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Cool intern makes cool contacts



By Jon Szerlag
Youth Advisory Committee members are walking down Main Street in Ionia with young professionals from Grand Rapids. The participants toured the Ionia Community Library and the Ionia Theatre as well to see what made Ionia a Cool City, and what makes the city unique.

By Jon Szerlag
The Ionia Sentinel-Standard
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IONIA, Mich. -

City of Ionia's Cool City Intern wrote a mini grant to bring recent graduates in the Ionia County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) in contact with "Cool Connections."

"YAC has a successful teen driver safety program, and they are doing some marketing so we have some marketing professionals (to get them in contact with)," said Cool Intern Julie Rowan.

YAC members on Wednesday promoted their driving safety program at the Ionia Free Fair where the young professionals helped them with marketing strategies, then met with Ionia City Council member Monica Miller at City hall, and then toured the Ionia Community Library and the Ionia Theatre.

The concept of the event is for the young adults to think of ways to showcase Ionia and Michigan as a place where people want to work, live and play, as well as show the students what it is like in the real world.

"What the program is, with us being the young professionals, is to give an idea of what the real world is like," said Landon Bailey, one of the young professionals from Grand Rapids. "It's also a compare and contrast of different experiences with what it is like in a small town, and in a mid-sized city."

During the meeting at City Hall, the group brainstormed what the future of Michigan will be like, including their fears and challenges the area faces.

Photos



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people that care (about the future of the city)," said Miller. "These young people are all making a difference and really care."

During the tours, the students and young professionals heard the history behind the library and theater, and also looked at some of the architectural designs that make Ionia unique and a destination.

Wednesday was the second part of the event, and the students will be going to Grand Rapids to tour the city and learn about the area later this summer.

"The students are going to be going to Grand Rapids, and we hope through meeting three times the relationships will be more meaningful and substantial," said Rowan, and explained that the young professionals will be mentors to the students during the next few months and hopefully longer.

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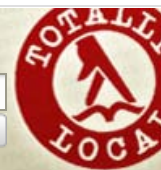
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