for your business, organization or family. By beginning the process early, we can connect you with the opportunity to support the fair in a level that meets your budget needs while selecting an area that matches your target audience.

The Grandstand schedule will include Tractor Pulls, Demo Derby, SJO Motocross, Car Show, IPRA Rodeo, and more sure to please every member of your family. The Free Entertainment area will be host to tribute bands, Lumberjack Show, Dock Diving Dogs, children's events and so much more. Antique Village, Crafter's Lane, still and live exhibits, in addition to vendors galore will fill the midway and landmark buildings. The Grand Parade is always a favorite for participants and sponsors alike. If you have sponsored one of these areas in the past or have an interest in something new, please contact me for more information.

On behalf of the Ionia Free Fair Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support. To set an appointment to discuss the many options available, please call (616) 527-1420 or contact by email at lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us



Michigan Retailers Association Scholarship Program



The Michigan Retailers Association is again awarding 29 one year scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The program was established by the MRA Foundation to benefit children of owners or full-time employees of member-businesses, as well as students who are part-time employees.

- ◆ Dependent sons and daughters of owners or full-time employees who will have at least one year employment at a MRA member business as of January 1, 2022 (must have been employed by January 1, 2021);

OR

- ◆ Part-time employees who are full-time students and will have at least 6 months employment at an MRA member business as of January 1, 2022 (must have begun employment by July 1, 2021).

Students may apply online at Retailers.com under the Member Benefits tab. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2022. For more information, contact MRA's Rachel Schrauben at rschrauben@retailers.com or 800.366.3699 ext. 346.