

delhi neighbor!

News & Tips You Can Use from Delhi Charter Township

Playground project slated for Valhalla Park

Local residents want to see an improved playground at Valhalla Park, and are working to make it a reality.

A citizens group, Friends of Valhalla Park, was formed to support the project, help design it, and raise funds. They developed a conceptual plan and applied for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant.

A grant of \$75,000—requiring a local match of \$75,000—was awarded by the Michigan DNR. Friends of Valhalla Park has also received a \$50,000 donation from the Dart Foundation to be used toward the local match required by the DNR grant.

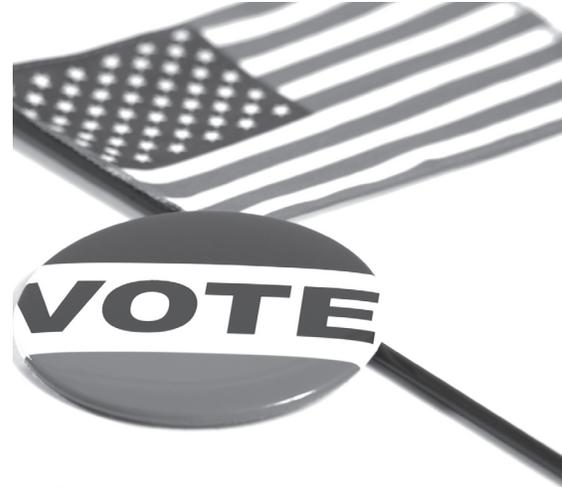
Other donations received to date to go towards the local match total \$2,192, and Friends of Valhalla Park anticipates in-kind donations of \$25,000 in labor and donated services.

The project will be completed in two phases. Phase I will focus on play structures and equipment for 5-12 year olds, and Phase II for 2-5 year olds. Estimated costs are \$150,000 for Phase I and \$50,000 for Phase II. The project bid process will take place in late June, with the recommendation of the playground design and order in mid-July. Construction is expected to begin in late September or early October.

Donations are still needed! And because this will be a community-built project, we will need lots of volunteer hands (and strong backs!) If you would like to donate or volunteer, please contact Mark Jenks, Director of Parks and Recreation, 694-1549.



VOLUME 1, #2 • SUMMER 2008



You can be an Election Inspector!

The upcoming November general election promises to be very busy, and the Clerk's office is looking for more Election Inspectors.

You can play an integral part in our democracy by becoming part of Delhi's election day team. It's an important role and a rewarding experience—you'll even make some extra spending money!

Don't worry about being inexperienced. You will be working with other Inspectors who have worked elections for many years. You will also have at least 3 hours of training before you work.

Visit www.delhitownship.com for an application. Or, if you would like to know more about working as an Election Inspector, call Evan Hope, Delhi Township Clerk, at 694-2135.

Hometown Festival tops off the summer

There's plenty of fun to be had in our own back yard! The annual Holt Hometown Festival is August 22-23, behind Holt Junior High School. The volunteer committee is hard at work, bringing together all the events and activities that make the Festival so much fun. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- ▶ Friday, August 22nd - Family movie at festival site; Spartan Speedway event
- ▶ Saturday, August 23rd - Parade, craft booths, food booths, kids area, entertainment stage, car show, and fireworks

A complete lineup of events is available on the new Festival website, plus registration forms for vendors, volunteer opportunities and much more.

For more information, or to contact Mark Zdawczyk, Festival committee president, visit holtfestival.com.

Summer Property Taxes

Delhi Township is pleased to announce that **credit cards** (Master Card, Visa, Discover and American Express) will now be accepted for sewer bills and property tax payments. Please note, all credit card transactions will be charged a convenience fee. This fee is paid to the processing company at transaction time.

SUMMER PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

Summer property taxes are collected from July 1, 2008 through September 15, 2008. Interest will be applied monthly after the September 15 due date. The summer tax bill collects the State Education Tax and Ingham County Operating millage.

We continue to offer a **direct debit** option for tax payment. Please visit the Township website at www.delhitownship.com and print the form from the online forms selection, or call us at 694-0333 and we will mail you a form. If you select this payment method, we will deduct the tax amount due on your property on September 15, 2008, from your indicated bank account.

SUMMER TAX DEFERRAL

It is possible for eligible persons to defer, without penalty, the summer taxes on their principal residence until the February 16, 2009, winter

tax deadline. Applications for deferment are available from the Treasurer's Office and must be returned prior to the summer tax due date. Applications must be filed each year. Eligible persons are defined as follows:

Household income for preceding year (2007) did not exceed \$40,000.00 **AND** one of the following (A-E):

- 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death
- Paraplegic or Quadriplegic
- Eligible Serviceperson, Eligible Veteran, Eligible Widow or Widower
- Blind Person
- Totally and Permanently Disabled

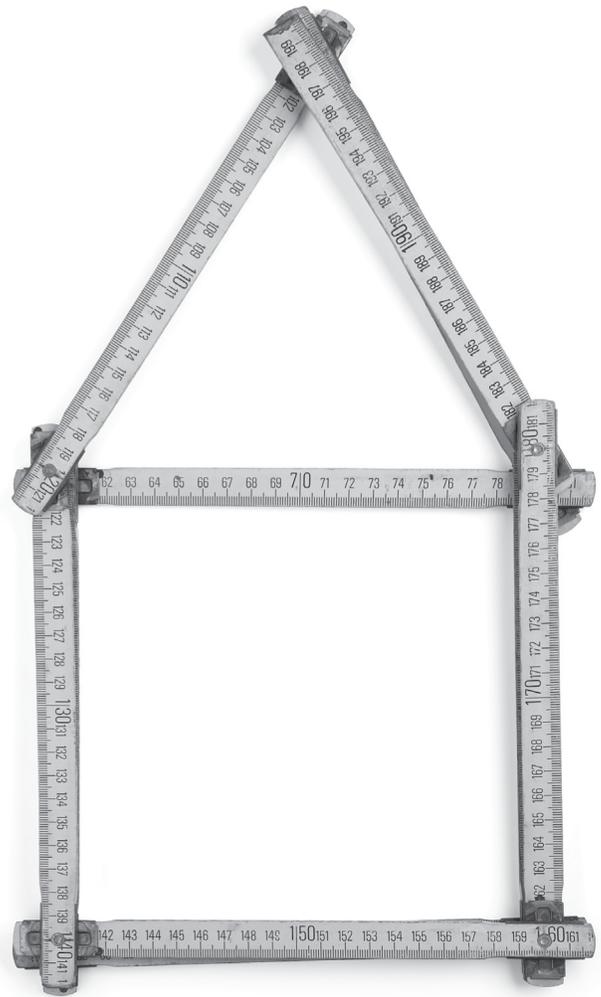
DATES FOR THE REST OF 2008

Winter property tax bills are payable from December 1, 2008, through February 16, 2009.

It's happening at the library!

Let's face it, no matter how much we love summer, there are times when we all need a change of scene or activity. And the Holt branch of the Capital Area District Library may have just the thing. There's so much going on for all ages— including book discussions for adults and pre-teens, story times for preschoolers and families, and a baby playgroup.

But there's more! The library is also hosting an entertainment series at Veteran's Memorial Gardens, with fun and unusual presentations including giant Chinese yo-yos, educators from the MSU Bug House, Acting Up Theater Company, and a Henna Tattoo workshop for teens. Registration is required for these events. To find out everything you need to know about what's happening at the Holt library, visit www.cadl.org.



Residential Re-Inspection Underway

The Delhi Township residential re-inspection program continues this summer. The state tax commission recommends that all properties be re-inspected every five years to update property information and ensure more accurate and equitable assessments. Delhi Township's current re-inspection program began in 2003.

Township assessor Steve Hudson and property appraisers Liz Tobias and Jim Munson will be visiting several subdivisions and their surrounding areas. These subdivisions include River Pointe, Del Monte, Dell Ridge and Meadowridge, as well as Sections 20 and 29. The appraisers will go door to door and all will have Township identification.

The interior inspection takes about 10 minutes, followed by outside measuring. For those property owners not at home, appraisers will leave an orange door tag with the Delhi assessor's office telephone number. Residents receiving a door tag are encouraged to call and schedule an inspection. If you are a property owner and have questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please call the Delhi assessor's office at 694-1502.

Delhi Township Board

Stuart Goodrich, Supervisor

Evan Hope, CMC, Clerk

Harry Ammon, CPFA, Treasurer

John Hayhoe, Trustee

Jerry Ketchum, Trustee

Paul Krepps, Trustee

Roy Sweet, Trustee

The Township Board of Trustees meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Delhi Charter Township Community Services Center Board Room (2074 Aurelius Road). Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Township website, www.delhitownship.com.

Parks Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Township Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

This summer at the Gardens

We in Holt are fortunate to enjoy a beautiful setting that is ideal for summer activities: Veterans Memorial Gardens.

This summer, a diverse array of family-friendly entertainment is offered at the Gardens, from a free live music series and free family movies to a fascinating lineup of activities hosted by the Holt Delhi branch of the Capital Area District Library.

Veterans Memorial Gardens is at 2074 Aurelius Road, behind the Delhi Community Services Center and the library. Please come and enjoy.



MOONLIGHT MOVIES

Enjoy an evening of family fun under the stars! All movies are free and begin at 9:00 p.m.

Friday, August 1 - Bee Movie

Friday, August 8 - Enchanted

Friday, August 15 - Shrek the Third



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES (FREE)

Presented by the Holt Community Arts Council.

Thursday, July 17, 7:00 p.m.

Those Delta Rhythm Kings

Thursday, July 31 - 7:00 p.m.

Three Men & a Tenor

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. for a community cookout fundraiser for the arts council.

Sunday, August 10 - 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Shout Sister Shout: Steppin' In It with Rachael Davis

CADL EVENTS

Wednesday, July 2, 2:00 p.m.

Henna Tattoo Workshop (Ages 12-19)*

Wednesday, July 9, 2:00 p.m.

Yo-Yo Master Zemo*

Friday, July 18, 2:00 p.m.

MSU Bug House*

Wednesday, July 23, 2:00 p.m.

Duct Tape Workshop (ages 12-19)*

Wednesday, July 30, 2:00 p.m.

Magician Baffling Bill*

*Registration required - 694-9351 x3



Holt Community Arts Council volunteers helped POTW open house visitors complete "Gill," the giant fish sculpture, by attaching recyclable laundry soap bottles to the metal frame.

POTW open house, Build "Gill" go swimmingly

Nearly 1,200 visitors attended the POTW Water Quality Awareness open house on May 10. And some of those visitors took part in a fish story unlike any other—the completion of "Gill," a sculpture of a giant bluegill.

With the help of Holt Community Arts Council volunteers, participants attached several hundred recyclable laundry bottles to a fish-shaped metal frame designed by Joe Keeley of the Public Services Department.

"Gill draws attention to recycling, water quality, and other environmental issues," said Sandra Diorka, Director of Public Services. "He was a good fit with the purpose of the open house itself—to educate in a fun way."

The multi-colored Gill sculpture stands a little more than 15 feet high and is approximately 25 feet long. Gill will live on—at least temporarily—as a mobile mascot of sorts for the Holt Community Arts Council.

Over time, the colored plastic jugs used to construct Gill will fade, and will be recycled. For now, though, says Kara Hope, interim president of the HCAC, "He is a great way to call attention to what the Arts Council is doing." You can visit Gill at the Recycling Center, or look for him at future HCAC events like this summer's "Music in the Garden" concert series.

For more information about the Holt Community Arts Council and its upcoming projects, visit www.holtarts.org.

Remember, your dog isn't just making a mess on the lawn...

Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. Unless people take care of the waste, rain washes it—untreated—into our storm drains. It can then end up in a river, lake or stream, degrading water quality and creating a health risk. People who come in contact with the water can get very sick.

You can help keep our water clean by cleaning up after your pet.

- ▶ Bring a bag. Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and pick up after them.
- ▶ Clean it up. Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently, especially before watering your lawn or cleaning patios and driveways. Never hose pet waste into the street or gutter.
- ▶ Dispose of the waste. Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep and put three to four inches of waste in the bottom. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in different locations in your yard but keep it away from vegetable gardens!

For more easy steps to protect our lakes and streams, visit www.mywatersheds.org.



Register for kids' fall sports programs

Where does the summer go? Registration begins August 4 for Delhi Parks & Rec's fall youth soccer, flag football, and the Punt, Pass & Kick Competition.

All students living in Delhi Township and/or the Holt Public School District are eligible for the youth sports programs (subject to age requirements). You may register at the Delhi Township Parks & Recreation Office, 2074 Aurelius Road during regular office hours, or visit www.delhitownship.com for more information.

Sewer Billing Information:

A direct debit payment option continues to be available for sewer bills. Please visit the Township website at www.delhitownship.com and print the form from the online forms selection. If you don't have internet service available, please call us at 694-0333 and we will mail you a form. If you select this payment method, we will deduct the amount due on your sewer bill each month on the 15th.

Fire Department Millage Renewal

Delhi Charter Township's current fire department millage of 0.5 mills expires this year, and the Township Board has authorized placing the renewal of 0.5 mills on the November ballot.

The renewal millage will cover the years 2009 through 2014. This renewal millage is for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of operating the fire department, including, but not limited to, acquisition, repair, replacement and maintenance of fire department equipment and apparatus, and for education and training of fire department personnel. The millage began in 1990 to provide quality equipment needed to deliver the excellent services that our residents expect.

For more information, contact John Elsinga, Township Manager, 694-2137.



New Senior Citizens Center in the works

Delhi seniors will soon have a spacious new center in which to socialize, host events, use computers and more.

The 7,700 square foot multi-purpose center, with majority funding provided by the Delhi Township Downtown Development Authority, will feature:

- ▶ a dining room facility with a stage and seating for 150 people
- ▶ a commercial kitchen
- ▶ auxiliary room(s) for exercise programs and meetings
- ▶ a social room with a library and computer stations

The bid process was completed in June, and ground-breaking is expected to take place in mid-July. The center is projected to open in the first quarter of 2009.



Businesses open during construction

As you know, significant repairs and improvements are being made to a portion of Holt's sanitary sewer system in the area of Holt Road and Depot Street.

Periodic road and lane closures during the project are unavoidable, but the businesses are open and accessible.

KEY CONSTRUCTION DATES:

Phase 1 - Holt Rd. at Depot St.

Construction completed 6/20

Phase 2 - South Depot St.

Mid-June to late July

Phase 3 - North Depot St.

Mid-July to late August

Phase 4 - Keller-Pinetree east of railroad

Mid-August to late November

Phase 5 - Keller west of railroad

Late September to late October

Phase 6 - Late October to late November

All construction is expected to be completed by late November.

Every effort is being made to minimize the inconvenience to local residents and business owners. If you are uncertain about how to get to a particular business, simply call ahead to confirm the best route. Thank you for your patience while these critical repairs are being made!



Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn

Storm drains in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So when we fertilize our lawn, we could also be fertilizing our water! Just like in your garden, fertilizer in rivers and lakes makes plants grow—and that can mean excess algae and aquatic plant growth, which harms water quality and makes canoeing, fishing and swimming unpleasant. And as algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

You can help keep our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater clean by following these tips:

- ▶ **Sweep it.** Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from pavement back onto your lawn so they don't wash into storm drains.
- ▶ **Buy low and go slow.** First, find out if you even need fertilizer! Contact your Michigan State University Extension office to get a soil test. If you do need it, choose a fertilizer with no or low phosphorus, or use an organic or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, which causes less harm to water.
- ▶ **Hire smart.** Select a lawn care service that follows these practices.
- ▶ **Mow high.** Keep your lawn at three inches high. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Plus, the nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer!



- ▶ **Don't over water your lawn and garden.** Consider using a drip system or soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- ▶ **Go natural.** Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Adding compost to your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. And, consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods whenever possible.
- ▶ **Make fertilizer-free zones.** Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams, or storm drains.

More than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like excess fertilizer applications, cars leaking oil, pet waste and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water. For more easy steps to protect our lakes and streams, visit www.mywatersheds.org.



Holt Farmers' Market opens

Holt now has its own farmers' market.

Located in the old fire department building at 2150 Cedar Street, the Holt Farmers' Market has room for approximately 16 indoor spaces as well as outdoor space for additional vendors. In addition to vendors offering locally-grown food, the Farmers' Market will feature selected artisans.

For more information, visit holtfarmersmarket.org

Delhi Calendar of Events

- ▶ **July 2** - Henna Tattoo Workshop (Ages 12-19) - 2:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens (Registration required - 694-9351 x3)
- ▶ **July 9** - Yo-Yo Master Zemo - 2:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, Giant Chinese yo-yos, spinning tops & more (Registration required - 694-9351 x3)
- ▶ **July 12** - Holt Farmers' Market opens
- ▶ **July 17** - Music in the Garden - 7:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, Those Delta Rhythm Kings
- ▶ **July 18** - MSU Bug House - 2:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, Fun, fascinating facts & displays
- ▶ **July 23** - Duct Tape Workshop (ages 12-19) - 2:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, William Beacom, a David Letterman guest, shows you how to make fun stuff from duct tape!
- ▶ **July 25-26** - Holt Kiwanis paper drive
- ▶ **July 30** - Magician Baffling Bill - 2:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, *Catch the Reading Bug* Magic Show (Registration required - 694-9351 x3)
- ▶ **July 31** - Music in the Garden - 7:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, Three Men and a Tenor. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. for a community cookout fundraiser for the arts council.
- ▶ **August 1** - Moonlight Movie - 9:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, Bee Movie
- ▶ **August 5** - Primary election, polls open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Visit www.delhitownship.com for polling locations, absentee voting and more election information
- ▶ **August 6** - Acting Up Theater Company - 2:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, *Stop Buggin' Me, I'm Readin'* - funny & dynamic performance (Registration required - 694-9351 x3)
- ▶ **August 8** - Moonlight Movie - 9:00 p.m., Enchanted
- ▶ **August 10** - Music in the Garden - 3:00-5:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, Shout Sister Shout, featuring Steppin' In It with Rachael Davis
- ▶ **August 15** - Moonlight Movie - 9:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Gardens, Shrek the Third
- ▶ **August 22** - Moonlight Movie - 9:00 p.m., entertainment tent at the Hometown Festival. Title to be announced
- ▶ **August 22-23** - Holt Hometown Festival. Visit www.holtfestival.com for schedule of events
- ▶ **August 28** - Holt Education Foundation Annual Cookout, 5:00 - 7:00 Holt High School. Holt vs. Sexton
- ▶ **August 6** - First day of school, Horizon Elementary
- ▶ **September 2** - First day of school

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