



City of Ionia Downtown Development Authority

December 2023 Newsletter

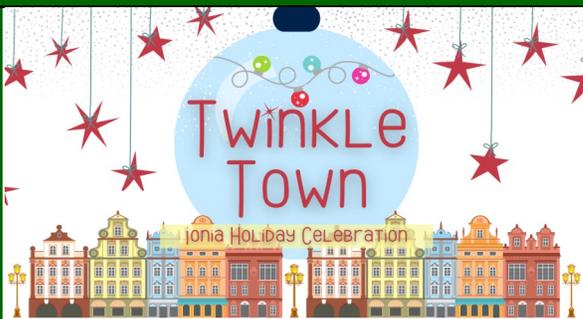


Small Business Saturday Slated for November 25th!

American Express created Small Business Saturday in 2010 as a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday for small town USA. This special day encourages holiday shoppers to patronize local brick and mortar businesses rather than traveling distances or using on-line purchasing. As the merchants celebrate this special shopping day, many will be offering in-store specials, gift wrapping, contests and more. Become an inspirational shopper and create a “tourist in your own town” experience for you and your friends. 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. Plan now for your Ionia shopping experience as we kick off Small Business Saturday on November 25th.



Twinkle Town Holiday Celebration



Join us for the Twinkle Town Holiday Celebration kicking off Friday, December 1st featuring the official tree lighting and caroling starting at 6pm with the Twinkle Town Christmas Light Parade following at 6:30pm. Visit Santa at the Armory Community Center prior to and following the parade. Live Local Realty's Free Movie Night is set for 7:15pm at the Ionia Theatre. Don't miss the Breakfast With Santa scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd from 9am to 11am at the Armory. Mrs. Claus' Annual Bazaar & Craft Show returns on Saturday, December 2nd from 9am to 3pm at the Ionia Middle School. Be sure to attend all of the Twinkle Town Holiday Celebration events and special activities. Shop local this holiday season. For a complete list of activities, visit the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce website. The Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Authority request that downtown businesses fill their storefront windows with holiday displays showcased by twinkle lights. Please shop local this holiday season. Many businesses are owned and operated by family, friends and neighbors. By supporting small businesses, you are supporting our community.



2023 Board of Directors

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John Krueger, Vice Chairperson
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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.

December 20th

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

City offices will be closed Thursday, November 23rd and 24th in observance of Thanksgiving

Small Business Saturday Shop Local!

Saturday, November 25th

Twinkle Town Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting

Friday, December 1st
6pm Tree Lighting
Parade at 6:30pm

Mrs. Claus' Bazaar & Craft Show

Saturday, December 2nd

Please watch for announcements regarding area special events and activities. * events subject to change

Just a reminder.....

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 cleared for easy access. When clearing your parking areas, please do not pile snow in front of dumpster enclosures, walkways or any drive entrances / exits. Shoppers may avoid your business if an icy sidewalk restricts their safety. As we gear up for the largest shopping season of the year, we ask that business employees and downtown residents do not park in the Main Street area but utilize the spacious parking lots located on Adams Street and Washington Street. The lots also allow for longer parking times to accommodate employees while Main Street limits are set at 2 hours. By providing shoppers and diners adequate storefront parking spaces, we will make each of their visits a memorable one.

Fash Cash Relocates To Main Street

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS,
VIDEO GAMES, TOOLS,
ELECTRONICS, VINTAGE
COLLECTABLES,
POKEMON CARDS, AND
MORE!**

**NEW
LOCATION!**

(616) 527-7267

**429 WEST
MAIN ST,
IONIA,
MICHIGAN**

FAST CASH

BUY • SELL • TRADE

**MONDAY-FRIDAY
10:30 AM- 5:30 PM**

Then...



...and NOW

Celebrating Seniors

**Ionia County Commission on Aging 50 Year Anniversary:
Celebrating SENIORS Since 1973!**

The goal of the Ionia County Commission on Aging is to strengthen the well-being of all Ionia County Senior Citizens and to be the cornerstone of support services for their continued independence.

Our vision is encapsulated in our Senior Center in downtown Ionia. To respect our past and plan for the future, our facility is a welcoming destination for social interaction, enriching programming and a hub for information, where seniors have a voice and a hand in both content and community.

**Please join us for these
CELEBRATION EVENTS**



DEC. 1: Watch for our 50th anniversary celebration float in the Ionia "Twinkle Town Christmas Parade."

DEC. 2: Mrs. Claus Bazaar & Craft Show with a special commemoration of our 50th anniversary at our booth.

DEC. 7: Thursday evening meal, Grand Valley Strings live music, Yarn Circle, special commemoration of ICCOA 50th anniversary.

DEC. 8: Public tours and an exhibition on ICCOA's founding in 1973, our important milestones, and plans for the future. 1-5pm at the Ionia Senior Center.

DEC. 10: As a special THANK YOU to Ionia County residents, COA hosts the movie "WHITE CHRISTMAS" at the Ionia Theatre with FREE admission for everyone in the community!

DEC. 14: Special luncheons to celebrate Ionia County COA's 50th Anniversary at ALL our meal sites.

DEC. 15: Public tours and an exhibition on ICCOA's founding in 1973, our important milestones, and plans for the future. 1-5pm at the Ionia Senior Center.

DEC. 28: 50th anniversary mixer/gathering to thank our supporters and commemorate our 50th anniversary. Special remembrance of those who support ICCOA through memorial donations. Light refreshments will be served.



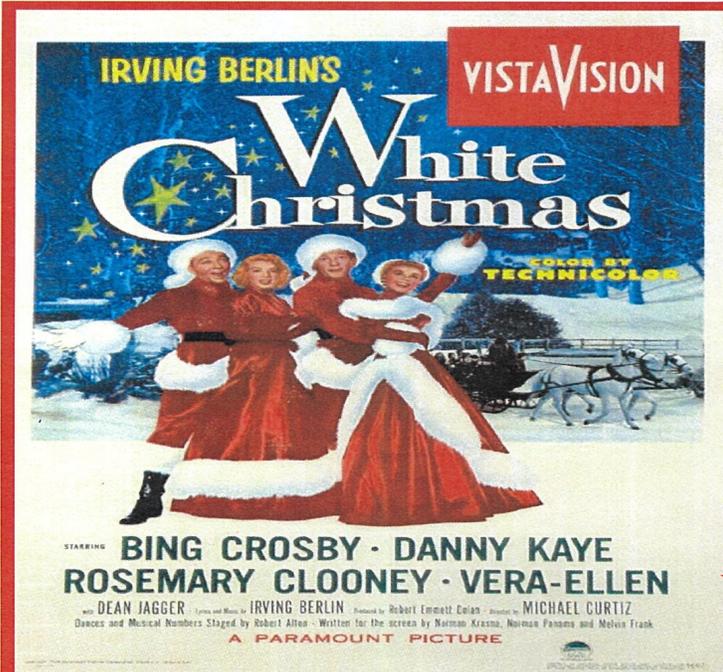
**McKee Named Senior
Citizen Coordinator**

Appointment of Kenneth L. McKee to the position of director and senior citizens coordinator... McKee has been a resident of Ionia since 1948 and is well known in business and professional circles and service clubs in the county. Until earlier this year he was manager of the Ionia-Hasings offices of Michigan Bell Telephone Co.



A graduate of Central High, Grand Rapids and holding a degree in business administration from Michigan State University, East Lansing, McKee was in the armed forces during World War II and has been an officer of Ionia Community Chest and Chamber of Commerce. He resides with his wife Helen and family at 100 Rich street, Ionia. Commission on aging recently appointed by Ionia county commissioners has an extensive program projected for services to aged individuals throughout the county. Their proposal for funding through Title 3 of the Older Americans Act is presently pending in Lansing and is being considered by the governor's office, division of services for aging and state department of social services. The hiring of a local director is the first step in implementing the program. Volunteer programs, transportation, multi-service centers etc. will be dependent on first phase as well as various localities in Ionia identifying senior citizens and county. A process of interview their needs in the county.

Photo credit: Ionia Sentinel-Standard, October 3, 1973



**JOIN US at 1PM
Sunday, DEC. 10:**
As a special THANK YOU to Ionia County residents I.C.C.O.A. hosts the movie "WHITE CHRISTMAS" at the Ionia Theatre FREE to the entire community!

Ionia Theatre is located at 205 W Main St. in IONIA.

CELEBRATING SENIORS SINCE 1973

Welcome Farmers Insurance

Since 2022, we've been thrilled to be a part of this vibrant community, and we're even more excited about the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of our fellow residents. At Farmers Insurance—Fioravanti Agency, our mission is simple: to bring peace of mind and security to each and every member of this wonderful town. As locals ourselves, we understand the unique needs and challenges that come with living in Ionia. We are committed to providing personalized insurance solutions that cater specifically to the nuances of our community. Whether you are long-time resident or a newcomer, we're here to ensure that you and your loved ones are protected against life's uncertainties. Navigating the world of insurance can be a complex journey, and that's where we come in. We're ready to guide you through the process, helping you choose the coverage that suits your lifestyle and safeguards what matters most to you. We believe in building relationships with our clients, and that starts with open communication, transparency, and a genuine commitment to your well-being. We're not just your insurance providers; we're your neighbors, friends, and fellow community enthusiasts. From auto and home insurance to life and business coverage, we've got you covered on all fronts. Let us be your trusted partners on this journey, providing the protection you need so you can focus on enjoying all the incredible moments that life in Ionia has to offer. Drop by our office at 321 W Main Street or give us a call at (616) 622-2075. We can't wait to meet you, share the joy of being part of this fantastic town, and help you secure a brighter, worry free future.

Michael Fioravanti, Farmers Insurance

321 W Main Street

(616) 622-2075



The Gift of Music In Downtown Ionia

Does your bucket list include singing lessons or learning to play a piano, violin or guitar? If so, the gift of music awaits. Visit Heart Beat Music in downtown Ionia and speak with one of many professionals who will assist you along your way. Looking for that gift that will last a lifetime? If so, Heart Beat Music is the shop for you.

Give the gift of music!

Retail and lessons including vocal, string and band instruments.

Repairs and purchases.

Heart Beat Music

341 W Main Street, Ionia





This holiday season, please join the Downtown Development Authority in continuing the long tradition of decorating the historical lampposts that line the streets of the business district. Sponsoring a fresh garland wrap is a wonderful way to recognize an organization, business, individual or honor a special event.

I would like to sponsor _____ lamppost(s) at \$20 each.

Please list my sponsorship under the following name / business / organization:

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I would like to pay by: Visa Master Card Check

Name listed on card: _____

Address of card holder: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration date: _____

3 Digit Code found on the back of your card: _____

Signature: _____ Today's date: _____

Please enclose your payment with this form. Checks can be made payable to the City of Ionia DDA.

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

To be acknowledged with a gift card placed on a garland wrap, sponsorships must be received by **December 6, 2023**. Requests to decorate specific lampposts cannot be accommodated. For additional information, please contact the Downtown Development Authority office at 616.527.1420.

Thank you for your support.

