



Downtown Development Authority

Autumn Event Highlights



Cruisin' For A Cause

Celebrate Community Awareness with special activities scheduled from September 9th - 30th. Don't miss the full school sports schedule - all highlighting the project. On Saturday, September 30th, Cruisin' For A Cause runs from 7:00PM to 9:00PM in downtown Ionia. Only \$10 per vehicle donation to Community Awareness programming is suggested. This is your opportunity to be a part of a car cruise while supporting a cause that does indeed make a difference in someone's life. See the full schedule of activities on the Ionia Community Awareness FB site.

Ionia Harvest Farmers' Market

Ionia Farmers' Market will be open each Saturday, through September and October 7th from 9:00AM to 2:00PM located at the Michigan One Community Credit Union parking lot on South Steele Street. Senior Project Fresh, Project Fresh / WIC and Snap coupons will be accepted. Vendor applications are posted on their official FB site "Ionia Harvest Marketplace".

City of Ionia 150th Anniversary Celebration October 6th - 8th

We cordially invite you to the Commemorative Ceremony marking the 150th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Ionia on Saturday, October 7th at 11:00AM at City Hall. Tours of City Hall and historical photo display will immediately follow the tributes. A full weekend of special events are scheduled with activities for the entire family. From 1:00PM to 3:00PM, a collection of short films showcasing the city's past will be presented at the Ionia Theatre. Don't miss the Ice Cream & Cake Social held at the former Mercantile Bank located at 302 West Main Street from 2:00PM to 4:00PM. Sunday's activities include a full afternoon of family activities, tours, displays and vintage lawn games, and more held at the Blanchard House. Ionia County Commission on Aging will be hosting a 2 mile Walk to End Alzheimer's. For registration information, contact the COA. A Food Truck Rally and Apple Festival is scheduled at the Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday. Support the local food banks by donating a can of food and receive a \$1 off parking. A full schedule of events is included in this publication. For more information, please visit www.cityofionia.org



The Honorable Mayor Daniel Balice & members of the Ionia City Council cordially invite you to join them at a commemorative ceremony marking the

150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the City of Ionia

Saturday, October 7, 2023
11:00AM to 12:00PM
Ionia City Hall • 114 North Kidd Street

Ice Cream & Cake Social
follows from 2:00PM to 4:00PM
302 West Main Street
(former Mercantile Bank Building)

Join us as we honor and celebrate our beloved City!





City of Ionia 150th Anniversary Celebration



Friday, October 6, 2023

- 6pm Check Presentation to Community Food Pantry and Community Dinner Project presented by Jeremy and Candy Gomez of Generation Entertainment at the Fairgrounds
- 7pm Ionia High School Varsity Football Game (*Home*) and 'Presentation of the Anniversary Flags.'

Saturday, October 7, 2023

- 11am - Noon at City Hall located at 114 North Kidd Street. Official Commemorative Ceremony. Activities to include Proclamation by Honorable Mayor Balice, State of Michigan Tribute by Senator Outman, Community Band performance, and tours of City Hall. A special tribute to Ionia's first Honorable Mayor Frederick Hall and family. In honor of Marion Hall-Fowler, books will be distributed to children attending the event. Visit the Ionia Public Schools WOW (Words on Wheels) Bus on site.
- 10am - 2pm Ionia Community Library - Open
- 11am - 7pm Ionia Apple Festival & Food Truck Rally
Food trucks, vendors, and special activities for the entire family hosted by Generation Entertainment at the Fairgrounds. Bring 1 or 2 cans of non-perishable food items and receive \$1 off your parking fee. All proceeds to Ionia Food Pantry and Community Dinner Project.
- 1pm - 3pm Collection of Short Films showcasing Ionia's Past Including a film produced by the First United Methodist Church titled "It Happened in Ionia." Presented by Ionia Theatre and Ionia County Historical Society at the Ionia Theatre
- 2pm - 4pm Ice Cream & Cake Social. Join us for complimentary ice cream and cake at 302 West Main Street — former Mercantile Bank building.
- 340 West Main Street tour of the first floor restoration.

Sunday, October 8, 2023

- 11am Ionia County Commission on Aging Walk to End Alzheimer's. A two mile walking tour of Downtown Shopping District and historic neighborhoods. Funds raised benefit the Alzheimer's Association and their efforts. Registration beginning at 10am at the Ionia County Commission on Aging located at 115 Hudson Street.
- 11am - 7pm Ionia Apple Festival & Food Truck Rally. Food trucks, vendors, and special activities for the entire family hosted by Generation Entertainment at the Fairgrounds. Bring 1 or 2 cans of non-perishable food items and receive \$1 off your parking fee. All proceeds to Ionia Food Pantry and Community Dinner Project.
- Noon – 3pm Ionia Community Library open for tours.
- Noon - 4pm Community Church Tours
- Noon - 1pm Restore Church
 - 1pm - 2pm St. John's Episcopal Church AND First Presbyterian Church
 - 2pm - 3pm S. S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
 - 3pm - 4pm The Well Church
- 1pm - 6pm Blanchard House activities to include WW II Scrapbook Display by Blue Star Mothers, vintage vehicles and carriages on display, antique quilt display, salute to local women program, vintage lawn games for the entire family and tours of the Blanchard House. Hosted by the Ionia County Historical Society and Woman's Literary Club.

Autumn Celebration

Make plans to attend Ionia's largest downtown event - Autumn Celebration on Thursday, October 26th. Kicking off at 4:30PM and running until 7:30PM, Main Street will be filled with businesses hosting Trunk R Treat in addition to those hosting candy distribution from their storefronts. The Ionia Theatre and Meijer will be hosting the Costume Contest - for all ages. The ever popular Independent Bank Chili Dawg Challenge offers themed hotdogs with proceeds supporting area non-profits. Visit the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce website for the full schedule of events and activities. For more information, please see the Chamber of Commerce website and FB site.



MIPitch 2023



Congratulations to the five finalists and winners of the 2023 MIPitch Competition. This annual event was hosted at the Winter Inn of Greenville with a packed house adding to the excitement of the evening. Three businesses represented Ionia County with one being from downtown - Ionia City Market. And the winner is...

**Congratulations Ionia City Market
for winning the 2023 MIPitch competition.**

Buy Nearby!

The Michigan Retailers Association celebrates the first weekend of October with their annual Buy Nearby event. We encourage everyone to shop locally on Saturday, October 7th - 8th and support local stores rather than sending dollars out of state through online retailers. If Michigan residents redirected 10% of their estimated \$32.4 BILLION in out of state e-commerce and remote sales, Michigan would see:

- ◆ An increase in employment by 17.279%
- ◆ A boost in labor income (salary and benefits) by an estimated \$700 MILLION
- ◆ A contribution of \$1.3 BILLION in value added to the state's economy
- ◆ A contribution of \$2.4 BILLION in gross economic output

While enjoying the special activities for the City of Ionia 150th Anniversary Celebration, join us as we shop locally. Become a local shopper and support the community's bright future.





Non - Perishable Food Drive

To Benefit the Local Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen

What: Any non - perishable food item

When: October 7th & 8th 2023

**How: Hand it to the Parking
Attendant. (Or inside at a donation box)**

**Bonus: A donation earns \$1 off of parking per carload.
(MAX discount \$1 per carload)**

