

A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OURTOWN

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# 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).

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## HOLT FARMERS MARKET

# Holt Farmers Market celebrates 15 years

This year the Holt Farmers Market is celebrating 15 years! The Delhi Township Downtown Development Authority started the market as a way to bring the Holt community and surrounding communities together and provide access to local food and artisan vendors.

Chuck Grinnell serves as the Market Manager and has been in this role since the very beginning of the market. He has seen a lot of growth in the market over the years, with 2023 being one of the best yet.



**"This was our best year yet," says Grinnell. "We had marvelous customer flow, and our vendors reported good sales. Also, we've noticed a lot of new customers."**

The Holt Farmers Market is one of the premiere indoor farmers markets in Michigan. The market is housed in the former Delhi Township Fire Department building in Cedar Street. Having an indoor market allows the market to go all year long, which is great for the vendors and the local community.

Along with greater community support of the market, Grinnell has seen an increase in vendor interest as well. He attributes this increase not only to more artisan vendors who took up hobbies during the pandemic who now want to sell their items, but in the success many local businesses see when they have a market presence as well as a brick and mortar location.

Grinnell has more plans in store for the market in the future including bigger events and more innovative ways to attract customers.

"I cannot even begin to express how much I appreciate the community, the township and our sponsors for embracing the market."

***The Holt Farmers Market takes place every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2150 Cedar Street in Holt, 517.268.0024, [holtfarmersmarket.org](http://holtfarmersmarket.org).***

## FIND DELHI BUSINESSES ALL IN ONE PLACE

A great way to explore all of the businesses Delhi Township has to offer is the DDA Business Directory. You can search for local businesses from restaurants to salons, retail to home services, and more at [delhidda.com/business-directory](http://delhidda.com/business-directory).

# Local floral shop gets new name and new look

A local flower shop has the unique vantage point of being there for people's whole life experience - from new baby congratulatory bouquets to graduation arrangements to wedding decorations to end of life flowers, they're there for it all. And that's something the new owner of Olive and Ivy Company of Holt understands.



Crystal Hunter is the new owner of Olive and Ivy, a floral design and boutique company. She served for several years as the manager of what was formerly known as

Wild Strawberry, but recently had the opportunity to purchase the shop. Hunter has done more than change the name of the shop though, she and her team have created a whole new experience, focused on their relationship with their customers.

"We like to be your friend, not just your florist," says Hunter. "We like to sit down and get to know our families, and that doesn't mean just brides. It can also be families that have lost a loved one and are grieving. We encourage families to bring in unique personal items to be included in the flowers. We don't duplicate cookie cutter arrangements that you might see online. We like everyone to feel like they are getting something custom and unique."

Olive and Ivy has done this by adding a boutique shopping environment at the front of the shop where people can purchase other gifts and add-ons to their arrangements. They have also added a lounge where they like to meet with their customers and really get to know them to design truly unique arrangements for them.

Hunter and her team also keep up-to-date on the latest floral and arrangement trends to deliver what their



customers are most looking for. Olive and Ivy has an online shopping experience on their website where customers can order their boutique items. For those who might have been familiar with the old shop, Hunter encourages them to give Olive and Ivy a try as the look, feel and offerings of the shop are all different.

She'll also be opening up the shop for special events such as classes, with plans to collaborate with other vendors on special pop-up events. Collaboration and networking are two aspects of what Hunter enjoys most of being in the Holt community.

"Moving and transitioning to the business in Holt has opened the door to a lot of opportunities for networking with other businesses and women-owned businesses. It's been nice to have people to rely on... and collaborate with your neighbor down the street on something to make both your businesses a success. We've been seeing the community grow here... That's nice to feel we have other like minded businesses who want to grow and be successful and thrive."

***Olive and Ivy is located at 2018 Cedar Street in Holt, [oliveandivyco.com](http://oliveandivyco.com), 517.889.5412. They are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.***

# Community partners on Give-A-Kid Projects

It all started with a coat. A little girl from Holt came home without her coat one day and when asked by her mother where it was, she explained she had given it to another girl at school who didn't have one. The little girl's mother realized how close to home those in need truly were and decided to do something about it.

That's how the Give-A-Kid Projects first began in 1984. As more needs in the community were realized, the nonprofit grew to encompass several other Give-A-Kid drives. Today it includes:

- Give-A-Kid-A-Backpack
- Give-A-Kid-A-Coat
- Give-A-Kid-A-Christmas
- Give-A-Kid-A-Suitcase
- Give-A-Kid-360

"Without the support of the community and local businesses, we wouldn't be where we are" says Tim Currin, President of Give-A-Kid Projects. "It's a giant team."

## Give-A-Kid-A-Backpack

Families with kids in grades Pre-K through grade 12 and who are in the Holt/Dimondale school district can apply to receive a backpack full of age appropriate school supplies. Families must meet certain criteria to qualify. Kids also get to pick out an outfit and shoes on the day of the backpack pick-up.

## Give-A-Kid-A-Coat

What started with one coat has grown into hundreds of coats, hats, mittens, boots and other winter items being given away each year. This program is open to everyone; there are no requirements for assistance. This year's program will be on October 21. Families can sign-up for or give to the Give-A-Kid-A-Christmas program at this time as well.



## Give-A-Kid-A-Christmas

This program serves hundreds of families in the Holt community every year. It is open for children ages 0-18. The Give-A-Kids program believes in meeting the unique wants of each child and has families fill out specific wish lists for each child. Children are also given a new outfit and pajamas. Many times others in the community or businesses adopt a family. Families must apply and meet program criteria to qualify for assistance.

## Give-A-Kid-A-Suitcase

This program started this year and is specifically for foster children ages 0-18 in the community. It was

started with the understanding of the difficulties children face when moving between foster homes and seeks to provide dignity and a sense of stability for each child by providing them with a suitcase filled with clothes and other age appropriate personal items. Families or individuals can contact the Give-A-Kid Projects directly for assistance or work with other community organizations such as Child Protective Services.

## Give-A-Kid-360

This program is for those families who find themselves in need due to unforeseen circumstances such as a fire or flood. Families are provided with gently used household items such as kitchen and bedroom items, as well as clothing. Families should work with the community organization, Christian Services, to request assistance.

"The last couple years we've had the opportunity to have people reach out at Christmas and want to adopt a child," says Carrie Wilson-Currin, Vice President of the Give-A-Kid Projects. "They were clients of ours years ago and they have found their way out of poverty and are in positions where they want to come back and now help someone else."

**Anyone looking for assistance or to donate to these programs can contact Give-A-Kid Projects at 517.694.1230 or [givekidprojects.org](http://givekidprojects.org).**



# Be Septic Smart

## Septic tank treatment systems...

Also known as onsite/decentralized wastewater treatment systems, septic systems treat sewage from homes and businesses that are not connected to a municipal sewer and treatment plant. They work simply: sewage and grey water flow out of the building into a septic tank that holds and settles solids in the wastewater while liquids continue to flow into a drainage field where they soak into the ground.

However, having your own onsite sewage solution does come with some added responsibilities and risks for homeowners. If the tank is full or broken, if the drainfield has failed and saturated with water, or harmful chemicals, wipes, and greases are flushed down the drain, the septic system can stop working correctly. Failed systems pose a risk to human and environmental health, as untreated sewage can pool in yards and enter our waterways and groundwater sources. Repairs can also be costly.

Learn how to prevent and spot the signs of failure here.

### Signs of Failure

- Pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system
- Water backing up into your basement
- Your toilet or sink backing up when you flush or do laundry
- Strips of bright green grass over the drain field

### What Can You Do?

- Don't use excess water. Overloading the system is biggest reason for system malfunction. Space out large dishwashing and laundry loads.
- Don't add additives - they only harm your system.
- Don't damage it. The septic system is buried just beneath the ground surface and can be damaged if you pave over it, drive over it, or park on top of it.
- Don't direct excess rain water to the area where the septic system is buried. Water from the septic tank travels through the laterals to drain through the soil. If the soil is already wet, the water may back up in your system or pool on the ground. Make sure downspouts and yard drainage are directed to other areas of your yard.



- Do install risers and inspection ports. Because the system is buried, it is difficult to inspect to check for problems leading to a malfunction. Small inspection ports are easy to install and can allow inspectors to easily check your system.
- Do get a yearly inspection. An annual inspection of the lateral lines will reveal possible problems.
- Do check septic tanks for damage every three years and pump out solid material when needed.

### Save Money

If your septic system isn't maintained, you will need to replace it, costing you thousands of dollars. If you sell your home, your septic system must be in good working order.

### Protect the Environment

Proper maintenance of your septic system prevents the spread of infection and disease and protects water resources. Inadequately treated sewage from failed septic systems can cause groundwater contamination, posing a significant threat to drinking water. Improperly treated sewage that contaminates nearby surface waters also increases the chance of swimmers contracting a variety of infectious diseases.

### Who Do You Call?

*For a list of professional septic pumpers, installers, and inspectors, follow this link to the Environmental Health division of the Ingham County Health Department: [https://health.ingham.org/health/environmental\\_health/well\\_and\\_septic.php](https://health.ingham.org/health/environmental_health/well_and_septic.php).*

# Island vibes coming to Holt at Summerlands Brewing Company

For Delhi Township residents looking for an island escape, pretty soon they'll have to look no further than their backyard. Coming soon in November 2023, Summerlands Brewing Company will be opening its doors in what used to be Charlie's Bar & Grill on Cedar Street.

Summerlands will be a tropical themed brewery from the bright color scheme, food menu and beer selection. And it's this island vibe that co-owners, Brian Hunt and Joe Prevo, feel sets them apart from other breweries in the area.

"We're really going for that tropical feel," says Hunt. "It's meant to be an escape...It's a place you go to feel good."

Patrons will have every opportunity to escape within Summerlands, enjoying island vibes all year long. Summerlands' menu will feature tropical themed food such as coconut shrimp, Jamaican jerk chicken sandwiches, Hawaiian burgers, fried plantains and more.

But the stars of the show will be the beer. Some popular favorites include a tropical stout. "Our tropical stout blends the best characteristics of a nice sweet stout with New England IPA," Hunt says. "So you've got a big, malty roasted flavor followed up by a lot of tropical fruit flavors. It's very common down in the islands. You don't see it much up here though."

Other favorites include a key lime coconut pale ale, cucumber cream ale, and Hunt and Prevo's take on an American lager called Tank Tops and Flip Flops. The brewery will have a constantly rotating menu of beer on tap, bringing in seasonal and crowd favorites. While there are many tropical themed beers on the menu, Summerlands offers a wide array of IPAs, lagers, fruity beers, wheat ales and stouts. For example, some of their most popular stout flavors include a chocolate raspberry stout and one infused with cinnamon.

Hunt and Prevo are excited to take this next step into being a professional brewery after operating on a home brew scale since 2010. They started by sharing beer with friends, and as it has been extremely well-received, the two decided to make it into something more.

While still working to open their doors later this year, the owners have already felt welcomed by the Holt community. "Everyone we've dealt with in Holt and Delhi Township has been friendly and welcoming," says Hunt. "They've been helpful and willing to come help us out and it's been a wonderful experience."

***Follow the Summerlands Brewing Company Facebook page for updates on their opening date. Summerlands is located at 1957 Cedar Street in Holt, [summerlandsbrewing.com](http://summerlandsbrewing.com).***

## Award recognizes Delhi Township officer

Every year, VFW posts around the nation bestow a Public Servant Award for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. This year, VFW Post 6132 out of Lansing selected **Lieutenant Chauncey Shattuck**. Awards such as these are meant to recognize and honor veterans.

Lt. Shattuck is a veteran as well as oversees the Delhi Township Division of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office. He believes strongly in being active and present in the community, a philosophy he has emphasized to his team at the Sheriff's Office. This type of community centered mindset parallels the VFW's own mission of serving the local community.





# Blazing new trails with the Delhi Township Parks and Recreation

One of the things Delhi Township is best known for is its trail systems for bikers, hikers, runners, and more! The Delhi Trails rank around second or third in the best trails in the surrounding communities, behind the trails of the much larger community of Lansing. And while residents and visitors alike are enjoying Delhi's excellent trails, the Delhi Township Parks and Recreation Department is constantly researching and planning for ways to make it even better.

"The trail system in our beautiful parks really leads to...making Delhi Township a place people want to live, they want to work, and they want to raise a family," says Troy Stowell, Delhi Township Parks and Recreation Director. Stowell and his team recognize the importance of the Delhi trails in the community, both as a form of entertainment for township residents but also visitors from neighboring communities and others passing through.

This is all part of a regional connectivity plan Delhi Township is part of. Influential leaders from surrounding communities gather together as part of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to brainstorm and plan for the regional trail system, among other things. "The township is at the head of the table right now with the regional trail connect system," Stowell says.

And some of those plans are already in motion. Over the summer, construction on Holt Road actually enabled the Parks and Recreation Department to expand the Hayhoe Trail from the southern end of the township all the way to College Road in Mason. This made the trail a total of six miles long once complete. The City of Mason has more plans to expand this trail into Eaton County in the future.

There are other plans in place to expand some of the other trails as well. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on expanding the Ram Trail south to Burchfield Park in Ingham County. This trail will go along Grovenburg Road. The township is also in discussion with Windsor Charter Township about expanding the Ram Trail all the way to Dimondale, which is 15 minutes west of Delhi Township.

The existing Delhi Trails include:

- **Esker Landing Park** - trail leading from Cedar Street through Esker Park all the way south towards Mason and connects to the Hayhoe Trail. This is a great trail to start exploring the Delhi Trails!
- **Holt Rd Trailhead Park** - trail from Holt Road to Cedar Street. This is a great trail to stop off and enjoy a picnic at the park, which is equipped

with everything from grills, picnic tables and portable restrooms.

- **Ram Trail** - trail connects the downtown area to the western part of Delhi Township, ending at Holt High School with access to sporting facilities.
- **Sycamore Trail** - trail starts near Jolly Road and connects to the Lansing River Trail, ending where the Valhalla Trail picks up. This trail is located near food establishment stops and includes a nicely wooded portion.
- **Valhalla Trail** - trail winds around the lake at Valhalla Park and ends at Holt Road with access to the Holt Rd Trailhead Park. This trail has swimming access at the lake, as well as a sandy beach, restrooms and picnic area complete with grills.

"Our goal with this regional connectivity plan is really to give folks an opportunity to get out and explore on the trail system," Stowell says. "One of the things that runners and walkers and bikers like is variety. We don't want to go back the same way every time..." Delhi Township residents can watch for more improvements and expansions to the Delhi trails coming soon!

*Visit [delhitrails.com](http://delhitrails.com)*

# New jeweler in Holt brings one-of-a-kind customer service

While Chebli Jewelers is new to the Holt area, they have a long tradition of craftsmanship and customer service. The jewelry shop was originally started in 1978 by Philippe Chebli's father, under a different name in the Lansing area. Phillippe started working in the business after school when he was fifteen years old, learning how to fix watches.

Philippe later went on to go to school for jewelry repair, as well as an education from the Gemological Institute of America to learn about diamonds and gemstones. He continued working alongside his father learning the business and eventually took it over.

"After that I wanted to expand the business and move in a different direction," says Chebli. "So that's when we decided to move to Holt." Chebli has greatly enjoyed joining the Holt community, finding the residents and other business owners very welcoming.

And while Chebli recognizes there are other jewelers in the area, he knows one of the things that sets him apart is his customer service.

"We treat every customer the same whether they're coming in for a battery or a bridal ring," Chebli says. "We take the time and treat every customer with care and respect."

Another thing that sets Chebli apart is that everything is done on-site. While many jewelers send items away to be done, Philippe is the one doing it all, right in Holt. He likes to involve the customer in as much of the process as possible. For example, when picking out an engagement ring, Philippe wants the customer to be involved in picking out the stone through the finished product.

Some of the products and services Chebli offers are fine jewelry, engagement, jewelry repair, remounting, custom designs, watch repairs, and clock repairs.

*Chebli Jewelers is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are located at 1995 North Cedar Street, Suite 7 in Holt, 517.887.0222, [chebljewelers.com](http://chebljewelers.com).*

## HOLT HISTORY



The Gunn School opened in 1886 as Delhi District No. 7. An earlier log school stood on the same site and was removed for the \$899 construction of the current masonry building. The bell was added in 1899 at a cost of \$8.94. It is named for Charles A. Gunn (1841-1926), a local farmer and Civil War veteran, who owned the land and gave a 99-year lease for use as a school. The Gunn School merged with Holt Public Schools in 1957 and the schoolhouse was closed. It was used as a church and art studio through the years before being purchased back by Holt Schools in 1998 and restored.

