



Ionia Downtown Development Authority Newsletter

July 2022

Ionia Free Fair Continues Through July 23rd!

The Ionia Free Fair continues its fun filled schedule through Saturday, July 23rd. EPark concerts, evening Grandstand Shows, Arnold Amusements Midway, tasty concessions, Veterans Day, Ladies Day, 4-H / Open exhibits and competitions are in full swing. See the complete event calendar contained within this newsletter. Don't miss the 'Best Days of Summer'. Special thanks to the generous contributions by Fair sponsors, volunteers and staff.

A Vibrant Downtown and Its Connection To Reinvestment

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation has found communities that invest in their downtowns see growth in nearby areas, which stabilize the entire community.

On August 2nd, voters in the ICL District will be asked to approve 0.98 mills for 20 years to transform the former downtown Mercantile location into the new location for the Ionia Community Library. The 22,000 square foot former bank facility spans three buildings on Main Street and is four times larger than ICL's current location in the Hall-Fowler home. If the proposed millage is approved, it will create funding to repurpose a set of historic buildings that otherwise risk falling into chronic neglect in the heart of downtown. Questions may be emailed to c4icl2022@gmail.com or call the library at 616 527-3680.

Optimize Main Street Grant

Optimize Main Street is a pilot program to support place based businesses located in the Main Street Shopping District of a certified Redevelopment Ready Community by providing technology related assistance through grant funding. By expanding technology expertise and use of digital tools, participating businesses will aim to refine efficiency in business operations, improve connectivity to customers and / or increase sales. The Optimize Main Street program is implemented through a combination of one-on-one business coaching, a customized learning module, and up to \$2,500 in a technology grant. Grant applications are due by 4:00PM on August 18, 2022. Two applications will be submitted to MEDC for a final review and selection process. For a copy of the grant application eligibility requirements, contact the DDA office at lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us

2022

IONIA *free* FAIR

JULY 15 to JULY 23

DAILY EVENTS

Thursday, July 14

8 am - Kick Off Breakfast \$10

Friday, July 15

1 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

Saturday, July 16

11 am - Grand Opening Parade -Main St.

1 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

Sunday, July 17

1 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

Monday, July 18 - SENIOR/WELLNESS DAY

10:30 am - 2 pm - Seniors/Wellness Day

3 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

Tuesday, July 19 - KIDS DAY

1-4 pm Kids' Day! - E! Park

Bike Giveaway to follow

3 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

Wednesday, July 20 - COPS DAY

1 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

Thursday, July 21 - VETERANS DAY

10 am to 2 pm - Veterans Day Activities

1 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

Friday, July 22 - LADIES' DAY

10 am Ladies' Day Program

1 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

Saturday, July 23

1 pm to 11pm Arnold Amusements Midway Open

E! PARK SHOWS

THU. JULY 14 - 7PM Queen's Contest

FRI. JULY 15 - 8PM Gunnar & the Grizzly Boys

SAT. JULY 16 - 5PM-6:30 Edge of Sundown

SAT. JULY 16 - 7PM Four Horseman - Metallica Tribute Band

SUN. JULY 17 - 7PM Glad All Over Band

MON. JULY 18 - 7PM Parting Waters

TUE. JULY 19 - 7PM Flashback

WED. JULY 20 - 8:30 PM Tommy & the Rock Show-Journey

THU. JULY 21 - 7PM Center Stage Band

FRI. JULY 22 - 7PM Tribute Bands Erich Church & Chris Stapleton

SAT. JULY 23 - 5 to 7PM Dave Winters Band

SAT. JULY 23 - 8PM Mega 80's Band

MIDWAY ATTRACTIONS

North American Dock Diving Dogs

Arestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza

Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show

Antique Village

Marketplace

Photography Exhibits

BINGO
Everyday
3 to 9 pm

FARM EXHIBITS

Miracle of Life exhibit

Open daily in the Red Barn. An amazing educational experience for all ages.

Open Class and Still Exhibits

4-H, FFA and Open Class Competitions



Agri-Science Division- Showing and Judging

Small Animal Sale - July 20

Large Animal Sale - July 21

Cake & Pie Auction - July 18 7Pm

Gallon of Milk - July 19 6PM

GRAND STAND SHOWS

FRIDAY, JULY 15 - 7PM • Monster Truck Throw-down • PLUS Pit Party at 5PM

ATURDAY, JULY 16 - 7PM • Monster Truck Throw-down • PLUS Pit Party at 5PM

SUNDAY, JULY 17 - 6PM • Figure 8 Derby

MONDAY, JULY 18 - 7PM Night of Destruction Derby

TUESDAY, JULY 19 - 7PM • SJO Motocross

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20 - 4 to 7PM • Classic Car Show

FRIDAY, JULY 22 7PM • Championship Rodeo

SATURDAY, JULY 23 5PM • Thumb Tractor Pulls

PASSES

Super Fun Passes \$20 each when

Purchased before July 14, 2022.

After July 14, 2022 price increased to

\$30 each and must be purchased

on-site at the Arnold's Ticket Booths.

Mega Passes are \$150 each. Can be

purchased at the Ionia Free Fair

Administrative Office only

*Sales end July 14, 2022.

Parking Passes- \$30

The Best Days of Summer!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.ioniafreefair.com