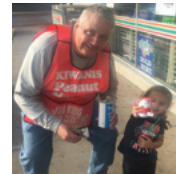




**BLUBIRD  
KITCHEN & DESIGN**  
Making your  
design dreams  
take flight



**TRI-ANGLES SALON**  
Offering a fun,  
family-friendly  
atmosphere



**KIWANIS CLUB  
OF HOLT**  
Reaching out to the  
Holt Community

OURTOWN AT A GLANCE >>



*"Sometimes we're the only person that these people see in the course of a day. You keep your eyes open when you visit them to make sure that they're okay."*

— Sue Phelps

## MEALS ON WHEELS

### Providing a vital service to seniors in Holt and beyond

Approximately 87% of adults ages 65 and older report that they prefer to stay in their homes as they age, according to an AARP survey. Known as "aging in place," this trend presents a challenge—as aging baby boomers develop chronic health problems and mobility complications in their homes, they face increasing isolation and may have trouble meeting basic needs.

That's where people like Sue Phelps come in. Phelps is a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, a program that delivers meals to individuals at home who are unable to purchase or prepare their own meals. In the Greater

Lansing area, this program is operated by the Tri-County Office on Aging. Once a week, Sue gathers prepared hot meals from the organization's Lansing-based office and delivers them to elderly residents in Holt.

But for Phelps and many volunteers like her, it's so much more than a meal.

"Sometimes we're the only person that these people see in the course of a day," she said. "You keep your eyes open when you visit them to make sure that they're okay."

*Continued on next page*



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## *Meals on Wheels — continued from page 1*

Phelps started volunteering for Meals on Wheels eight years ago with her son. She not only ensures that each recipient is able to enjoy a fresh, nutritious meal, but she checks in on them to make sure that they're in good health and able to meet their basic needs.

According to Casey Cooper, Fundraising and Volunteer Specialist for the Tri-County Office on Aging, volunteers like Sue are essential to the Meals on Wheels program.

“Our volunteers are our eyes and ears on the ground,” Cooper said. “These volunteers are so essential. Without volunteers there is no program.”

The Tri-County Office on Aging serves approximately 3,000 clients across Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties. In addition to coordinating the Meals on Wheels program, the office also provides wellness and nutrition programs for seniors, caregiver support, a Michigan Medicare/Medicaid assistance program, and much more. Each one of these crucial services offered to area seniors is powered by volunteers.

“At a time like this when we are seeing needs increase because more baby boomers are getting older, these programs keep the community safe,” she said. “Most older adults want to age in place and to do that they need some support.”

Currently, delivery drivers are the organization's biggest need. But volunteers also can help with meal preparation, teaching wellness courses, walking seniors and families through Michigan's Medicaid and Medicare plans, and providing assistance in the office. Volunteers can serve on a recurring basis, like Sue, who delivers meals once a week, or on an as-needed basis when the organization requires extra support.

“You really feel connected in your community when you get the chance to give back like this,” Cooper said. “These are your neighbors and your friends. We think that giving back is so important because we all know older adults and one day we'll be older adults.”

For Sue, it's about supporting people who may not have anyone else to lean on.

“We all go an extra mile for them,” she said. “Who else is going to do it? We're all responsible for each other. We have to help people. We just do. That's the bottom line.”

**Meals on Wheels is operated by the Tri-County Office on Aging, located at 5303 South Cedar Street in Lansing, 517.887.1440, [www.tcoa.org](http://www.tcoa.org)**

**Want to give back to the  
Delhi Township community?  
Become a volunteer!**

Please contact Volunteer  
Bureau Coordinator Melanie  
McNamara at 517-256-7212 or  
[volunteerinholt@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerinholt@gmail.com)



# BluBird Kitchen & Design

## Making your interior design dreams take flight

For Jennifer Sesniak, every project is a creative delight.

As the owner and designer at BluBird Kitchen & Design, Sesniak works with homeowners to find the perfect creative solution for each space. The majority of her projects are kitchen and bath remodels, but she also offers interior design services, paint consultations, and staging services.

Her favorite projects? Older homes where the creative solution is a little more challenging to uncover.

“Every project is different,” she said. “Every day is different. It keeps me entertained.”

Sesniak’s love for interior design started when she was a little girl.

“I remember when I was a kid, all I did was play house and rearrange my bedroom twice a week,” she said.

She went to Western Michigan University for interior design and started her career at a lighting store before becoming a cabinet designer at Lowes. Sesniak took a few years off to stay home with her daughter. When it was time to return to work, she couldn’t shake the feeling that she should open up her own shop.

That’s when the perfect studio space on Cedar Street in Holt opened up. Sesniak opened her shop in May 2019. Today, she masterfully manages multiple projects across Mid-Michigan, each at different stages of the process. Though she is currently a one-woman shop, she embraces each design.

“I try not to pigeonhole myself with one style,” she said.

Whether it’s a classic white-cabinets-and-granite-countertops look, or a rustic farmhouse vibe, BluBird Designs is able to offer something that big box stores can’t — variety. Sesniak’s 15 years of interior design experience means that she can address each element of what makes an interior design sing — from lighting to paint to fixtures and more. And she works with a variety of local and regional contractors so each client can find the material that works best for their individual space.

Thinking of calling Jennifer? Here’s what you can expect. After reaching out to her office via phone or email, Jennifer will set up a meeting to come to your home, measure your space and talk in detail about your vision for the project.

“I find it’s easier to talk about what they want when they’re in the house,” she said.

Using drafting software, Jennifer designs one or two layouts for each project, depending on the size of the space. She also drafts a concept sheet with paint colors and photos of the countertops and fixtures. After receiving feedback, Jennifer works directly with her contractors through the entire building process to troubleshoot any issues and make sure the client is satisfied with their new build or remodel.

BluBird Kitchen & Design is at  
2132 Cedar Street, Suite 1A in Holt  
517.802.8006, [blubirdkitchenanddesign.com](http://blubirdkitchenanddesign.com)

Jennifer Sesniak

# Cricket Ridge Apartments offers hometown feel

*If you're searching for a spacious apartment tucked into a quiet corner of Holt, look no further than Cricket Ridge Apartments.*

"We are a family-owned complex," said Tom Bondarenko, owner of the complex. "My father and I built the community 23 years ago."

The father and son duo started building residential subdivisions across Delhi Township and the Greater Lansing region in the early 1980s. When John Bondarenko, Tom's father, saw this piece of property open up in Holt, he jumped at the opportunity to buy it and drew up the floor plans for the spacious units himself.

The two bedroom two bath units feature three large walk-in closets and in-unit laundry hookups. Each one of the buildings has secure entrance front doors, and are non-smoking and pet-free.

"It has a hometown feeling," Tom said. "We're tucked back. It's nice and quiet."

The complex caters to all types of tenants: young professionals, single people, couples, small families, and seniors. Tom and his team spend their days taking care of day-to-day grounds maintenance and tenant service.

*"We're a friendly office. We do everything from helping little old ladies with their computers to taking people to the airport."*

— Tom Bondarenko

Even John, now 95, still makes his way into the complex's office to make sure that everything is running smoothly for the staff and the tenants. He tried a stint in an assisted living home, but opted instead to live in a Cricket Ridge apartment himself.

"He lives right across the parking lot from the office so I can keep an eye on him," Tom said, laughing. "He still comes in here and keeps up on the day to day. He never really retired."

The family atmosphere means that each and every one of the Cricket Ridge Apartments tenants have access to fast and friendly customer service.

"I like the interaction with the people," Tom said. "We're a friendly office. We do everything from helping little old ladies with their computers to taking people to the airport. Whatever they need. We just enjoy it."

**The Cricket Ridge Apartment complex is at 4465 Cricket Ridge Drive in Holt, 517.694.5046**



Tom Bondarenko (right) and his friendly staff.

Cricket  Ridge  
APARTMENTS & CONDOMINIUMS



# Tri-Angles Salon

*Delhi's family-friendly salon*



Co-owners Holly Phillips (left) and Ruby Simon have been in business together for 20 years.

When Tri-Angles Salon first opened its doors in 2000, owners Holly, Ruby and their partner Dawn were hoping to create a place that catered to every member of the family — from babies to great grandparents.

"We wanted our salon to stay family-friendly," said Holly, co-owner of the salon. "We need to be accomodating to them. They deserve our best."

Now 20 years later, the small-but-mighty salon serves a loyal, multigenerational clientele with hair and nail services — cuts, colors, perms, highlights, updos, manicures, acrylics, and more. Until last year, the team served clients out of a small salon in South Lansing. Ten years ago, their partner Dawn decided to retire and Holly and Ruby kept their eyes open for a spot in neighboring Delhi Township where they thought they might get more foot traffic. Last year, when their current building was up for sale, the perfect spot in Delhi Township opened up.

One humid Friday in August, they closed up shop in South Lansing and spent the whole weekend moving every chair, counter, comb, and curling iron to their new location on Bishop Road, just in time to open up shop the following Tuesday.

It's cozy — only 700 square feet — but is packed with decades of experience and a lifetime of friendship. Both Holly and Ruby, who first met while working together at another salon more than 30 years ago, enjoy keeping the atmosphere of Tri-Angles light and approachable.

"We're not stuffy," Holly said. "We're funny and we welcome everybody. We don't want anybody to feel like they're not welcome."

From wiggly kids to gray-haired beauties, Ruby and Holly are always looking for new clients and look forward to inviting anyone to stop by their relaxing and inviting salon, by walk-in or appointment.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," Ruby said. "I love making people smile, making them laugh, making them pretty, making them feel good about themselves."



Tri-Angles Salon is at 6231 Bishop Road in Lansing, 517.394.2302  
[www.facebook.com/Tri-Angles-Salon-203957676305786/](https://www.facebook.com/Tri-Angles-Salon-203957676305786/)



## *Hometown Team of Laura Delong Realty*

(Left to right) Steve Croze, Nikki Riley and Bruce Carpenter

### A community focused real estate team

**A**ny realtor can list and sell your home. For Bruce Carpenter of Hometown Team of Laura Delong Realty, it's all in the small stuff.

"It's the difference of people who go the extra mile for you and make sure that your interests are always represented to the best that they possibly can be," he said. "I think that's where we excel more than a lot of other realtors in the area."

The team prides themselves on their knowledge and devotion to their customers. While other realtors are focused only on the bottom line, the Hometown Team's goal is to build a better community and find a real estate solution that works for each client, whether commercial or residential. The team is so dedicated to this idea that they don't charge any origination or transaction fees.

"I think we're the only people left in the area that do that," Carpenter said.

From the initial meeting to the closing table, Carpenter and his team are dedicated to helping clients buy and sell their properties with ease and will even go above and beyond to

help clients put the finishing touches on before listing.

"We can get things done in a pinch if need be," Bruce said. "A lot of our agents are willing to jump right in and lend a hand to get stuff done."

The team works with tried and trusted contractors and home inspectors so they can set each one of their clients up for success in the buying or selling process.

The Hometown Team of Laura Delong Realty first started in Eaton Rapids and opened up their Holt location in May 2018. For Carpenter, the manager of the new location, Holt seemed like the perfect place to expand.

"It has a lot of similar tendencies of Eaton Rapids—a small town that's growing," he said. "Even though Holt has grown, it still maintains that tight-knit community feel."

Carpenter works alongside three other team members. The team is looking to grow and expand in 2020 to help serve even more clients in the Holt area.

"You've just got to help people," Carpenter said.



**Hometown Team of Laura DeLong Realty is at 4025 Holt Road, Suite 200  
517.889.5459 • [www.hometownteamldr.com/holt](http://www.hometownteamldr.com/holt)**



# Winter Safety and Crime Prevention Tips

**A**s winter is now in full force I wanted to take a minute to talk about some basic winter safety and crime prevention tips. As the temperatures continue to plummet during the next month or two, it is important to remember basic safety when using space heaters and generators during these cold winter months. It is never okay to use a generator in an enclosed space such as a home or garage so please remember to follow manufacturer directions for using these items.

On a crime prevention note: during this time of year, we often see an increase in automobile theft. Almost all of these vehicles that are stolen either have the keys left in the vehicle or are left running to warm up in the driveway or parking lot. I know that no one likes getting into a cold frosty vehicle and heading to work but it is never a good idea to leave your vehicle running unattended in a driveway or parking lot. This simply makes it easy for the potential car thief to steal your vehicle with little to no effort. If you are not lucky enough to have a remote start on your

vehicle, please do not leave it unattended, and do not leave keys in vehicles that are parked overnight.

Before we know it, spring will be back and temperatures will be on the rise. Until then, please protect yourself and your property by following the simple tips above. As always if you are in need of assistance or have questions please contact the Ingham County Sheriff's Office Delhi Division.

Thank you  
Deputy  
Andrew Duling



*During this time of year, we often see an increase in automobile theft. Almost all of these vehicles that are stolen either have the keys left in the vehicle or are left running to warm up.*



Deputy Andrew Duling • Ingham County Sheriff's Office • Delhi Division • 517.694.0045

## Holt Farmers' Market is **OPEN ALL YEAR!**

**Friday Mini-Markets**  
**2 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

**Saturdays**  
**9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



# Kiwanis Club of Holt



Since 1949, the Kiwanis Club of Holt has been impacting the lives of children, young adults, and community members through community events and service projects.

"Across the board, we just try to do things that help the community," said Chris Trubac, president of the club.

The Kiwanis Club is responsible for many of the annual events and community initiatives that Holt residents have come to cherish, including the Easter Egg Hunt at Valhalla Park, the Christmas Tree Lighting at Veterans Memorial Park, and the annual dinner for the top 10 graduating seniors at Holt High School, among others. One of their largest service projects in Holt is the Lockhart Special Bowling Club, a program that brings together children and young adults with special needs for a fun afternoon of bowling.

"There's so much that these clubs do to make the community a better place to live and it goes unseen by a lot of folks," Trubac said. "They don't realize what's going on in the background. My fear is that as our membership gets older, clubs like Kiwanis are going to disappear."

The Kiwanis Club of Holt is always reaching out to the community to recruit new members and volunteers. People can volunteer on a project-by-project basis or get more plugged in by becoming a member. No matter which option people choose, the Kiwanis Club hopes that more people will consider giving back to their community through these programs and initiatives.

To learn more about the Kiwanis Club of Holt, please visit [sites.google.com/site/kiwanisclubofholt/](https://sites.google.com/site/kiwanisclubofholt/)



## 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:** Howard Haas, Executive Director  
4410 Holt Road, Holt, MI 48842  
517.699.3866  
[Howard.Haas@delhitownship.com](mailto:Howard.Haas@delhitownship.com)

## THE DDA BOARD MEMBERS:

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Rita Craig, *Planning Commission Representative*  
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