



# **Ionia Downtown Development Authority**

## **Newsletter**

### **September 2022**

#### **First Thursday On The Bricks**

The Downtown September 1st Thursday on the Bricks kicks off at 5pm with arts and crafts vendors, sweet treats, seasonal décor and more. Businesses will also be open offering great specials and extended hours until 8pm.

#### **Ionia County's Got Musical Talent**

Ionia County's Got Musical Talent hosted by Heartbeat Music of Ionia is currently accepting applications. Vocalists and musician finalists will perform at the Ionia Chamber of Commerce Business Expo Block Party's Entertainment Stage on Saturday, September 17th. For more information, contact Heart Beat Music by calling (616) 841-6035 or email at [heartbeatmusic2020@yahoo.com](mailto:heartbeatmusic2020@yahoo.com). You are also welcome to stop by their 341 W Main location to register. Deadline to enter it September 1st, 2022.

#### **Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce's Expo Block Party**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 17th to stop by the Chamber's Expo Block Party in downtown Ionia. More than fifty vendors will be on site representing area healthcare services, home improvement, home based businesses, non-profit organizations just to name a few. Downtown businesses will be offering sidewalk sales and in house specials. Food trucks with great concessions sure to please every member of the family. The Entertainment Stage will showcase musicians, a style show and contests. For more information, visit the Chamber of Commerce website or FB site.

#### **Community Awareness Cruisin' for a Cause**

Don't miss the Cruise for a Cause event on Saturday, September 17th from 5pm to 9pm in downtown Ionia. A fee of \$10 will be collected from each driver to support the fighters, survivors and those taken by cancer. Every dollar raised stays in Ionia and goes directly to those facing the challenges of cancer. Registrations will be collected at the cruise start area located at South Steele and Adams Street parking lot.

#### **World's Largest Food Truck Rally Group Heads to Ionia**

The largest traveling food truck event will be hosting a special event at the Ionia Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 24th kicking off at 11am to 7pm. Up to fifty gourmet food trucks and non-food vendors will set up shop on the grounds. The Ionia event marks the sixth stop for the group in Michigan in 2022.

# Ionia Downtown Development Authority

## 2022 Board of Directors

Mike Kirgis, Chairperson  
John Krueger, Vice Chairperson  
Margot Cook, Secretary  
Tim Hemenway, Treasurer  
Dave Cook  
Cathy Hoppough  
Paul Lentz  
Ryan Wilson  
Precia Garland,  
Chief Executive Officer

## 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  
Email: [lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us](mailto:lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us)  
Website: [www.ci.ionia.mi.us](http://www.ci.ionia.mi.us)



## Upcoming Special Events

### 1st Thursday on the Bricks

Downtown Ionia  
1st Thursday of each month

### Ionia Harvest Marketplace

(Farmers' Market)  
Each Saturday 9am to 2pm

### Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce Expo Block Party

Saturday, September 17th  
Noon to 4pm  
Downtown Ionia

### Ionia County's Got Musical Talent

Saturday, September 17th 3pm  
Ionia Expo Entertainment Stage  
(Chamber's Business Expo)

### Community Awareness Car Cruise for a Cause

Saturday, September 17th  
Downtown Ionia

### Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival

Friday, September 30th  
and Saturday, October 1st  
Downtown Ionia

\* all events subject to change

## 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.

September 21  
October 19  
November 16  
December 21

## DDA Committees

The Downtown Development Authority 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 (616) 527-1420.



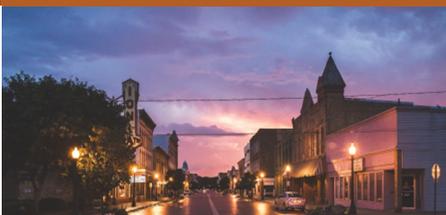
## Street Closure Requests

If you or your organization 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 current certificate of liability insurance. We also request all applications / permits be submitted 60 days in advance of the actual event or start of the project. For more information, contact the DDA office at (616) 527-1420.



## Business Spotlight

Are you gearing up for a business anniversary, expansion or special event? If so, please notify the DDA office so we may assist you with promotion and marketing. Help us help you! For more information, contact the DDA office at (616) 527-1420.





## MIPitch 2022

**Calling All Entrepreneurs! MIPitch Submission Deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>. Don't Miss Your Chance.**

Submissions for MIPitch are being accepted at [www.rightplace.org/mipitch](http://www.rightplace.org/mipitch) through **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Business ideas can range from brand new business concepts to catalytic additions for existing businesses and can come from someone with a simple dream or an established business owner. No idea is too small or too big, but it does need to be new and exciting.

Entrepreneurs, business owners, and dreamers living in Montcalm or **Ionia County** will have the opportunity to pitch their ideas to compete for thousands of dollars in cash prizes at a September 15<sup>th</sup> event at Candlestone Resort in Belding. The goal is to help launch new businesses and cultivate entrepreneurial growth in the two counties.

A committee of local business and community leaders will review and score all submissions and select five finalists to present their pitches at the September 15<sup>th</sup> event. All five finalists will be awarded cash prizes.

The public is invited to attend this free event, which is being co-hosted with a Business After Hours event by local partners Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce, Belding Area Chamber of Commerce, and Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce. If you wish to attend, please RSVP at [www.rightplace.org/mipitch](http://www.rightplace.org/mipitch).

MIPitch is presented by the Ionia County Economic Alliance and the Montcalm Economic Alliance in partnership with The Right Place, Inc.

Any questions about the event can be directed to:

Ryan Wilson, Ionia County Economic Alliance, [wilsonr@rightplace.org](mailto:wilsonr@rightplace.org), 616-690-3613

## Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival

Join us Saturday, October 1st in downtown Ionia for Michigan's only Wizard of Oz Festival. We have planned a full schedule of events, one that can be enjoyed by every member of your family. The movie that started it all will be shown at the iconic Ionia Theatre on Saturday, October 1st. Tickets are priced as they were in 1939, just 25 cents per person and sponsored by Astera Credit Union. Have you heard the many myths relating to the production of the movie and wondered what was factual and what was not? Don't miss the special presentation of 'Truth or Myth' by famed Oz historians Amanda and James Wallace II.



We are pleased to announce the Festival's line-up of Celebrity Guests will include:

Authors Amanda and James Wallace II,  
Storyland Collectibles Gift Shop / Karen Owens,  
Bill Beem and his amazing Oz display featuring memorabilia from years gone by.

Author Ron Baxley, Jr.,  
International Wizard of Oz Club

You won't want to miss the special makeover of the King of the Forest - the Cowardly Lion, Professor Marvel's destined meeting with Dorothy, and other performances by our Official Characters. Adding to the fun will be Costume Contests, Cackling Contests, pumpkin decorating, Picture Me Photo Boards, autograph sessions, and so much more. Glinda returns for her Tea Party welcoming children with refreshments, story time, and more. The Tea Party is a reserved ticketed event – contact the DDA office for details. To celebrate Judy Garland's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Dorothy will be serving Wizard of Oz cupcakes sponsored by Walmart. The Flying Monkey Flea Market and Arts & Crafts Show will be held on Saturday with vendors filling Main Street featuring Oz collectibles, handcrafted gifts, repurposed furniture, antiques, holiday décor and more. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact the DDA office. Take a step back in time at Auntie Em's Vintage Quilt and Tablecloth Show hosted at the First Christian Church from 10am to 3pm. Don't forget to sign the official Oz guest book located at the Armory Community Center. Our map denotes where people have traveled from afar to visit the Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival.

The 2022 Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival is dedicated in memory of Mary Ellen St Aubin. She was our Celebrity Guest at each Festival gracing us with her smile, memories and love of the Wizard of Oz. Mary Ellen will be dearly missed. Visit us on FB at Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival for updates.

The Festival Steering Committee is currently seeking sponsors and vendors to join in this celebration. For more information, contact the DDA office by calling (616) 527-1420 or at [lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us](mailto:lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us)

Special thanks to Astera Credit Union, Walmart, McDonald's, Ionia Theatre and our Official Characters for their continued support.

**\* Watch for details for special Meet and Greets hosted by the Official Characters scheduled for Friday, September 30th.**