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Arts Council Cookout, Concert Set Attendance Record for Veterans Gardens

Holt (August 6, 2008) – Holt was certainly hungry, but not just for hot dogs and potato salad. After the overwhelming success of its first Community Cookout Fundraiser, Holt Community Arts Council leaders have no doubt that the people of Holt are looking to connect with other community members and participate in the arts.

The Arts Council fed nearly 400 people at its cookout on Thursday, July 31, and another 600 or so attended that night's installment of Music in the Garden, which featured Three Men and a Tenor.

"This was truly a community event," said Arts Council President Kara Hope. "Not only did the community show its support by coming out and attending the cookout, community members also came out to help. And without that help, the cookout would not have been the success that it was."

Several Delhi Township employees volunteered to help cook and serve as did representatives of the Holt Lions Club and the Holt branch of the Capital Area District Library. In addition, local businesses helped sponsor the cookout. Donations from Holt dentist Dr. Terence E. McHugh, L & L, and Kroger helped defray the Arts Council's cost of food for the event.

Thursday's show was the third in the Arts Council's free four-concert series, which concludes on Sunday, Aug. 10, at 3 p.m. Shout Sister Shout: Steppin' in It featuring Rachael Davis will take the Veterans Memorial Garden stage.

"The series has exceeded expectations. The artists have been amazing, and the audience keeps growing," Hope said. She acknowledged the support of the Delhi Township Downtown Development Authority, which underwrote the series, as well as the hard work of Delhi Parks and Recreation Director Mark Jenks and his staff.

"A side benefit of the series has been that we've drawn attention to this park," Hope said. "We've heard many people comment that they hadn't visited the park before Music in the Garden brought them in."

For more information about the Holt Community Arts Council and its upcoming events, visit the group's website at holtarts.org.