



GRAVITY SMOKEHOUSE

New BBQ features brisket, chicken, pork and more



FUSION DANCE CENTER

Changing the world one dancer at a time



NEW DELHI TOWNSHIP WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED

Redesigned website is now faster and easier to use

OURTOWN AT A GLANCE >>

Promoting volunteerism in Holt

Meet Melanie McNamara

Melanie McNamara is Delhi Townships' new volunteer bureau coordinator, a new position within the Holt Non Profit Coalition, a 501(c)(3) organization started by the Delhi Downtown Development Authority, that aims to connect volunteers in the community with organizations in need of extra help.

"There's a whole spectrum of ways to volunteer in Holt," McNamara said.

Whether people want to set up a weekly volunteer commitment with a local organization, coordinate a community event, or simply help out on a free afternoon, there are many organizations throughout the community in need of volunteers.

McNamara and the Holt Non Profit Coalition are looking to build a database of organizations in need of volunteers and community volunteers looking for new ways to get involved. The database will help strengthen community connections.

McNamara felt this community support on a personal level. When she developed breast cancer a few years ago, her family, friends, and community rallied around her and hosted a benefit in her honor at Buddies Grill. Now, a two-year cancer survivor, she's looking for ways to give back. When she heard about the job opening, she jumped at the opportunity to apply.

"I love helping," she said. "I love connecting people and I think it sounds really exciting to meet with different people and help them make connections."

McNamara and her family have lived in the Holt area for the last 15 years and have fallen in love with the

community. She is also an associate broker/realtor with Keller Williams Realty located here in Delhi Township.

"It's got that small town feel while having the benefit of the Greater Lansing area and everything it has to offer," she said. "It's a place where you can really get to know your neighbors."

All three of McNamara's children attended Holt Public Schools, a place where McNamara first discovered the community's love of service.

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OURTOWN



Melanie McNamara



Promoting volunteerism in Holt — continued from page 1

“I see many people who are really involved in the community and the school system and it’s very inspiring,” she said.

Right now, McNamara is working on identifying Delhi Township organizations in need of volunteer help and recording their calendar of events and general needs. As she reaches out to local organizations, McNamara hopes that this database project and the spirit of volunteerism in Holt will continue to thrive.

“I believe it’s important to volunteer,” she said. “It gives you some perspective on life in general and helps you to be a productive member of the community. It’s important for your mental and physical health just to get out there and meet new people.”

McNamara also said that volunteering can help you connect with your neighbors and community members in ways that you might not otherwise.

“One of my favorite quotes is ‘No single act of kindness ever goes unnoticed,’” she said. “Even if you only have an hour to spare, it will make an impact.”

If you are a Delhi Township nonprofit organization and would like to learn more about connecting with volunteers in our community, please email HoltVolunteer@gmail.com.

You can now access Township information from any device!



Delhi Township launches new website

The Delhi Township website has a new look! The updated layout and features make it faster and easier to find information. Features include:

Notify Me – Create a free account to receive email or text notifications for job postings, board meeting agendas and minutes, calendar postings, and more.

News Flash – The image at the bottom of the home page features upcoming events and news from around town.

Calendar – The new calendar is categorized for easy viewing. You can even specify what you want to see.

News and Events – The new news/events page has a category for current events and another for news and notices. You can sign up for notifications when we add new information to either category.

How Do I...? – Don’t know which department has the information you need? This menu has some of the most commonly searched for topics and departments.

Plus, this website is mobile friendly! Access information from any device. The website address has not changed, so no need to update bookmarks. You will automatically be directed to the new website. Check it out at www.delhitownship.com.



Randi Kay Anthony

Rick Anthony's Flower Shoppe

More than 50 years of personalized service



For Rick Anthony, owner of Rick Anthony's Flower Shoppe in Holt and Lansing, one of the best parts about being a florist is walking alongside his customers through some of their biggest moments in life.

"We're involved in our customers' personal lives—from their birth of their children to the death of their loved ones and all phases in between," he said. "Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays. They all want to do business with someone that they can trust."

Anthony has built that trust with his customers over his 53 year career in the trade. He was born and raised in the flower business, and started working for his father's florist shop, Jon Anthony's Florist, when he was only 14 years old. When he turned 18, he started up his own florist shop on North Grand River Avenue in Lansing.

Anthony and his growing family relocated to Holt and heard from lots of friends and neighbors that they would be happy to do business with Rick Anthony's Flower Shoppe if there was a location closer to home. That's when Anthony opened up his first shop next to Sweet Sensations on Cedar Street. Over the 25 years that Rick Anthony's Flower Shoppe has been in Holt, it's moved to two other locations on Cedar Street, finally landing at its current location around 14 years ago.

Today, Rick Anthony's Flower Shoppe is a thriving family business. Anthony handles the management of his two store locations, but mostly stays at the Lansing location while his wife Carole and daughter Randi Kay handle operations in Holt. As a family, they sometimes have to sacrifice a lot in order to provide for their customers. Anthony can think of several times throughout his career where vacations or family get-togethers were cut short by a

rush flower order. While he does have a dedicated team of part-time employees, last-minute jobs often require all hands on deck.

"If you want to have any kind of success in this business, you have to be ready for these kinds of interruptions," he said. "That's what makes it a unique and demanding business. We offer very personalized service."

But despite its challenges, Anthony has loved being a part of the business and watching it transform over his career.

"The Internet has completely changed the way people order flowers," he said. Today, Anthony estimates that 80-90 percent of his business comes from Internet orders.

And he'll remain ready for new changes ahead. In the coming years, Anthony said he and his wife Carole are considering leaving their business to their children after more than 50 years of running the family-owned shop.

"It's been very rewarding," he said of his long career in the business. "It makes you feel like you've accomplished something very important. The reward comes from the realization that you're doing something for somebody that's really appreciative."

Rick Anthony's Flower Shoppe is at 2111 Cedar Street in Holt, 517.694.7717, www.ricksroses.com.

Gravity Smokehouse: Smoking the competition

In just over a year, Bruce Kring and his business partners have gone from a fun “what-if” idea to launching their very own restaurant.

Gravity Smokehouse & BBQ, which has been operating as a food truck traveling around central Michigan for the past five months, will become Holt’s newest BBQ restaurant this winter. “It wasn’t originally part of the plan,” Kring said. “But the opportunity presented itself and we said, ‘why not?’”

Kring and his partner, James Stine, tossed around the idea of starting a food truck as a fun alternative to their 9-5 jobs. They started the Gravity Smokehouse & BBQ food truck in June and originally decided to keep their reach small. But customers kept coming.

The BBQ joint features brisket, chicken, pork, turkey ribs and any variation of those you can think of. For carb-lovers and vegetarians, they serve specialty mac and cheese that strikes the right balance of creaminess and flavor sophistication.

Stine left his full-time job to start running the food truck full time. Then last spring, the team found out about an opportunity to buy the former Hot N’ Now building on Cedar Street. Shortly after closing on the property, Kring left his full-time job to start tackling the details of opening up a new restaurant.

The team is currently working on remodeling the facility, adding some extra indoor space and even including a drive-through. Depending on paperwork and construction progress, the team hopes to open up the restaurant in early 2019. In the spring, the team plans to add even more outdoor seating options, an attractive and convenient option for those who frequently travel the new trail on Cedar Street.

Stine and Kring both grew up in Holt and met while they were students at Holt Junior High. Both had strong ties to the restaurant industry growing up but went on to pursue other jobs into their adulthoods. But something kept pulling them back to their shared passion for food.

“That’s how the gravity theme came back to be,” Kring said. And if there’s one thing Kring and his team have learned from their exponential growth over the past year, it’s that you can’t fight gravity. “Our business philosophy is ‘just go for it.’ Go for that one thing that’s been pulling at you. Don’t be afraid to do it.”



Clockwise from top: James Stine, Bruce Kring, and Scott Hewitt

The new Gravity Smokehouse & BBQ restaurant will be located at 1850 Cedar Street in Holt. Visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/gravitysmokehouse/.



“We have a lot of pride in taking care of our facilities.”

— Marsha Zimmerman

Dart Development helps Delhi Township businesses thrive

For Dart Development, being a business landlord is about more than providing a space for commerce. It’s about going above and beyond for business tenants.

“We are always looking for ways to make a difference for businesses and build strong relationships,” said Marsha Zimmerman, marketing manager for Dart Development.

An investment arm of Dart Container, Dart Development owns and manages various properties around the country. Dart Development owns the Oakwood Executive Park, which is located between Pine Tree Road and Dunckel Road in Delhi Township. The business park houses a broad range of tenants, including a biotech company and a supplier to General Motors.

Unlike other business park landlords, Dart Development’s offices and maintenance staff are physically located in the Oakwood Executive Park. As a result, tenants have direct access to the staff if they have questions or concerns.

“We’re long-term owners,” Zimmerman said. “We’ve always owned these buildings and we always plan to. We have a lot of pride in taking care of our facilities.”

Dart Development’s commitment to their tenants expands beyond making sure the buildings stay well maintained. They are dedicated to seeing Delhi Township businesses grow.

“We’re just here to make a difference for businesses,” said Zimmerman. “Whether it’s by providing space solutions or working to meet the other needs of a business.”

Zimmerman says that the Dart Development team works alongside new businesses to help them succeed, whether it’s negotiating lease rates or finding other ways to improve the tenant experience.

Their client-focused approach not only helps Dart Development thrive but supports their business tenants as they grow and expand.

“We’ve had so many tenants that have outgrown their space as a result of growth and success. In many instances, we are able to move them into a larger space within the Oakwood Executive Park,” Zimmerman said. “Sometimes, we have a long-term tenant that grows so large they have to move out of our park because they’ve expanded many times and now are growing into their own building. It’s always sad to see a good business tenant go, but at the same time, we’re excited that the business is continuing to grow in our Greater Lansing region.”

Dart Development is at 3120 Sovereign Drive #4b in Lansing, (888) 327-8001, dartdevelopment.com.

Fusion Dance

'Changing the world one dancer at a time'



For Randi Kay Anthony, owner of Fusion Dance Center, teaching kids how to dance is about much more than perfecting a pirouette or mastering a leap.

"We're trying to teach the kids to win with humility and lose with humility," she said. "We want kids to respect themselves. We always just say that we're trying to change the world one dancer at a time."

Anthony has been teaching dance for 22 years. After finishing school, she pursued a brief professional career, dancing for companies in Chicago and Los Angeles. But she quickly discovered that she preferred working with kids in the studio over the dog-eat-dog world of professional dance.

"My heart is in teaching," she said. "There's so many things kids can learn from dance: responsibility, reliability, being part of team, organizational skills, time management. I feel like kids these days don't have a lot of positive influences and school can be really difficult. I try to provide a place that's a safe haven but also teaches work ethic and things like that."

Fusion Dance Center first opened its doors 25 years ago, and Anthony worked at the studio as a teacher under the previous owner. Seven years ago, the previous owner decided to retire and handed the studio over to Anthony. Today, she is continuing to build upon the legacy of the studio and her predecessor.

Students travel from all over central Michigan to dance at Fusion Dance Center. At regional and national competitions, Anthony's students consistently win scholarships and top

prizes for choreography and performance. The secret, Anthony says, is having committed educators.

"One of the things that sets us apart from anybody else is that I'm very picky about who teaches for me," she said "I don't have a high turnover rate in teachers. We are very passionate about what we do. We're not in it for the money. I think that comes through to your students."

Her staff of nine dance teachers help support a growing roster of more than 150 dancers. The Fusion Dance Center team wants each dancer to get the most out of their classes, so they often pursue opportunities to expand their own dance and teaching skills.

"We all continue to learn from each other," Anthony said. "We are constantly going to workshops, classes in New York, conventions, anything we can to further our educations."

The teachers love to see students surpass their own expectations, Anthony says, and each teacher at the studio is committed to helping the dancers grow as athletes and as individuals.

"I love seeing kids accomplish something they didn't think they could," she said. "It's so cool to see their excitement. Because that fuels them to want to keep going. Dance is not something that you can accomplish in a year. There's always more turns. There's always higher jumps. But to see them actually accomplish something and to see that expression on their face is priceless."

Fusion Dance Center is located at 2168 N. Cedar St, Suite 2A in Holt, 517.755.9344, fusiondancecentermi.com.

Meet Deputy Andrew Duling

Hello Delhi Township residents,

I have recently been given the opportunity to serve as the Delhi Township Downtown Development Authority business officer. I have assumed these responsibilities from Deputy James Rowley who has moved on to a new phase in his career in law enforcement. I look forward to continuing the excellent relationships that James has developed between area residents, business, and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office. I look forward to continuing to provide excellent service and protection to the residents and businesses of Delhi Township.

I have been employed with the Ingham County Sheriff's Office since April of 2013. During the course of my career, I have worked primarily in Delhi Township and now have the opportunity to serve as the business officer. I look forward to meeting the owners, operators, and employees of the nearly 400 Delhi Township businesses as I begin this new and exciting assignment.

A little about myself: I have a background in

business. I am a 2008 graduate of Northwood University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. After graduation, I briefly owned and operated my own business. I then decided to enter a career in law enforcement. I graduated from the 91st Mid-Michigan Police Academy in April 2013 and began my career at the Ingham County Sheriff's Office.

As the Delhi Township business officer, my primary focus will be directed towards complaints of larceny, fraud, embezzlement, trespassing, abandoned vehicles, and any other business related complaints questions or concerns. I encourage any area business to contact me with any complaints, questions, or concerns.

From the Ingham County Sheriff's Office Delhi Division and myself, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. As a 30 year resident of Delhi Township, I look forward to working to keep Delhi Township a safe and prosperous community for all area business and residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the other Delhi Division Sheriff's Office deputies with questions or concerns. 2045 N Cedar Street, 517.694.0045.



Deputy Andrew Duling • Ingham County Sheriff's Office • Delhi Division

Touchdown Rams!

This photo shows the 1950 Holt High School Varsity Football team playing on the Holt Memorial Field on the corner of Aurelius Road and Sycamore Street, the current site of the Holt Junior High School. The 1950 team won the Ingham County League Championship for a third year in a row under Coach Fred Lawrence, with a season record of 5-1-1. This photo was originally taken by Roger Boettcher.

*Photo courtesy of the Holt-Delhi Historical Society. To learn more, check out the **Holt, Michigan: A Slice of History** Facebook page, or holtdelhihistoricalsociety.webs.com.*



Quality Dairy

2233 Cedar Street | Holt, MI 48842



Quality Dairy set to reopen this winter

After nearly a year of closed doors, Quality Dairy is preparing to reopen their Holt location

“It’s been a long journey for us,” said Ken Martin, the president and co-owner of Quality Dairy. Late last year, an electrical fire at the Holt location forced the store to temporarily shut its doors. “The site had a tremendous number of conflicts we had to work through. The degree of smoke damage we had was incredible, and there was an awful lot of studying and surveying that had to be done to determine the depth and remediation of the smoke.”

“We’re hoping to develop this site into more of the QD of the future,” Martin said. Holt’s Quality Dairy will serve as the chain’s new “concept store,” a combination of the most popular customer requests and a sneak-peek into the Quality Dairies of the future.

“What I picture is the corner creamery,” Martin said. “We’re hoping to basically create a really good family environment.”

It will include a beer cave, more prepared foods, a kitchen area, and updated technology as well as a walk-up window with soft serve and hand dipped ice cream, milkshakes, and an ice cream topping bar.

“The Delhi Township folks have just been outstanding to work with,” Martin said. “They’ve done everything they can to make sure we’ve been able to get back up and running.”

“Thank you for your patience,” he said. “It’s been a journey to say the least. It has impacted all of us at QD and been a major focus of ours. We’re so very happy to finally have broken ground, and we look forward to being a part of the community again.”

Quality Dairy is at 2233 S. Cedar St. in Holt, 517.371.8918, qualitydairy.com.



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: Howard Haas, Executive Director
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THE DDA BOARD MEMBERS:

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