

Ionia Downtown Development Authority

May 17, 2019 Newsletter



Upstairs Downtown Tours Set for Saturday, May 18th



The annual Upstairs Downtown Tours are set for tomorrow - Saturday, May 18th. Hosted by the Ionia County Historical Society, this special event takes us back in time by allowing tours of many upper floors of iconic downtown properties. Find out the nitty gritty details of the building's interiors. As second and third story floors are renovated, the number of those in their original condition slip away. Tickets will be on sale in a booth located near the Ionia Theatre. All proceeds support the Historical Society and Blanchard House. Tours run on Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

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

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 contests, vendor areas, Official Character scheduling and transportation, Souvenir Booth, and other events. 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 Arts & Crafts Show. Contact the DDA office for an application. Reserve your space now! In addition to the Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival scheduled for June 21-22, citywide garage sales are also being held. To have your site listed and highlighted on the sale map, contact the DDA office for details and application. "Like" us on FB at **Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival** for schedules and activity listings. For more information on any of the above mentioned, call (616) 527-1420.



Downtown Shopping District Clean Sweep Event

In partnership with the Downtown Business Group, Habitat for Humanity, Project Rising Tide and the DDA, the first "Clean Sweep" event was hosted on Saturday, May 11th from 9am to noon. To show pride for our growing downtown Ionia, volunteers swept sidewalks and alleyways, provided general clean up and more. To keep this project on task, we ask that all downtown property owners keep the front areas of their buildings and sidewalks clean and clear of debris. Many visitors thanked the volunteers for their commitment to the beautification efforts so let's carry on and make it a tradition. Special thanks to organizers Linda Ciangi, Stacy Moore, John Krueger and the many volunteers for making the project successful and most of all FUN!



2019 Board of Directors

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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.

June 19

July 17

August 21

September 18

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,

Communitywide Garage Sales

Friday, June 21st
and Saturday, June 22nd

Ionia Fireworks Display

Wednesday, July 3rd

Memorial Day Parade

The Ionia David Huhn VFW Post 12080 will be hosting the annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27th beginning at 10am. Line up will be held in the parking lot of the Auto Zone location. Entries will proceed on Main Street to the Courthouse. Following the parade, a special ceremony will be presented on the Courthouse lawn with a full gun salute. If your group or organization would like to participate in the event, please contact the VFW Post for details. Please note that Main Street from Dexter east to Library Street will be closed for the parade. Join us as we thank our Veterans of all wars and remember loved ones.

Kite Festival

Looking for a fun event for the entire family? Stop by the Kite Festival held at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 25th. Bring the kids and kites to enjoy this new community activity. Don't have a kite, no worries as supplies are available to make one on site - at no cost due the generosity of numerous sponsors.

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.



The Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Downtown Window Display Competition for the upcoming Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival. The overall winner will be presented with a “traveling trophy” honoring the official designation. For additional details regarding the competition, contact the Chamber of Commerce as noted on the flyer.

The Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival will be held in the downtown shopping district June 21-22. For more information relating to the Festival, contact the DDA office at 527-1420. Sponsor opportunities are still available - call for details.



Window Display Competition

Register your business by May 26th

Voting begins May 30th - June 24th

Register by calling the
Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce
616-527-2560

