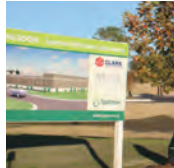




**HERITAGE  
VILLAGE OF HOLT**  
The best of both  
worlds



**SPARROW  
REFERENCE LAB**  
New \$10 million  
facility in Holt



**AGGIE MAE'S BAKERY**  
Made-from-scratch  
baked goods at the  
Holt Farmer's Market

OURTOWN AT A GLANCE >>



## Esker Square: “The beginning of many good things”

In spring 2018, The Gillespie Company will break ground for the first phase of Esker Square—a \$12 million mixed-use development that will house apartments, retail and office space. It's also a key component of Realize Cedar—an initiative years in the making that will “change Cedar Street from a transitional road to a real downtown,” says Howard Haas, executive director of Holt's Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

“We're excited to be a small part of the grand vision that Howard and the township have worked so hard to lay out,” says Scott Gillespie, owner and founder of The Gillespie Company, which will build Esker Square. “Part of our mission is to have a positive transformative effect on an area through the built environment.”

And a transformation it will be. Like many of the properties the DDA has purchased and rehabilitated over the past 27 years, the Esker Square site requires environmental remediation to make the once-blighted property safe and desirable for development. Finding a development partner capable of handling such a transformation is key, says Haas, and The Gillespie Company has proven to be such a partner.

*Continued on next page*



DEDICATED TO HELPING OUR COMMUNITY & ITS BUSINESSES GROW

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*Esker Square – continued from front page.*

“The relationship between the DDA and developers is very important to creating properties people want,” he says. “Transforming this property into a vibrant new complex is just the beginning of many good things that will happen in the near future.”

“The DDA has been incredible to work with,” Gillespie adds. “We’re thrilled to be involved with a community that has a long-term vision and is looking to grow.”

Haas and Gillespie agree that developments that combine living space with restaurants, offices and retail space contribute to a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly community—one of the primary goals of Realize Cedar.

“We’ve had literally thousands of conversations with our citizens about what they want to see,” says Haas. “We believe this project will jump-start the creation of a bold new downtown for Holt.”

*To learn more about or see the latest updates on the Realize Cedar project, visit [delhitownship.com/RealizeCedar.htm](http://delhitownship.com/RealizeCedar.htm), or contact the Delhi DDA, 699.3866. To learn more about the Esker Square project, visit [thegillespiecompany.com/properties/esker-square/](http://thegillespiecompany.com/properties/esker-square/).*

## Transforming smiles **AT EVERY AGE**



*“We want it to be a good experience. It may be unusual to hear laughter in a dental office, but it’s not unusual here.”*

**— Dr. Kyre Blair**

Family dentistry, says Dr. Kyre Blair, allows her to use her expertise across the spectrum of oral health care—not to mention that she really enjoys caring for families. It’s a practice where every day is different, she says: from preventive care to cosmetic and restorative dentistry; from periodontics to oral and maxillofacial surgery and more.

“We’re big on family practice,” says Dr. Blair, who believes in starting oral health care and education early. “I start working with kids as young as six months.”

She’s also big on creating a down-to-earth environment where kids and adults alike feel comfortable. Often, says Dr. Blair, whole families come in at the same time for their preventive care.

“We want it to be a good experience,” she says. “It may be unusual to hear laughter in a dental office, but it’s not unusual here.”

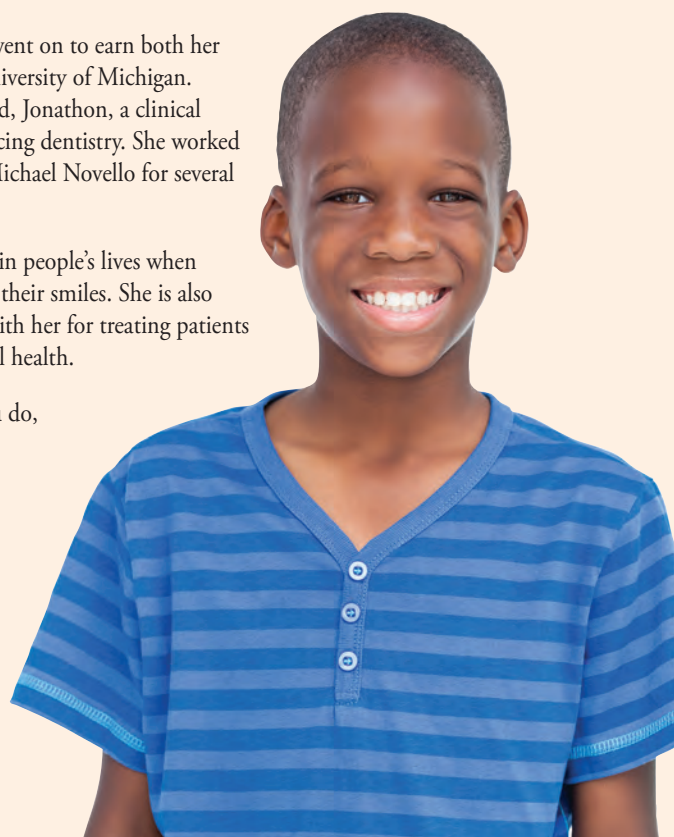
Dr. Blair was born and raised in Lansing and went on to earn both her undergraduate and dental degrees from the University of Michigan. She then returned to this area with her husband, Jonathon, a clinical psychologist in East Lansing, and began practicing dentistry. She worked as an associate of long-time Holt dentist Dr. Michael Novello for several years before buying the practice in 2014.

Dr. Blair loves being able to make a difference in people’s lives when she is able to transform their oral health—and their smiles. She is also proud of her staff and the passion they share with her for treating patients in utmost comfort and supporting optimal oral health.

“I always tell them, ‘You’d better love what you do, because it will show if you don’t.’”

Dr. Blair is accepting new patients and looks forward to providing patients of all ages with great oral health care.

***Blair Family Dentistry is at 2500 N. Cedar St., Holt, 694.3111, [blairsmiles.com](http://blairsmiles.com).***



# George T. Sinas Named “Top 10” Michigan Personal Injury Attorney

## Firm, partners also featured in inaugural issue of *Leading Lawyers Magazine*—Michigan Edition

George T. Sinas, managing partner of Sinas Dramis Law Firm in Delhi Township, has been recognized by *Leading Lawyers* as one of Michigan’s “Top 10 Plaintiffs’ PI Lawyers.” He is one of only two attorneys outside the metro Detroit area to be listed.

Attorneys who are named *Leading Lawyers* are recommended by their peers as being among the best in their practice area. Less than five percent of all Michigan attorneys receive this distinction.

“I am humbled to receive such recognition,” said Mr. Sinas. “This is especially true considering the other outstanding personal injury lawyers who are listed. It’s an honor to be in their company.”

*Leading Lawyers* has also named Mr. Sinas one of Michigan’s “Top 10 Consumer Lawyers”—another of the many honors he has received throughout his lengthy career.

Three other Sinas Dramis partners have been listed as *Leading Lawyers*: James F. Graves, “Top 100 Outstate (Non-Detroit Metro) Lawyer” and “Top 100 Consumer Lawyer;” Michael E. Larkin, “Top 100 Outstate (Non-Detroit Metro) Lawyer” and “Top 100 Consumer Lawyer,” and Bryan J. Waldman, “Top 100 Leading Lawyer,” “Top 100 Outstate (Non-Detroit Metro) Lawyer” and “Top 100 Consumer Lawyer.”

Founded in 1951, the Sinas Dramis Law Firm concentrates its practice on personal injury and wrongful death matters, and also maintains an active family law practice. In addition to its office in Delhi Township, the firm has offices in Grand Rapids and Chicago.

*The Sinas Dramis Law Firm is at 3380 Pine Tree Road, Lansing, 394.7500, [sinasdramis.com](http://sinasdramis.com).*



Attorney George T. Sinas





# USA 2 GO Quick Store to open soon



## New gas & convenience store will be a welcome addition to Holt

**H**olt will once again have a gas station at the southeast corner of Holt and Aurelius Roads where the Bay station once stood. But this one will come with a specialty convenience store filled with amenities.

USA 2 GO Quick Stores are designed to serve busy, on-the-go people like families, business people, construction workers and students. According to the company, USA 2 GO customers appreciate the “convenience, cleanliness and variety of brand name products...with a hello and thank you from our friendly associates.”

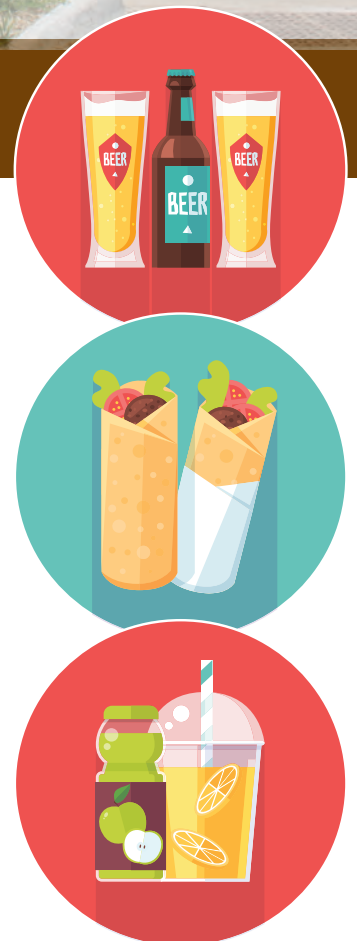
The store will offer fresh sandwiches and wraps, a full array of snacks and beverages, plus pantry staples and household items. It will also carry liquor, a wide selection of specialty wines, and craft

beers from Michigan and the U.S.—including some on tap. And, of course, if you just need to fuel up, the gas station will have six pumps to make it fast and easy.

“This will be a welcome addition to our community,” says Howard Haas, executive director of the Delhi DDA. “Not only is there a need for another gas station, but the store is a very appealing option for today’s busy schedules.”

The property underwent environmental cleanup and construction is underway. USA 2 GO may open by the end of the year.

***USA 2 GO Quick Store will be at 4495 Holt Road, Holt, [usa2goquickstore.com](http://usa2goquickstore.com).***





## VENDOR PROFILE | Aggie Mae's Bakery

Neva Austin grew up baking with her mother, Aggie Mae, in the kitchen of the family's Eaton Rapids farm. Bread-making was both a comfort and a passion for Neva. And then it became more.

She started baking and selling her breads at the Eaton Rapids Farmers Market in 2009. As Aggie Mae's grew and expanded, Neva and her husband Mike opened a complete bakery/restaurant in Grand Ledge, serving soups, sandwiches and pastries. It also offers catering services.

In 2014, at the recommendation of their friend "Pat the Chicken Lady" from Otto's Chicken, Aggie Mae's began selling at the Holt Farmers Market. They offer a wide variety of delicious baked goods made from scratch with locally sourced ingredients. "We use a lot of butter and cream," says Neva. "All the good things in life."

They also love "supporting the little guy" by being part of the Holt Farmers Market.

"We love the atmosphere at the Holt Farmers Market," she says. "When you buy local you support the community directly. We hope to see you soon!"

*Learn about Aggie Mae's and many more Holt Farmers Market vendors at [holtfarmersmarket.org](http://holtfarmersmarket.org).*



## NEW SPARROW LAB WILL DELIVER RESULTS FASTER

### Sparrow Health System has chosen Delhi Township as the site of its new \$10 million laboratory

The 35,000-square-foot Sparrow Reference Laboratory, now under construction near Jolly Road and U.S. 127, is expected to shorten the waiting time for biopsy and molecular test results. On average, most test results are expected to come back within 24 hours—helping reduce anxiety for patients.

The new facility will house labs currently located within Sparrow's St. Lawrence Campus and at 2508 S. Cedar Street in Lansing, the *Lansing State Journal* reported. Putting the labs under the same roof means fewer processing centers, saving time on logistics and getting testing done faster, according to Dr. James Richard, Sparrow's director of laboratories.

The lab is expected to employ 120 people. It will serve the Sparrow Health System as well as hospitals in Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Hillsdale, Marshall and others in the region. Construction is expected to be completed by November.

*The Sparrow Reference Laboratory will be at 3392 Patient Care Dr., Lansing.*





# Total Firearms

OUTDOOR SPORTS FOR ALL SEASONS



"Abbey"

The name, says Total Firearms general manager Mark Starr, may be somewhat misleading. Because, although Total Firearms is a full-service, federally licensed gun shop, it's also much more.

"We cater to the entire four seasons of outdoor sports," says Mark.

In fact, the store is something of a sporting goods juggernaut in the area. Its 15,000 square feet house an indoor pistol range, a full line of archery sales and service and an onsite archery range. It boasts the area's largest selection of fishing equipment—and even its own private lake with boat rental for fishing onsite.

Owned by the same family since 1978, the business was founded by current manager Mark's dad as Mark's Gun & Tackle. Around 2000, another family member, Doug Carl, purchased the business, renamed it Total Firearms and moved to the current location. And just a few months ago, Doug's nephew, Bobby Carl, and Bobby's wife, Christina, became the new owners.

The family is proud of their long history of serving the community, says Mark, and of what they've built.

"We're really the area's leader in outdoor sports."

**Total Firearms is at 1380 N. Cedar St., Mason, 517.699.0597, [totalfirearmsgunshop.com](http://totalfirearmsgunshop.com).**



# “A Hidden Gem:” Heritage Village of Holt



A gracious neighborhood of 1- and 2-bedroom apartment homes tucked into 11 acres of natural woods, Heritage Village offers seniors age 55-plus an abundance of options and amenities—from their home style and leisure activities to supportive services.

“We’re the best of both worlds,” says Heritage Village administrator Krista Brayton.

The tranquil setting where wild turkeys stroll through the woods is just minutes from dining, shopping and entertainment. Three residential buildings—each connected to the community center—offer spacious, home-style apartments featuring bay windows, full kitchens with appliances, walk-in showers and many other amenities. For those who wish, meals are prepared daily onsite and served in the community dining area.

Equally important are the options for supportive

services. Residents have the freedom to enjoy totally independent living or opt for personalized health care assistance to the degree they need or want—from help managing medications to hospice care. Special packages help make care options affordable, and Heritage Village partners with multiple senior care organizations to ensure that residents have access to helpful resources.

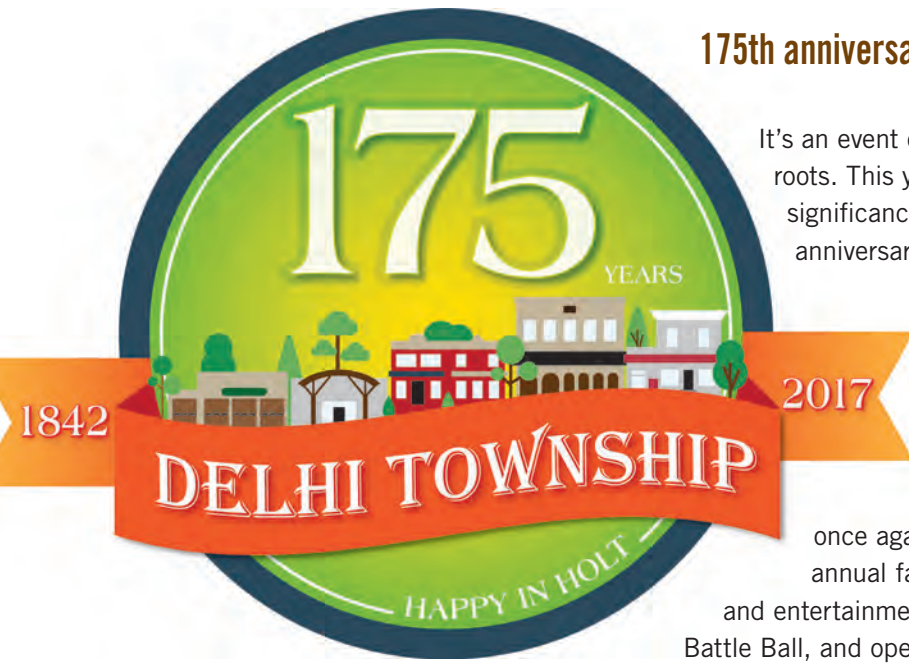
Heritage Village pays particular attention to enabling its seniors to live happily in a warm, loving and supportive environment. With just 45 apartment homes, says Krista, “We’re smaller, more family-like. We can keep our eyes on everything.”

Krista, who has been with Heritage Village since it opened 20 years ago, is also proud of the low turnover among her staff—unusual in the senior living industry, she points out. To her, it’s further evidence of the Heritage Village philosophy: “We don’t just care for people, we care about people.”

*Heritage Village of Holt is at 5075 Willoughby Road, Holt, 694.6564, [heritagevillageholt.com](http://heritagevillageholt.com).*



## 175th anniversary gives Hometown Festival added meaning



It's an event designed to celebrate and reflect on our hometown roots. This year, the Holt Hometown Festival took on added significance as Delhi Township also marked its 175th anniversary.

Traditionally held the last weekend in August, this year's Hometown Festival was moved up to August 19, prior to the first day of school for Holt's "traditional calendar" students on August 23. The festival committee, the Delhi Township staff, sponsors and volunteers, once again put together a memorable event. In addition to annual favorites like the parade, vendors, kids' activities and entertainment, festival-goers enjoyed fun new options including Battle Ball, and open swim at the pool. And, as always, fireworks closed out the festivities for yet another year.

The committee would like to thank everyone who contributed their time, money, resources and talents to celebrating our home town—and all those who turned out to enjoy the Hometown Festival!



### 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:** Howard Haas, Executive Director  
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### THE DDA BOARD MEMBERS:

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Kim Cosgrove,  
*Holt Schools Representative, Treasurer*  
Dr. Tim Fauser, *Vice Chairperson*  
John Hayhoe, *Township Supervisor*  
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