



## Aspen Lakes Estates

### BUILDING A COMPLETE COMMUNITY

Luxury apartment homes, condominiums, corporate housing, office space, and boundless amenities—they can all be found in Aspen Lakes Estates.

DTN Management Company began developing Aspen Lakes Estates in 2004 with the goal of creating “a complete community” that offers a superior living experience. DTN first built an apartment building and Aspen Circle, one of four groups of condos in the community. Aspen Lakes now has 20 buildings on nearly 100 acres, including 215 apartment homes and 50 condominiums.

Aspen Lakes’ condos and apartment homes are distinguished by elegant details. Granite counters, high-end fixtures, gas fireplaces, cathedral ceilings, accent windows, hardwood cabinetry, and master bedroom suites are some of the amenities to be found among the available living options.

Professionally groomed grounds offer walking areas, ponds and fountains, an organic garden maintained by residents, and beautiful views. Sidewalks run throughout the developed property, so, “There is

nowhere you cannot walk or ride your bike or take your dog for a walk,” says Gabriel Lawless, assistant property manager.

Walkability enhances the community feeling at Aspen Lakes. So does the 8,000 square foot clubhouse with amenities including outdoor heated pool, outdoor grill, fire pit, furnished sundeck, wading pool, and elegant interior. There is also a fully equipped fitness center that is free to all residents.

Special planned activities also build the sense of community and keep things fun. A wine tasting event in February offered items for purchase, with half the proceeds donated to the Holt Community Food Bank. Other activities have included an “Aspen Idol” competition, a karaoke party, pool parties with live music, billiards tournaments and movie nights. “The more people get to know their neighbors and make friends,” Gabriel says, “the more it’s going to build a community within Aspen Lakes.”

Aspen Lakes has a “Rent to Own” program that gives people the option to “move in, start building equity,

and start enjoying their home today.” Aspen Lakes also offers “corporate housing” for those working away from home. With this option, everything the businessperson needs for a longer stay is in place, including housewares.

Mayberry Homes, in conjunction with the property owners, is now developing three single-family homes for sale, with another two being ready later this year. This offers yet another living option within the Aspen Lakes community, and DTN also expects to build additional condos this year.

*Aspen Lakes Estates is at 3879 Lone Pine Drive, Holt, 699-5300, [www.aspenlakes.net](http://www.aspenlakes.net).*



OUR TOWN

# HOLT AUTO ALIGNMENT



## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Holt Auto Alignment has been a familiar name around this area since the early 1950s. When original owner Lawrence Patterson was ready to retire in 1983, longtime

patrons Lynn and Loine Weismiller purchased the business. Their sons, Loren and

Les, State- and A.S.E.-certified mechanics, have managed HAA for the last 27 years. Marty Sebrell and Glenn Bryant, also State-certified mechanics, joined the business around 1995 and "are like family." With combined experience of more than 87 years, Loren says, "The shop's mission is to provide prompt, quality service that is accurate, professional and personal."

Loren believes that customers appreciate seeing the same people working on their cars and their children's cars throughout the years. Customer loyalty and word-of-mouth reputation have built the business and have sustained it through tough times. One Holt Auto Alignment customer who moved to Paw Paw still comes back to have his car serviced.

Holt Auto Alignment services both domestic and import cars, trucks and most motor homes. Their areas of expertise include suspension repairs, wheel alignments, tire balance and rotations, drive axles, steering systems, springs, struts and shocks—in short, pretty much anything that keeps the vehicle moving down the road in the direction you want it to. If you happen to have plastic headlights that have become cloudy, they can take care of that too, with a special polishing process that takes about an hour. A shuttle service is available for customers to get them

to and from work while their vehicle is being serviced.

Loren and Les grew up in Holt and, like their parents, have supported many local causes for many years. "I've been in Holt all my life," Loren says. "I really like the people here. We're all striving to move on together through the hard times and try to help people out."

*Holt Auto Alignment is at 2135 Cedar Street, next to Estes Leadley Funeral Home. For appointments call 699-2703.*





# Danceworks of Michigan

Across its floors move ballet students, tap dancers, and couples working on their fox trot—not to mention yoga students, competition dance teams, jazz and hip-hop dancers. Danceworks of Michigan, LLC, offers training for serious students of dance, yet also has plenty to offer beginning and recreational dancers, yoga students and more. And owner Brigitt Boucha wants to help each student reach their goals, whatever they may be.

“Danceworks’ philosophy is based on a genuine interest in each student’s personal growth,” Brigitt says. She and Danceworks’ nine other instructors offer an incredible array of dance and movement classes to support that commitment.

Brigitt founded her company, then known as The Lansing Dance Foundation, in 1989. She moved the business to Holt in 1993, and changed its name to Danceworks of Michigan, LLC, in 2001. Danceworks of Michigan is also home to Lansing Chamber Dance, a contemporary performing company.

In recent years Brigitt has expanded into related fields. She established Allegra Dancewear in a space adjoining her studio, offering a complete line of dance clothing, shoes, accessories, yoga and pilates wear and more. Her newest enterprise, Massage & Therapeutic Body Work, now occupies another adjoining space. Brigitt is certified in medical massage therapy, and offers extended body work and medical, deep tissue and sport massages.

Brigitt has studied at LCC, the Lansing Ballet Company, Gus Giordano’s Dance Center and Columbia College in Chicago, where she received her BA with honors in teaching and dance therapy. Brigitt also teaches and choreographs for LCC and her contemporary dance company, Lansing Chamber Dance.

Brigitt says that the Holt community has been very supportive. When she opened Massage & Therapeutic Body Work, for example, she advertised only in the local paper and drew 50 people the first month. “I’ve been really lucky to have the building,” Brigitt says, “and I’ve been really happy in Holt.”

*Danceworks of Michigan is at 2456 N. Cedar, Holt, 694-7667, [danceworksofmi.com](http://danceworksofmi.com).*

*“Danceworks’ philosophy is based on a genuine interest in each student’s personal growth.”*



# Printing, mailing and more: *Paper Image Printing Centre*

When Cindy Heister earned a degree in education, she probably never imagined she'd have a career in the printing industry. So far, it's been 35 years and counting.

It all began when Cindy accepted a job at what was then Paper Eater in downtown Lansing. Twenty years later, she purchased the business, and in 2002 she opened Paper Image. She chose Holt because, she says, "We found this fabulous building and the location worked for us."

In 2008, Paper Image was voted Ingham County's Best Printer by readers of the Ingham County News and the Lansing Community Newspaper. Cindy attributes this recognition to the pride she and her staff take in providing exceptional customer service and quality printing at a competitive price. "Printing companies have the same equipment," Cindy says. "It's the people who make the difference."

Paper Image's roster of services includes offset printing, high speed/high quality copying, print project consultation, and bindery and mailing services. What does all this mean to you? It means that Paper Image can take your project from start to finish, whether that means helping you find the most effective and economical solution, working from your finished art or designing an entire look from scratch. They can also manage your mailings, and they provide free delivery of your order. "Once you leave the store," Cindy says, "you know your job is in good hands and you don't have to worry about a thing."

Cindy clearly feels she's made the right choices in her career and where she does business. "I love coming to work every day," she says. "I love the people I work with and I love the people in the community." In



addition to the sales staff, Cindy currently employs 10-15 people to operate the pre-press, bindery, printing and mailing equipment. Paper Image is a member of the Holt Alliance and participates in other local activities.

*Paper Image is at 1900 Cedar Street, 694-2400, [paperimage.com](http://paperimage.com).*

## Delhi Welcome Committee Update



*"Everyone comes out a winner."*

That's how J. R. McGraw, one of the project organizers, views the Holt Kiwanis Club's Welcome Committee project. New Holt residents receive a community directory and a "goody bag" of coupons and promotional items—and local businesses benefit from this introduction to new residents.

According to township officials, Delhi has approximately 30 new move-ins per month—and, since the volunteer greeters began their efforts late in 2009, they've delivered approximately 150 welcome packets and directories. "The volunteers report back a lot of positive comments," J. R. says. The Kiwanis Club intends to expand the project to also provide a packet to each new business that opens in Holt. More than 40 businesses have placed an ad in the directory or provided something for the bag. If you have a business in or near Delhi Township and would like to give coupons or items for the bag, please contact J. R. McGraw at 694-6529.



## DEROSA'S PARTY STORE & DELI

Many Holt residents probably can't remember a time when DeRosa's Party Store & Deli wasn't part of our community. It was 1952 when Anthony and Ida DeRosa bought what was then a dancehall, eventually turning it into a party store. Today their son Patrick and his wife Kari own the store, as well as Sweet Sensations next door. The store is family-run, and Kari jokes that her children started working there at birth. "I'll have the grandkids working in the store as soon as they are tall enough to reach the register," she says.

DeRosa's deli offers Mexican specialties, hot dogs and chili dogs. The deli food is made fresh every day right there in the store's kitchen. The party store offers everything you'd expect, as well as some nice surprises—including a selection of environmentally-friendly soaps handmade in Mason. There's also a selection of used books for just 25 to 50 cents each, which Kari sees as a way of making good use of the books her family has read. Customers often donate to the collection, too, or bring in books to swap.

Despite the economy, "We're holding our own," Kari says. In addition to the regular customers, "We see new faces every day."

The DeRosas have deep roots in Holt. Patrick and Kari grew up here,

as did Kari's mom, who used to patronize DeRosa's when it was still a dancehall. "I love Holt," Kari says. "It's just a wonderful place to be.

A lot of people just come in and chitchat because they know that we've always been here and hopefully, we'll always continue to be here."

Kari DeRosa and her sister, Kris Hummel, are co-founders of the "Give a Kid a Backpack," "Give a Kid a Coat," and "Give a Kid a Christmas" initiatives in Holt. Kari says people are welcome to bring donations for any of these programs to DeRosa's Party Store at any time, and she will make sure it gets where it needs to go at the appropriate time. "We have people dropping things off all year round," she says. "The back room here has nothing except for 'Give A Kid' donations. We're all about the kids."

DeRosa's Party Store and deli is open seven days a week. Sweet Sensations opens for the season on March 1 and closes September 15.

*DeRosa's Party Store & Deli is at 1959 Cedar St., 699-2208.*



# Helping small businesses thrive

## FREE SUPPORT FOR DELHI BUSINESSES



“Should I diversify? Cut costs? What should I do to weather the tough times?”

These are the kind of questions Tom Donaldson of the Michigan Small Business Development and Technology Center (MSBDTC) hears most often these days. And since Donaldson’s organization met with more than 12,000 Michigan businesses in 2009, he has a pretty good handle on the concerns of business owners.

“Business owners today are faced with making really tough decisions,” Tom explained. “We bring lots of facts to the table to help them make informed decisions.”

That kind of support and much more is available to Delhi business owners through BizBuzz, a free program of the Delhi DDA in conjunction with the Michigan Small Business Development and Technology Center. BizBuzz is designed to help independent Delhi businesses not only grow but thrive. The goal of the program is to help Delhi Township businesses become better, stronger and more sustainable, and to help promote entrepreneurial activity in the township.

Donaldson said that, through BizBuzz, MSBDTC functions as a sort of business coach, helping owners build a profitable business. “We bring

an outside perspective, like a mini-board of directors,” he said. “We also help identify things that the business owner can control, versus things that are outside their control.”

He added that one of BizBuzz’s strengths has been connecting Delhi businesses with a wealth of resources they might never have found on their own. “Small business owners are busy with day-to-day operations,” he said. “They don’t always have time to research what help is available to them.”

BizBuzz captures the resources of the MSBDTC and puts them all in one place—the Delhi DDA offices on Cedar Street in downtown Holt. Meetings are confidential and free of cost, and each business that participates will receive a growth work plan created specifically for them.



*To find out how BizBuzz can help you grow or begin your business, call Helen Harrison at the DDA’s Biz Buzz center, 699-3866; e-mail [harrison@delhitownship.com](mailto:harrison@delhitownship.com); or call Tom Donaldson at MSBDTC, 517-483-1921.*



## Open House and ReUse Rally

The Delhi Charter Township Department of Public Services invites all Delhi residents to its annual Open House and ReUse Rally on Saturday, May 8, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The event runs from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The entire event is free, and includes demonstrations, tours of the wastewater treatment plant, games for the kids, prizes, face painting, free food and beverages, sheep

shearing and more. Kids will even have an opportunity to release a fish into the river.

The ReUse Rally is always a highlight of the event. Bring your unwanted useable items (they might be just what someone else is looking for!) and find something you need that you can take home for free.

*The Department of Public Services Wastewater Treatment Plant is 5961 McCue Rd.*

# Emergency Medical Services Week



Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, they're ready to answer the call to serve and provide day-to-day life saving on the "front lines" of patient care. Yet they receive little fanfare.

Your Delhi Township Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is comprised of a team of dedicated paramedics and emergency medical technicians—first responders who care for and transport the sick and injured.

National EMS Week is designated each year to raise public awareness of first responders and their vital contributions, to promote safety, and to educate the public on how to provide life-saving aid in an emergency.

During this year's national EMS Week, May 16-21, the Delhi Township Fire Department will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of CPR by offering adult CPR/AED (Automated External Defibrillator) classes.

Please support your Delhi Township Fire Department EMS, not only by remembering and celebrating their day-to-day efforts to save lives, but by taking time to learn these vital lifesaving skills. Call the Delhi Township Fire Department at 517-694-3327 for details.

## Win Farmers' Market "Bucks"!

The wait is almost over! The Holt Farmers' Market will re-open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. beginning May 15. Thursday hours, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., will begin July 8 and run through August.

To kick off the new season, the Farmers' Market is offering you a chance to win \$10 in Farmers' Market "Bucks" that can be used to make purchases from any vendor in the market during May. Visit the Market's website for details and to download an entry form—but do it soon, as entries must be received no later than May 7.

Holt Farmers' Market manager Chuck Grinnell says there are more new plans in the works this season, too—including the opportunity to come enjoy barbeque at the Market before the Thursday night summer concerts in the park. Chuck invites you to visit the website regularly to see what's coming up, and you can also join the Market's email list to receive weekly specials.



*Holt Farmers' Market is at 2150 Cedar Street, in the old fire station building. The website is at [holtfarmersmarket.org](http://holtfarmersmarket.org).*

## DID YOU KNOW...?



If you haven't visited the DDA website lately, you might not realize how much useful information is there to help residents and businesses alike.

For example, did you know that there's a roster of local businesses, complete with address and contact information? (And if you happen

to own a business that isn't listed, we again invite you to submit your information and be included!)

There are other great features, too—from current news and upcoming events to information about the special programs available to local businesses.

Check out the site at [delhidda.com](http://delhidda.com)!

# OUR TOWN

2045 North Cedar Street  
Holt, MI 48842

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## 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:** Al McFadyen, Executive Director  
2045 North Cedar Street, Holt, MI 48842  
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## THE DDA BOARD MEMBERS:

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