



Ionia Downtown Development Authority Newsletter January 2023

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. Shoppers may avoid your business if an icy sidewalk restricts their safety. When clearing your parking areas, please do not pile snow in front of the dumpster enclosures or any drive entrances and / or exits.

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.

DDA Board of Directors Update

Paul Edds of Ventra - Ionia was welcomed to the DDA Board of Directors as a newly appointed member. Mr. Edds will represent the manufacturing sector of the District. Election of Officers was also held noting the following to serve during 2023:

Chairperson	Mike Kirgis
Vice Chairperson	John Krueger
Secretary	Margot Cook

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00AM within City Hall located at 114 North Kidd Street. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact the DDA office by calling 616) 527-1420 or by email at lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us



Ionia Downtown Development Authority



2023 Board of Directors

Mike Kirgis, Chairperson
John Krueger, Vice Chairperson
Margot Cook, Secretary
Precia Garland, City Manager
Dave Cook
Paul Edds
Paul Lentz
Ryan Wilson

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
lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us
www.ci.ionia.mi.us

If you have an interest in serving on the DDA Board of Directors, an application can be accessed on the City of Ionia website.



2023 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.

February 15

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20



Upcoming Special Events

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 29th

Ionia Cruisin' Classic Car Show

Saturday, June 3rd

Cow Pie Classic

Michigan Gravel Series Bike Race

To be announced

Ionia Fireworks Display

Thursday, June 29th with a rain date of Friday, July 7th

Ionia Free Fair

July 13 - 22, 2023

(Thursday, July 13th is a preview night opening at 5pm. Limited midway, concessions and exhibits).



Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards!

The Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Celebration & Awards on Saturday, January 14th at Shadow Ridge Golf Course & Banquet Center. Congratulations to the following:

Community Partner of the Year - Michigan One Community Credit Union

Small Business Achievement (Retail and Hospitality) - Wrecker's Sports

Small Business Achievement (Service) - Salon 6

Small Business Achievement (Skilled Trades) - Central Michigan Building Services

Emerging Business of the Year - Just Like Home Adult Day Care Center

Non-Profit of the Year - Habitat for Humanity of Ionia County

Citizen of the Year - Tom Millard

Ionia Free Fair July 13 - 22, 2023

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 2023 schedule providing patrons with the best days of summer.



A 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 2023 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, Championship Rodeo, and more sure to please every member of your family. Free entertainment and activities will include but not be limited to EPark tribute bands, children's activities, canine competitions, and more. Make sure to visit Antique Village, Crafters Lane, in addition to the live and still exhibits. Vendors galore will also return this year offering a wide array of wares. The Grand Parade is always a favorite for participants and sponsors alike. If you are interested in being a participant, please contact the Fair office by calling (616) 527-1310 for an application.

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

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

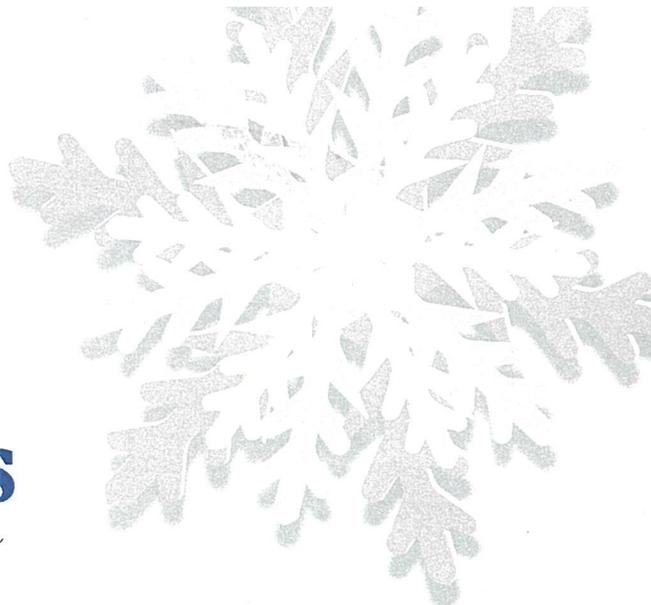
Do you have something to donate to our ReStore?

Nearly any building or remodeling material that's in good shape can be recycled through the ReStore, saving you dumping costs and providing a tax deduction as well. We accept the following:

- Appliances – large and small – in good working order and clean, 10 years old or less.
- Cabinets/counter-tops – in good condition.
- Carpet and area rugs – in new or good condition with no stains or odors.
- Doors – interior and exterior.
- Electrical – usable parts and supplies.
- Hardware – knobs, hinges, lock sets, boxed nuts & bolts, screws.
- Light fixtures/ceiling fans – complete and in good working order. We welcome antique lamps!
- Millwork/trim/architectural items.
- Plumbing – usable fixtures, parts and supplies.
- Sinks, Bathtubs, Toilets – new or gently used.
- Tools – hand, garden and working power tools.
- Windows – in good condition, double paned only.
- Furniture – tables, chairs, couches, office, bed frames, headboards/footboards

Call 616-841-9202 for a free donation pick up in Ionia County or drop items off during business hours. 113 S Depot, Ionia. Hours: Monday - Friday 10am to 4pm and Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

Create a Cozy Atmosphere & Take the Chill Off Your Winter Blues



We're all aware of what January in Michigan brings...it's dark, it's cold, snow falls, and not many people like to venture far from their fireplace hearth or heated blanket.

As store owners, you're winding down from the holiday craze. Hopefully, you can take a minute to breathe and relax. But I'm sure you're questioning:

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET SHOPPERS BACK IN MY STORE DURING MY SLOWER MONTHS?

The answer: Embrace the season, and the cold, snow, and darkness it brings.

NOW SERVING: HOT COCOA SATURDAY

Serve up a nice warm cup of hot cocoa to bring people in from the cold. If space allows, set-up a hot cocoa bar. Don't forget the mini-marshmallows, whipped topping, cinnamon, and nutmeg!

CLOSE SHOP: ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR HARD-WORKING EMPLOYEES

Avoid burn-out and close your doors to host a delayed holiday party. Take one night and have fun getting to know your staff, and their families, outside of your store.

HAVE SOME FUN: ANYTHING BUT A...

Let your shoppers be the creative ones for once and plan a day where your shoppers come in with "Anything but a _____." (Example: Anything but a purse.) Take photos of the creative items and post them to social media. Have your followers vote on their favorite and award a prize.

TIME TO CELEBRATE:

MICHIGAN TURNS 186 ON JAN. 26

Happy Birthday to the Great Lake State! Run promotions with all your Michigan-made or -themed items.

PIECE SOMETHING TOGETHER:

NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY

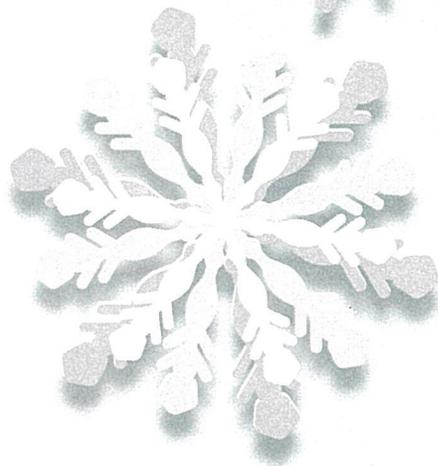
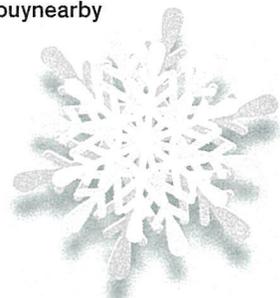
Jan. 29, 2023 is National Puzzle Day. Host a timed puzzle competition or set up a spare table to distract the kiddos while their parents shop.

INCENTIVIZE: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO BUY NEARBY

Keep your shoppers' resolution to shop local accountable all year long. For example, shoppers earn a punch in a punch card for 12 purchases throughout the year, or one punch per month.

We'd love to hear what other ideas you have to get shoppers in your store this winter. Email news@retailers.com or tag our Buy Nearby account on social media:

Facebook: @BuyNearbyMI
Twitter: @BuyNearbyMI
Instagram: @mibynearby



Lunch & Movie Matinee!

Join us for good food, camaraderie, and an ELVIS film:

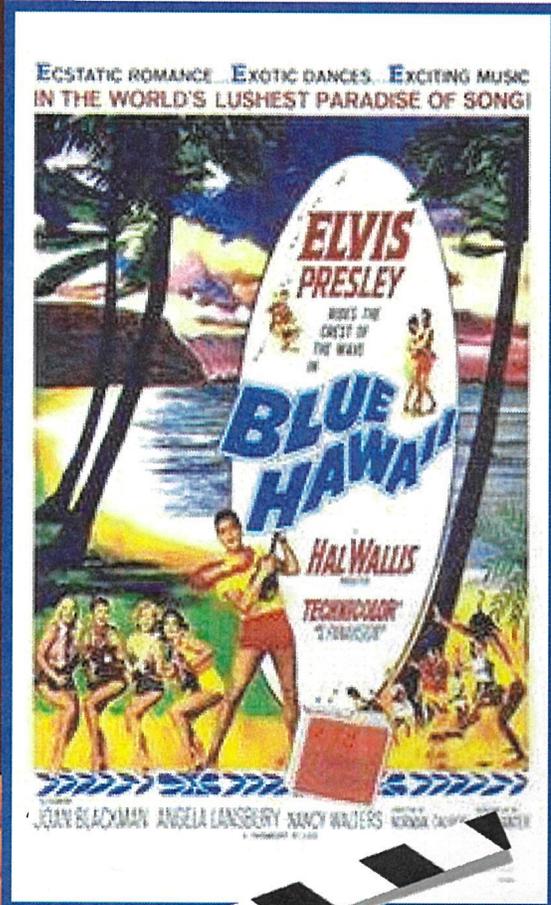
Thursday, Feb. 9

Come for lunch at 11:30am at the ICCOA and join us after for the 1961 musical romantic comedy/drama **"BLUE HAWAII"** movie (featuring ELVIS PRESLEY) at the historic IONIA THEATRE at 1:30PM.

ICCOA Senior Center: 115 Hudson St, IONIA MI 48846.

Please RSVP by NOON on the FRIDAY BEFORE for meal:

Call (616) 527-5365.



MOVIE LUNCHEON MENU:

Hawaiian Sweet & Sour Meatballs,
Rice Pilaf with Vegetables,
Oriental Blend Vegetables, Assorted
Dinner Rolls, Pineapple Dessert.



Suggested donation of \$3 for meal. Movie ticket is additional, to be purchased at Ionia Theatre box office, 205 W. Main St., IONIA MI 48846. Box office phone: (616) 527-3860.

Hosted by Ionia County Commission on Aging and the Ionia Theatre

