

For Immediate Release



MERCANTILE BANK OF MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES DONATION OF DOWNTOWN IONIA BUILDING TO IONIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Community bank donates downtown building to the Ionia Community Library, increasing the Library's capacity to serve Ionia and the surrounding communities.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., January 13, 2021 – Mercantile Bank of Michigan (“Mercantile Bank”) today announced it will donate its historic downtown Ionia building, located at 302 W. Main Street to the Ionia Community Library (“ICL”). Mercantile Bank continues to operate two Ionia locations.

“We recognize that this building has a long and rich history that is important to the downtown Ionia business district, as well as to the people of Ionia,” said Ray Reitsma, President of Mercantile Bank. “As a local Michigan bank with deep roots in the community, we knew that the future of this building should be to benefit the people, and we couldn’t think of a better new owner and caretaker than the Ionia Community Library. A place accessible to all, where people come together to learn, collaborate and enjoy their community.”

Mercantile Bank will continue to serve the Ionia market with banking, commercial and mortgage services at its two locations at 2600 S. State Rd. and 202 N. Dexter St. Both locations are scheduled to receive renovations throughout 2021 including expanded lobby service and an enhanced drive-thru with a Live ATM Banking machine at the Dexter St. location. “Our customers are using alternative banking options more thanks to our high-touch service model and robust online, mobile and card banking platforms.” said Tara Randall, SVP, Retail Banking Director. “As we reviewed our existing locations in the Ionia market we felt this was the best direction for us to be able to better serve our customers, and at the same time invest in the Ionia community. We are looking forward to the Ionia community joining us in celebrating this transition”.

Ownership is set to transfer to the Ionia Community Library in March of 2021. “The entire library organization is very grateful for Mercantile Bank’s extremely generous gift. We are very excited and enthused at the prospect of retrofitting the building to far better serve the needs of the Ionia community. Our next steps will be to apply our community’s needs to this new plan and to share this new vision with our citizens to gain their support.” said Gale Yeomans, Ionia Community Library Board President.

Sitting at the corner of Main and Depot Streets, the building is a two-story neoclassical structure with a temple front and two-story limestone columns. It is a key visual landmark and has been a fixture in the downtown Ionia business district for over 100 years. Built in 1913, it housed the Ionia County National Bank, with adjacent buildings including J.C Penney and attorney offices.

About Mercantile Bank

Mercantile Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mercantile Bank Corporation. Mercantile Bank provides banking services to businesses, individuals and governmental units, and differentiates itself on the basis of service quality and the expertise of its banking staff. Mercantile Bank has assets of approximately \$4.4 billion and operates 42 banking offices.

About Ionia Community Library

The ICL is a Michigan district library that has served the information and entertainment needs of Ionia since 1903. The ICL Vision is to provide the Ionia community with 21st century library service in a new state-of-the-art facility.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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