



Family Video

Making entertainment affordable



For Holt store manager Shannon Berlin, her staff and customers really put the “family” in Family Video.

“I love this store. I’ve worked at a lot of stores and this is by far my favorite,” Shannon said. “The customers are always fabulous—really upbeat and very pleasant to talk to.” The store’s staff, she added, are “awesome.” Shannon explained that all stores in the Family Video chain follow the same hiring philosophy: hire and train smart, enthusiastic people who consider customer service their primary mission. “I think our customer service definitely makes it worth coming in the store,” she said. “That’s what we pride ourselves on.”

Family Video is the largest privately owned movie and game retailer in the United States. Based in Springfield, Illinois, the company has more than 700 stores in 19 states and is now expanding into Canada. The Holt store opened in December of 1997, and has a staff of eight. Shannon has been the manager there for five years.

One of Family Video’s goals is to make entertainment affordable, so the store offers a variety of rental specials. These include four-for-the-price-of-three rentals on select new releases; five-day rentals; free kids’ movies and more. There’s also a special offer designed to attract customers who haven’t rented in a while.

This past holiday season, Holt Family Video undertook a mission to entertain a much larger audience: U.S. troops stationed overseas. Employees collected monetary donations to purchase videos, and added their own donated movies. In the end, the store was able to send nearly 1,200 movies to our troops to brighten their holidays. The dedication of Sharon’s staff and their customers to making this possible only added to her enthusiasm about the store and the community. “I click very well with Holt,” Shannon said. “I live here. I love it here. It’s a great community. It’s a great place to live. It’s a great place to shop.”

**Family Video is at 2073 Aurelius Road,
517.699.5275, familyvideo.com.**





Retiring DDA Executive Director Al McFadyen reflects on Delhi's progress, bright future

"Let me leave you by expressing my heartfelt thanks for all of your support and for your commitment to make Delhi Township and Holt a better place to work and live."

By the time you read this, I will have officially retired as the executive director of the Delhi Charter Township Downtown Development Authority after having served the DDA Board for the past 10 years. I just wanted to use a little space to thank all of the business owners, residents, board members and staff who have made my time in Delhi/Holt so personally fulfilling and—I hope—successful.

I am particularly pleased to be able to make these comments in the *Our Town* publication, as I consider it one of the many positive accomplishments of the DDA Board during the time I have been fortunate enough to serve as its executive director. I would love to go on and on about all of the things the DDA has accomplished during its 25-year existence, a period which obviously greatly exceeds the 10 years I have served as director. I will instead refer you to the 25 Year DDA Report, which you will find at DelhiDDA.com, the DDA's website.

Most of all I want to thank all of the members of the team who have made these accomplishments possible. On the back of the publication you

will find the names of all of the currently serving members of the DDA's board of directors. These individuals, along with their many predecessors, have provided the vision and careful oversight that have guided the DDA throughout its history. Similarly, the Delhi Township board has offered consistent support for the DDA, and the entire township staff has provided invaluable assistance in carrying out the DDA's mission.

I know it is somewhat inadvisable to single out individuals for fear of excluding others who have also contributed greatly to our success. I would be remiss, though, in not recognizing Township Supervisor Stuart Goodrich for his unstinting leadership, and Township Manager John Elsinga for his support and wise counsel. Finally, I cannot begin to tell you how much I (and the DDA board) have appreciated the contributions of our outstanding administrative secretary, Helen Harrison. Helen has been a competent and trustworthy associate in all of the DDA's functions for many years and will continue this great relationship with the DDA.

I am being succeeded by Howard Haas. Since Howard served as our DDA chairman from 1998 to 2011, I am extremely pleased that he agreed to become the DDA's executive director. This arrangement assures a seamless transition for the board and all we serve. Howard spent more than 40 years in the banking industry and approaches his new position with a high level of expertise. Howard was an outstanding DDA chairman, and I have been extremely grateful for his help and support. I know he will be an equally outstanding DDA executive director.

Let me leave you by expressing my heartfelt thanks for all of your support and for your commitment to make Delhi Township and Holt a better place to work and live.

Go "greener"—get *Our Town* via email

*If you prefer less paper in your life, you may now opt to receive *Our Town* via email. To stop receiving the printed publication in the mail, just email helen.harrison@delhitownship.com. Your name will be removed from the traditional mailing list and your next issue will be sent to you via email. Thank you for reading and supporting *Our Town*!*



“Quality Building for Quality People”

Holt Builders, LLC



In his 30 years as a professional builder, Terry Roberts of Holt Builders has worked with a lot of people who have a lot of dreams for their homes. Terry’s job, as he sees it, is to deliver a quality building project that helps clients realize those dreams—while staying within their budget.

Quite simply, said Terry, “I like helping people.” His favorite part of the job is working with clients to develop or carry out a plan that will achieve the results they want at a price they can afford.

Holt Builders, LLC, builds custom homes and does full-service custom remodeling—from kitchens, baths and additions to decks, doors and windows, and masonry. Terry is the sole proprietor, and works with a crew of subcontractors, each of whom has 20 or more years of experience. Another key player, Terry said, is his grandson, Tyler Buxton. Tyler literally grew up in the business and is now a licensed builder. He is a project manager for Holt Builders, and the long-range plan is for Tyler to eventually take over the business.



Quality is a point of pride with Terry—in the materials he uses, the craftsmanship he insists on, and in the client relationships he builds. He partners with his clients “at every step in the process, from the design stage to final walk-through,” and always welcomes their input and ideas. In the end, he says, this leads to a project that is not only well-built, but one the client is happy with.

*Holt Builders is at 1624 Stonehaven Drive, Holt,
517.285.9235 (alternate 517.694.2612),
www.holtbuildersllc.com.*

CRRP helps business owners fund exterior improvements

One of the goals of the Delhi DDA is to help make our community an attractive place to live, work and do business—and one of the programs that helps achieve that goal is the Commercial Rehabilitation Rebate Program (CRRP).

The CRRP offers rebates of 50% of the cost of eligible owner-paid exterior renovations or improvements to existing commercial structures. For owners considering exterior improvements, CRRP may put those improvements within financial reach—or stretch the improvement budget to cover more items on the “to do” list.

Under CRRP, commercial property owners or tenants may receive up to a maximum of \$20,000 in rebates for up to \$40,000 of owner-paid improvements. These may include upgrades such as exterior paint, signage, landscaping, new pavement or facade—as well as exterior security features, and energy improvements such as solar panels or windmills. CRRP is available within the DDA district of Delhi Township to owners or tenants of commercial or Town Center-zoned buildings.



CRRP is a unique opportunity to modernize, upgrade or improve the appearance of your commercial property at a significant cost savings, and the DDA encourages eligible property owners to take advantage of the program. To learn more or view the official guidelines, please visit delhidda.com, click on Incentives, then choose CRRP; or contact Helen Harrison at the DDA, 699-3866.



Laura Murphy

The Bookshelf

Bringing together books, people and savings

Launching a startup business isn't for the faint of heart. But Laura Murphy took the leap and opened The Bookshelf because she believed our community needed a bookstore.

Laura had worked at Bargain Books in Holt until the company closed the store. "I really loved my job. It was the best job I ever had," said Laura. "I loved my customers. This community made that store."

That connection with customers and her desire to serve a need in the community inspired Laura to open her own bookstore. "I want people to be able to buy books here in town," she said. "It's more convenient." And, she added, while downloadable books offer near-instant gratification, there are many who still prefer the experience of a "real" book.

Take, for example, children—and the parents, grandparents and teachers who read to them. Children's books are one of the The Bookshelf's three main in-stock categories. Laura also carries a large selection of fiction and religious titles, along with "a little bit of everything else." Laura sells both new and used books, with most of the new books at 30% off retail price. She also runs occasional specials with savings up to 50% off.

Laura emphasizes that if she doesn't have a particular title in stock, she will order it—even if that means tracking it down from a variety of sources. The Bookshelf also buys and sells textbooks, a convenience which has proven popular for Michigan State University and Lansing Community College students. And for those looking to free up some room on their own bookshelves, Laura also accepts gently used books for store credit.

One of Laura's favorite aspects of operating a bookstore is providing an environment in which people can browse and relax. The Bookshelf offers WiFi, and, if all goes as planned, Laura hopes to expand the store and add a café.

*The Bookshelf is at
2417 Cedar Street,
Holt, 517.699.1010.*



On Patrol in Our Town

Deputy Kelly Bowden, Business Officer,
Ingham County Sheriff's Office, Delhi Division

As the business liaison officer, I make it a habit to stop into the local businesses and chat with the merchants, employees and customers. I have done this since being assigned to the patrol division of the Sheriff's Office, and have always found it to be a useful practice. In several instances, conversations like these have led to tips being developed, and, ultimately, a case being solved.

In recent years, however, I have noticed an alarming trend. While speaking with citizens and businesspeople, they have told me about suspicious vehicles, persons and situations they have encountered, yet never reported to the police. When I ask them why, most of them reply something like this: "I wasn't sure if it was important. I didn't want to bother you guys or make a big deal out of it." Yet, in a recent case solved by Delhi Division deputies, citizens in a particular neighborhood had seen someone wearing dark clothing and prowling about in the early morning hours. It only took one call for deputies to arrive and locate the suspect, who, as it turned out, had been involved in numerous thefts from vehicles and was later implicated in multiple other crimes in the area.

I encourage all residents and businesses to report suspicious situations and people to the Sheriff's Office immediately. Simple actions like this allow law enforcement and the public we protect to act as partners, detecting and deterring potential crimes before they happen.

Please, **IF YOU SEE SOMETHING.... SAY SOMETHING.** Call 911 and request a deputy. It is not an inconvenience to us. It is not a hassle to us. It is no trouble at all, I assure you. It is, however, an example of law enforcement and our citizens working together to make Delhi Township a great place to live, work and play.

Stay safe out there.



Deputy Bowden

Summer music, movies, food, fun!

You don't have to go far to find summer fun! Check out the great lineup of FREE family events right here in Holt this summer:

Music in the Garden

The Holt Community Arts Council presents the 5th season of Music in the Garden—FREE family-friendly concerts each Thursday evening in July. All concerts will begin at 7 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt, behind the Delhi Township Community Services Center. As an added bonus, the Holt Farmers' Market will hold Thursday markets at the Gardens during the month of July from 4-7 p.m. So bring your blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy a family evening of great music and taste treats!

July 5 – The Lash – Celtic Mayhem (Celtic rock)

July 12 – Frank-o and the Americans (New Age acoustic)

July 19 – Hullabaloo (11-member original roots/ska)

July 26 – Delilah DeWylde and The Lost Boys (rockabilly)

Holt Farmers' Market

The Holt Farmers' Market is open Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and will add Thursday hours from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in July, August and September. As noted above, Thursday markets in July will be held at Veterans Memorial Gardens in conjunction with Music in the Garden. Concert-goers can pick up food before the concert, and food shoppers can stick around to enjoy the music! The Holt Farmers' Market plans to offer free storage service for your food while you enjoy the concert.



9/11 Hero 5K run/walk

It isn't free, but it is for a good cause! Proceeds from this event will benefit American Legion Post 238 and the Holt 9/11 memorial monument fund. The race will start in Veterans Memorial Gardens at 8:15 a.m. on September 11. There will be awards to the overall and Master winners, and medals to the top three finishers in each age group. The \$20 entry fee must be received by September 6 to guarantee a t-shirt; race day entry fee is \$25. For registration information, please contact John Bush of the Holt Alliance at johnbush@edwardjones.com.

Moonlight Movies

On Friday nights in August, the Holt Community Arts Council and Delhi Parks & Recreation will once again host FREE family movies at Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 Aurelius Road, behind the Delhi Township Community Services Center. All movies begin at 9 p.m. or dark.

August 3– Title to be announced

August 10– Title to be announced

August 17– Title to be announced

Holt Hometown Festival

The 14th annual Holt Hometown Festival kicks off on Friday evening, August 24, leading into a jam-packed Saturday of festival activities: parade, vendors, exhibits, kids' activities, road race and much more, all culminating in the fireworks display at dark.

Visit holtfestival.com for a schedule of events.





Meet your new DDA Board Member

Marcy Bishop Kates

In 2011, Marcy Bishop Kates became a member of the Holt business community when she founded Incu-BaKe, Inc., mid-Michigan's first shared-use commercial kitchen space. In 2012, she decided to deepen her involvement with the broader community by becoming a member of the DDA board of directors.

"I am excited to serve on the board," said Marcy, who was an AmeriCorps Program Officer with the State of Michigan before becoming an entrepreneur. "After having worked for national service programs for so many years, it is exciting to focus on the community where we live."

Not that she wasn't already serving the community. A strong believer that local foods hold one of the keys to a recovering Michigan economy, Marcy serves as chair of the Holt Farmers' Market advisory board. This dovetails nicely with one of her goals as owner of Incu-BaKe: to help others grow their own small food businesses.

As she takes on the responsibilities of her role as a DDA board member, Marcy says, "I'm looking forward to learning more about how the DDA functions, as well as the township as a whole."

"Karate is for life."

Original Okinawan Karate of Holt

Sensei Mark McCloud teaches traditional-style Okinawan karate, which is part of a cultural tradition more than 600 years old. But when tired, sweaty and smiling students of all ages leave the Holt dojo after class, they carry with them the benefits this ancient art of self-defense brings to their modern lives.

"Karate positively impacts every aspect of life," Mark said. "We focus on development from the inside out—the complete package." That includes fostering such qualities as positive thinking, confidence, cooperation, self-discipline, goal-setting, and respect for others. Adult students credit Original Okinawan Karate with improving their strength, flexibility, mental focus, ability to manage stress, and more; delighted parents cite positive results in all aspects of their children's lives.

"The discipline and focus they are learning through karate has enhanced their studies at school and their respect for others," wrote one parent. "Not only do they learn the physical art of karate, they also learn many valuable life lessons...to love and respect others and to think of others first," said another.

Traditional Okinawan karate is based on the principles of peace, harmony, and respect for others, and Sensei Mark teaches students strategies for dealing with adverse situations without violence. Karate can be helpful in dealing with bullying, he added, because it helps students build confidence. "This helps the kids who are being

picked on resist bullying," said Mark, "but it can also give students who go along with the bullying the courage to stand up for others."

A powerful motivational tool for Sensei Mark's young students is "the discipline sheet." Parents use a four-stage scale ("P" for "poor attitude"; "N" for "needs improvement"; "G" for "good"; and, at the top of the scale, "S" for "self-disciplined") to evaluate their students' progress in reaching individualized goals—from turning in homework to remembering to hang up their backpack when they come home from school to being kind to their siblings. Students turn in their discipline sheets in karate class, and are held accountable for any less-than-good ratings. "We work together in class to help them do better," Mark said. In addition to individual goals, there is a monthly goal—such as "be kind to others"—that all students focus on. "I tell my students karate is about being better in our lives," said Sensei Mark.

Original Okinawan Karate accepts students from age five through adults of any age, and new students are welcome at any time. Class instruction takes into account the abilities of each individual: their age, size, strength, skill level, and any personal limitations. Learning is step-by-step and advances only when a student is ready.

***Original Okinawan Karate is at
2002 N. Cedar Street, Holt,
517.694.5001, www.holtdojo.com.***



***View a video about Original Okinawan
Karate at www.delbidda.com.***





Jersey Giant

Family business is a
three-decade success story

"We take pride in the subs we make for our valued customers...and we expect to be held personally accountable if we ever fail to deliver on that commitment."

Jersey Giant is at 2546 East Jolly, Lansing,
517.394.3590, www.jerseygiantsubs.com.

When Jersey Giant founder Ken Slocum retired, he gave each of his sons their own submarine sandwich store—and his secret oil-and-vinegar recipe.

It was 1979 when Ken sold his data processing business in New Jersey, loaded the family's belongings in a trailer, and, with his wife Pege and their sons Britt, Marc, Matt and Jason, hit the road in search of a new home base with better schools. Their adventure eventually led to East Lansing, which Ken remembered favorably from his days at MSU. In East Lansing, Ken discovered a former Coney Island shop, bought the equipment, and, the next day, renamed the place Jersey Giant. The rest, as they say, is history—of the tastiest kind.

Today, Jersey Giant's 15-sandwich menu is largely the same as when Ken founded the company, and the family's promise remains as it was then: to offer the biggest, freshest, tastiest cold-cut sub sandwiches it is possible to make. The meat is still sliced to order in front of the customer. It's that commitment to "doing one thing and doing it right," the Slocums believe, that has enabled them to thrive for more than 30 years, despite competition from national mega-corporations.

Cindy Spitzley has worked at the Jersey Giant in Delhi Township for more than 16 years, and has been the manager for the past two. In addition to delicious sandwiches, she points to efficient customer service as being a key to success. "That's something we pride ourselves on," she said. "Getting you served and back to work or whatever you've got to do."

There's now a third generation of self-described "hoagie hawkers" keeping up the tradition, with more in the wings. The Delhi store employs 11 people, including Matt Slocum's high school senior daughter. The Slocums love being "hands on" in the family business, and do not plan to franchise or to open more stores than they can manage among them.

"We take pride in the subs we make for our valued customers," the family states on its website. "And we expect to be held personally accountable if we ever fail to deliver on that commitment."

OURTOWN

2045 North Cedar Street
Holt, MI 48842

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lansing, MI
Permit #407

A publication of the Delhi Charter Township Downtown Development Authority • www.DelhiDDA.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
2045 North Cedar Street, Holt, MI 48842
(517) 699-3866 or (517) 699-3867
Howard.Haas@delhitownship.com

THE DDA BOARD MEMBERS:

Jane Olney, *Chairperson*
David Leighton, *Vice-Chairperson*
Kim Cosgrove,
Holt Schools Representative, Treasurer
Nanette Miller, *Secretary*
Tim Fauser
Robert Fillion
Stuart Goodrich, *Township Supervisor*
Marcy Bishop Kates
Tonia Olson, *Planning Commission Representative*