

Holt Products evolves and thrives!



Tom Hunt Jr. runs the shop.

“We made a conscious decision to leave the old school machine work behind and specialize.”

For most of us, just *cleaning* the garage is an accomplishment. Some 68 years ago, Clayton Earl and Ernest Hunt started a business in one. That simple family business in the garage has since evolved into a multi-million dollar manufacturer of precision parts. “We’re probably one of the older privately held corporations in Michigan still in business,” said Holt Products owner Tom Hunt, whose father and grandfather founded the company. At the time, Tom said, they never thought it would be anything more than just a way to pay the bills. Then came World War II, and making parts for the war effort enabled the small business to really take off.

Tom explained that they’ve come a very long way from the old days of making screws and bolts. “Our industry sort of evolved into the manufacture of precision parts that are used in almost every product made today.” The automobile, aircraft, aerospace and computer industries, among many others, require these parts. Tom said that in the past 10 years, the company has completely retooled itself. “We made a conscious decision to leave the old school machine work behind and specialize.” They moved into CNC turning machines, and at one time had 24 multiple spinning screw machines and some single spinning machines. Now all but four have been replaced with new computer-controlled machines. “It’s unbelievably technical,” Tom said, “We have robots, and everything is controlled by computer.”

He added, “It was a do or die situation,” as simple screw machine work began leaving this country for China, Mexico, India and other countries. “Had we not made the decision to move into the very, very specialized parts, we would have been history 8 or 9 years ago.” Holt Products now builds component parts for companies including Harley Davidson, and Honda and Toyota’s United States operations.

Tom and his two sons own Holt Products, with Tom serving as chairman of the board and still active as a consultant. Holt Products operates 24 hours a day, 5 days a week, and has about 65 employees, many of whom are 30-year veterans.



OUR TOWN



DEDICATED TO HELPING OUR COMMUNITY & ITS BUSINESSES GROW

A publication of the Delhi Charter Township Downtown Development Authority • www.DelhiDDA.com

All Winds Musical Instrument Service

You might say Don Schneider knows brass and woodwind instruments inside and out. An active trumpet player, Don brings the passion of a true enthusiast to his instrument repair business.

Don has been in the music business since 1988, when he began his apprenticeship in a Wisconsin factory which rebuilt instruments. He opened All Winds Musical Instrument Service in Holt in 2003. As the name of his business suggests, Don works only on brass and woodwind instruments. Don does repair and renovations for a number of local and regional businesses, and said he puts in the extra effort that can make a big difference. "I'm a little more thorough than a lot of organizations have time to be." He prides himself on providing personal, enthusiastic service at a reasonable price.

As both an avid musician and a skilled technician, Don feels strongly about using his skills to help young music students have a positive musical experience. "The important thing for a student is to have a good instrument that plays well. If anyone needs a well-playing instrument, it is a person just starting out."

In addition to doing repairs, All Winds sells instruments and accessories. All the instruments he sells are made in the U.S.A. and carry a one-year warranty. A reconditioned instrument can be a very good value, Don explained. "There are a lot of instruments sitting in attics, which, with some work, would be great instruments for 75 to 100 years."

Don and his family have lived in Holt since 1999, and he has three children in Holt Schools and one at Heartwood. His wife Sue is on the faculty of Lansing Community College.

All Winds Musical Instrument Service is at 2024 Cedar St., 694-8441.



Design Students, Web & TV Promote Holt

Holt residents are proud of our town—and we like to share our pride and enthusiasm. Recent and upcoming projects are raising awareness of Holt and all it has to offer.

- ▶ One or more **Holt High School student artists** will have the opportunity to have their creativity displayed on Holt's popular light pole banners. Holt High School design teacher Patty Pazano's Design II classes have been invited to participate in a banner design contest, and are now working on their entries. The winning design(s) will be turned into banners that will be displayed downtown during the coming year.
- ▶ In the coming weeks, the **DDA website** will be revised and updated to make it a stronger selling tool for attracting business to Delhi. The DDA's research determined that developers considering an area in which to locate depend on the Internet as their primary source of information. Thus the website content will be more strongly oriented to positioning Delhi as a desirable business locale.
- ▶ This past holiday season, **35 local businesses** took part in a cooperative television advertising campaign, underwritten in part by the DDA. Over 1,500 30-second commercials aired, with the theme "There's no place like Holt for the holidays...shop in our town." An additional 100 spots aired in January to thank people for their patronage and to reinforce the "shop Holt" message.



The Holt/Dimondale School Business Alliance needs you!

It's probably fair to say that for as long as business has existed, business people have gotten together to share information and ideas.

The Holt/Dimondale School Business Alliance was founded in 1988 to advance local business by providing just such an opportunity for business people to meet, address their common issues and concerns, and benefit from mutual support.

"Together, with all our resources, we can make a difference," said Mark Jenks, a long-time Alliance board member and Director of Delhi Township Parks & Recreation. Sally Rae, another long-time Alliance board member and Vice President/Community Bank Administrator for Dart Bank, said, "The partnership between our community businesses, local government and schools has proven to be beneficial to all involved, and ultimately to the community as a whole." As our business community grows and diversifies, a strong Business Alliance is more important than ever. New input, new voices and new resources are critical to advancing and supporting local business. The Alliance is actively seeking new members, and intensifying their focus on promoting and advocating for local businesses.

A strong and vital Holt/Dimondale School Business Alliance starts with you! All local businesspeople are urged to get involved. Membership is \$100 per year.

Meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month, September through November and January through May, at Charlar Place. Each meeting includes a buffet breakfast and speaker. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information about the Holt/Dimondale School Business Alliance, please contact Roger Enos, President at 517-694-0431.



Al McFadyen

Please feel free to contact Helen Harrison or Al McFadyen if you have any questions about the CRRP or would like further information. We can be reached at 517-699-3866 during normal business hours.

New Items Now Eligible for CRRP

by Al McFadyen, DDA Executive Director

Last year, the Delhi Township DDA and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office sponsored a series of crime prevention seminars for Holt businesses. These seminars were well received and offered a great opportunity for businesses and local law enforcement to discuss mutual concerns. One of the topics covered in this series was the availability of various security devices designed to thwart or detect theft and vandalism.

A number of businesses expressed interest in purchasing this equipment and the DDA Board of Directors decided to support this interest by revising the Commercial Rehabilitation Rebate Program (CRRP) to include the purchase and installation of exterior security devices. Examples of such equipment include motion detectors, enhanced exterior lighting and outside security camera systems. It will now be possible for business concerns within the DDA District to receive a rebate in the amount of 50% of the cost of purchasing and installing exterior security equipment, subject to a maximum rebate amount of \$10,000 per property. As with any other CRRP project, application and project approval guidelines must be met.

While the DDA Board was in the process of broadening the CRRP guidelines to include security equipment, we also clarified the eligibility of certain exterior improvements in new construction situations. While designed primarily for building renovations, the program will now also fund signage, landscaping, parking and dumpster enclosures for new commercial, industrial or office construction within the DDA District.



Vegas Comes to Holt!

Here's your chance to be a high roller for a great cause!

The Holt/Dimondale School Business Alliance's annual Las Vegas Night will be held on February 10 at the Holiday Inn South from 6 p.m. until midnight. This popular event is one of the Alliance's major projects, and raises money for the Ronald VanErmen Scholarship Fund, named for the late founder of the Alliance. Since 1995, the Business Alliance has awarded 30 deserving graduates of Holt High School and Holt Central High School a total of \$76,000 in scholarships.

Las Vegas Night is organized, staffed and largely financed by community businesses and volunteers. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please contact Dave Dec at 517-694-3306 for further information. Come on out for a night of fun and show your support!

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THE D.D.A – WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) promotes economic development through business attraction/retention programs and works to foster investment within the DDA district. It strives to increase the Township's tax base and strengthen the local economy while maintaining those qualities which make Delhi Township a desirable place to live and work. For more information, visit us at www.DelhiDDA.com.

To contact us: Al McFadyen, Executive Director
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