



#### COTTAGE INN PIZZA

It all began in Ann Arbor in 1948



#### CULLIGAN WATER SOFTENING

Dedicated to making your water better



#### OCCASIONS INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where occasions begin

### OURTOWN AT A GLANCE



*Lakeside Fire & Grill*



*Superior Saw*

## SUPERIOR SAW

In a way, Brian Cady has come full circle. He's moved his arborist business to the building that once housed his dad's company.

Brian's father, Jack Cady, owned Brady Lawn Equipment until the early 1990s. When Jack sold the company, Brian worked for the new owners until 2001, then built Superior Saw on the property next door. Three years ago, Brian bought back the old Brady business — and last year, moved Superior Saw into its new yet familiar home.

"All the guys got together and we moved 200 feet over," Brian said with a laugh.

Superior Saw is an awarded and recognized dealer in arborist equipment — anything that has to do with trees or tree removal. Ranking in the top one percent in Stihl product sales in a seven-state region, Superior Saw is one of fewer than 40 out of more than 1,100 Stihl dealers to carry "elite" status. Its gold level factory-trained service technicians offer a broad range of services like chipper knife and ax grinding, handsaw and pruner sharpening, bar reconditioning and chain sharpening.

Superior's customer is anyone from a beginner — "We

### *Stoves. Gear. Saws!*

provide a mild amount of training," Brian says — to municipalities, tree service companies and Michigan State University. Superior Saw also sells and services Scag zero-turn-radius mowers, most of which are purchased by homeowners.

The former Superior Saw building next door is still part of the family — it remains home to the other part of Brian's business, Lakeside Fire & Grill. There you'll find gas fireplace inserts, wood burning stoves, pellet stoves, grills and accessories from names like Jøtul, Lennox, Mørso and more.

When *OurTown* last visited Superior Saw in 2009, Brian had four employees. Today he has eight, and he is quick to say how much he appreciates them.

"We have a really, really great crew," he said. "They're friendly and informative but not pushy. Our employees are just phenomenal."

*Superior Saw is at 1334 N. Cedar Rd., Mason, 694-7224, [superiorsawandstove.com](http://superiorsawandstove.com).*



DEDICATED TO HELPING OUR COMMUNITY & ITS BUSINESSES GROW

A publication of the Delhi Charter Township Downtown Development Authority • [www.DelhiDDA.com](http://www.DelhiDDA.com)

# Choosing Holt Public Schools

**D**r. David Hornak is in his first year as superintendent of Holt Public Schools, but as a 21-year veteran employee in our district, he is passionate about our schools, our community, and especially our students. And he's not surprised that families from outside the district would choose Holt for their children.

"It is our hope that families believe in Holt Public Schools due to our academic excellence, amazing faculty and staff, programming, and our facilities," he says.

Yet Dr. Hornak acknowledges that "Schools of Choice" sometimes raises concerns among resident families. He adds that the past eight to ten years have been "uncomfortable" times for schools nationwide and right here at home, due in large part to the economic downturn that hit school districts hard.



Dr. David Hornak

"This same conversation about Schools of Choice is happening across the nation," Dr. Hornak says, "and there are lots of myths and misconceptions."

In Dr. Hornak's experience, the data

do not bear out these concerns.

"Academically, our Schools of Choice students perform similarly to resident students," he says. The same is true for discipline issues, he adds. "There's no evidence that Schools of Choice students are behaving differently than other students." And, Dr. Hornak says, all HPS students are held to the same academic and behavioral standards.

Schools of Choice students currently comprise about 21 percent of our district's approximately 5,600 students. It's interesting to note, however, that an estimated 25-30% of Holt's Schools of Choice students started out as resident students whose families moved out of the district — but wanted their children to continue in Holt Public Schools. He notes that HPS also attracts families from Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Charlotte, Waverly, Leslie and other areas.

"Behind every Schools of Choice student is a parent willing to drive them here," says Dr. Hornak. "We don't provide transportation for non-resident students." And this year, he says, 60 Schools of Choice students ended up becoming residents of our district.

"In the end," Dr. Hornak says, "we consider all of our students the pride of Holt Public!"

*The Holt Public Schools administration office is at 5780 W. Holt Road, Holt, 517.694.0401, [www.hpsk12.net](http://www.hpsk12.net).*



Occasions begin at

# Occasions Invitations & Announcements



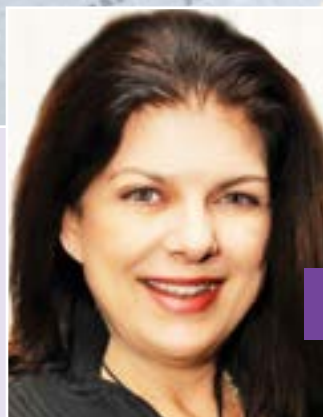
“Invitations are all about first impressions,” says Mary Bower, owner of Occasions Invitations & Announcements. “They’re the opening act of the event.”

Occasions is a moderate to upscale invitation and stationery service, offering invitations, save-the-date cards and all things paper for any event, including graduations, galas, bat/bar mitzvahs – and, of course, weddings. As a professional stationer, Mary provides a level of personal consultation and customization not found with online services or retail sample books. Her in-home studio is open by appointment only, allowing her to devote her full attention to each client.

Mary personally selects Occasions’ wedding stationery couture, ensuring that brides can select from the most on-trend invitations as well as traditional styles. With a wide array of effects, embellishments, typestyles and print processes at her disposal, Mary helps clients create a uniquely personal invitation that complements the look and feel of the event. Still, she says, she’s adept at helping brides create the look they want while staying within their budgets.

A self-described “paper nerd,” Mary says she has always had a passion for paper and loves her work as a stationer.

“It’s fashionable to have cool stationery,” she says. “I truly believe there’s nothing nicer than to receive a special personal note or a lovely invitation in the mail.”



Mary Bower

*For an appointment, contact Mary at 517.290.3084 or email [info.occasionsandinvites@gmail.com](mailto:info.occasionsandinvites@gmail.com). Visit Occasions’ Facebook page or the website at [occasionsandinvites.com](http://occasionsandinvites.com).*



# INTRODUCING

## Deputy James Rowley, Business Officer



Deputy James Rowley

**G**reetings, everyone in Delhi Township! I am excited to be involved in a different aspect of your community, and a cornerstone at that. I have been awarded the opportunity to serve as your Delhi Township Downtown Development Authority Business Officer. These duties have been passed to me from Deputy Kelly Bowden, who has been promoted within our agency. My focus has been, and will remain, to protect and serve the people of our great township.

I have been employed with the Ingham County Sheriff's Office since December 26, 2001, and have enjoyed my career immensely. I have been presented with a unique niche where I can focus on the rich diversity of businesses within the DDA district. Of course, the people are my particular favorite part of the assignment. The owners, managers and employees associated with the 140 businesses I have visited since beginning this assignment in December have all been welcoming and willing to assist in any way. I look forward to meeting many more as I continue reaching

out to all 400-plus businesses in the DDA district.

My focus with businesses will primarily be toward larceny, fraud, embezzlement, destruction of property, unwanted subjects, trespass, abandoned vehicles, counterfeiting, and any other business-related incidents or concerns. With that being said, I am more than willing to answer or research any questions for our DDA businesses.

From myself and all the staff here at the Ingham County Sheriff's Office Delhi Division, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Not only am I employed to serve this community, I have made Delhi Township home for my family for the last 19 years. A healthy, safe, competitive business sector is the base for a safe residential community connecting to a productive school system. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Please, contact the Delhi Officers at 517.694.0045 with any questions or concerns. As always, any suspicious persons or activities can be reported by dialing 911.

*"The owners, managers and employees associated with the 140 businesses I have visited since beginning this assignment in December have all been welcoming and willing to assist in any way."* — James Rowley

# Cottage Inn Gourmet Pizza

**It all began in Ann Arbor in 1948 with the birth of the now-iconic Cottage Inn restaurant.**

As the years passed, Cottage Inn's reputation grew, and the restaurant could no longer accommodate all the folks who craved its gourmet pizza, subs and salads. So, in 1975, the company established a separate carryout and delivery operation. Today, Cottage Inn carryout and delivery franchises number more than 40 in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, the Carolinas — with one right here in Holt.

Jeff Hasho, a 10-year veteran of the Cottage Inn organization, is the manager of the Holt store. His enthusiasm for the company, its products and its customers is evident.

"This will sound weird, but my favorite thing is the fast pace of our busiest nights," he says. "I enjoy interacting with the people in the community."

That interaction includes supporting local schools through donations of food and time. "We do a lot with Holt and Mason schools," Jeff says, as well as Delhi's Building 21 teen center.

Cottage Inn's menu is crave-inducing. Pizza choices range from thin crust to deep dish to gluten-free options; there are also subs, salads, wings, breadsticks, calzones and beyond. You can even finish with a cinnamon-y or chocolate-drizzled dessert bread.

Cottage Inn offers pickup, delivery and catering, and Jeff notes that it has longer-than-typical hours to better accommodate its customers. Open daily at 11 a.m. for lunch, it closes at 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday and midnight Sunday through Thursday. You can view the menu on the website and order online or by phone.

*"This will sound weird, but my favorite thing is the fast pace of our busiest nights. I enjoy interacting with the people in the community."* — Jeff Hasho



Jeff Hasho, manager

Cottage Inn Gourmet Pizza is at 1995 N. Cedar Street, Holt, 699.1000, [cottageinn.com](http://cottageinn.com)



Back row (left to right): Matt Carey, Craig Prange. Front row (left to right): Lonie Johnson, Linda Cook, Courtney Burgess.

# Culligan Water Conditioning of Lansing

## Dedicated to making your water better

When you say, “Hey, Culligan Man!” in the greater Lansing area, that man is Matt Carey.

Matt owns Culligan Water Conditioning of Lansing, the franchise his parents bought in 1963.

“I was born into it,” says Matt, now a 36-year veteran of the water conditioning business.

Despite the business name being Culligan of Lansing, Matt says the majority of clients he serves are in the outlying communities. Residential customers – “mostly individual homes with wells” – make up approximately 80 percent of his business.

“People like the Lansing water from the Board of Water and Light,” he points out. “My business is all about the hard water, and farther out is where the hard water is.”

Matt, like Culligan, is dedicated to making water better and healthier. People often call because their water tastes or smells funny or leaves rust stains – but some, Matt says, just want to know exactly what’s *in* their water, or simply want their water to

taste better. Culligan of Lansing offers a variety of water conditioning solutions, from water softeners to filtration systems that remove a sometimes-frightening-sounding array of contaminants. Culligan conducts a free water analysis to find the right solution for each individual home.

Matt knows that, given their druthers, people would rather spend their money on something other than water conditioning.

“My dad used to say, ‘Believe it or not, we sell an unwanted product.’”

That’s why Matt is committed to making sure each solution he recommends is exactly what the homeowner needs – and why all residential Culligan equipment is backed with a 100% satisfaction guarantee. But with his expertise and more than five decades of loyal customers, he’s pretty sure you’ll be happy.

***Culligan Water Conditioning of Lansing is at 3460 Dunckel Rd., Lansing, 517.258.1933, [culliganlansing.com](http://culliganlansing.com).***





Rachel Garza with John Eyerman, owner.

## Dealer Supply Network



When manager Rachel Garza says that Dealer Supply Network offers “everything car dealers need to run a dealership,” she isn’t kidding. From pennants and banners to inflatables, from all manner of forms to windshield markers and snow removal rakes, Dealer Supply Network has it — and sells it to dealers across the country.

Dealer Supply Network was founded in 1989, and Rachel has been there since the beginning. She was just a teenager when the original owner — already her employer at another local business — asked her to be part of the new venture. Back then, she said, the owner pounded the pavement with a product list in hand. Today, under the ownership of John Eyerman, who purchased the business more than 10 years ago, it’s a very different company.

“From where we started, he totally revamped the business,” Rachel said, including developing a catalog and establishing a website. “I don’t think we’d still be here if he hadn’t moved us forward.”

Rachel notes that Dealer Supply Network is “still small potatoes” compared to its competitors, “but we make a big impact,” thanks not only to the advances the company has made in the last decade, but to loyal clients and a good reputation in the industry. Dealer Supply Network serves most of the major local dealerships and used car lots as well as dealers from here to Alaska.

*Dealer Supply Network is at 3451 Dunckel Road, Suite 100, Lansing, 393.3474, [dealersupplynetwork.com](http://dealersupplynetwork.com).*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Here are some things to look forward to in the coming months!



### Holt Farmers Market

Summer hours begin Saturday, May 7! The market will be open Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit [holtfarmersmarket.org](http://holtfarmersmarket.org) for the latest news.

### Music in the Garden

Our favorite free summer concert series returns to Veterans Memorial Gardens on Thursdays in July! Concerts begin at 7 p.m. on July 7, 14, 21 & 28. Visit [holtarts.org](http://holtarts.org) for information.

### Holt Hometown Festival

Come home to Holt August 19-20! The festival grows bigger and better every year. Visit [holthometownfestival.com](http://holthometownfestival.com) for updates.



# Ram Quarterly and Delhi Neighbor will join *Our Town* online

If you're reading this issue of *Our Town*, you're likely doing so online. This summer, two other local publications — Holt Public Schools' *Ram Quarterly* and Delhi Township's *Delhi Neighbor* — are also becoming digital-only publications. And all three will be available at one online location!

It's all about bringing you more information, more conveniently. Once the new publication site launches, you'll find news about our schools, businesses, local government and community all in one place. They'll also be in mobile-friendly format so you can access them any time, anywhere.

These digital publications offer our community other advantages, too:

- ▶ Substantial money savings — no printing or mailing costs
- ▶ Dynamic content that can be updated as needed
- ▶ Cross-readership among the three publications — increasing the value to potential advertisers, which can further offset costs

We'll keep you informed about the "when" and "where" of the Delhi's digital publications as we go!



**Get connected with Holt Community Connect:** Do you know what's happening in our community? Do you want to be more involved, learn or do something new, or volunteer your time? Contact the Holt Community Connect Volunteer Bureau for more info: [Lori.Underhill@delhitownship.com](mailto:Lori.Underhill@delhitownship.com) or call 517.699.3866.



## 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](http://www.DelhiDDA.com).

**To contact us:** C. Howard Haas, Executive Director  
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