



First Thursday On The Bricks

Don't miss this year's First Thursday on the Bricks event from 5pm to 8pm on May 4th. Downtown merchants will have extended hours, in-store specials and of course, that amazing hometown customer service. Vendors will also be on hand selling their wares including handcrafted gifts, sweet treats and more. For information on becoming a vendor, contact Heather at The Jewel Box or Karlee from Brick Street Photography.

Downtown Vintage Ribbon Cutting Celebration.

The Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Ribbon Cutting Celebration for Downtown Vintage located at 221 West Main Street on Friday, May 5th at 3pm. Newly opened, the shop is filled to the brim with glassware, furniture, collectibles, décor and so much more. The DDA is encouraging a representative from each business within the Shopping District attend and welcome Downtown Vintage to our community.

VFW Post 12082 Memorial Day Parade

The annual Memorial Day Parade kicks off at 10am on Monday, May 29th and will travel Main Street from Dexter to the Courthouse. Hosted by VFW Post 12082, this year's event will have added entries, special programming and more. Join the community on the Courthouse lawn immediately following the parade for a full gun salute, guest speaker, and dedication. Watch for details on special added events.

Ionia Cruisin' Classic Car, Truck & Bike Show

Mark your calendars for the Ionia Cruisin' Classic Car, Truck & Bike Show held on Main Street Saturday, June 3rd from 9am to 3pm. Registration is available the day of from 8am to 10am or prior to the show at www.ioniacruisinclassics.com. As in the past, registration remains at only \$10! The Top 10 in addition to Best of Show Car / Truck / Bike will be awarded. Proceeds support local food pantries. For more information, contact Missy at (616) 780-2254.

Ionia Harvest Marketplace

Opening Saturday, June 3rd, the community's farmers' market will feature garden fresh produce, scrumptious baked goods, seasonal fruits, arts, crafts, and more. Ionia Harvest Marketplace will be open each Saturday, June 3rd through October 7th from 9am to 2pm at the Ionia Rotary Club / Robert Hoppough Memorial Farm Market Pavilion located on the corner of Adams and Steele streets. Senior Project Fresh, Project Fresh / WIC and Snap coupons will be accepted. Vendor applications are posted on their official FB site "Ionia Harvest Marketplace". For additional information, contact Elizabeth at (616) 302-4615 or by email at wabasiscreekfarms@yahoo.com.

5th Annual Cow Pie Classic

An anticipated 1,000 riders will kick off the 5th Annual Cow Pie Classic in downtown Ionia on Saturday, June 10th. Go to www.ridecowpie.com for all of the details and registration information.

Former French's Building Transformed

Known to many as the former French's Building, 340 West Main is undergoing a major transformation. WB Vacation Properties, LLC plans to rehabilitate the vacant historic and functionally obsolete building in downtown Ionia. When completed, the historically renovated building will include commercial space on the first floor, three market rate apartments on the second floor and climate controlled storage in the basement area. The project is expected to generate a total capital investment of \$1.084 million and create two full time jobs supported by a \$405,000 Michigan Community Revitalization Program performance based grant. In addition, the City of Ionia Brownfield Redevelopment Authority received MSF approval of \$70,048 in state tax capture for the reimbursement of brownfield activities at the site. The project will put a long vacant historic building into productive use, bringing much needed housing, vibrancy, and walkability to downtown Ionia. The project is expected to act as a catalyst for additional revitalization in the community. The city of Ionia is supporting the project through the local portion of the brownfield plan and approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act abatement valued at \$52,223. This city of Ionia is certified with MEDC's Redevelopment Ready Communities program.

Ionia Theatre Debuts "Now Featuring" App

Check out the new Ionia Theatre app for the most up to date information on movie showtimes, ticket sales and more. Scan the QR code to download the app and begin the 'now featuring' service. The Ionia Theatre has a great selection of first run blockbusters for the entire family to enjoy. Plan to purchase a bucket of delicious popcorn and beverage before selecting your seat at the Ionia Theatre.



—NOW FEATURING!—
APP

scan to download our app today

Ionia Free Fair July 13th - July 22nd

The Ionia Free Fair's sponsorship campaign is well underway and ready to serve your marketing needs. A multi-leveled sponsor package is designed to be budget friendly while providing you with the opportunity to market to residents and visitors from across Michigan. Areas of interest are many, allowing you to find a prime fit for you and your business. For more information, contact the DDA office by calling (616) 527-1420, email lcourtis@ci.ionia.mi.us or call the Fair office at (616) 527-1310. Become a sponsor of the 2023 Ionia Free Fair as we celebrate the 'Best Days of Summer,' Please note the Fair opens Thursday, July 13th at 5pm.



Ionia Parks & Recreation Department Survey

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update: Every five years, the City of Ionia updates its Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The plan is valuable for several reasons — it provides an inventory of all City parks facilities and rates their accessibility; it identifies future parks and recreation improvement projects; and it makes the City eligible to apply for a variety of grants to help fund those future parks improvements. As part of the update process, we want to hear from you, City residents, regarding what you find most valuable when it comes to Parks and Rec and what you'd like to see in the future! To respond to our online survey, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IoniaParksandRecreationPlan> or use this QR code for access. The survey will be open through mid-August.



Optimize Main Street Grant Round Opens!

Optimize Main Street is a program supporting place-based businesses located in the Main Street Shopping District of RRC certified communities by providing technology-related technical assistance and 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. The MEDC has partnered with Northern Initiatives (NI), a Michigan-based CDFI, to serve as the administrator of this program. Optimize Main Street builds upon the MEDC's ongoing partnership with Northern Initiatives - which provides increased access to the robust small business learning portal called Initiate. In addition, Optimize Main Street is the MEDC's first small business financial incentive that ties grant dollars directly to technical assistance milestones.

Grants will be awarded in the amount of up to \$2,500 per eligible business. Grants may be used by eligible businesses who successfully complete all program requirements. Funds may be used to purchase hardware, software, or third-party contract services that will incorporate or advance the usage of technology within the business to increase efficiency in business operations, improve connectivity to customers and/or increase sales. If you are a Main Street business and would like additional information on the grant, please contact the DDA office at (616) 527-1420. Grant applications are available at the DDA office.

Grant applications must be submitted to the Ionia Downtown Development Authority office by 3:00PM on Monday, May 22, 2023. Up to two applications will be selected to move to the second round of review by MEDC. Having your application forwarded to MEDC does not guarantee you will be awarded.

Community Event Updates

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.

Ionia Downtown Development Authority

2023 Board of Directors

Mike Kirgis, Chairperson
John Krueger, Vice Chairperson
Margot Cook, Secretary
Chris Hyzer, Treasurer
Precia Garland, City Manager
Dave Cook
Paul Edds
Heather Poland-Sizemore
Ben Weller
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. The 2022 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report is available for review 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.

May 17th

June 21st

July 19th

August 16th

September 20th

October 18th

November 15th

December 20th



Upcoming Special Events

First Thursdays on the Bricks
kick-off May 4th 5pm - 8pm

Memorial Day Parade
Monday, May 29th

Ionia Cruisin' Classic Car Show
Saturday, June 3rd

Cow Pie Classic
Michigan Gravel Series
Bike Race

Saturday, June 10th

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

Ionia Free Fair
July 13th - 22nd, 2023
(Thursday, July 13th
opening at 5pm)

Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival Saturday, September 23rd
in downtown Ionia

**Events subject to change.

Downtown Dumpster Program Guidelines

Only businesses on file with the City of Ionia Dumpster Program are allowed access to the units. If you are a member of the program, you have been provided a key to the assigned unit's padlock and are advised to keep the enclosures locked and secured once your allowable garbage has been placed in the unit. This is the responsibility of all enrollees. The DDA has been receiving numerous complaints of illegal dumping of trash, construction materials, furniture, appliances, commercial display units, landscaping debris in addition to trash from other locations. **If non-compliant issues continue, the program may be discontinued.**

Shopping District Parking Reminder

Please note the parking zone signs providing notice of short term limits. Main Street parking spaces allow for a customer friendly downtown encouraging shopping and dining. The City maintained lots located along Adams Street also have time limitations. Extended parking of enclosed trailers and / or flatbed trailers is not allowed. For additional information, contact the DDA office at (616) 527-1420.

City of Ionia Fireworks Display

Thursday, June 29th at 10:10PM

Launched from the Ionia Fairgrounds.

Your support of this annual tradition is greatly appreciated.

Business / Organization: _____

Contact name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration date: _____

3 digit code: _____ Name listed on card: _____

Signature of cardholder: _____

Address of cardholder: _____

△ Corporate Sponsor \$1,400

△ Supporting Sponsor \$500

△ Presenting Sponsor \$1,200

△ Contributing Sponsor \$100 - \$400

△ Affiliate Sponsor \$1,000

△ Friend - \$25 or more \$ _____

△ Investment Sponsor \$ 750

△ In Honor of OR In Memory of:



All responses received prior to June 9, 2023 will be acknowledged in event promotional materials. Please contact the Ionia DDA at (616) 527-1420 for more information. Please make your check payable to:

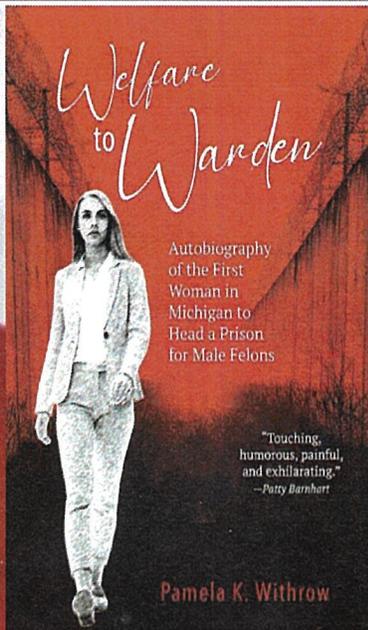
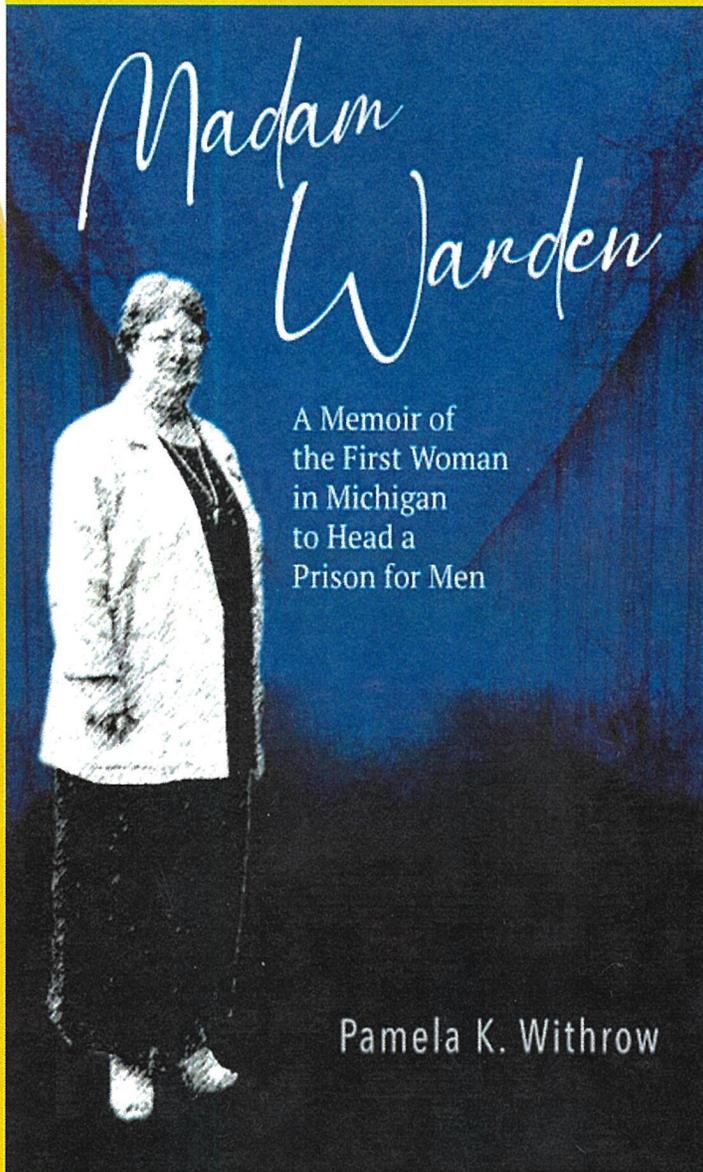
City of Ionia DDA
P.O. Box 496
Ionia, MI 48846

Thank you for your generous support!

Rain date scheduled for July 7th. Event subject to change.

MEET THE AUTHOR

A special event held by Ionia County Commission on Aging



Author Pam Withrow and her first book "Welfare to Warden"

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

12:30pm

PAMELA WITHROW

**Author Appearance and
Book Signing**

**Ionia Senior Center
115 Hudson St Ionia**

**Ms Withrow's presentation will
follow our Senior Luncheon at
11:30am**

**Meet the author who will discuss
how her first book came to be
published. She will also share
her thoughts on what is taxpayers
should expect from money invested
in prisons and the current
Offender Success initiative.**

- Book sales & signing follow.
- \$5 from each book sale goes to COA.
- Luncheon is for Seniors 60+, menu features a soup & salad bar.
- RSVP required for luncheon. Book signing after meal is open to the public (please note that space may be limited due to luncheon attendees).
- Call (616) 527-5365 by Tuesday, June 6 to RSVP for luncheon meal.
- Suggested donation of \$3 per meal.

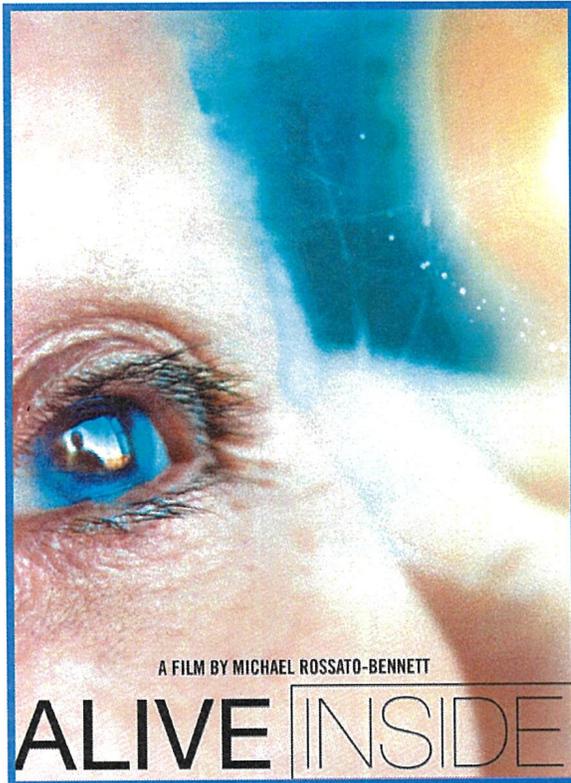
**This event is co-sponsored by
the Ionia Community Library**

**For more info call the Ionia
County Commission on Aging
(616) 527-5365**

**"Madam Warden" is the insightful memoir
of an idealistic innovator who became
a prison warden, Pam Withrow's first-
woman roles at Camp Brighton & Jackson
Prison, and her appointment as the first
woman to head a male prison in Michigan.**

*Ionia County Commission on Aging, Ionia Theatre
and Alzheimer's Association Michigan Chapter present
a special documentary and joyous exploration
of music's capacity to reawaken our souls*

ALIVE INSIDE: A Movie of Music and Memory



**Join us for this important
FREE event on THURSDAY,
JUNE 22 at 6:30pm
at the IONIA THEATRE
205 W. Main St. Ionia MI 48846**

**2014
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL**

Winner of the 2014 Sundance Film Festival AUDIENCE AWARD for U.S. Documentary

**Seniors 60+ are welcome to join us prior to the movie for a 5pm dinner at the Ionia County Commission on Aging Senior Center, 115 Hudson St in Ionia.
*RSVP for MEAL by NOON on Monday, June 19th. Call (616) 527-5365 to RSVP.***

**MENU: Nacho Bar (Homemade Nachos & Salsa), Fresh Melon, Sweet Treat.
Suggested donation of \$3 for meal.**

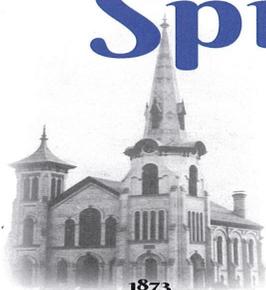
ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

**Ionia County
Commission
on Aging**

The Award-Winning
Great Lakes Men's Chorus

Spring Concert

and Refreshments



1873
M.E. Church

*Join us to Celebrate the
 150th Anniversary of
 Praise and Fellowship
 On the same corner.*



2023
Ionia First

Sunday, May 7th 3 P.M.

First United Methodist Church
 105 East Main St. Ionia

Tickets: \$10 in advance or **\$12** @ the door

Sanctuary and Balcony Seating

Call to reserve 616.527.1860

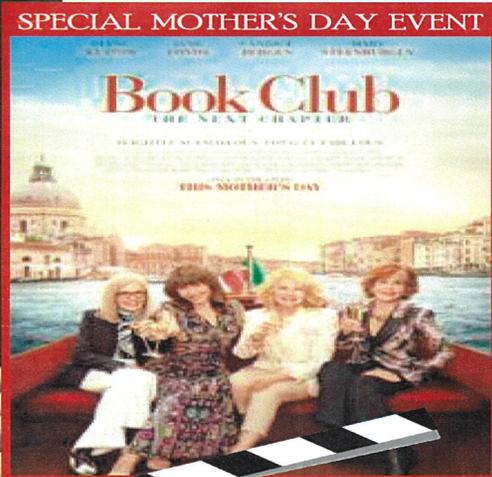
www.ioniafirst.com

Senior Dinner & Movie Night

Join us for good food and a **NEW** movie!

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

Thursday, MAY 11



Come for **DINNER** at 5:00pm at the ICCOA
 and join us after for the **NEW** romantic
 comedy film "BOOK CLUB: The Next Chapter"
 with Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda & Candice Bergen
 at the historic **IONIA THEATRE** at 7:00pm.

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

Please RSVP for MEAL by NOON on MONDAY, MAY 8.

MEAL is for seniors and their caregivers only.

Call (616) 527-5365. MOVIE is open to ALL AGES!



DINNER MENU

SOUP & SALAD BAR

Featuring Italian Wedding Soup,
 with Mini Tiramisu Cakes and
 Fresh Fruit for 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.

