



CONNECTIONS



Holly Chamber of Commerce

August/September 2009
Volume 1, Issue 2

Chamber President's Corner

This is an exciting time for merchants and business owners in the Village of Holly, especially since there has been interest in occupying some of our empty storefronts.



The Village Council and Planning Commission have some important decisions to make in the near future. It would behoove business owners, who are interested in helping shape the future of our village, to attend the meetings and voice their opinions when the opportunity comes up. Once decisions are made it's too late, so I encourage you to be a part of the process now - not when it's too late.

It's been a great summer. The Chamber enjoyed a fun and lucrative annual golf outing on July 25, earning us \$2,000 that will go in our general fund. And a great time was had by all at the annual Sights, Sounds & Tastes event, held August 1.

As always, thank you to all those who volunteered their time and donated goods and services. Without you, these events could not be the success they are.

Sandra Kleven

Bringing in the green ...



The Bob Hoffman team is pictured during the July 25 golf outing at Bramblewood. Team members are (from left) Sharon Osterhaut, Rich Osterhaut, Janet Leslie, Bob Leclercq, Pete Clemens, Bob Hoffman, Tom Kernan and Suzanne Perreault.

Downtown filled with 'Sights, Sounds & Tastes

The August 1 "Sights, Sounds & Tastes," one of the Chamber's signature events, was a great success. Nearly 500 people attended the summer-time food fest that featured delicious samples from about a dozen area restaurants.



Visitors lined up to taste some of Alex's Market and Grill goodies, which earned rave reviews during the event. Photo courtesy of Amy Mayhew.

In addition to the varieties of taste treats, guests had a chance to browse downtown shops, which were open for this year's event. They also took advantage of an opportunity to bid on special items in the Downtown Development Authority's silent auction, the proceeds from which will benefit the upcoming Dickens Festival. More than \$1,000 was raised to help pay for the annual holiday-time festival.

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Ambassadors hope to organize new 'Networking at Night' program

The Holly Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are hoping to give area businesses another option when it comes to networking. Although the monthly Chamber breakfasts (last Friday of the month, 7:30 a.m. at Villager's) are very well attended, the Ambassadors realize that evening hours may be more suitable to the schedules of people who would like an opportunity to network with fellow business owners.

For more information on Networking at Night, or to sponsor one of the events, contact Carol Howard at [windowjewelry@yahoo.com](mailto>windowjewelry@yahoo.com) or Sharon Matzelle at gmatzelle@comcast.net.

Networking is a great way for businesses to meet, greet and share valuable information.

Almost time for dinner!

It's time to plan and organize this year's annual dinner. A committee is currently being set up to make sure this popular evening out is bigger and better than ever before. Volunteers are needed to work on this committee. If you can spare the time and share your organizational expertise, please contact Larry Davidson at lldavidson60@yahoo.com.

We want you on our list

The Holly Chamber of Commerce is in the process of updating its email list. If you would your information to be added, please send a note to staffhollychamber@yahoo.com. We do not give the list to anyone; it will only be used by the Chamber. Be sure to add your Web site address so we can link it to the Chamber's site.

Upcoming events:

September 7

Labor Day

September 12, 19, 26

Farmer's Market

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Civic Drive at the old mill downtown

September 11-13

Carry Nation Festival

Downtown Holly

(see related article this edition)

September 13

Cemetery Walk, 1-5 p.m., Lakeside Cemetery

September 25

Chamber Networking Breakfast

Villager's, 7:30 a.m.

October 2

Holly Homecoming Parade

5 p.m., starts at VFW Hall, Airport Drive, ends at Richter Campus

October 3

Fall Antiques Show, downtown

Correction:

In the last edition of Connections, Goodwill should have been listed as Goodwill of Mid-Michigan, with two new locations: the Fenton location on Owen Road, near U.S. 23 in the former Winfield Collection building is now open. The Holly store is expected to open September 15.



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CARRY NATION

Actors, actresses, dancers, musicians, princesses and queens, berry lovers and sour pusses – all will have a part in this year’s Carry Nation Festival, which will take place Sept. 11-13 along Broad Street and Battle Alley, and in Crapo Park and the adjoining parking lot.

The festivities will actually begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10 though, when young ladies, ages 5-20, will vie for this year’s titles and scholarship opportunities in the Queen and Princess Pageant. The competition will be held at the First Baptist Church at 15030 North Holly Road. The cost for this entertaining event is \$5 at the door.



Battle of the Bands will kick off events for Friday, Sept. 11, followed by the popular Carry Nation Festival parade Saturday morning.

For the third consecutive year, Holly Kiddie College will sponsor Kidz Korner. Children will have a chance to jump and play on an inflatable, and participate in many other games and fun activities, as well as get their faces painted anytime over the weekend. A TWX Pro-Wrestling Match is a new featured event at Kidz Korner.

The popular pie-eating contest will return this year – and those who dare to pucker up will definitely want to participate in the new pickle-eating contest.

Holly area firefighters also will be on hand all weekend to talk with kids and play games, and provide tours of the smoke house.

Since there’s no danger of Carry Nation being there swinging a hatchet or other deadly weapon, adults may wish to stop by the Holly Moose Lodge on Broad Street, which is hosting a beer hall complete with entertainment.

All downtown stores will be open during the festival with the Downtown Development Authority encouraging merchants to participate in a punch card system called “Passport to Holly.” Participants pickup their passport at the DDA table in the hospitality tent. They may then go around to 10 participating business, get a stamp from each and bring it back to the DDA table. No purchase is required to get stamps. After bringing back their passport to the DDA table, they will be entered to win a \$50 gift certificate to a DDA district

business of their choice.

The historic play on Saturday, performed by local residents, is also very popular, explaining how the infamous Carry Nation came to town. The play, written by long-time Holly resident and former village president Ardath Reagan, will take place on the main stage. Part 1, the School House, Baird’s Opera House and the Town Hall scene will begin at 2 p.m. Part 2, the Barroom scene will begin at 4:30 p.m.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.carrynation.org. The Carry Nation Festival is also on Facebook for those wishing to become a fan today.



Watch that bus!

School starts on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Motorists are reminded to obey all school bussafety laws, specifically stopping when the red stop sign is activated, indicating children are either boarding or getting off the bus, and waiting until the bus driver indicates the all clear by retracting the stop sign.

Whether a school bus is present or not, motorists should be cautious of children, who can and will dart between vehicles and into area roadways.

We’re online and on Facebook

Holly Chamber of Commerce members will find updated information on our Web site at www.hollychamber.org. We are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hollychamberofcommerce. Become a fan today and let your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers see what we’re all about.



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Meet your Board of Directors

President: Sandra Kleven – *Rose Hill Center*

Vice President: Larry Davidson

Treasurer: Jenny Stilwell – *Elements Day Spa*

Secretary: Rebecca Johnson – *Mortgage 1*

Ambassador Chair/Liaison: Carol Howard

Directors:

Kent Barnes – *Holly Area Schools*

Gail Grove – *Tri-County Times*

Brad Stilwell – *Stilwell Construction*

John Winglemire – *Winglemire Furniture*

Fred Hopper – *AAA Insurance*

Suzanne Perrault – *DDA Executive Director*

Sharon Matzelle – *State Farm Insurance*

Debi Harden – *The State Bank*

Make your connection

In order to stay connected with Chamber members, we welcome your input on information you would like to see in future editions. Keep in mind the newsletter is being published every other month, with the next edition coming out in November. Send your ideas and suggestions, and comments to verahogan@hotmail.com.

HOLLY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

