



Cedar St. Lighting

Where once there were overhead utilities and power lines, there will soon be unobstructed skies and decorative street lighting.

The final phase of the Cedar Street lighting project is nearly complete—and the result is a much more appealing and functional Holt triangle area. When the Delhi Township DDA launched the multi-phase project 10 years ago, there were two goals: to move as many of the overhead utilities as possible underground, and to add decorative lighting. This not only makes the area more attractive, but underground utilities are less vulnerable to accidents and weather damage.

“It’s been a long time coming,” says Delhi DDA Executive Director Al McFadyen.

“A lot of things had to happen that you can’t see,” he explains. “It’s a very difficult job coordinating all of the utilities.” Al says Delta Electric did a marvelous job of keeping the project moving. “The job has been very smooth and we are very happy with it.”

Approximately 60 decorative lampposts have been added to Cedar Street between Holt Road and Aurelius. By the end of summer, the last of the overhead utility poles will be removed from this section of Cedar.



Approximately 60 additional decorative lampposts are now in place and in operation.

Music in the Gardens



FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Nearly everyone who has taken the Holt Community Arts Council’s informal survey has said they would like to see live music events brought to Delhi. That wish became reality this summer, thanks to the combined efforts of the Holt Community Arts Council and Delhi Township Parks & Recreation, and the financial support of the Delhi Downtown Development Authority.

The free, family-friendly concert series—open to all Holt and Delhi Township residents—launched in June at Veterans Memorial Gardens amphitheater. *(continued on next page)*

Music in the Gardens

(continued from page 1)

Leann Heywood of the HCAC says that in addition to promoting the appreciation of live music, “the concerts are a way to ‘give back’ to area residents who support our local businesses.”

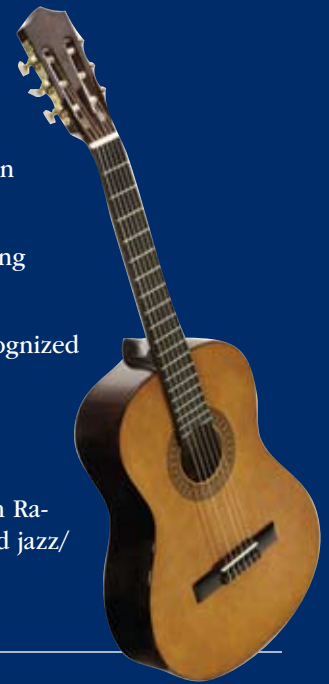
It’s also a wonderful way to enjoy quality family entertainment right here in Holt. Don’t miss out on the remaining concerts!

Thursday, July 17 - 7:00 p.m. Those Delta Rhythm Kings — Award-winning jump blues/swing band

Thursday, July 31 - 7:00 p.m.* Three Men and a Tenor — Nationally recognized four man vocal group

** In addition, a fundraiser cookout to benefit the Holt Community Arts Council will be held from 5:30 p.m. until show time.*

Sunday, August 10 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Shout Sister Shout: Steppin’ In It with Rachael Davis — Critically acclaimed acoustic bluegrass/folk/blues band and jazz/soul singer



Dart Bank Has Deep Roots in Our Community



Kim Harless

Originally a private bank known as R. C. Dart & Company, the bank was commercially chartered in 1925 as The Dart National Bank of Mason. But it was a later milestone that proved more memorable.

In 1936, Lovicia Dart, wife of then-bank president Rollin C. Dart, asked to select the paint for their new headquarters. She chose a soft buff, but, once applied, the paint appeared pink. The distinctive color generated many comments, so it remained—and soon became synonymous with Dart Bank.

The key to Dart Bank’s success for more than 80 years, of course, is not their signature color, but innovative community banking. During the 1930s, Doc Campbell Dart became the first commercial banker in the U.S. to make installment loans for the purchase of automobiles. Building on that success, Dart also became the first bank to finance house trailers—a practice which initially alarmed national bank regulators, but which the Dart family believes helped the bank weather the Great Depression.

Today, says Peter Kubacki, President and CEO, “What really sets Dart Bank apart—what we like to call ‘the Dart Difference’—is the human factor. It’s our heart, our personality, our willingness to go the extra mile to help out a customer.”

As a community bank, they have that flexibility. “Dart is locally owned, locally managed, and wants to stay that way for many decades to come,” says Kim Harless, manager of the Delhi office. That local focus translates to community involvement as well. Kim estimates that the Delhi office employees alone have given thousands of hours through the bank’s volunteer program. “I think it’s just part of the culture. It’s part of what people feel proud to do here.”

Much of this culture may be attributable to Rollie Dart, who turned over the reins in 1999 but continues to work full time—“albeit at a more leisurely pace”—and loves to greet and speak with every customer coming into the office.

Dart Bank has offices in Mason, Holt and Grand Ledge. The Holt office is at 2469 North Cedar Street, 694-5083.

“Dart is locally owned, locally managed, and wants to stay that way for many decades to come.”

Holt Community Food Bank Helps Families in Need

Holt is a compassionate community, and the Holt Community Food Bank is an example of neighbors helping neighbors.

Staffed by unpaid volunteers, the Holt Community Food Bank serves, on average, more than 100 families each month. The food bank is funded by community donations from individuals, businesses and organizations, as well as by grants. It also receives strong support from local stores.

Holt Community Food Bank clients are eligible for a food order once every 30 days, and may pick up baked goods on a weekly basis. Families also receive fresh produce, meat, cheese and other dairy products when available. Also given when available are nonfood items such as basic toiletries, laundry and dish detergents, diapers, tissues, and food storage wraps.

Holt Community Food Bank president John Busley says that help of all kinds is always welcome—from monetary and non-perishable food donations to volunteering your time.

Extra hands are always needed to serve clients, assist in holiday food distribution, sort food after local food drives, work at fundraising events and much more. “We welcome your help,” John says.

Holt Community Food Bank is at 2021 Aurelius Rd. (next to Holt First Presbyterian church), 694-9307. Non-perishable food donations may be dropped off on Mondays from 9-11 a.m.; Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.; and Fridays 4-6 p.m.; or at the church during the day.

**Monetary donations may be mailed to:
Holt Community Food Bank
P.O. Box 577
Holt MI 48842.**



HOLT COMMUNITY
food bank

Hometown Festival August 22-23

Once again a dedicated group of volunteers is hard at work putting together the Holt Hometown Festival, and committee president Mark Zdawczyk promises, “Everything we did last year will be happening again this year.”

“Everything” is an amazing lineup of family-friendly activities, and a great way to wrap up the summer. Highlights include:

FRIDAY – Family Movie 7:00 p.m. (in the Festival tent between Holt Jr. High and Sycamore Elementary). Spartan Speedway Championship Night race 7:30 p.m. Free tickets available from Delhi businesses (see article elsewhere in this issue).

SATURDAY – Parade 11:00 a.m. Kids games & inflatables noon-6:00 p.m. Vendor exhibits all day Live entertainment starting at noon. Fireworks 9:30 p.m.

A complete lineup of events will be available on the new Festival website. The site also has registration forms for vendors, volunteer opportunities and much more.

For more information, or to contact the Festival committee, visit holtfestival.com.

Movies in the Gardens

Free family movies are back!

Last summer the Delhi Township Parks & Recreation Department, with the financial sponsorship of the DDA, inaugurated an outdoor movie series at Veterans Memorial Gardens. The idea was a hit, so movies will return to the Gardens on Friday evenings (rain date Saturday) beginning August 1. Based on expert advice from children attending the Holt Public Schools’ child care program, this year’s lineup will be:

August 1 - Bee Movie

August 8 - Enchanted

August 15 - Shrek the Third

These movies begin at 9:00 p.m. An additional movie will be shown on August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the entertainment tent at the Hometown Festival. The Festival committee is selecting that movie, and the title is to be announced.

Bring the kids for a night of free family entertainment!



Visit the DDA Website

The Delhi DDA website is designed as a tool to spotlight the advantages of living and working in Delhi Township.

If you own a business in Delhi Charter Township, you can add your business name, address, contact information and type of business to the "Doing Business in Holt/Delhi" section of the site. You also have the option of providing a link to your business's website. This offers you greater visibility to potential customers and others researching the area.

If you would like your business included, please e-mail al.mcfadyen@delhitownship.com

If you own a business in Delhi Township, you can add your business to our website



Pizza Al Forno Brings Italian Taste to Holt



Don Schults

Pizza Al Forno owner Don Schults is committed to buying ingredients locally, but he's aiming for a distinctly non-local flavor.

"There are a lot of places in the Lansing area that do the same thing. We want to be different and better. We want to be the exception, not the rule."

If word of mouth is any indication, Pizza Al Forno is well on its way. Since opening in November, Pizza Al Forno has enjoyed a lot of positive buzz. "The reception here in Holt has been tremendous," Don says. "I get most of my reward from trying to make the best food I can. I want the food to speak for itself." He achieves that by following some simple rules: "Excellent pizza, everyday price, local ingredients, nothing premade, nothing prepackaged, not artificial. Those tenets of food preparation are extremely important to me."

Don is working toward buying 100% of his ingredients locally, and thinks that will become more important to everyone as transportation costs rise. "It's a sad testament that a lot of people don't produce local things," he says, "and it's even sadder when people don't buy local things." Don buys lettuce, herbs and vegetables from Lansing and Bath, goat cheese from Byron Center, and ricotta, mozzarella and provolone cheese from Clinton Township.

Although Don received formal restaurant training and experience in New York, he had previously lived in Holt and owned another pizza shop here. "I knew that Holt was a good community that takes care of its businesses once you demonstrate you're there to help them out." When Don found this site he saw that it was "ready to go," and he jumped on the opportunity.

Pizza Al Forno offers only carry-out and delivery. The menu features pizzas, calzones, salads, sandwiches, vegetarian options and desserts.

**Pizza Al Forno is at 1943 Cedar Street, 694-4175.
Hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday -Thursday; 11 a.m.- midnight
Friday and Saturday; and 1 p.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday.**



Attorney Martin Neumann Values Hometown

“We liked the idea of being near all the conveniences a bigger city has to offer, while being able to live in a small town,” says attorney Martin Neumann.

That’s why he and his family moved to Holt in 1984—and because they grew to love it, they’re here to stay.

Martin moved Neumann Law to Holt in December of 2001, and last year he purchased the firm’s current office condominium on Aurelius near Holt Road.

Neumann Law provides both business and personal legal services. In addition to being highly respected attorneys, Neumann Law has a warm and friendly staff who consider no problem too big or small. Although Martin has extensive expertise in business and corporate law, his focus now is on what he calls “the consumer practice”—the simple legal services people need in their day-to-day lives. That includes such areas as estate planning and probate, bankruptcy, real estate and family law. Martin considers himself accessible to everyone and would like to be considered Holt’s “hometown” attorney. Apparently many in the community view him that way already, as Martin has been named “Holt’s Favorite Lawyer” for the past five years.

Martin and his wife Jan are active in the Holt Dimondale School Business Alliance, where Martin serves on the board. He has also delivered Meals on Wheels for the last five years, and is a member of the advisory board for the YMCA. In addition to being involved in the community, he feels positive about its future. “I see the community as committed to weathering this economic turmoil, and I’m sure better times are ahead of us.”



Martin Neumann

Neumann Law, P.C., is at 2040 Aurelius Rd., Suite 21, 694-3300.

Martin Neumann has been named “Holt’s Favorite Lawyer” for the past five years.



John E. Green Company
Mechanical Services Division

Welcome,
John E. Green
Company

Lansing offices move to Delhi

Family-owned throughout its 99 year history, John E. Green Company is the largest mechanical contracting firm in Michigan, with world headquarters in Highland Park and branch offices throughout the state. Now, Delhi Township welcomes John E. Green Company to the ranks of our local businesses. In July, the firm moved their Lansing branch and services offices to the former Stafford-Smith building on Cedar near Harper.

John E. Green specializes in fabricating, installing and maintaining commercial heating, cooling, water treatment and other mechanical systems all over the country. “We handle projects from a few hundred dollars to several million,” says Randy Potts, director of services. Clients including General Motors, Sparrow Hospital, Ford Motor Company, Pfizer, U of M Medical Center and Beaumont Hospital have worked with John E. Green Company on systems for new builds and renovations, and the firm also offers custom planned maintenance programs. The Ingham County Sheriff/Delhi Township DDA building’s heating and cooling system is maintained by this service.

John E. Green Company in Holt is at 1125 N. Cedar Street, 322-3218



CRRP Helps Biggby Coffee

Will Gross owns the Holt Biggby franchise on Cedar Street; Harriet Hamilton owns the building. And the DDA's Commercial Rehabilitation Rebate Program assisted them both.

With Biggby Coffee scheduled to open this past spring, both landlord and tenant were eager to complete renovations of the building. So Will and Harriet teamed up, and the CRRP was there to help by reimbursing them for eligible exterior improvements. Will was able to do most of the improvements himself, and the resulting facelift benefits both the Biggby's store and the building.

Will, who also owns the Biggby franchise on South Cedar in Lansing, felt he could fill a need in Holt while also easing some of the volume at the busy south Lansing store. "I wanted to provide a nice place for people to hang out and relax, not just a place to get coffee," he says. Not that the coffee isn't reason enough to stop in, of course—Will says that Biggby offers the "finest selection of coffee beans around."

Thus far Will has received a lot of support from the community, and says that people here really seem to enjoy the store. He adds that working with the DDA has been great. "They made the CRRP very user friendly. Al worked closely with me in order to give me the freedom to do what I needed to do, but still make it fall within the DDA requirements."

Biggby Coffee in Holt is at 2006 Cedar Street.

Thus far Will has received a lot of support from the community, and says that people here really seem to enjoy the store.



Fast Times at Holt Hometown Festival

FREE Spartan Speedway tickets available from Delhi businesses!

The Holt Hometown Festival is revving up the action this year—and you can see the 2008 Championship Night race at Spartan Speedway free! The festival committee is providing free admission tickets to Delhi Township businesses to give their customers. These tickets are for the race at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, August 22, the kickoff of Hometown Festival.

The Championship Night race features super late models, modifieds, sportsmans, pure stocks, and pony stocks. So bring the family and get Hometown Festival off to a fast start! Tickets will be available for the asking at several Delhi businesses. Watch for an article in the Holt Community News for further details.

For more information, visit www.holtfestival.com



Deputy Brad Delaney is Delhi's Business Officer

"Most of the business owners are local residents, so I feel like I can give something back."

In addition to normal police functions, business owners in Delhi enjoy specialized support from the Ingham County Sheriff Department.

"I am a community policing officer, specifically assigned to the business community," says Deputy Brad Delaney. "My primary function is to respond to business complaints."

Deputy Delaney began his career with the Ingham County Sheriff Department immediately after college in 2001. He later worked for a short time in Webberville before returning to Holt three years ago as a neighborhood police officer, and became the business officer last summer.



Deputy Brad Delaney

"I like the position a lot," Brad says. Having grown up in Holt and graduated from Holt High School, he knows the residents. "That's what makes me look forward to coming to work each day. Most of the business owners are local residents, so I feel like I can give something back."

Brad is currently putting together an identity theft seminar, and keeps local businesses informed of other community policing seminars in the area. Brad also attends the monthly Holt-Dimondale Business Alliance meeting to keep business owners informed of any pertinent issues or problems, such as the counterfeit bills he discovered being circulated this spring.

Deputy Delaney works Monday through Friday and attempts to touch base with several businesses each day. His goal is to be "visible and available" to the business community—which sometimes includes patrolling on bicycle—and makes sure everyone he meets has his contact information.

Brad and his wife, state representative Barb Byrum, are new parents, and Brad's parents still live in Holt, where his mother is a bus driver for Holt Public Schools.

Deputy Delaney can be reached at 676-4145, or by email at bdelaney@ingham.org.

Holt Welcomes Farmers' Market

Fresh, locally-grown fruits and veggies, the work of talented artisans, and community fellowship and support. It all comes together at Holt's own Farmers' Market, which opened July 12 in the former fire station at 2150 Cedar Street.

"This has been a long time in the making," said Delhi Downtown Development Authority executive director Al McFadyen. "We started talking about the possibility years ago. Now the time is right, the site is right, and it all came together."

Not without a lot of work, of course. Chuck Grinnell, owner of Holt Shoe Repair, took on the position of part-time manager, setting up contracts, coordinating vendors, preparing the location, overseeing the production of the website—in short, getting Holt Farmers' Market up and running.

This site has room for approximately 16 indoor spaces, and outdoor space for additional vendors. The goal is to attract local farmers, whether from large or small farms. "We like the idea of local people being able to buy locally-grown produce," Chuck says. "It's about quality of life and educating consumers about the importance of supporting local business."

Additional information for vendors and customers is available at holtfarmersmarket.org



"Now the time is right, the site is right, and it all came together."



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

THE DDA BOARD MEMBERS:

- Howard Brighton
- Kim Cosgrove,
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