



City Council Highlights

City Council Approves Capital Improvement Program

The Ionia City Council approved the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP): FY2027 - FY2032 during its Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. The CIP is a planning document that outlines major projects and investments anticipated over the next six years. The program helps the City plan for improvements to important facilities, equipment, and infrastructure while identifying potential funding sources. Capital projects typically include items valued at \$5,000 or more with a useful life of at least one year.

Review the plan and presentation at: cityofionia.org/m/newsflash/home/detail/264.

City Awards Bid for Steele Street Park Phase 1

City Council approved awarding the construction bid for Phase I of Steele Street Park to FCC Construction of Caledonia, Michigan, for nearly \$1.36 million following a competitive bidding process. The project is partially funded by a \$400,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and a \$185,600 RAP 3.0 Grant. Phase I improvements will include a band shell, restroom and storage building, two pickleball courts, a volleyball court, and a new parking lot. Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2026.



Council Introduces DDA Development & TIF Plan Ordinance, Schedules Public Hearing

City Council approved a motion to introduce and conduct the first reading of Ordinance No. 603 to adopt a new Development and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan for the Downtown Development Authority. The proposed plan will guide future investment in a focused portion of the downtown district, supporting economic development, infrastructure improvements, and continued revitalization. The TIF Plan allows the DDA to reinvest growth in property tax revenue back into downtown projects and improvements. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance is scheduled for 6:30 PM on April 1 at City Hall.



Spring 2026 Hydrant Flushing

Starting March 19, staff will flush all 579 fire hydrants across the community's 68 miles of underground water mains. Hydrant flushing helps remove iron sediment from the water system, improving overall water quality. Crews typically flush each hydrant for about 30 minutes, or until water quality parameters are met. The full flushing program takes approximately six weeks to complete, depending on weather conditions.

View the complete flushing schedule at: cityofionia.org/200/Public-Utilities.

Upcoming Free Movies at Ionia Theatre

Here are the upcoming Free Movies at the Ionia Theatre:

- **March 16 at 7 PM:** WION Free Movie — "Jaws" (1978)
- **April 16 at 6 PM:** Ionia Community Library Film Night — Free screening of "To Kill a Mockingbird" (1962) for all who show their ICL card.
- **April 27 at 7 PM:** WION Free Movie — "Superman" (1978)

Match on Main 2026

Match on Main (MoM) is a reimbursement grant program designed to support new or expanding place-based businesses. It provides up to \$25,000 in funding to eligible small businesses. Eligible businesses must be located in the historic downtown and must submit a local business worksheet to the Ionia DDA for panel review by Noon on March 31.

More information at: cityofionia.org/m/newsflash/home/detail/262.

Odd-Even Winter Parking

Until the end of March, between 7 AM and NOON, vehicles must be parked on the side of the street that matches the date.

Hiring Election Workers

The City is seeking Election Workers for the August and November elections. Workers will be paid \$16/hr and must attend mandatory training. More information at: <https://www.cityofionia.org/m/newsflash/home/detail/259>

Ionia Firefighters Pancake Breakfast

All you can eat pancakes, eggs, and sausage from 8 AM - 11 AM at the Ionia High School cafeteria. Proceeds go to the Ionia Firefighters Equipment Fund.

Business + Bazaar

The event, hosted by the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, March 7, at IHS.

Community Calender

More information on community events can be found at cityofionia.org/232/Community-Hub

Got a community event coming up? Let us help spread the word and submit your event online.