

A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OURTOWN

ISSUE 74 • WINTER 2022

# HOLT NOW



DEDICATED TO HELPING OUR COMMUNITY & ITS BUSINESSES GROW

A publication of the Delhi Charter Township Downtown Development Authority • [www.DelhiDDA.com](http://www.DelhiDDA.com)



THE DDA – WHO WE ARE & 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:

Harry Ammon  
Rick Brown, *Holt Schools Representative*  
Rita Craig, *Planning Commission Representative*  
Dr. Tim Fauser, *Vice Chairperson*  
John Hayhoe, *Township Supervisor*  
David Leighton, *Chairperson*  
Steven L. Marvin  
Nanette Miller, *Secretary*  
Sally Rae, *Treasurer*



Delhi Trails Shine in New Videos

Residents of Delhi Township know that it is a vibrant community that offers a great quality of life for families, seniors, and young professionals. One of the main highlights for people of all ages is the robust parks system, where the access to nature and recreation continues to attract new businesses and residents alike.

Delhi Township is home to 11 properties including 7 parks spanning nearly 100 acres and 10 miles of trails, which are among the township’s most popular amenities. The parks and trails are well-maintained and offer something for everyone, from beachfront swimming to skateboarding. To showcase the unique offerings of our community, Delhi Township is working on an ongoing series of videos that will highlight the amenities and resources available at each of our parks and community offerings. The videos have been shared on the township’s website and social media pages to increase local awareness of the sprawling parks and trails system. So far, residents and visitors can watch videos about:

- **Esker Landing**, a former steel company site with a trailhead park and kayak launch
- **John Taylor Memorial Park**, a 13-acre park with one of the best sledding hills in the area

- **Valhalla Park**, the largest and most developed park in Delhi Township with year-round activities
- **Delhi Skate Park**, a place for children and adults to practice their inline skate, skateboard, and bike skills
- **Kiwanis Park**, the perfect summer recreation destination for sports enthusiasts and family events
- **Delhi Trails**, a great destination for walkers, hikers, joggers, cyclists, and more that connect Delhi Township to the surrounding communities
- **9/11 Memorial Park**, which honors the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks
- **Sam Corey Senior Center**, a green building with fitness classes, lunches, and games to help our seniors have a good quality of life

The success of the Delhi Township parks would not be possible without the support of residents who make critical investments in recreation opportunities around the community. Many of the parks’ improvements have been made through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and recent township millages.

To watch the videos and learn more about all that Delhi Township parks have to offer, visit [www.delhitownshipmi.gov/379/Parks-Showcase-Videos](http://www.delhitownshipmi.gov/379/Parks-Showcase-Videos).



Caring Animal Hospital to care for more patients through expansion

For Caring Animal Hospital of Holt, keeping pets and their owners close to home for veterinary care is extremely important. But limited space was becoming a problem for getting regular and new patients in for care as quickly as the practice liked. Prior to the pandemic, Caring Animal Hospital was planning an expansion and remodel, but once COVID-19 hit, they had to put their plans on hold. While these plans were halted for a while, the need for veterinary services only increased during the pandemic. “Over COVID, we have seen an influx of clients getting new pets, or they’re working from home now and seeing their pets on a more consistent basis and noting problems earlier,” says Maggie Smith, Licensed Veterinary Technician and Caring Animal

Hospital’s Practice Manager. “Overall the veterinary field has been very busy since COVID.” Caring Animal Hospital just started their expansion, which is slated to be finished within the next month. After that, they will turn their attention to renovating the existing space. The full project is set to finish sometime in the spring. The practice began in 2000 by Dr. Bethany Steele, who later brought on Associate Veterinarian Dr. Hailee Cotter. They offer a variety of services for small animals such as dogs, cats, and exotics (snakes, rabbits, ferrets, etc.). Services include full-service dentistry with dental cleanings and dental x-rays, vaccinations, wellness checks, acupuncture, and more. They offer a new service – endoscopy. Caring Animal Hospital recently acquired this new piece of



equipment, which allows them to look inside the animal for issues. They can then do procedures to address those problems or take biopsies for further diagnosis. This keeps animals from having to get invasive surgery for certain things. The expansion and renovation project will allow Caring Animal Hospital to bring on a third doctor as well as more support staff. It will also double the square footage of the building, increasing the number of exam rooms and provide other much needed space to service patients. “It’s going to free up a lot of our space,” Smith says. “It will allow us to bring on new clients and see more of our regular clients sooner.” Caring Animal Hospital is always accepting new patients and looks forward to keeping more animals close to home for care.

**Caring Animal Hospital is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is located at 2162 N. Aurelius Road in Holt, 517.694.6766, [caringanimalhospital.net](http://caringanimalhospital.net).**



# Preston Productions provides quality and affordable videography services

Thanks to today’s digital and social media age, most people are familiar with some kind of video production. Video is a part of everyday life – it’s the television commercial, the social media story, and even the short video playing in the doctor’s office.

If there’s one thing Paul Preston of Preston Productions in Holt knows about, it’s video production. Preston has been in the video production industry for over 25 years. He worked in a corporate setting until he had the opportunity to venture out on his own. But with his familiarity with the market over his two decades of work, it was a smooth transition.

A team of one, Preston provides a variety of video services. He specializes in short 30-60 second television commercials, but he can also do some longer form videos, as well as editing and basic 2D animation.

“When it comes to the commercial, I do it all,” Preston says. “From the writing, the shooting, the editing, the creative, all of it. Or I can work as a team with other producers if need be.” This goes together with Preston’s philosophy that any individual or business can get a quality video without spending too much.

He also recognizes that while there is larger access to video, not everyone is familiar with the ins and outs of video production. Preston has worked hard over the years to simplify the process and make it easy to understand for those who have never done it before. “I’m really good at talking people through the process and not making it sound like they have to spend thousands and thousands of dollars to get something nice.”

While Preston Productions produces video in larger markets such as Chicago and Indianapolis, Preston likes to do work with local businesses as well. He has created work for businesses such as the Greater Lansing Food Bank, Exteriors of Lansing, Vermeulen Furniture of Jackson, and many more. He has won numerous Telly Awards for his work. “Telly Awards annually showcases the best work created within television and across video, for all screens” (Telly Awards, 2021).

“Though the times and technology have certainly changed, my dedication and love for the field has remained the same,” Preston reflects on his time in the industry.

Contact Preston Productions today at 517.488.4852, [preston-productions.com](http://preston-productions.com).

“When it comes to the commercial, I do it all”

# Local business offers Enjoyable Quilting and Sew Much More

What started out as a quilting habit has turned into a full-fledged sewing and alteration business for Joy Monroe, owner of Enjoyable Quilting and Sew Much More of Holt. Monroe has enjoyed sewing and quilting for many years, but they were always something she did on the side.

Monroe has always been an entrepreneur, previously owning and operating home care services for the elderly. Once she closed that business in 2000, she began thinking of making her sewing “habit” into something more, eventually opening Enjoyable Quilting and Sew Much More in 2007.

Enjoyable Quilting offers a wide range of services including sewing, alterations, quilt creation, quilt repair, and consulting. Monroe offers sewing and alteration services that range from formal wear such as bridal and prom dresses to tailored clothing. In particular, she has seen increased requests for men’s tailored clothing and can provide tailoring for items such as suits and dress shirts. She also offers services such as hemming pants, replacing zippers, and patching holes in clothing.

Monroe especially enjoys helping with formal wear alterations. “I love the prom season,” Monroe says. “I tell all my regular customers that I kind of put their stuff on the back burner during prom time so all the girls can get their dresses back in time. Prom time is a lot of fun for me.”

In addition, Monroe does bridal alterations. She has even helped with bridal



*“I love the prom season. I tell all my regular customers that I kind of put their stuff on the back burner during prom time so all the girls can get their dresses back in time. Prom time is a lot of fun for me.”*

dress repairs and emergency wardrobe malfunctions the day before the wedding. Most of the time though, Monroe recommends brides who come to her for alterations get their dresses to her at least four months ahead of time. “Bridal books and everything tells you six months ahead of time, but I can usually fit it in to all the rest of my work.”

Enjoyable Quilting also offers Halloween costume creation or consulting. “I’ve made some costumes,” Monroe says, “but most of the time I tell parents how to make them inexpensively, rather than going and buying the costume and spending big money on it.”

Some of Monroe’s favorite work revolves around quilting. She can make quilts from

scratch, including t-shirt quilts. But she can also do quilt repair for anyone who may have an old quilt they’d like to restore.

Monroe enjoys interacting with her customers and providing her sewing services for the special moments or memories in their lives. “My customers have become my friends. They might come to pick up something and we’ll sit down and talk for half an hour. I enjoy the people.”

*Enjoyable Quilting and Sew Much More is open Monday through Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers can call for special appointment times if necessary. Enjoyable Quilting is located at 2189 Cedar Street in Holt, 517.694.3317.*





# Real Estate One 1st – building community around relationships

Communities aren't just built around real estate; they're built around relationships. That's what Bob Garchow and his team at Real Estate One 1st of Holt have found during their time in community.

"If you've been in business a long time, you develop relationships with different people," says Garchow. He and co-owner Dale Ryckman have both lived, worked in real estate, and raised their families in Holt since the 1970s.

In fact, the two were formerly competitors in the real estate industry. Over the years, the two got to know each other more and became friends, and their two offices were on friendly terms. When Garchow and Ryckman decided to merge into one office in 2009, the transition felt natural.

Since that time, Real Estate One 1st and its house of close to 20 agents/brokers has been providing real estate services to the Holt community. They specialize in residential sales, commercial sales and marketing, and real estate development and sales.

Garchow and Ryckman's long-standing presence in Holt has given them the opportunity to be part of a lot of projects and take part in growing the community. They've helped develop and market areas such as College Heights Estates, Apple Ridge Estates Condominiums, part of Centennial Farms, and many other well-known names in the area.

They've also had the unique experience of helping generations of homebuyers and sellers. Both Garchow and Ryckman have been involved in different community

organizations through the years, and both helped coach youth sports. They got to meet a lot of people in the area. "In a community like this, you get to know a lot of the parents and kids. Then the kids become homebuyers, and now their kids are homebuyers and sellers," Garchow reminisces.

Real Estate One 1st has built their business on these relationships and other partnerships through the years. Through their community work, they've gotten to know leaders and other business owners, recognizing that everyone has to work together to make a vibrant community.

They attribute much of their success to their dedicated team of professionals, many of whom have been with one or the other of the co-owners since the beginning. This gives the Real Estate One 1st team more of a feeling of family than anything. They pride themselves on providing both excellent and ethical service to all their clients.

At the end of the day, Garchow looks back with pride at the experiences he has had, the people he has served, and the thousands of homes he and his team have helped sell. "I hope that I had something to do with where people live, not just where they hang out, but where they live," Garchow says. "The Holt area has been a real special place for me. This is home."

**Real Estate One 1st is located at 4525 Willoughby Road in Holt, 517-694-1121, [realestateone1st.com](http://realestateone1st.com).**



# Holt Bookshelf celebrates 10 years

Running a small, local bookstore might seem like a difficult business to be in amid an electronic and online age. But Holt Bookshelf owner, Laura Stanburg, has found her niche in the business for over 10 years. Stanburg worked in the book industry for a number of years, before opening Holt Bookshelf. Previously, she worked at another used bookstore in Holt. When the store closed, she decided to use it as an opportunity to start her own store.

"I hated to lose my job," Stanburg says. "I liked what I did; I liked my customers. So I went home and asked my husband if maybe we could buy some of the books and start our own."

Stanburg bought out some of the inventory, worked with the previous owner to form contacts with suppliers, and opened the doors in February of 2012. The Holt Bookshelf is a new and used bookstore that sells everything from children's books to books on religion, fiction, textbooks, and so much more.

Stanburg used to buy all the store's books locally in Holt until her supplier went out of business a few years ago. But she has continued to find outlets to provide the community with new and relevant books. Since she works with various suppliers for used books, she will get in other items besides books frequently. This includes items such as toys, games, and t-shirts.

The bookstore also specializes in Michigan books, which Stanburg makes a priority to keep in stock. "We have a lot

of people who come in just for the Michigan books," Stanburg says.

The Holt Bookshelf will buy books from the public for an in-store credit. They accept 25 books at a time. Books should be in good condition and should be paperback. Preference is given to books printed in the past two years. They also accept DVDs, audio books, games, and puzzles. Customers can use 70% of their store credit towards a purchase.

Stanburg runs a number of half-off sales through the year, particularly around holidays. The next half-off sale will be the third weekend in February to celebrate the Holt Bookshelf's 10 Year Anniversary.

While selling and buying books can be a tough business, Stanburg is grateful that her store is celebrating 10 years in 2022. "I still enjoy what I do. I still enjoying getting up and going to work every day and talking to people," she says. "It's a great job. Everybody's happy to be here."

And Holt has been the perfect community to embrace her small business. "I'm not originally from Holt, but my husband is. It's just a nice little community and everybody seems to want to help each other. I like the small-town feeling."

***The Holt Bookshelf is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from Noon to 4 p.m. The bookstore is located at 2495 N. Cedar Street, 16B in Holt, 517.699.1010, [facebook.com/holtbookshelf](https://facebook.com/holtbookshelf).***



# "Back to Business" Program continues into 2022

**D**elhi Township and the Delhi Downtown Development Authority (DDA) are proud to offer the Back 2 Business (B2B) Digital Marketing Program for 2022. Launched in 2020, the B2B program provides free digital marketing services to Delhi Township businesses.

With \$250,000 from Delhi Township's American Rescue Plan Act funds, the digital marketing assistance program is available to all Township businesses. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Over 100 businesses have benefited from the program, utilizing the professional copywriting, design, and campaign management services to meet their unique needs due to the challenging economic climate

caused by the pandemic. In 2020 and 2021, B2B ads were viewed over 22 million times, reached over 2 million users, and saw nearly 150,000 clicks and 500 phone calls.

Digital marketing through the B2B Program offers a free of cost and versatile approach to reaching both current and potential customers. With the diversity of businesses in Delhi Township, no one digital marketing approach will work for everyone. Each business will receive a digital marketing package based on their objective, after a consultation to discuss their goals. The timing of ad placement and duration is based on the business's needs. The approach is cost-effective and versatile, meaning businesses in virtually any industry can benefit.

Delhi Township and the DDA remain committed to helping Delhi businesses succeed and encourage all local businesses to take advantage of the opportunity. Businesses that want to participate in the program must be located within Delhi Township and are required to provide a letter of interest (LOI) to the DDA. The LOI must briefly document how the business is negatively impacted by COVID-19. Businesses must have been in existence before March 3, 2021, and have an Employer Identification Number. **All LOI's must be submitted by February 11, 2022, and the digital media campaign must be completed by May 31, 2022.**

*For a sample letter of interest and to learn more about the Delhi Township and DDA B2B Digital Marketing Program, visit [delhidda.com](http://delhidda.com).*

**A** view of Downtown Holt in 1920 showing the northwest corner of Holt Road and Cedar Street. The first house on the right was built by Tom Thorburn in 1902 and was the first home in Holt with electricity. It was subsequently occupied by the Flemming family from 1918 through 1962. One of Holt's grand old homes, after being sold it was demolished in 1963.



# HOLT HISTORY