

# AUGUST

## Downtown Development Authority Newsletter

### Mane Stage Salon & Spa's Celebrates a Sweet Sixteen!

Mane Stage Salon & Spa's will be celebrating 16 years in business at their 309 West Main Street location on Monday, August 7th at 12:30pm. The Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce will be providing a special ribbon cutting ceremony recognizing the anniversary. You are invited to stop by, congratulate Ashley and take a tour the new expansion!

### Annual Three Jokers Car Show

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 12th for the annual Three Jokers Car Show hosted at the Ionia Fairgrounds from noon to 4pm. \$10 registration fee for vehicles and FREE to spectators. Registration runs 9am to noon. Dash plaques, awards and goodie bags to be presented. All proceeds support the Bikes & Trikes, Hospice and Ionia Community Awareness. For more information, contact Buzz Possehn at (616) 291-1413 OR Kirk Wolthuis at (616) 902-4922.

### Elvis Tribute Artist Jake Slater is in the House!

The Ionia County Commission on Aging is presenting a live performance starring tribute artist Jake Slater and the Josh Ramses Band on Sunday, August 13th at 4pm. Doors open at 3pm at the Ionia Theatre. Advance tickets are \$10 each and \$15 the day of the show. A silent auction of Elvis collectibles will be held concurrent with the event hosted at the Ionia Theatre. Tickets can be purchased at the Theatre box office, Commission of Aging and on-line at [www.ionia-theatre.com](http://www.ionia-theatre.com). Net proceeds support the Ionia County Commission on Aging.



### First Thursday On The Bricks!

1st Thursday

ON THE BRICKS

MAY 5TH  
JUNE 2ND  
JULY 7TH  
AUG 4TH  
SEPT 1ST  
OCT 6TH  
NOV 3RD- TBD  
DEC 1ST- TBD

Downtown Ionia  
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

EVERY 1ST  
THURSDAY OF  
THE MONTH

*Enjoy local shopping, local food, sidewalk sales and more!*

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

Reach out to [ioniabusinesssevents@gmail.com](mailto:ioniabusinesssevents@gmail.com) for more information.

First Thursdays on the Bricks kicks off again on August 3rd from 5pm to 8pm in downtown Ionia. Sidewalk sales, extending shopping hours, vendors, specialty foods and so much more are on tap for the event. For more information, visit Karlee at Brick Street Photography Studio or Heather at The Jewel Box.

Meet us on Main Street!

## City of Ionia Sesquicentennial Celebration

On May 28, 1833, the first settlers led by Samuel Dexter arrived from New York and began the journey of creating the city we know today. In 1873, the village of Ionia was incorporated as a city with the act being passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor. This year marks the 150th anniversary of that milestone and will be recognized by a host of special events and activities. Planning is still underway with a full schedule for the first weekend in October being announced soon. The current list of activities includes an official Mayoral Proclamation and presentation, Blanchard House Tours, children's activities, Ice Cream Social, window displays, car show, musical entertainment, and more. A limited number of lamppost banners sporting the 150th graphic and the opportunity to have your family or business name listed may be ordered now. The Official order form is included in this edition of the DDA Newsletter.



## Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce Presents the Sizzlin' Summer Social

Don't miss the annual Sizzlin' Summer Social hosted by the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce at Michigan One Community Credit Union on August 9th from 5:30pm to 8pm. Food, drinks, giveaways and an evening of fun await. For more information on being a part of this project, contact the Chamber at 527-2560. Please see the enclosed flyer for details.

## Ionia Free Fair

The Ionia Free Fair is one of the largest events in the state and is nationally recognized each year. As the saying goes 'it takes a village' and the Fair is no exception. I want to thank the hundreds of volunteers who dedicate their time, services and talent to make the event so successful. The Leaders, Superintendents, and each exhibitor showcased the Agri-Science Division following a year of commitment to their individual projects making the Fair one for the record books. Words cannot express my gratitude to the community and area supporters, sponsors and donors providing financial and in-kind contributions this year. Many have become multi-year donors by supporting the Building Restoration Partner program. From the Grandstand overhead door replacements to the upgraded electrical system in the Rabbit Barn, the community answered the call - and I am so grateful. Hats off the Board of Directors and staff. From setup to clean-up and tear down, each went above and beyond the call. As I say all too often, to be a member of a Fair team, you must be able to duck and weave to maneuver each and every situation. This year, the Grounds Crew did just that! From late year flooding to keeping the grounds in tip top shape, it certainly made a difference. If you happened to take in a Grandstand event or a bit of time at the EPark and Free Entertainment areas, please know that all was made possible by generous sponsors. Hats off to City of Ionia Public Safety, Life EMS, Sparrow Hospital First Aid station crew, and the Ionia County Sheriff's Department for keeping all safe and sound.

As always, it is such an honor and privilege to work with each of you!

Linda

# 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.

## 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.

August 16th

September 20th

October 18th

November 15th

December 20th

The 2022 Ionia Downtown Development Authority Annual Report is available for review on the City of Ionia website.



## Upcoming Special Events

**First Thursdays on the Bricks**  
Thursday, August 3rd 5pm-8pm  
Watch for details for each month's event.

**Three Jokers Car Show**  
Saturday, August 12th  
at the Fairgrounds

**Elvis Tribute Concert**  
at the Ionia Theatre  
Sunday, August 13th at 4pm

**Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce Business Expo Block Party**  
Saturday, September 16th  
noon to 4pm in downtown Ionia

**Community Awareness Purple Cruise**  
Saturday, September 30th

**City of Ionia Sesquicentennial**  
**Watch for details!**

\*\*Events subject to change.

## Downtown Dumpster Program Guidelines

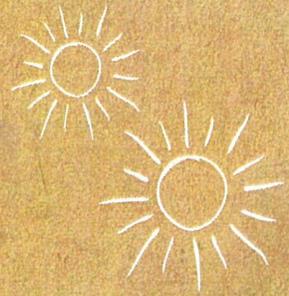
Only businesses on file with the City of Ionia Dumpster Program are allowed access to the units. If you are a member of the program, you have been provided a key to the assigned unit's padlock and are advised to keep the enclosures locked and secured once your allowable garbage has been placed in the 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.

09 August  
5:30 - 8pm

# SIZZLIN' SUMMER SOCIAL



Food, Drinks, Giveaways and Fun



Ionia County Business Social  
Feel free to bring business promotions!

HOSTED BY  
MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE

**IONIA**  
MI

AMBASSADORS

**MICHIGAN ONE**  
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION



510 S. Dexter. St. Ionia MI 48846



## City of Ionia Sesquicentennial

1873 – 2023

### Lamppost Banner Sponsorship

The City of Ionia will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with special events planned for September and October. One of the many forms of celebration for the Sesquicentennial is the lamppost banner project which recognizes families, businesses, and the City's anniversary. Banners are available for purchase measuring 24" x 48". The banners will sport the 150<sup>th</sup> graphic, the name of your business or family, and the date you located to Ionia. Following the celebration, the banners will be returned to the purchaser. Whether you are descendants of a founding family or someone who recently became a resident, you have the opportunity to order a banner as a keepsake of the celebration.

Due to the limited time frame and number of banners to be printed, please return your form and funds by August 25, 2023. The banners will be displayed the month of October on the historic lampposts that line Adams Street and Dexter Street. Once the banners are removed from the lampposts, they may be picked up at the DDA office located at 203 W Main Street (next to the Ionia Theatre). Cost per banner is \$40. Please see the example below.



Family name / business name and date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money order \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost per banner: \$40 Orders must be submitted by August 25, 2023

Please make checks payable to: City of Ionia P.O. Box 496 Ionia, MI 48846

For more information, contact the DDA office at (616) 527-1420 or by email: [lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us](mailto:lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us)

**Thank you for your support of the City of Ionia Sesquicentennial!**