

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

ISSUE 78 • WINTER 2023

HOLT NOW



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.

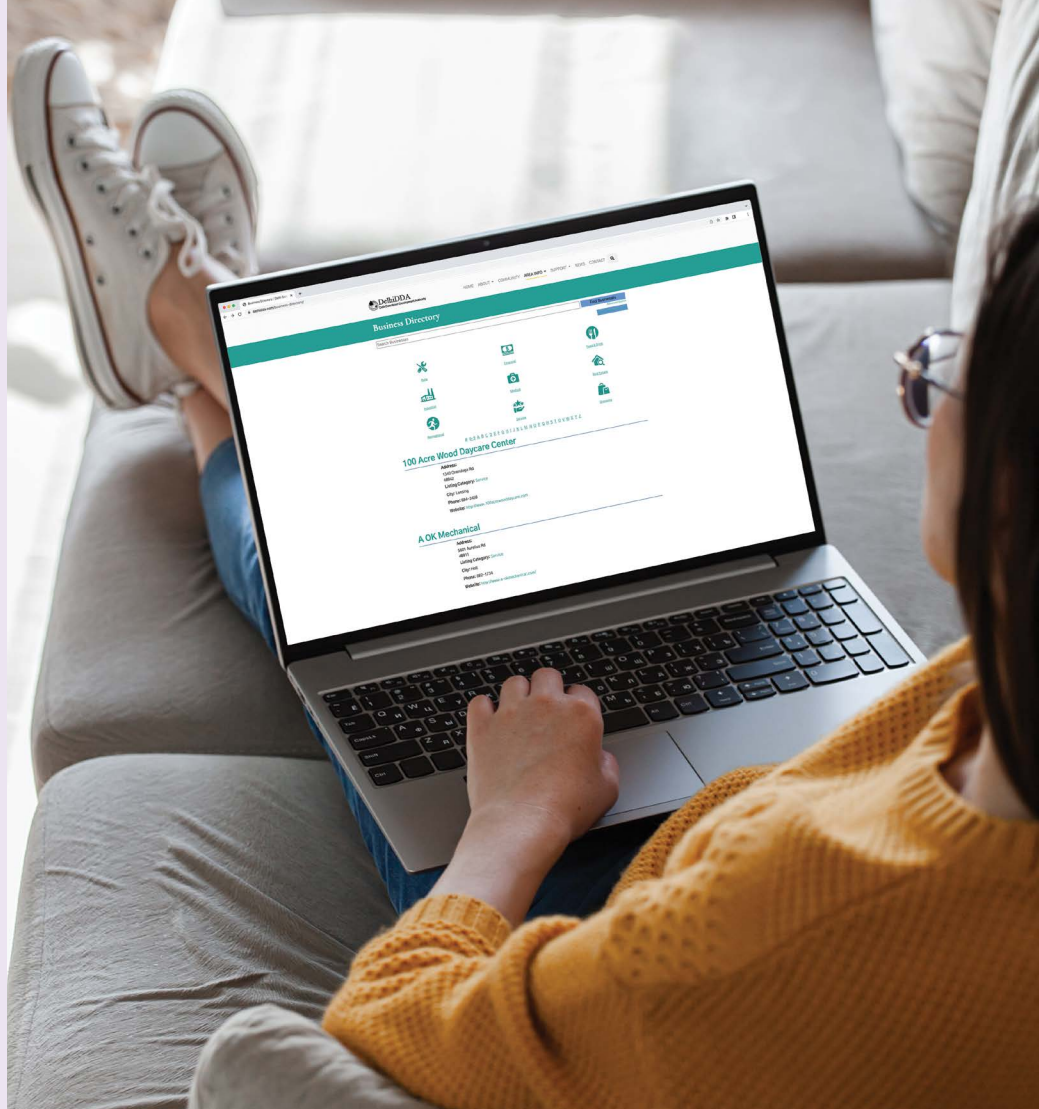
For more information, visit us at www.DelhiDDA.com.

TO CONTACT US:

Howard Haas, Executive Director
4410 Holt Road, Holt, MI 48842
517.699.3866
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*



FIND DELHI BUSINESSES ALL IN ONE PLACE

Delhi Township is home to a variety of large-scale industries and small niche businesses. The DDA supports local business development that enriches the Delhi community as a whole. Explore all of the businesses Delhi has to offer and find your new favorite with the online Business Directory at delhidda.com/business-directory!



El Burrito Mexicano

Co-owned by mother and son Ofilia and Joseph Diaz, El Burrito Mexicano is a staple of Mexican cuisine in the Holt and Greater Lansing foodie scene.

The first thing diners notice when visiting El Burrito Mexicano is the colorful and inviting atmosphere, with the bright window artwork created by Joseph. Food offerings include both dine-in and take out breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They of course serve burritos, plus tacos, soups, enchiladas, tamales, quesadillas, pastries, and more, with one of their most popular dishes being the chimichanga. "The joke around here is that I should change the restaurant's name to El Mexicano Chimichanga," Ofilia said.

In addition to the restaurant, El Burrito Mexicano has a loyal online following with their over 3,000 Facebook likes and followers. They are a popular vendor at local farmers' markets, including the Holt Farmers' Market and Food Frenzies, and have had a busy catering business for years. "It's been great. Business is very, very, good. I'm thankful!" Ofilia said while hard at work in the kitchen, where she spends most of her time.

El Burrito Mexicano received the support of the Delhi Downtown Development Authority to open the restaurant, and with a recent buildout of the kitchen. "I could not have done this without the help of the DDA," Ofilia said. "If it wasn't for the folks at the DDA—I wouldn't be here. I'm very grateful!"

You can find El Burrito Mexicano at the Holt Farmers' Market, their location at 2176 Cedar Street, and online at lansingelburrito.com.



Fish Release

On the chilly morning of November 13, 2022, Delhi Township received hundreds of new residents – over a thousand fish were released in Cedar Lake. 100 walleye, 110 largemouth bass, 200 crappie, 220 yellow perch, and 520 bluegills were provided by Stoney Creek Fisheries from Grant, Michigan. The released fish were added as an enhancement to Esker Landing, which opened in September 2019. In addition to the dock where you can catch these new fish, the 15-acre park serves as a trail head for the Valhalla and Hayhoe Trail and features a kayak launch onto the lake. The park also has a restroom, picnic pavilion, drinking fountain, bike rack, and parking lot.

Learn more about Esker Landing and plan your next fishing trip at www.delhitownshipmi.gov/facilities/facility/details/Esker-Landing-23



Holt Food Frenzy
FOOD, FUN & MUSIC!

After a highly successful year filled with fun and flavor, the Holt Food Frenzys will return in 2023. The 2022 Food Frenzys saw a wide range of vendors, entertainment, and family-friendly activities, with plans to add even more this year. “We are super happy with the past year,” said Chuck Grinnell, Holt Farmers’ Market Manager. “We are always trying to improve, always trying to add on a new specialty vendor or two.”

Beginning in the spring, there will be seven Food Frenzys throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Keep an eye out for official dates and information at www.holtfoodfrenzy.com.





A SUPERIOR WORKPLACE



Superior Electric Great Lakes Company (SEGLC) recently received two high recognitions as a great workplace based on feedback from employees.

A full-service electrical contractor with extensive engineering and design-build experience, SEGLC provides services such as design-build, design-assist, modularization, and pre-fabrication. They are 100% employee-owned, and pride themselves on their collaborative team relationships and culture.

In November, the *Detroit Free Press* named them a Top Workplace for small-sized companies, ranking 13 out of 90. SEGLC scored 91% in the employee surveys conducted.

They were also named by *Crain's Detroit Business* as a Top 100 Cool Place to Work in Michigan earlier in the year, in the top 10 for medium sized companies and 28th overall. Their high ranking was determined by Crains' two-part survey evaluating workplace culture and employee satisfaction, confidentially completed by employees.

"Being named one of the state's coolest places to work is significant as it recognizes and validates the value and strength

of our team-first belief and commitment to building and maintaining a fun and positive culture," said Dale Massy, President & COO, in a recent press release.

A Michigan-based company, SEGLC recently renovated the former Johnny Mac building at 4255 Five Oaks Drive in Delhi Township in 2022. They have two other offices in Michigan, in Troy and Flint, and one in Nashville, Tennessee. SEGLC has been in business for over 30 years, and has done more than 2 billion dollars in sales to-date.

Learn more about Superior Electric Great Lakes Company at seglc.com.



Growth at Holt Farmers' Market

2022 marked another successful year for the Holt Farmers' Market, with an ever-growing list of vendors and attendees

"It was a very good year for the market. We had a very consistent level of customers, and our vendors were very busy as well," said Chuck Grinnell, Holt Farmers' Market Manager. "After two years of dealing with Covid, I feel like we are finally back to normal."

Visitors to the Holt Farmers' Market saw an increasingly wide range of options in 2022, including prepared foods of Mediterranean, Chinese, Mexican, and American fare. In fact, the Farmers' Market has drawn so much interest that Grinnell notes they now have a waiting list. "That's a big deal!" he said. "It means the market has reached the point of being established."

Grinnell also says that vendors report sellouts every single weekend in the summer. "That kind of success helps attract even more vendors," he said. "The market needs good vendors to draw people. It needs lots of people to draw good vendors. It's circular, and we've finally achieved both."

For 2023, Grinnell says the Farmers' Market will be building on the momentum of the previous year and looking for new opportunities to grow. "The goal of the market is to be diversified - everything from the products we offer to the people we attract," he said. With funding from the Delhi Downtown Development Authority, the Farmers' Market will also have new capital improvements to improve the visitor and customer experience. This recently included fresh paint for the building, and visitors will see new signage soon.

"All in all, a very successful season. I'm really looking forward to the coming year. I expect to see a lot of growth this year," Grinnell said.

**THE GOAL OF
THE MARKET IS
TO BE DIVERSIFIED
- EVERYTHING
FROM THE
PRODUCTS
WE OFFER TO
THE PEOPLE
WE ATTRACT**



Discount Glass & Screen: A Legacy of Family

Brothers Dave Johnson and Brandon Smithwick have a family-first policy, even in business. When the two heard that Discount Glass and Screen, originally started over 30 years ago by two brothers, was going out of business, it was a family decision to become the new owners. “When we heard the business was going up for sale, we said, ‘let’s step in and let’s buy it, and let’s keep the legacy of two brothers owning it and service our local area,’” Johnson said. “Let’s keep Discount Glass and Screen Alive.”

Building on the decades-long legacy of the business, their most popular services are general glass and screens for both residential and commercial buildings. “Somebody throws a rock through your window, or your window starts to fog up, we come in and we can replace just the glass to create a quick, efficient product, with little mess,” Johnson said.

They also have fully custom offerings, from unique glasswork, to individually sized windows, and custom screens. “We’ll have projects where someone brings in a custom photo frame, whether it be heart shaped or a circle, and we’re able to cut all of the intricate pieces to be able to fit that piece of memory that’s currently in your home.”

One of the biggest changes they’ve made to the business is to accept credit cards, and to update the business with new technology to be able to produce a more quality product in a quicker amount of time. They’ve also hired more staff to be able to execute not only larger orders, but to better streamline their customer service level to their loyal customers. “We thought, not only do we need to get a bigger location where we can handle more volume of work, but we also need to bring in more people,” Johnson said. “More people meant we could handle those larger volumes and get things done a little quicker, to help better the experience of the customer.”

Discount Glass and Screen’s new location at 2064 Cedar Street has undergone an upgrade, with an updated lobby, new paint, and plans

to improve the parking lot and add new signage. “We wanted to not only grow the business, but to make something more presentable on Cedar Street,” said Smithwick.

In the future, Johnson and Smithwick hope to eventually expand with multiple locations and create new partnerships to expand their services - growing their family. “Every staff member that comes into our facility and becomes a part of the Discount Glass and Screen staff, we treat them as family. We consider them family, and our plan for the future is to grow more family,” Johnson said.

Learn more about Discount Glass and Screen at discountglassandscreen.com.



HOLT HISTORY

Happy Humphrey's at 2174 Cedar Street originated as a Dairy Bar in the 1940s and lasted as a popular restaurant for more than 25 years. Founded and owned by Wilbur "Happy" and Martha Humphrey, the operation expanded into a motel which lasted many decades. Later iterations of the motel retained the historic Happy's name before it was closed and razed in 2019. The surviving building, originally built as Elite Coffee Shop around 1940, recently received new life and returned to its origins as an eatery.

