

OUR TOWN

Orchid Stealth Expanding in Holt



“We are certainly part of an exciting and growing industry.”

Orchid Stealth Orthopedic Solutions excels at developing manufacturing solutions for their clients. Not long ago, however, they found themselves needing a solution of their own—a larger manufacturing space. And they found it right here in Delhi Township.

Orchid Stealth will soon move some of its operations to the former American Homecrafters building at 1489 Cedar Street, which will provide the needed manufacturing space as well as housing their corporate offices. Barb Rice, HR director, credits the DDA as being instrumental in helping to make this location workable. Renovation of the building is now underway, and Orchid Stealth is taking advantage of the DDA's Commercial Rehabilitation Rebate Program (CRRP) for the exterior remodeling. The company also has two other Holt locations which they will continue to occupy.

Barb notes that the expansion offers benefits and opportunities beyond just gaining space. “It allows us to reconfigure into a ‘leaner’ manufacturing setup,” she explains. “Lean manufacturing processes reduce waste and enhance overall productivity.”

Orchid Stealth is one of several companies that have been brought together under the parent organization, Orchid Orthopedic Solutions. A leading manufacturer of

orthopedic implants, Orchid Orthopedic produces such things as replacement knees and hips, and orthopedic instruments. Orchid's divisions specialize in different phases of the manufacturing process, including design, forging, machining, and coating. “Historically, clients would have had to go to our individual companies for these services, or to our competitors,” Barb explains. “In establishing Orchid, we have given them the choice of coming to us for that individual component or for a more complete product.” Not only is this “one-stop” resource more efficient for the client, it offers Stealth expanded opportunities for business development.

Orchid Orthopedic Solutions has approximately 650 employees, with 131 at Stealth in Holt. “We are certainly part of an exciting and growing industry,” says Barb. “As our population ages, the types of things we do really, truly make a difference in people's lives. Part of our culture here is to understand the importance of the product we make.”



DEDICATED TO HELPING OUR COMMUNITY & ITS BUSINESSES GROW

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Local funeral directors purchase Estes-Leadley

Estes-Leadley Funeral Homes have been serving the greater Lansing area for nearly a century—most of that time as a locally-owned business.

That changed in 1997 when Estes-Leadley was purchased by SCI, the nation's largest funeral service corporation. SCI then went on to purchase their largest competitor, resulting in a monopoly in the Lansing market. That's when the Federal Trade Commission stepped in and ordered SCI to sell the Estes-Leadley homes.

This presented local funeral directors Jeremy Gough and Steve Morgan with an opportunity. "We were fortunate that the government was there for that check and balance," Jeremy says. He and Steve purchased Estes-Leadley's Holt-Delhi and Greater Lansing Chapels this past June and says, "We're thrilled."

"We're very pleased to be involved with the Holt community," says Jeremy, who has been with Estes-Leadley since 1998. Steve attended school in Holt and has worked more than 20 years at Estes-Leadley—where he started out mowing the lawn and washing cars.

The new owners will retain the Estes-Leadley name. "It's a great name with a great reputation," Jeremy says. In addition to Jeremy and Steve, Estes-Leadley has two other licensed directors, and provides a full range of funeral services, cremations, monuments and markers. They offer reduced prices on services, and accept



Jeremy Gough



Steve Morgan

"We're very pleased to be involved with the Holt community"

transfers of pre-arrangements. As new owners of an old and respected business, Jeremy says they "will continue and even improve the already high standards of service that Estes-Leadley has had for the last 93 years."

Estes-Leadley Holt-Delbi Chapel is at 2121 Cedar Street, 694-2631.

Meet your DDA Board Members



Ted Darbor

You already know some of the things the Delhi Township Downtown Development Authority does—and now you'll learn more about the people who make it all happen.

"Absolutely lovin' it."

That's how Ted Darbor feels about being part of the DDA board. And it didn't take him long to become fully involved. He joined the Board in January of 2006, and in July of that year became secretary. Ted also serves on the Executive Committee and the Beautification Committee.

"I love the organization; I love what we're able to do," Ted explains. "I think it's fantastic that our DDA is proactive. The organization is structured to provide the income stream to do the things we need to do to help bring businesses into the community."

The DDA is involved in many ongoing projects, but Ted has found the finishing of Veterans Memorial Gardens and the streetlight/banner project especially rewarding. He is also looking forward to what the future holds. "I think we have an excellent group of people, and the things we have on the agenda to accomplish are exciting," he says. "These things will continue to improve the Holt area."

Ted was born and raised in Holt and loves his hometown. His grandfather settled on the corner of Grovenberg and McCue in 1860, establishing a farm and a carpentry business, and the family has been here ever since. Although Ted now works in Kalamazoo and commutes daily, he looks forward to being able to stay in Holt much more once his training is complete. "My heart and soul are still in the Holt community," he says. Ted is a member of the Lions Club, coaches a soccer team, and is involved in other community activities in Holt. He and his wife have two children in Holt Public Schools and one at the University of Michigan.



DiAnne Warfield

DiAnne is a first-year board member, and she has found her service both rewarding and enlightening. "The DDA is involved in so many things," she says. "Every new thing is exciting to me." Before she was on the board, DiAnne explains, "I did not have an understanding of what the DDA did. I am still surprised sometimes by the scope of our responsibilities."

DiAnne works at the Holt Library and lives on Cedar Street, so she finds it exciting to watch some of the DDA's efforts—such as the streetlight project and Veterans Memorial Gardens—take shape around her. "We're able to do things that make Holt better for everybody—the residents and the businesses."

While there has been a lot to learn in her first year on the board, DiAnne credits the DDA staff's efforts in researching and preparing briefs that help the board make informed decisions: "Everything you need to know is right there." DiAnne is also impressed with the impact she feels Our Town is making. "I know people are reading it, and I've had a lot of people ask me about the DDA."

While not a born-and-raised Holt resident, DiAnne moved here in 1993 to be close to her grandmother, loved the area, and says, "We're here to stay." She and her husband Steve have four children, with the youngest starting school this fall. Steve owns Lansing Cycle, and DiAnne plans children's programming and leads book discussion groups at the Holt branch of the Capital Area District Library.

DELHI DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

One of the Delhi DDA's key roles is to foster economic development in the Township—which often entails bringing together businesses and available properties that might fit their needs.

With that in mind, Our Town will periodically spotlight a prime Delhi property that offers an excellent development opportunity in one of mid-Michigan's fastest growing communities.

CEDAR STREET (FORMER VFW) PROPERTY

This property is on the east side of Cedar Street between Holt and Aurelius Roads. It's a choice location at the crossroads of both US 127 and I-96, and has many major advantages:

- 40,000 square foot parcel, completely cleared and ready for build
- Several potential site plans have already been developed
- Falls within the Delhi Downtown Development Authority district

CEDAR & NORTH STREET PROPERTY

This 33,000 square foot property is on the northwest corner of Cedar and North Streets. It is zoned C2, general business, and TC, Town Center. Key features include:

- Site has all utilities—water, sewer, gas, electric
- High-traffic area with great visibility
- Frontage on both streets

For more information on these properties, contact Al McFadyen, Executive Director, Delhi DDA, 699-3866.



Tree Streets form Neighborhood Association

Some 30 residents of the Tree Streets enjoyed a fall picnic in September, the first event hosted by the newly-formed Tree Streets Neighborhood Association.

Greg Talberg of Maple Street helped initiate the formation of the association this summer with the hope of developing a sense of community within the neighborhood. He emphasizes that the purpose of the group is not to create rules for the neighborhood, but to provide opportunities for neighbors to socialize and support one another. Residence in the neighborhood is the only

requirement for membership. The Tree Streets Neighborhood is bounded by Holt Road on the north, Sycamore Street on the south, Elm Street on the west, and Schoolcraft Street on the east.

Watch for more about the Tree Streets Neighborhood Association in the next edition of Our Town. All Tree Streets residents are welcome and encouraged to join. Contact Greg Talberg at 699-3049.

7-Eleven expands and remodels with help from CRRP

Imagine undertaking extensive remodeling and expansion on a store that's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week...and closing for only four days during the entire process.

Ron and Mary Smith, owners of the building that houses the 7-Eleven franchise at Aurelius and Holt Roads, did just that. It was no small project. The interior was gutted and rebuilt—first one half, then the other—and an addition, new roof, and new parking lot completed the improvements.

Why take on such a huge renovation?

Quite simply, said Ron, "It was time." Sandra Lumley, owner of the 7-Eleven franchise that occupies the building, explains that the building is 30 years old and does a high volume of business. "These improvements and modernization help us better serve our customers." Ron Smith adds, "The company has franchises in three states, and this one is always in the top three in sales," Ron said. "It's a very, very busy store."

Ron and Mary took advantage of the DDA's Commercial Rehabilitation and Rebate Program (CRRP) to help with the costs of roofing and parking lot renovation. Ron was familiar with the CRRP from a previous large renovation to the southernmost building, in which the DDA was also instrumental. "That would not have happened; I would not have gone to that extent in renovating if it were not for the DDA," he said. "We appreciate that program and I appreciate working with Helen and Al. They are really nice folks to work with and they made it all easy and a pleasure."

"These improvements and modernization help us better serve our customers."



Kelly Hicks, Manager

Holiday TV will promote Delhi businesses



Thanks to excellent participation and favorable response the past three years, the DDA again offered Delhi businesses the opportunity to participate in a holiday TV advertising package. The DDA underwrites a portion of the cost of the holiday campaign, which will air on WILX-TV 10 this year.

As in the past, each commercial will showcase the Holt/Delhi area and will feature two non-competing businesses. 30 businesses are participating this year. TV-10 is producing the commercials, which will air from November 19th through December 23.

If you are not participating this year but feel you might be interested next year, please contact Al McFadyen, DDA Executive Director, 699-3866.

BUDDIES GRILL COMES TO HOLT



Eileen Foudy, General Manager

*“Thank you for
welcoming us so well
in the community.”*



Terilynn (Housler) Cook, owner of the new Buddies Grill in Holt, already had a Holt following at the Buddies Pub & Grills she co-owns with her sister in Okemos and East Lansing. The Holt patrons kept encouraging Terrilynn to open a Buddies here—and when the opportunity presented itself, she jumped on it.

Buddies Off to Quick Start!

When Buddies Grill opened here on August 21, Terilynn hoped to start out slow and steady to work out any new restaurant bugs. It didn't quite work out that way. The first weekend she was open coincided with Holt Hometown Festival—and with a power outage that affected many businesses in the area. But Buddies had power—and a flood of customers.

Despite the unexpectedly fast start, Terilynn says, “I want to grow quietly so I can stay longer.” TL, as she is known, has already been around the restaurant business a while. “All my life, I’ve worked in restaurants,” she says. Her parents were in the business, as are her sister and brothers. Buddies in Holt is a family affair, too—TL and her sister developed the menu, and her son designed the interior.

All Buddies food is homemade, right down to the dressings and sauces. “I’m a cook,” says Terrilyn. “If you don’t see me, it’s because I’m cooking.” On the other hand, she believes in leading her 54-person staff by example. “I cook, I do dishes, I bus, I do whatever it takes. And hopefully, that makes the staff better because they see that I care. That’s how my sister and I were brought up.”

What’s Still to Come?

While things are already going well at the new Buddies, Terilynn says they are still working on renovations, and asks that customers continue to be patient. She plans to offer lunch and dinner specials soon, and hopes to institute a Sunday breakfast buffet. TL also wants to upgrade the outside patio, and to introduce evening events such as Karaoke, live music, euchre and a dart league.

Terilynn is happy to be in Holt and feels that Holt residents seem happy to have her here as well. “Thank you for welcoming us so well in the community,” she says. “People have all been very nice to us.”

Buddies Grill is in the Holt Plaza at Aurelius and Holt Roads. They open at 11:00 a.m. weekdays and at noon on Saturday and Sunday.

The Rehmann Group, LLC

What began in 1941 as a single Saginaw accounting firm has grown and evolved into The Rehmann Group, one of the largest CPA and business consulting firms in the Midwest. The Rehmann Group is a member of Baker Tilly International, the world's 10th-largest network of independent accounting firms, and is ranked No. 34 on Public Accounting Report's "Top 100" list.

Services

Recognizing the ever-changing nature of business, The Rehman Group has been a leader in adapting to meet the demands of today's small-to-mid-sized businesses by offering a greater scope of resources and expertise. And a vast scope of resources it is. The Group's services include virtually every aspect of tax and accounting support, strategic and financial planning, investment services, security consulting and much more. Their vision is to "Be THE Firm of Choice for clients and associates."

Mary McCune is a principal of The Rehmann Group and was instrumental in their move to Delhi Township from Lansing. For Mary, "It was all about location." With 12 offices in Michigan, a central location with nearby highway access was a key consideration. Their 15,000 square foot building in Delhi also offered room for expansion. Mary also noted that Delhi is a growing area, and, of course, "We liked working with Delhi Township."

The Rehmann Group has 560 staff in 13 offices, with 55 in the Delhi office.

The Rehmann Group's Delhi Township office is at 4086 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, 517-316-2400.

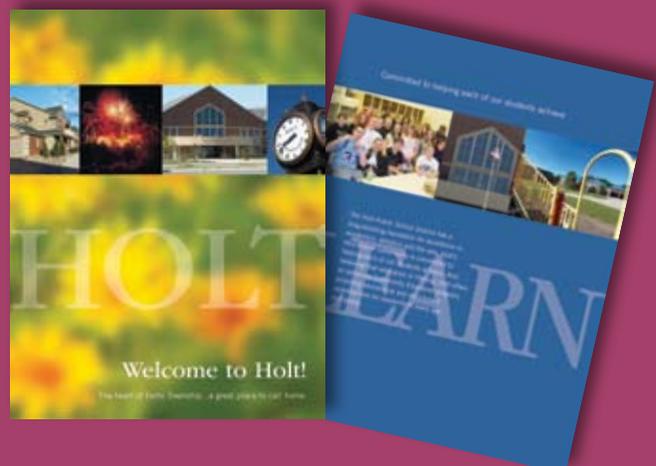


"Welcome" folders a welcome touch!

Delhi is a fast-growing area, which means there are always new residents who need information about what we have to offer. The DDA decided to help.

The DDA now has beautiful "Welcome" folders featuring custom photos of our Township and an informative overview of the area's benefits. Inside, individual inserts will offer more detailed information on topics including schools, recreation, local government and more.

The outer folders are now available at the DDA office for Delhi business owners who would like to send out information to customers, prospective employees, or other key contacts. Simply stop by the DDA office during business hours to pick some up.





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.

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 (517) 699-3866 or (517) 699-3867
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THE D.D.A. BOARD MEMBERS:

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