

A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN **OURTOWN**

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HOLT NOW

OurTown
is now
HoltNow!
Details inside.



DEDICATED TO HELPING OUR COMMUNITY & ITS BUSINESSES GROW

A publication of the Delhi Charter Township Downtown Development Authority • 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.

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HOLT NOW

A Name Change, and an Expanded Mission!

The publication Our Town, will now be known as HoltNow. The reinvigorated publication will have an expanded vision! While we'll continue to advocate on behalf of Delhi Township businesses, HoltNow will also have expanded coverage of our area's wonderful amenities. Our parks, trail system, Senior Center, and Farmers' Market all play a significant role in attracting and retaining businesses and families to our growing community.

Welcome to HoltNow!



Capital Steel & Builders Supply is building something that lasts

If there's one thing that Capital Steel & Builders Supply of Holt understands, it's how to build something that lasts. This third-generation business was started in Holt in 1964 by Harold (Whitey) Nyeholt, supplying the community with items like bathtubs, sinks, mirrors, etc., back before the big box builder stores existed.

As time went on, Capital Steel adapted their business model to stay relevant. While they no longer sell retail items such as bathtubs or doorknobs, they offer structural steel fabrication and erection for businesses and office buildings. "When you go by a building and you see the metal skeleton, shortly after the foundation but before the floor is poured, that's what we do," says Ben Buyak, Chief Operations Officer and Whitey's grandson.

Capital Steel has helped build many of the buildings around the community, a point

which Ben is still extremely proud of. "I could take you just about anywhere in town or in the Greater Lansing area and point out countless buildings we worked on." Ben has been around the family business since he was a young boy, recalling visiting building sites with his dad. As a small company, Ben strives to keep a very family-focused atmosphere for his employees, and he hopes his customers feel and appreciate that atmosphere as well.

Customers can visit Capital Steel at their office space in Holt, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and buy their steel supplies directly from Ben. They primarily carry mild steel supplies and maintain a large inventory on-site. If someone is looking for a special cut or size, they do custom orders as well.

Capital Steel also offers assistance with residential builds, providing homes with structural steel beams

and columns for new builds or basements, such as steel beams to take down a loadbearing wall.

Ben continues to look ahead at how Capital Steel can continue to adapt to meet the changing needs of the community. "We have our eyes on the future, looking to see how Capital Steel can change to accommodate for the new technology coming out," Ben says. "We like being part of the community. We've been here a long time." And just like the buildings they erect, they're building this family business with the hope it is here for many years to come.

Capital Steel & Builders Supply is located at 3897 Holt Road in Holt, 517.694.0451, capitalsteelandbuilderssupply.com.

"We like being part of the community. We've been here a long time."





Miller Music Studio offers music lessons for all

For over 38 years, Miller Music Studio of Holt has been providing high-quality, professional music instruction for the community. Owner Mary Jane Miller began by offering piano lessons out of her home. But as someone involved in the music scene in the area, Mary Jane listened to the community's needs and began adding lessons for other types of instruments and music based on what people were looking for.

"We've offered almost all instruments except low strings," says Mary Jane, recalling the various lessons they've offered through the years. "Right now, we offer piano, keyboard, voice, and guitar – including other instruments that are a little unusual like ukulele and mandolin." If Mary Jane gets a request for lessons not offered through the studio, she will refer people out to one of her many qualified contacts in the area.

Miller Music prides itself on the quality of their teachers, most of whom have advanced degrees in music. "We try to give quality lessons so that the students are getting the best education available," Mary Jane notes. And for Miller Music teachers, it's about more than just teaching a student one piece at a time. "It's about seeing how music enriches the student's life and how they can participate in many ways with music," says Mary Jane. "It's not just learning an instrument; it's getting excited

about the possibility of ways they can make music part of their lives."

Students can expect to perform at a recital at least once a year through Miller Music. Mary Jane believes this is a great opportunity for students to be exposed to other types of instruments and music, and to help students feel less alone in their musical study. Teachers also try to connect their students with other competition opportunities.

Miller Music offers lessons for all ages. While there are ideal ages for some instruments, Miller Music is open for anyone who wants to study. Teachers are flexible in their schedules to accommodate a student's needs. Mary Jane encourages meet-and-greets between people who want to study and a teacher before lessons begin. At a meet and greet, students and teachers discuss the student's goals and make sure they will work well together before deciding to start lessons.

"We try to make it a friendly place to be so that people walk in and feel at ease being here," Mary Jane remarks about the atmosphere when students come for lessons.

Miller Music Studio is located at 4450 West Holt Road in Holt, 517.694.7000, millermusicstudio.com.

Eric King Agency provides community more than insurance

Being prepared for the unexpected is something Eric King of Meemic Insurance – Eric King Agency of Holt understands from first-hand experience. Before opening the Eric King Agency in 2018, King operated an agency in Houston, Texas. King lost the business in Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

As a native of Lansing, Eric decided to move back to his hometown and start an insurance agency there. He and his wife, Wendi, met around the same time and opened the agency together. Today Eric serves as the primary Agent and Owner and Wendi as the Office Manager and Customer Service Representative.

The Eric King Agency offers most types of insurance products such as home, auto, life, health, and commercial. Meemic insurance specializes in providing insurance for educators and hospital employees.

“The home and auto and homeowners portion of the insurance that we offer is geared towards special discounts and coverages for educators, hospital employees, and State of Michigan Department of Education employees,” says Eric. “Most people will think it’s just for educators, but it could really be for any employee in the school system. It

could be a custodian; it could be a bus driver, all the way up to the superintendent.” This would also include employees of Lansing Community College and Sparrow Hospital, as they are considered teaching institutes.

And while these special discounts are specifically for those in education, anyone can qualify for Meemic insurance. “Whether Eric attains someone’s business or not, whether our quote is the best or not, he is always willing, and he has trained his staff, to make sure that we are giving the best information to our members and potential members,” Wendi says. “For us, it’s about making sure that we don’t just support our community in terms of our outside efforts, but that we also build a community of knowledgeable drivers and homeowners who understand what the purpose of their insurance is, why they have it, what it’s for.”

The Kings have certainly done their fair share of supporting the community, partnering with over 30 schools and community organizations every year. They are currently in the process of creating a new nonprofit called the Win Big Foundation, in honor of

their late friend, Gregory Winfree, who passed away recently due to COVID. Winfree was an active community member and chef who liked to help feed his local community. The Eric King Agency is partnering with the Lansing Boys & Girls Club and Ingham Intermediate School District to offer a culinary arts program for youth. More information about the Win Big Foundation will be announced in the coming months.

Anyone interested in learning more about Meemic insurance can contact the Eric King Agency at 517.992.6322 or meemic.com/insurance-agency/Michigan/holt/eric-king-agency.aspx or by appointment at 2450 Delhi Commerce Dr., Suite 11 in Holt. The Kings also encourage local schools or school districts to contact them for partnership inquiries.



“We consider ourselves community advocates, and if there is a school who would like to work on a program or something for the kids and just don’t have the funding, we would love to partner with them and see what we could do to bring that to fruition for the students.”

Local quilting and embroidery business invests in Holt

When Nancy Romig, owner of Sew Stitchtastic of Holt, first moved to the community many years ago, she never thought it would be permanent, let alone that this would be where she decided to open her small business.

"Holt is such a wonderful community," Nancy says. "We absolutely fell in love with it and our community. This is where my husband and I are working on our small businesses. It is a great place to invest."

Nancy owns and operates Sew Stitchtastic, a quilting and embroidery business. She had been sewing for over 25 years but decided to start offering custom quilt and embroidery services to the public during the last few years. For her quilting services, Nancy can create quilt tops for customers, as well as custom quilts. Nancy receives many requests for t-shirt quilts, a great high school or college graduation gift. She also makes memory quilts using shirts from a family member who has passed away.

For custom embroidery services, Nancy offers embroidery on many different items, including t-shirts or key chains. She has recently started working more

with other small businesses to create personalized gifts for staff members. "I like to look at what I do being a very personalized service for my customers," Nancy says proudly. "I like getting to know people and creating something that actually means something to a person."

Nancy hopes to offer classes in the future to teach others how to sew or quilt. As a previous full-time educator, Nancy is passionate about teaching others. As Sew Stitchtastic continues to rapidly grow, Nancy looks forward to expanding into a bigger location outside of her home and providing more offerings. Customers can currently make appointments to meet with Nancy and discuss what they're looking for.

As the holiday season nears, it's a great time to start putting in orders for gifts. According to Nancy, earlier is always better for quilt or bigger items. Smaller items such as personalized embroidered ornaments have a quicker five-to-seven-day turnaround.

Reach Sew Stitchtastic at sewstitchtasticquilting@gmail.com or sewstitchtastic.bigcartel.com.

"Holt is such a wonderful community"



The Coffee Barrel roasts up a unique experience in Holt

For The Coffee Barrel of Holt, it's all about providing quality roasted coffee and a personal, comfortable atmosphere for their customers. The Coffee Barrel has been roasting coffee beans in the Greater Lansing area since 1983, but their move to the Delhi Township community 12 years ago is what helped them add a café experience to their roasting operation.

They provide roasting services to businesses and wholesalers both in the community and in other states outside of Michigan. While their roasting business is quite extensive, guests to the café in Holt will find a quiet, intimate setting where baristas are quick to remember your face, your name, and your favorite drink order.

"We have a really small team, so it's easy to get to know us," says Ashley Birchmeier, the General Manager of The Coffee Barrel. "It's a very welcoming and comforting place to be. We have our little community around here that we really get to know."

The Coffee Barrel offers a wide variety of flavored and unflavored coffees. In fact, their wide variety of flavored coffees is what they're most known for. They even offer a flavored decaf option, which is pretty rare for coffee shops.

But it's their style of roasting that is perhaps the most unique part about them. They use a style of roasting that keeps the beans moving constantly, creating a smoother coffee without the bitter taste that comes when beans get scorched. This type of roasting is called fluid bed roasting. And according to Ashley, it makes a big difference.

Guests are even invited to tour the warehouse directly behind the café to see the roasting in action. The Coffee Barrel offers small tours for groups of between five and 20 people. Guests are treated to a short tour and get the chance to see The Coffee Barrel's two roasters in action.

Being a gathering space is what it's all about for The Coffee Barrel. "You don't just have to come in, grab coffee, and go," says Ashley. "We really encourage you to come in and stay and meet with your friends, do a project, start a puzzle, have a card game."

For those who are on the go however, The Coffee Barrel is still offering curbside service. Customers can also order beans online and have them shipped or pick them up at the café. These services are what kept The Coffee Barrel afloat during the pandemic shutdown.

"We want to share our appreciation for the community's continued support throughout COVID. We had a lot of people ordering in while they were working from home. It was a huge relief and help to keep our doors open and our staff on hand. It was a scary time for everyone, so to see our customers really come through for us, we really appreciate that."

The Coffee Barrel is located at 2237 Aurelius Road in Holt, 517.694.9000, thecoffeebarrel.com.





The Holt Food Frenzy is here to stay

Great food, great music and big crowds—that sums up this year's six Food Frenzy events, which ran monthly from May through October.

The events were sponsored by the Delhi Farmers' Market, and organized by Market Manager Chuck Grinnell.

Grinnell says this year's events were very well attended, despite an early impact by the pandemic. "We've been averaging between a thousand and thirteen hundred people for each event," said Grinnell. "This is on everybody's list, it's the event they want to be at during the summer."

Grinnell said next year he hopes to attract even more food trucks with additional variety. He would also like to expand to include activities for kids and families.

As for this year's events, the public feedback has been very positive. "People tell me we're just so glad you do this so we can come down on a beautiful night, see our neighbors and be able to enjoy some good food and entertainment," said Grinnell.

Grinnell would like to extend his appreciation to this year's food Frenzy sponsors. A complete list of sponsors, and additional information on Food Frenzy events can be found at www.holtfoodfrenzy.com.



The Holt High School Band was founded in 1929 in a joint effort between Holt Schools and the Frank Holton Company, musical instrument manufacturers out of Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Early on, the band was led by Lansing music instructors Charles Spears and Frank C. Perne, who provided private instruction to interested students. The Holt Band got its first faculty director in Miss Alberta Phillips in 1930. Miss Phillips also directed the Holt High School Orchestra during its existence in 1926-1931. Over the decades the band grew and developed into one of the finest in the area, receiving high ratings at Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) festivals. The first uniformed marching band was introduced in 1936 under the direction of superintendent of schools and music instructor Mr. Stuart Openlander.

The band yielded an all-original fight song in 1938 and alma mater in 1941, both written by students. Longtime director Mr. Gerald Winters came to Holt in 1952 and remained for more than 30 years. He was succeeded by Mr. Mike McMurtrey, and subsequently by Mr. Tim Parry. In 1991, Parry brought the popular annual light show to life for the first time. Current director Mr. Mike Emerson has led Holt Bands since 2005. The Holt Ram Marching Band introduced a new set of uniforms in Fall 2021, marking the sixth set of uniforms and first new uniforms since 1994.

HOLT HISTORY