

# *Ionia Downtown Development Authority*

## *April 2019 Newsletter*



### **Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival Set for June 21 - 22, 2019**

As a tribute to the 80th anniversary of the movie's release, we have planned two days of fun for every member of the family. The movie that started it all will be shown at the iconic Ionia Theatre. Tickets are priced as they were eighty years ago - just 25 cents per person. Have you heard the myths relating to the production of the movie and wondered what was factual and what was not? Don't miss the special presentation of facts and fiction by famed Oz historians James and Amanda Wallace. New this year is "Author's Alley," an area designed for both local and re-known Oz related authors that will provide insight into their writings. Our fair city has mentions in several of the Oz editions. We are pleased to announce the festival's line-up of Celebrity Guests will include Mary Ellen St Aubin - Munchkin by Marriage, famed Oz authors Amanda & James Wallace and Ron Baxley. Representing the International Wizard of Oz Fan Club and ever popular gift shop Storyland Collectibles, Karen Owens will be showcasing a complete gift line for all ages. Ralph Zellel will be displaying and selling his collection of autographed Oz related photos. The International Wizard of Oz Club invites you to join their organization at a special vendor booth filled with Oz memorabilia. You won't want to miss the special makeover of the King of the Forest - the Cowardly Lion, Professor Marvel's meeting with Dorothy, the Wicked Witch's departure and other skits performed on stage. Purchase tickets early for Glinda's Princess Tea Party as seating is limited. Visit the First Christian Church located at 130 East Washington Street from 10am to 4pm on Saturday. Vintage feed sack quilts from the 1930's in addition to a beautiful collection of aprons from the same time period will be on display. Take a step back in time at Auntie Em's Quilt & Apron Show. This year we have partnered with the "Grand River Marketplace Show & Sale" bringing vendors from afar with arts, crafts, antiques, repurposed / reclaimed furniture, and vintage treasures galore. We are seeking vendors to join us. Adding to the excitement of the Festival are citywide garage sales. Maps are available at each sale site and the Festival's Souvenir Booth. See you June 21st and 22nd in downtown Ionia for the Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival!

The Wizard of Oz Festival committee is currently seeking volunteers to assist with activities relating to the upcoming event. If you have several hours to give to this community project, please contact the DDA office. Areas of interest include but are not limited to children's activities and contests, display design and setup, vendor areas, Official Character scheduling and transportation, vintage travel trailer / camper rally, Souvenir Booth, and more. We are also seeking a few to become a part of the Official Character team. Join the current committees as they continue to present Michigan's only Wizard of Oz Festival. We currently have craft vendor spaces available for the Grand River Vintage Marketplace Show & Sale. Contact the DDA office for an application. Reserve your space now! "Like" us on FB at **Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival** for updated schedules and activity listings. For more information on any of the above mentioned, call (616) 527-1420.



## 2019 Board of Directors

Mike Kirgis, Chairperson  
Brett Patterson, Vice Chairperson  
Dave Cook, Secretary  
Tim Hemenway, Treasurer  
Margo Cook  
Paul Lentz  
Mayor Daniel Balice, ex-officio

### Contact Information

Director: Linda Curtis  
Office: 203 W Main Street  
Mail: P.O. Box 496  
Ionia, MI 48846  
Phone: (616) 527-1420  
Fax: (616) 527-0810  
lcurtis@ci.ionia.mi.us  
www.ci.ionia.mi.us

## 2019 Meeting Schedule

Regularly scheduled meetings of the DDA are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 8am at City Hall located at 114 North Kidd Street.

April 17

May 15

June 19

### DDA Committees

The Ionia Downtown Development Authority welcomes new members to their respective committees. If you have an interest in special events, promotion and marketing or business development, please contact the DDA at (616) 527-1420.

## Upcoming Special Events

### Upstairs Downtown Tour

Saturday, May 18th

### Kid's Kite Festival

Saturday, May 25th  
Ionia Fairgrounds

### Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th

### Ionia Farmers' Market

June through October

### Ionia Classic Car Show

Saturday, June 1st

### Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival

#### Sidewalk Sales AND

#### Communitywide Garage Sales

Friday, June 21st  
and Saturday, June 22nd

### Ionia Fireworks Display

Wednesday, July 3rd

## Downtown Business Group Start-up Underway

The Project Rising Tide initiative has provided the foundation for several working groups allowing residents and business owners the opportunity to be involved in future endeavors of the downtown. Tasks may include working to expand existing downtown events, creating new activities, and promoting the shopping district. Still in the planning stages, downtown business owners are setting a meeting schedule and reaching out to business and downtown property owners to become more involved. The group will be working in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and the DDA to market the shopping district beyond the boundaries of Ionia. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, you are invited to attend a meeting scheduled for Monday, April 8th from 5:30pm to 7pm at Steele Street Hall. For more information, you may contact Heather Sizemore of The Jewel Box or the DDA at 527-1420.

Area organizations are seeking volunteers to assist with downtown activities. If you would like to volunteer a few hours to an event, please contact the DDA office by calling 527-1420.

## Street Closure Requests

If you have an upcoming event or 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. For more information, contact the DDA office at (616) 527-1420.

