



Photo by Goose Elliot

DDA Board of Directors Election of Officers

The Downtown Development Authority is governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by the Mayor with approval of City Council. Members are residents, local property owners, and business owners committed to the revitalization and enhancement of the DDA District. The DDA Board of Directors conducted the election of officers for 2022 during their January meeting.

Chairperson: Mike Kirgis of Kirgis Insurance Agency

Vice Chairperson: John Krueger of Ionia Lock & Key

Secretary: Margot Cook of Cook & Company

Treasurer: Tim Hemenway of Michigan One Community Credit Union

General Board members include Cathy Hoppough, Dave Cook, Paul Lentz, and Mayor Balice.

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 / 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.

WION I-1430 Radio

Tune into WION 1430 AM or at 92.7 FM Radio for the latest weather and school closings reports this winter season. Streaming is courtesy of the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce and City of Ionia. Special thanks to owner Jim Carlyle for continuing our local coverage.

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
Mayor Daniel Balice, ex-officio

Contact Information

Director: Linda Curtis
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(east of Ionia Theatre)
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www.ci.ionia.mi.us



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.

February 16

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

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

MI Gravel Series Bike Race

Saturday, June 11th

Ionia Fireworks Display

June 30th

rain date of July 8th

Ionia Free Fair

July 15 - 23, 2022

Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival

Dates to be announced soon!

NOTE: Events, dates and times are subject to change.



Shop Local While Supporting Our Community

Many local shops are now re-opening and / or expanding their business hours and services. Area restaurants will continue their convenient curb side service making take out a great option for all. Each and every business needs our commitment to shop local. Become an inspirational shopper and create a "tourist in your own town" experience for you and your friends. It is an easy concept - shop local and support your community. Many businesses are operated by friends, neighbors and in some cases even family. To ensure a strong business district, we all need to remember to shop local.



First Thursdays Kicks Off May 5th

The First Thursday's downtown shopping events kick off on May 5th. Downtown businesses will have extending hours from 5pm to 8pm offering sales, specials, added services and more. If you are a craft vendor and would like the opportunity to have a sale space during this time, contact Heather Sizemore from The Jewel Box for more information.

Ionia Quick Lube Under New Ownership

The Ionia Quick Lube is now open for service and under new ownership. Being located on the corner of Dexter Street and Lincoln Avenue offers easy access for customers. Stop by and ask about their specials in addition to the line of service options. For more information, call (616) 841-6008.

Whimsical Den Announces Craft Class Schedule

The Whimsical Den located at 405 W Main Street is officially open for business. Stop by to meet the owners and to register for an upcoming class in painting, candle making, sewing and more. For additional information on classes, please contact Jennifer Wieczorek by calling (616) 523-6280 or email at jennwiecz@thewhimsicalden.com. The Whimsical Den is also seeking craft instructors.

Feb 4th is a BYOW Paint Party 7pm

Feb 5th is a Kid's Paint Party 2pm

Feb 7th is Stamping Day 6pm

Feb 9th is a DIY Day 6pm

Feb 10th is Valentine's Day crafting 6pm

Feb 11th is Candle Making

Feb 12th is Candle Making

Feb 14th is Valentines day. 6pm We going to be making candles and other crafts

Feb 16 is a DIY day 6pm

Feb 18th is a BYOW Party 7pm

Feb 19th is a Kid's Paint Party 2pm

Feb 22nd We're going to be making Polar Bear Felt Plushies 5:30

Feb 23rd DIY Day 6pm

Feb 24th is For the love of Pets! Day We are going to be making bandanas, toys and tags 6pm

Feb 25th is Candle Making 6pm

Feb 26th is Candle Making 6pm

Feb 28th is Tooth Fairy Pillows 5:30

Ionia Theatre Seeking Volunteers

The Ionia Theatre is currently seeking volunteers to assist during their scheduled hours of operation. Groups of four to five people are ideal and you must be 18 years of age to apply. Families, organizations and groups of friends are encouraged to consider this great opportunity. Oh.....did we mention - free popcorn at the end of your shift. For more information and open schedules, call the Theatre at (616) 527-3860.



Habitat for Humanity of Ionia County Seeking Board Members

Habitat for Humanity of Ionia County is currently seeking community members to join their Board of Directors. If you have a passion for helping those in our community by offering a hand up, not a hand out - then joining this Board of Directors might be the thing for you in 2022. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 5pm to 6pm. This is an opportunity that takes minimal time and makes a huge impact in Ionia County. Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to helping Ionia County residents with new home builds, wheelchair ramps, small exterior home repairs, Rock the Block events, Habitat ReStore and much more. Habitat is seeking individuals who have a background in construction, finance, marketing, retail, mortgage, social work, etc. If you would like more information on this amazing opportunity, please contact Stacy at (616) 523-6899 or by email at smoore@ioniahabitat.org.



Ionia Free Fair Covered Arena Panel Project



The Ionia Free Fair Association is proud to announce the addition of a Priefert manufactured livestock panel system to host shows in the covered arena area at the Fairgrounds located in Ionia Michigan. The program allows for a variety of added livestock and equine performance events at the fairgrounds while offering the ability to host competitions including roping, handling, sorting and cutting shows and clinics with cattle. This project has created a sponsor initiative allowing you to also be a part of our expansion. Panel space is available for sponsorships of \$500 each which

will include a banner showcasing your business for 2022. Only one banner will be placed per 12 foot steel panel. This offer is time sensitive due to printing of banners. Please note that only a limited number of panel banners will be made available. This is a first come, first served opportunity. Banners will be visible for all IFF Performance horse events beginning in early May and running through the middle of October. Banners will also be displayed during the Ionia Free Fair and during non-fair related livestock events / competitions. For two days (dates to be determined) we will list your business name on our official digital sign board located near the front entrance of the grounds and also visible to the M-66 corridor. An estimated 20,000 vehicles pass this digital sign board each day. To be included in this first round, you must register and pre-pay by April 15, 2022. For more information, contact DDA Director Linda Curtis by calling (616) 527-1420.

Banners will be vinyl 3' X 10' and include color imagery. Please provide a JPEG high resolution image for banner print use. Placement of banners to be at the discretion of the Arena Enhancement Committee. Banner content must be family friendly and non-political in nature.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to have your business name in front of thousands of patrons, competitors and visitors during 2022.