



THE DDA – 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 that 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
 2045 North Cedar Street, Holt, MI 48842
 (517) 699-3866 or (517) 699-3867
Al.McFadyen@delhitownship.com

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OURTOWN

2045 North Cedar Street
 Holt, MI 48842



Holt Will Welcome Its Own Farmers Market



At long last, Holt will have its own farmers market. Holt Farmers Market is scheduled to open this July in the old fire department building at 2150 Cedar Street. This location has room for approximately 16 indoor spaces as well as outdoor space for additional vendors.

"The Holt Farmers Market will be about quality of life with a strong emphasis on education," says Al McFadyen, executive director of the Delhi Township DDA.

"We really like the idea of local people being able to buy locally-grown produce. We're hoping to attract local farmers—both big and small—to rent space." Al adds that there will also be some spaces rented to artisans.

Chuck Grinnell, owner of Holt Shoe Repair, has been named part-time manager of the market. He's currently working on setting up contracts, rules and regulations and getting the location ready. "Chuck brings great energy and enthusiasm to the project," says Al. "He'll give Holt Farmers Market the jump start it needs to get up and running." Chuck hopes the new market will act as a stepping stone for new businesses.

Opening is tentatively set for July 12. A website with information for vendors and customers is being developed, and is scheduled to go up in mid-May at holtfarmersmarket.org

Watch for more information on days and hours of operation as it becomes available.



Link Up With Us

Just a reminder to Delhi Township business owners: if you would like a link from the DDA's website to yours, just send us your web address. We'll take care of the rest! Simply email al.mcfadyen@delhitownship.com.





Real Estate One Capitol

While the real estate market overall is down right now, Dale Ryckman of Real Estate One Capitol says that homes here are still selling. Having launched his company in 1981, Dale has been through the ups and downs of the market many times, and Real Estate One Capitol has kept on growing.

A franchisee of the largest real estate firm in the state of Michigan, Dale started Real Estate One Capitol in a small building at Cedar and Aurelius, but quickly outgrew the space. In 1985, Dale moved the firm to its current location—where it has since moved to ever-larger suites three times. Dale opened a second office in Charlotte in 2004, and between the two offices has 35 employees, handling residential and commercial properties and vacant land.

Perhaps one of the keys to the firm's success is Dale's commitment to be in the forefront of updated ideas and knowledge. And, he adds, "Our objective is to provide you with the best possible service and attention."

Dale and his wife Sherry have lived in Holt since 1974, moving here to enroll their two sons in the Holt schools. Now one of those sons is a teacher himself, and the other is in construction management.

Real Estate One Capitol is at 2380 N. Cedar St., Suite 1, 694-3200.

"Our objective is to provide you with the best possible service and attention."

From Downtown to Delhi

For nearly 50 years, **Sinas, Dramis, Brake, Boughton & McIntyre** grew and thrived in downtown Lansing. But eight years ago, they made the move to Delhi Township.

George Sinas says that moving to Delhi was "a big step for us," given their long history downtown. But building here was attractive for several reasons, including property that met their needs. Because Sinas Dramis represents many injured and disabled clients, those needs included a single-story building with easy access and on-site parking, as well as room to grow.

Of the 11 attorneys at Sinas Dramis, eight handle only personal injury cases, and the rest focus on domestic law. "We like to think of ourselves as a family-oriented firm that serves people in these two primary areas—personal injury and family law," George says. Among them the attorneys have earned innumerable professional distinctions, and over the last half century the firm has become one of the most respected in Michigan.

"The best thing that can be said about our firm is that we've always tried very hard to give back to not only the profession, but to the community in which we do business," says George. The firm's focus on personal injury, for example, led them to partner with the Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, WLAJ-TV 53 and the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association to sponsor the annual Heads Up for Safety bike helmet event. "Every year we give free bicycle helmets to kids who might not otherwise acquire them," George says. Professionally, the firm is very active in legal education. They lecture frequently at legal seminars throughout the state, and participate in legislative activities that deal with personal injury law.

The Sinas Dramis law firm is at 3380 Pine Tree Road, Lansing, (517) 394-7500



"The best thing that can be said about our firm is that we've always tried very hard to give back to not only the profession, but to the community in which we do business."

Spring Brings Sweet Sensations



Sweet Sensations serves a premium ice cream hand-dip which is 16% butter fat—but they also offer a fat-free yogurt, as well as a sugar-free, fat-free yogurt.

Kari and Patrick DeRosa are the latest in a long line of DeRosas—going back to 1958—to own and operate what is now Sweet Sensations.

Sweet Sensations opens for the season each year on March 1. “In the spring, people always look forward to ice cream and getting out and walking,” says Kari—and she makes sure they find what they want when they get there. She serves a premium ice cream hand-dip which is 16% butter fat—but she also offers a fat-free yogurt, as well as a sugar-free, fat-free yogurt. For those looking for a little more substance, there are also hot dogs and chili. Kari takes pride in the quality of her food, too: “We always sell premium things.”

Sweet Sensations has 17 employees and is open seven days a week. The hours of operation vary, but of course are longer in the summer. Kari employs many students and understands the importance of school activities, so she tries to schedule “to work around everything.” Kari’s sister, Kris Hummel, runs the Sweet Sensations mobile unit, which is out every weekend in June, July and August at fairs and craft shows in the mid-Michigan area.

Like so many other businesses, Kari has taken advantage of CRRP funds to help pave the parking lot and add benches and shrubbery in the back. “The DDA has been good to work with,” Kari says. “It is there to help everybody out.”

Sweet Sensations is at 1963 S.Cedar St., Holt.

Prepare to Be Pampered

Just five years after beginning his cosmetology career, Steven L. Marvin took over an existing salon in Holt with the vision of creating “the perfect salon and spa.” One addition, several remodels, and countless clients later, the Steven L. Marvin Salon & Wellness Spa is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Steven has been featured in newspapers and magazines for his innovative ideas in both hair cutting and salon design, and the salon’s goal is for everyone who comes in to be welcomed by a smiling face and a staff ready to pamper. They offer the full range of salon and spa services, including personalized facials, waxing, body treatments, pedicures, manicures, massages and a state-of-the-art Vichy shower—and, of course, hair cutting, styling, color and perms.

All team members are skill-certified before rendering services, and achieve higher levels of certification through continuing education. Steven L. Marvin is an Aveda concept salon, so team members receive education through Aveda, and in-salon coaches assist in creating and perfecting the latest trends.

Steven has taken advantage of the Commercial Rehabilitation Rebate Program (CRRP) several times to make exterior improvements, most recently the resurfacing of his parking lot. He appreciates the program and finds the DDA very easy to work with.



Why Holt? When Steven and his wife chose Holt for their home and business 25 years ago, they were looking for a good place to raise a family. They selected Holt for the community and the schools, and currently have two children in the Holt School system.

The Marvins don’t simply appreciate the community—they believe in giving back. They are supporters of local theater and performing arts, as well as Project Day Maker (a mobile program that provides haircuts to the homeless), Relay for Life, Child Abuse Prevention Services, the Greater Lansing Food Bank, the Council Against Domestic Assault, and Locks of Love. They are also sponsors of the Holt Senior High School prom, and were the Premier Sponsor at the 2008 Vegas Night put on by the Holt-Dimondale School Business Alliance to raise scholarship monies for Holt graduates.

Steven L. Marvin Salon & Wellness Spa is at 1958 Cedar St., 694-7788.

The Marvins don’t simply appreciate the community—they believe in giving back.

CRRP Supports More and Larger Projects

The DDA's Commercial Rehabilitation Rebate Program (CRRP) is designed to help business owners make exterior improvements that might not otherwise be affordable. More Delhi business owners are becoming aware of just how beneficial a program it is—and they're making use of it to accomplish major upgrades.

"We're seeing a number of larger projects that we didn't see in past years," says DDA Executive Director Al McFadyen. "We had a couple of projects this year that used the full \$50,000, and that's great." Under the CRRP, the DDA reimburses 50% of the cost of eligible exterior improvements, up to a maximum rebate of \$50,000.

Al noted that there was increased interest in the program this year, particularly in the second half of the year. By the end of 2007, the DDA had committed more than 75% of the year's \$400,000 CRRP budget.

For more information about the CRRP, visit www.delhidda.com and click on Business Support, or contact Al McFadyen at 699-3866.



Royal Lawn & Landscape Thinks Green!

"We're really connected with the Holt residential and business people."



David Thurston Jr.

David Thurston Jr. thinks green—in more ways than one. With more than 350 lawn and landscape areas per week to maintain during the summer, his company keeps a lot of spaces green. But Royal Lawn and Landscape is also a "Green Industry" company, committed to following practices that are as environmentally friendly as possible.

David started his business in early 1990 when the landscape company he was working for went out of business and several former customers called him for help. Now, he says, "We are so diversified. We can do the landscaping; we can do the irrigation and after it's installed, we can maintain it. We plant grass, we do sod, we do hydro seeding. We do so many different things—kind of like a one stop shopping center for anything to do with the Green Industry." They also offer all types of landscape maintenance, and install waterfalls, patio pavers, hardscapes, and perennial gardens. Royal has worked on many of the DDA's projects, including the Holt entrance walls.

Most of Royal's clients are commercial, but the sprinkler systems attract a lot of residential customers. David maintains a staff of 40 during the summer, many of whom focus solely on the landscaping and irrigation aspects of the business. He also has about 15 people who just cut grass, and 6-8 who trim bushes and trees, distribute mulch and work on curb appeal maintenance.

Royal also does ice and snow removal, so this winter was a big hit with Dave, who voiced the seldom-heard sentiment, "It's been a long time since we've had a really good winter."

Royal's administrative office is currently located at Cedar Street and Holt Roads behind the former Sweet Mike's, and the operations facility is in the back of David's 12-acre property in Holt. But he hopes to find a site in Holt and build a facility which would contain both. "We're really connected with the Holt residential and business people," David says. "They're very loyal to their community."

David and his family moved into Holt in 1988, "...and we've been here ever since." Dave's wife, Marni, is a financial consultant (Thurston Financial Consultants) and handles Royal's finances. They are raising 5 sons and travel 45 weekends out of the year singing gospel music.

Contact Royal Lawn and Landscaping at 694-LAWN (5296)

Chu's Pearls Offers Affordable Elegance



Sam & Liz Chu

*"This is our vision,
and our passion."*

It began with a 2' x 2' box of pearl jewelry Elizabeth Chu brought with her on a visit home to Michigan in spring 2004. "We made \$4,000 in four days," she says, and the dream to launch a company was born.

Husband and wife team Samson and Elizabeth Chu returned permanently to the United States from Hong Kong that August with their life savings invested in jewelry. Business quickly exploded, and the couple began looking for others to share the opportunity.

Chu's Pearls features simple, elegant jewelry sold through private showings. "We want to be the Tiffany's of home shows," says Elizabeth. "This is our vision, and our passion." Chu's jewelry features freshwater pearls, mother of pearl, and semi-precious stones like jade, jasper and onyx, set in nickel-free 925 sterling silver treated with platinum, 18K white gold or rhodium to prevent tarnishing.

Elizabeth says their customers are surprised by their affordable prices, which range from about \$8 to \$88.

As of this January, Chu's Pearls has carried more than 3,500 pieces, served thousands of customers, and has added "16 amazing men and women" to their sales team. They have also recently updated their website to facilitate online sales, particularly for repeat customers.

Chu's Pearls is at 4061 Holt Road in Holt, 517-709-3506. Their website is www.chuspears.com.

Spartan Speedway is a Family Affair

Spartan Speedway has been a hometown attraction since 1956. What people unfamiliar with short track racing don't know, however, is that the fan base consists mostly of families.

"We have a lot of third-generation fans," says Spartan Speedway co-owner Jim Leasure. "The stunning thing about short track racing is the family nature of the sport. You'll see more families at Spartan Speedway than you will individuals."

Families and individuals alike are eagerly anticipating Spartan Speedway's 2008 opening on Friday, April 25.

The short track racing business has changed a lot over the years, Jim says. As options in entertainment have increased, they've had to come up with more and more "out of the box" promotions to keep up with the competition. Among them are Kids Night, which features bike give-aways, and an auto racing mentorship program which introduces interested people of all ages to the inside aspects of auto racing. They also offer a fundraising program which can help schools, youth groups, church groups or most any local organization pay for its own extracurricular activities.



Spartan Speedway is at 779 N. College Road, Mason. If you are interested in a fundraiser or additional information, call 517-244-1042. For the 2008 racing schedule, visit www.spartanspeedway.com.

Carlin's Catch

Carlin and Tamara Ramey tell people they have "two kids and a restaurant." So perhaps it's not surprising that the restaurant is a family operation.

Carlin's Catch opened in November with an emphasis on seafood, as the name suggests. Carlin prides himself on homemade food, and in his many years in the food business, he has amassed quite a few recipes—including his chowder which has stood the test of time for 30 years. Everything served at Carlin's Catch is homemade. "The fish & chips I'll put up against anybody in a six-county area," Carlin says, adding that he uses a health-conscious soy-based oil with zero trans fat. And save room for dessert—brownies, homemade bread pudding and cheesecake are also available.

Carlin and Tamara live just south of Holt and found this location which was in almost-ready-to-open condition. They did a study which confirmed a heavy traffic pattern, and, Carlin adds, "We just liked the location. And this is a fast-growing area, business wise." Carlin and Tamara worked with the DDA on CRRP funds for landscaping and their sign, and although the weather put the landscaping on hold temporarily, Carlin says the CRRP is "really a neat thing."

Carlin has been in the food business for 45 years, including 17 years with City Fish Company in downtown Lansing, and 20 years at Meijer. He and Tamara, married 39 years, met in food service, but Tamara is a teacher in a local Christian school. Their three teenage grandchildren work at the restaurant, along with six other non-family employees.

The restaurant is open from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week, but Carlin plans on extending the hours in the spring, as well as adding picnic tables outside.

Carlin's Catch is at 1979 Aurelius Rd Phone, 517-694-4020



Carlin Ramey

"The fish & chips I'll put up against anybody in a six-county area,"

Holt Veterinary Clinic Expands



Although MSU grad Dr. Hugh Fauser spent the early years of his career elsewhere, he liked this area and made his way back. So far he's continued liking it for nearly 29 years. A veterinarian for 35 years, Dr. Fauser opened the Holt Veterinary Clinic in its current location in October 1979.

With a large client base and a staff of eight, including associate Jennifer Rees, D.V.M., the clinic has outgrown its space. The current addition will nearly double the square footage and provide two more exam rooms and a new surgery/radiology suite. Dr. Fauser is taking advantage of the Delhi DDA's Commercial Rehabilitation Rebate Program (CRRP) for some of the exterior improvements, including replacing the flat roof with a peaked roof and adding a parking lot in the back. This is the second renovation Dr. Fauser has undertaken with help from the CRRP, and found it easy to work with the DDA. "The DDA wants to help businesses," he says.

The outside work on the clinic is now finished, but interior work is still underway. Dr. Fauser is able to keep the practice open while construction continues, noting gratefully that his contractor has been "willing to work around us."

Dr. Fauser feels the Clinic is unique—and continues to grow—because of the emphasis they place on care for their clients.

Holt Veterinary Clinic is at 1836 Cedar St., 694-9510

9th Graders Demonstrate Learning at Portfolio Days

This year the scholarship program will award \$3,000 scholarships to five Holt graduates.

Portfolio Days began in 1995 when a faculty committee led by then-principal Dr. Johnny Scott wanted to “empower kids to see themselves as learners.” They used the term portfolio to describe a collection of exhibits chosen by each student to visually represent his/her growth as a learner.

Students are asked to select both school and non-school items to represent their growth in academics, personal management and teamwork. 7th and 8th graders give a portfolio presentation to their parents or significant adult as a way of communicating about their learning. In 9th grade, however, every student presents their portfolio before a panel of community business leaders.

The experience is meant to assist the student in applying what they’ve learned to their goals for the future in school and beyond. Last year, Nick Johnson, principal of the 9th Grade Campus, added an “Interview Skills Day” to the process, with volunteer businesspeople helping to better prepare the students for their Portfolio Days interview. After each interview, Portfolio Days panelists complete an evaluation of the student’s presentation. These evaluations are sent on to Holt Senior High School to be used in the mentor program and other ways of assisting the students and tracking their growth.

Portfolio Days will be held this year on May 5, 6, 8 and 9, and volunteers are still needed to serve as panelists for half day or full day increments. Past volunteers say they have learned almost as much as the students! Volunteers are also needed for Interview Skills Day on April 21. If you are interested in participating in either capacity, please contact Nick Johnson, 9th Grade Campus principal, at 694-4370, or Kim Reichard, 9th Grade Campus counselor, 694 7076.



Arts Council Involved in Varied Projects



The recently-formed Holt Community Arts Council is moving forward on a number of projects. On May 10, they will be working with Delhi Township’s POTW Division on a community-built, temporary fish sculpture. They are also in discussion with the DDA about overseeing the creation of a metal sculpture to be installed at the soon-to-be-redeveloped southeast corner of the Cedar Street/Holt Road intersection. The Arts Council has also scheduled a series of outdoor concerts at Veterans Memorial Gardens, with the musicians to be announced:

Thursday, June 19 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 17 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 31 - 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 10 - 3 p.m.

The mission of the Holt Community Arts Council is to enhance the quality of life for all Holt community members by making the arts a prevalent, accessible and visible part of the community.

For more information about these projects or the Holt Community Arts Council, contact Kara Hope at 694-5215, email holtcac@yahoo.com, or visit www.holtarts.org.