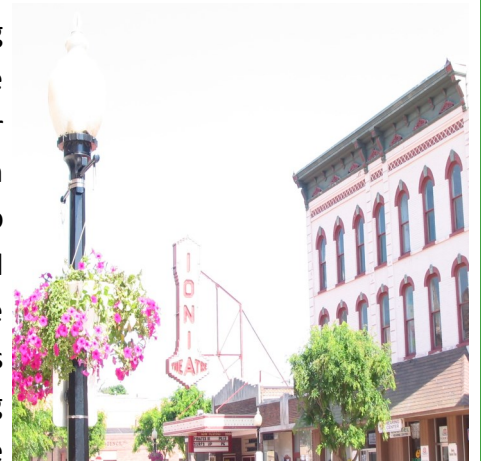




# Ionia Downtown Development Authority July Newsletter

## Façade and Rental Rehab Grant Presentation

Bruce Johnston of Revitalize LLC will be presenting a workshop detailing funding opportunities administered by MEDC on behalf of the Collaborative Community Development Team. Matching grants may include funds for façade improvement, blight elimination, crowdfunding, building acquisition and rental rehabilitation. Please note that grants are limited and specific to funding requirements. They are designed to create vibrant communities and enhance sense of place while retaining the feel of traditional downtowns. The target area has been designated for buildings located within the business district with boundaries of and including Main Street north to and including the south side of Washington Street; Main Street south to and including the north side of Adams Street; Main Street east to Library Street / Hudson Street; and, Main Street west to Dexter Street. **Join us on Wednesday, August 7th at 9am in the basement conference room of City Hall for this informational meeting. Contact the DDA office at 527-1420 with any questions you may have.**



## First Thursday on the Bricks

The newly created Ionia Downtown Group will be hosting “First Thursday on the Bricks” August 1st from 5pm to 8pm. Sidewalk Sales, craft vendors, entertainment, children’s activities and more are offered for visitors during this special evening celebrating summer in the city. A sidewalk chalk art event is being hosted by the downtown businesses and will support the Ionia County Animal Shelter. For a \$5 donation to the Shelter, families will receive a box of chalk to decorate a sidewalk area allowing their artist side to shine. If you are not an artist, you have the option of donating an item from the list below detailing specific needs of the Shelter. Either way, you are supporting a great cause and receiving the coupon for 10% discounts on special goods and services. A list of participating businesses will be included with your coupon.

Ionia County Animal Shelter needs listing includes clumping kitty litter, grain free dog food, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, pet toys / Kongs, treats, leashes, Windex, Q-Tips, collars of any size, air freshener, peroxide, bleach, cardboard cat carriers, Blue Dawn dish soap, cotton balls, and / or Clorox wipes.

For more information on donations, coupons and chalk art details, contact Heather at The Jewel Box located in downtown Ionia. Businesses are asked to remain open to serve shoppers.

## 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

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Ionia, MI 48846  
Phone: (616) 527-1420  
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## 2019 Meeting Schedule

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

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

### 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

### Ionia Farmers' Market

June through October

### Thursday on the Bricks

Thursday, August 1st 5pm - 8pm  
Downtown Ionia

### Grand River Tour de Ionia

Saturday, August 24th 9am - 2pm

### Ionia Purple Week

September 21st - 27th

### Ionia Purple Car Cruise

Saturday, September 28th

### Autumn Celebration

### Chili Dawg Challenge

Thursday, October 24th

### Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 30th



## Business Spotlight

Founded as First National Bank of Ionia in 1864, Independent Bank Corporation operates a branch network across Michigan's Lower Peninsula through one state-chartered subsidiary. Independent Bank currently has 70 branch locations and 11 loan offices. Out of a total of 1,002 employees, 174 reside in Ionia County; 220 employees work in Ionia County; and 144 work in Ionia within 3 branch offices and a corporate office. In 2018, Independent Bank was No. 2 overall in Forbes "Best In-State Banks" for Michigan and No.1 for Michigan based banks. On July 1, 2019, Forbes named Independent Bank as No. 1 overall and "Best Bank in Michigan". Columbus Day (October 14, 2019), will mark Independent Bank's 4th annual "Making a Difference Day" when employees will quite literally roll up their sleeves and help clean up their respective communities in addition to donating funds to respective organizations they assist.



If you are interested in having your business highlighted in an upcoming newsletter, please contact the Ionia DDA for more information.

## 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.

# Ionia Fireworks Sponsor Listing

The Ionia Fireworks Display launched from the Fairgrounds on Wednesday, July 3rd was again a huge success. Perfect weather prevailed, record breaking attendance and the later start time of 10:10pm allowed for a darker back drop for the pyrotechnics. Concessionaires served ice cream, fresh made lemonade, cotton candy, caramel corn and more to the visitors throughout the evening adding to the festive atmosphere.

On behalf of the Downtown Development Authority, we extend our sincere appreciation to all who donated funds to assist in the City of Ionia Fireworks Display hosted on July 3rd.

In Honor of All Veterans by Seymour Furniture

In Honor of Joe Bignell AND in Memory of Matthew Bignell by Howard and Lorena Bignell

In Memory of John L. McNamara AND In Memory of Rex P. O'Connor, Sr. by Mary E. O'Connor

In Memory of Kent and Fran Schaefer by Clover Family Farms

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Pond by Particular Pets LLC

In Memory of Our Beloved Family Gone On Before Us by Michael & Gail Gesselman Family

American Inn & Suites, Bader & Sons Company

CL Trucking & Excavating, Consumers Energy

Edward Jones – Steve O'Mara, Endvi Auto Body

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. , Larry Heffelfinger, Darin Elliott and Shuri Griffin with Greenridge Realty

Herbruck's Poultry Ranch Inc., Independent Bank

Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce, Ionia Dial-A-Ride

Ionia Lock & Key, Lake Funeral Home Inc.

Ionia Rotary Club, Lamplight Grill, Lehman Funeral Homes

MainStreet Planning Company, MATCOR Automotive - Michigan

Matthew's House, Meridian Hearing LLC

Michigan One Community Credit Union, Mike Kirgis Insurance Agency

Mulder & Associates – Surveying and Mapping, Rick Rogusky – State Farm Insurance

Robert M. Payne DDS, Shattuck Farms / County Commissioner Jack Shattuck

SKLD – Ionia, The Alibi Bar & Grill

Travelers Protective Association Post 1, Trevor Merren Auto

Walker, Fluke & Sheldon PLC,

City of Ionia, City of Ionia Public Safety / Police and Fire, City of Ionia DDA, City of Ionia DPW

Ionia County Shoppers Guide, Ionia Rotary Club

Ionia Sentinel Standard, Ionia Theatre

Life EMS and Staff, Melrose Pyrotechnics

WION Radio, Ionia Free Fair

Tom Millard, Gary Ferguson,

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gesselman and Family

Bain Concessions, Touch of Joy in Every Scoop Concessions

Hardin's Concessions, Rainbow Ice Concessions, Aloha Glow Sticks

Thank you!



## Ionia Farmers' Market Seeking Vendors

Open June through October, the Market welcomes general vendors in addition to those providing arts, crafts, maple syrup, honey and more. Vendor fees are set at \$4 per day per space. Applications for the market are now available on the City of Ionia website or DDA office. The Ionia Farmers' Market supports WIC Project Fresh and Senior Project Fresh coupon programs. Support the farm to table initiative by shopping at the Ionia Farmers' Market. For more information, contact the DDA office at (616) 527-1420.

This week's Market Spotlight celebrates "Next To Mom's" by Matt and Tammy Edwards. Local farm raised / fresh USDA certified frozen beef / pork, feed / seeds, honey, maple syrup, in season fruits, handmade soaps and are available. For a complete list of items available from the Edwards Farm, call 616-902-8052. Special orders can be picked up at the Ionia Farmers' Market.



## Math Matters Event at the Ionia Farmers' Market

The Ionia Farmers' Market will again celebrate the annual **Math Matters** event on Saturday, August 17th from 9am to 1pm. The first 25 children, ages 4 to 12 years and accompanied by a parent or guardian, will be provided \$4 to shop at the Ionia Farmers' Market. The full amount must be used to purchase fruits and / or vegetables from one of our many vendors on this designated date. Children will shop accordingly using the \$4 to add and subtract while purchasing farm fresh fruit and vegetables. Each child will also interact with the vendor as they shop allowing for a teaching experience supporting agriculture. Funding for this event is provided by local businesses. The DDA is asking ten businesses donate \$10 or more to assist with this great before school learning activity. All sponsoring businesses will be recognized at the event and in the DDA's newsletter. If you would like to donate to this fun filled educational event, please contact the DDA office at 527-1420.

