Mayor’s Leadership Awards honor outstanding service

By Cindy Cruz

The spirit of volunteerism shines brightly in South Holland and it was that spirit that was recognized last month.

The members of 20 volunteer commissions, committees and boards were applauded for their service at the biannual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Mayor’s Leadership Awards.

“The heart and the commitment that you show is second to none,” said Mayor Don De Graaff.

Mike Nylen, chairman of the Communications Commission, said the Mayor’s Leadership Awards were first presented in 2001 and were created by the commission to recognize those volunteers, elected officials and employees who exemplify the village’s motto of Faith, Family and Future.

The Mayor’s Award for Faith Leadership is given to a resident who shows outstanding service to advance the heritage of faith in the village. Brian Kamstra, long time resident, member of Spirit of God Fellowship Church, the South Holland Economic Development Commission and Ministerial Association, was the recipient. During the past 15 years he organized, arranged and directed and produced approximately 40 musical presentations in ecumenical worship services celebrating the unity of the body of Christ in South Holland.

Kamstra, who grew up in Lansing, said his journey to South Holland was a divine

(continued on page 2)
The South Holland Department of Public Works and the South Holland Park District are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life for the village. The department oversees all of the village’s signature events and communication strategies. Trustee Cindy Doorn, committee chair, is looking forward to introducing a new and innovative way to communicate to the broader community.

“We just purchased a new digital system that will allow us to better align our messaging from the cable access channels, website, and South Holland Today,” she said. “It will enable us to feature a rolling marquee on our cable access channel to bring vital information for residents through the use of still images and videos in full color. This also creates an opportunity for us to interface with the website and South Holland Today.”

The committee also oversees the various civic organizations, including the Ministerial Association, Municipal Band, and Youth Commission and Youth Initiative Task Force.

“We see our role as important to the village, to make residents aware of what is happening in the community,” Doorn said. “There are so many wonderful events and activities that make us a unique community. In fact, South Holland is one of very few communities that still host a Memorial Day parade. We want to continue to create that sense of family that everyone feels when they come out and enjoy themselves with one another. I believe that is why people come here to South Holland, because we share those common values.”

**Trustee Mathew James** heads up the Public Works Committee. The committee oversees the Public Works Department which is responsible for the maintenance and upgrades of the village’s infrastructure.

“Public Works keeps our community running smoothly,” James said. “As a committee, our responsibilities include recommendation of legislation, major policies and projects that impact our village streets, lights, sidewalks, water, public buildings, garbage, sewers and engineering.” In recent years, the village completed necessary and major infrastructure improvements in the Town Center area, including South Park Avenue, Louis and Wausau Avenues. In addition, Public Works launched a major beautification effort with several aesthetic enhancements completed, such as repainting fire hydrants and street sign posts, a new street sweeping schedule, among others. They continue to provide rapid response to street, storm and sanitary infrastructure maintenance and repairs.

As its name states, the Parks and Recreation Committee is focused on providing wholesome and educational activities for all village residents, and maintains South Holland’s 31 parks. Trustee Andrew Johnson, committee chair, said in the coming months they will continue with upgrades to the parks that began a couple of years ago. These include the installation of new equipment. They are also discussing ways to upgrade the community center.

For now, the Parks and Recreation Department is continuing its entertainment programs at the community center. Upcoming events include:

- **The GRAND AVENUE BIG BAND** on Saturday, March 14, 5:30 p.m.
- **TALENT SHOW/POETRY NIGHT** on Friday, April 24, 7 p.m.
- **MARCH MADNESS 2-BALL TOURNAMENT** on Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.

For more information on these events call 331-2940.

Despite the economic downturn, South Holland fared well in its finances this past year and is expected to be able to hold their own again this year, Trustee John Sullivan reported. The Finance Committee is currently in the budget review process.

We have been successful in holding the line on spending and avoiding layoffs. Some departments actually came in lower than what they had budgeted. Our department heads have all been financially responsible. We have been very blessed that we are in a good financial position,” Sullivan said. “Despite dealing with a challenging winter, we don’t anticipate any problems and look forward to having another good year.”

**Leadership Awards (continued from front page)**

appointment. While driving through South Holland he picked up a hitchhiker who was looking for a gospel piano player for the group he was forming. Kamstra decided to join the group, and through that met his wife and was to led Spirit of God Fellowship and to South Holland. “I am so excited to continue serving this great village,” he said.

The Mayor’s Award for Family Leadership, given to a resident who demonstrates outstanding service to married couples, families, children and students, was presented to 72-year-old Sylvester McNutt.

Ken is where hearts are touched and where all we reach out to help the causes that are important to us.”

Mary Ann Thornton, Communications Manager, commended all those who volunteer their time and said the village would like to see more people get involved as volunteers to keep South Holland strong.

In closing Mayor De Graff said, “I thank God for our faith and families and I really believe that the future of this community is far greater than its past. We will set the example and the rest of the communities will follow.”

Frank Knittle, Director of Planning, Development, Code Enforcement and Public Works, received the Mayor’s Award for Future Leadership. Knittle was a volunteer and served as an elected official before becoming an employee. His interest began when his house flooded. Rather than looking to point the finger of blame, he became a volunteer and helped create the village’s Flood Program and Flood Liaison Committee. He served as a village trustee for 15 years before being appointed to his current position. Knittle has overseen many projects including the development of Cottage Grove Avenue, Town Center development and the redevelopment of Veterans Park.

“I couldn’t have done it without my family and my coworkers,” Knittle said. “Each of us has our own vision for the future. Mine is where hearts are touched and where all we reach out to help the causes that are important to us.”

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The Coolidge Middle School 7th Grade Basketball Team won 1st Place in the Regional Championship and then went on to the next division where they defeated Sauk Village to win the Sectional Championship. They traveled downtown to Dwight and won the first game but were defeated in the semi-finals.
RESIDENTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Crossing Guards keep kids safe

By Deidra Somerville

During the school year, we see students saunter to school, hopefully eager to participate in daily lessons, socialize with friends and enjoy school activities. Parents can rest assured that along the well traveled routes leading to McKinley, Calvary, Calvin Christian, Madison, Thornwood, Greenwood and other schools, there are caring and trained crossing guards to help students complete their journey safely.

Equipped with safety jackets, stop signs and whistles, South Holland crossing guards command attention from motorists and students alike, causing them to stop, look and listen.

Lydia Meyer, supervisor of South Holland’s crossing guards, oversees the program for the South Holland Police Department. She has been on the job for 33 years, eight as supervisor. After all that time, what remains the same is her love for the job and the children she serves, and her commitment to safety and the men and women who work with her.

Crossing guards look out for children while en route to school and much more. Although some local communities allow children to perform this role as volunteers with their schools, the adult program carries more responsibilities. Besides guiding children safely across the street, crossing guards here are charged with keeping an eye out for unlawful parking, unsafe street conditions, damaged signs, poor visibility, suspicious activity and even improper or lack of safety belt or bicycle helmet use.

When a crossing guard encounters unsafe behavior from a driver, they alert the police. “We bring the matter to the attention of the police, and they handle it from there,” said Meyer.

Deputy Police Chief Hollis Dorrough emphasizes the critical need for motorists to slow down and pay extra close attention to the crossing guards and students when driving through a school zone. “We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for drivers to do their part in helping crossing guards care for students as they travel to and from school,” said Dorrough. School zones are well patrolled by the police department and officers will issue tickets to violators. “The penalty for speeding is stiff because the Village feels very strongly about protecting the safety of our students.”

Many years ago, the community had 12 crossing guards. With the growing number of children attending both public and private schools, today there are about 25 crossing guards dedicated to ensuring students cross busy streets safely.

Some areas require two crossing guards, while others only require one. Each intersection is unique. Meyer, who maintains her presence at the corner of 161st Place and School Street near Calvin Christian School, explained “When hired, crossing guards are trained at every location. Each corner is very different and a crossing guard has to know how to work with the conditions of each area.”

Crossing guards must have a commanding presence with drivers while maintaining a personal touch with the children they serve. Many crossing guards treasure the relationships they have forged with the children.

“I thoroughly enjoy what I do,” said Meyer. “To me, it’s most important to be there for the children.”

Crossing Guards keep kids safe

Pastor Matt Waterstone and Sarah Waterstone, with their dog Chunky:

a very timely subject for families during tax time, was well received by the community. From attending Bulls games together, to launching a contemporary Wednesday service called "Thirst at First," the Waterstones are passionate about being the "hands and feet of Jesus" right here in South Holland. Sarah Waterstone recently launched an exercise program to promote health and fitness for church members and the broader community. As a second grade educator now teaching at Calvary Academy, she brings a wealth of experience to the crossing guards. With the growing number of children attending both public and private schools, today there are about 25 crossing guards dedicated to ensuring students cross busy streets safely.

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Crossing Guard Leland Magee also works as a firefighter and finds his work as a crossing guard at the corner of Cottage Grove and 170th Street rewarding. “Kids really need us to talk to them and we are there for them every day,” he said.

Crossing Guard Joyce Cheers works at the corner of Cottage Grove and 170th Street, one of the busiest school corners in the village. “There are a lot of times when we really have to watch the cars, especially when they are turning corners,” she said.
Thornwood teacher engages his students in learning

By Cindy Cruz

Thornwood High School biology teacher Dr. Charles Siegel believes it is a teacher’s responsibility to engage their students and figure out how to reach those who are struggling. The methods he employs are designed to get students excited about learning.

“If we can get them excited about learning, we can get them engaged and they go away with all kinds of knowledge that they could not get by just reading a textbook,” he said.

Siegel began teaching in 1968 after earning a degree in biology, health education and physical education at George Williams College. After teaching for a few years, he worked in administration. During that time, he earned a master’s degree from Loyola in educational administration and supervision and then attended graduate school at Teacher’s College of Columbia University where he earned a masters degree and a doctorate in educational administration with a specialty in organizations.

Siegel worked in private business for several years before deciding to return to teaching because he missed the students. He came to Thornwood in 1986 to teach freshman biology.

He doesn’t consider himself innovative. “I do activities that would encourage students to want to learn. My students do research-based projects that give them the freedom to explore,” he said. Siegel plans to start a program with podcasts that will be student generated.

In his honors level freshmen and pre-AP classes the students do classroom presentations in small groups where they use PowerPoint presentations and develop transparency. For the unit on heredity, besides doing the labs, the students develop and perform their own skits on genetic diseases. This year he plans to videotape and use them as a lead in to the podcasts. “The kids get excited about it,” he said.

For the study of the geological eras he takes a roll of butcher paper and rolls it out on the floor and the students attack it with paint to create a timeline.

“It is wonderful to watch their critical analysis on how to approach the project and to see the various leaders come out of the group and encourage others to get it done,” Siegel said.

He also had his students write children’s books on the environment using original illustrations or pictures based on their research and do a photojournalism project on the environment. Students choose a topic, take 20-30 photos and write captions that tell a story. This is another project he hopes to turn into a podcast.

As a teacher his greatest reward is watching kids learn and develop. “I see students come into the classroom frightened and leave at the end of the year with confidence. They now look at the process of learning differently,” he said.

South Holland Today

Innovative Educator

KARESS K. BROWN
7TH GRADE, CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

McKinley to host talent show

School District 150 will present an All Star Talent Show on March 14 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at McKinley Junior High School located at 170th and Cottage Grove. Tickets are $5 for adults 18 years and older, $3 for high school students ages 13-17, $2 for non-district students in grades Pre-K to 8th grade, $1 for district students in grades Pre-K to 8th and $3 for district teachers. For more information, contact Mrs. Bishop at Ebishop22@comcast.net or Miss Ferrell at mferrer@sd150.org.

Women’s Conference & Expo set

The Business & Career Institute (BCI) of South Suburban College is hosting a Women’s Conference & Expo on Friday, March 13 from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. With women’s roles in the family and workplace more demanding than ever, BCI is excited to sponsor this special event. The topics will include health/fitness & wellness; business & finance; family & parenting; and style and beauty. A variety of exhibitors will be showcasing products and services of interest to women.

Christ Our Savior Catholic School celebrates African American History Month

One of the many African American History Month activities at Christ Our Savior Catholic School included a special liturgy. Pictured above (from left) are eighth grade readers and altar servers Jennifer Jones, Brianna Stuckey, Miracle Diala, Kevin Phillips, Deonte Gardner, Thomas Jeady and Leticia Evans.

Pictured at right are Christ Our Savior Catholic School eighth graders Leticia Evans and Miracle Diala, who participated in the Catholic Schools Week Spelling Bee at the West Campus. Diala took first place in the junior high division.
Building blocks to success
Student group uses flooding issues to win award

By Dave Benjamin

South Holland Flood Assistance Coordinator Fred Block knows a thing or two about stormwater issues. And so when a group of middle school students from Batavia wanted to complete a research project on South Holland’s stormwater management, they turned to Block. Named the Disco Ducks, the Rotolo Middle School sixth grade Lego Robotics Team contacted Block for their project, part of a competition sponsored by INSciTE, hosts of the Lego Robotics tournament held in Arlington Heights in January.

“The Disco Ducks loved working with Fred,” said Susan Alderson, Disco Ducks head coach. “We appreciated his input, help and support. When he showed up at our state competition, we were really excited. It has motivated us to do it all over again for the fall 2009 Robotics challenge project.”

“We did a lot of research on South Holland and discovered that it had a history of overbank flooding,” said team member Joey Des Jardins. “So we designed a model to illustrate solutions for overbanking.”

Overbank flooding occurs when flow events exceed the bankfull capacity of the channel and therefore must spill over into the floodplain. This can cause downstream property damage where structures have encroached the floodplain.

South Holland’s river’s watershed is more than 200 square miles. The overbank flooding results from three sources: the Little Calumet River, Thorn Creek, and the Calumet Union Drainage Ditch. Most of the village’s overbank flooding problem is in the Little Calumet River’s floodplain. Because the area is so flat, the flooding of one stream is accompanied by flooding on the other two. Therefore, while there are three sources of overbank flooding, the problem is treated as one floodplain.

“I was very impressed,” said Block. “The knowledge they had regarding the total presentation was assumed by all members of the team. They are a fantastic group of people and worked very well together.”

The Disco Ducks recommend reactive solutions like installing a large concrete tube connected to the nearest basin such as a quarry along the Bishop Ford freeway and another smaller tube connected to a water treatment facility as well as constructing small levees and enlarged drains along the riverbanks.

Proactive solutions included restoring the natural flood plain wetlands by removing houses, structures and pavement in the flood zones so water can be soaked up by the Earth like a sponge.

For his part, Block was happy to help. “When I walked into the field house, the kids gave me a rock star welcome,” Block said. “It was like Elvis had walked into the building.”

INSciTE, short for Inspiration of Science and Technology, creates youth programs that provide a balanced learning experience that prepare youth for tomorrow’s workplace in science, technology, creativity, teamwork, presentation skills, gracious professionalism, and self-confidence.

This year’s Challenge Project focused on climate control and the impacts of climate on the environment. The Disco Ducks focused on flooding caused by rain and researched proactive and reactive solutions to deal with South Holland’s flooding.

To demonstrate projects, students were required to build a robot with NXT Lego Mind Storm robots and run “missions” on how their solutions would work in real life situations.

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Susan Alderson, Disco Ducks head coach

Library offers fun and learning for March

By Deidra Somerville

Preschool Story Hour, Wednesdays or Thursdays – March 4-19, 10:30 a.m.
Introduce your child to the treasures of the Library and the pleasure of books. This six week program for ages 3 - 5 series includes stories, songs and a variety of activities.

Passport to Europe, Ireland & Scotland
Thursday, March 5, 1:30 p.m.
Enjoy looking at the beautiful countriesides of Cork and Kerry through this film presentation. You will be visiting the charming city of Dublin and exploring Edinburgh, Scotland during this armchair visit. No registration required.

Gardening with Nature
Thursday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.
Raymond Wiggers will discuss the assortment of indigenous wildflowers and woody plant species that grow in the Upper Midwest. He will also give you tips on how you can incorporate many of them in your own gardens.

Genealogy: Research Your Family Tree Online
Saturday, March 21, 1:30 p.m.
Kathy O’Leary will explain how to get started researching your ancestors. Learn about censuses and other vital records as well as how to use the South Holland Library’s two genealogy databases: Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest.

K.I.T.S. Book Club, Grades 4 - 6
Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.
Join our reading group and express your thoughts on the selected book. This month’s book is “The School Story” by Andrew Clements. Pick up a copy of the book in Youth Services at time of registration.

Pre-Registration is required for most activities.

Flood-proofing pays off

With springtime rains just around the corner, Fred Block, flood assistance coordinator, reminds residents that a Flood Assistance Rebate program is available to qualified applicants for pre-approved flood-proofing projects.

For example, residents planning to install overhead sewers in their houses to alleviate flooding problems may be eligible for a grant to cover a portion of the project costs.

According to Block, the grant offers residents a 25 percent rebate, to a maximum of $2,500, for the following flood-control projects:

SURFACE WATER PROJECTS
• Diversion of downspout water
• Flood walls

SEWER BACKUP PROJECTS
• Overhead sewers (repairs and installation)
• Removal of sump pump and downspout connections from sanitary sewers
• Back flow valves

By Deidra Somerville

Live Healthy – Discover Nature! – Saturday, March 7, 1:30 p.m. – Join Sand Ridge Nature Center’s monthly hiking club which meets on the first Saturday of every month. A staff Naturalist will lead a walk one mile hike on the beautiful trails of Sand Ridge, providing opportunity for “scenic exercise”.

Close-up Nature Photography – Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m. – Join South Holland’s own Joe Nowak, nature photographer extraordinaire, for tips on improving your outdoor close-up techniques. Bring your camera for photo opportunities. Registration is required by Thursday, March 12.

Wee Wonders – Snakes – Thursday, March 19, 1:30 p.m. – Preschoolers are invited to join a Naturalist for activities designed to teach them about snakes.

Astronomer’s Night Sky – Friday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. Learn what’s visible in our night sky as spring begins. View planets and/or deep space objects through a telescope, clear skies permitting. In the event of poor skies, an astronomy lecture and slide show will be presented. Registration required by March 18.

Seed Starting Workshop – Saturday, March 21, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. Join Ray Norder, Advanced Master Gardener, for a discussion and workshop all about seeds and some of the best practices to use when starting your own seedlings. Materials for starting a variety of garden plants, herbs, and flowers will be provided. This program is for adults and children 12 and older. Registration is required by March 19. The class fee is $3.00.

Nature Tales – Raccoons: Masked Bandits – Saturday, March 28, 1:30 p.m. – Often seen in places other than the wild, raccoons are a familiar but often misunderstood animal. Children, grades K-4 will learn about them.

Sand Ridge Nature Center

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This I know for sure...

By Pat Mahon

“It’s important to invigorate your mind, body and spirit…”

We’re only three months in to 2009 and I’m starting to feel exhausted already. More and more, there seems to be so much to do and so little time to do it. I think we all can sometimes over commit ourselves – there seems to be always something to do and always somewhere to go; however, it is impossible to do it all and still have time for one’s self. As I get older and busier, I can appreciate the idea of including “me” on my schedule and rejuvenating myself when I’m feeling run down or overwhelmed. Instead of just appreciating it, I need to learn how to do it.

Of course, as we celebrate Women’s History Month, I can’t help but think about my fellow women. As women we tend to be natural caregivers, often to everyone but ourselves. However, we must not forget to befriend, protect and nurture our own spirit. This means paying attention to our needs and treating ourselves not just fairly but kindly. Making time for ourselves sends a message that we are just as important, and it can increase our own self worth and self-acceptance as well as add longevity and richness to our lives. I truly admire those women who have been successful in finding that balance in life, and I am determined to do the same.

Spring is coming! Wouldn’t it be great to find that balance and feel great about the things that we do? Making time for yourself, exercising, and eating healthier can rejuvenate us by being physically, mentally and emotionally fit in order to keep doing what we love, but ourselves. However, we must not forget to befriend, protect and nurture our own spirit…

“...and much anticipated day of spring arrives.

I am determined to be physically and mentally healthy when the first beautifully

Spring is coming! Wouldn't it be great to find that balance and feel great about
the things that we do? Making time for yourself, exercising, and eating healthier

The Public Works Department routes all tree concerns to the village arborist who decides if the tree needs to be removed. Public Works also reserves the right to trim or remove branches which obstruct traffic signs, street lights or traffic sight lines.

A water meter is activated only when water flows through them. This data is stored in a module connected to the top of the meter. Each meter is assigned an identification number. A mobile reader unit travels throughout the village picking up or storing the data from each meter via radio signals. This data is then given to the water department where it is then generated into a water bill.

Q How is the water meter read?

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Q What service does ESDA (Emergency Services Disaster Agency) provide?

A E.S.D.A. is an entity of the Village of South Holland, headed by a director who is responsible to the village administrator. E.S.D.A. volunteers, assist with traffic control, crowd control, search and rescue, weather spotting, and disseminating public information. They also provide mutual aid to other suburban E.S.D.A. units. E.S.D.A. does not get involved with anything requiring arrest or detention. E.S.D.A. does not get involved with anything requiring arrest or detention.

Bobcat Express
TRAVELING BASKETBALL TEAM

BOYS – High School

BOYS & GIRLS – 4 & 5 grades

Tryout for the team
Saturday, March 7, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Community Center
501 East 170th Street

For more information, call
Anthony Johnson at 825-6494
or Antoine Johnson at 913-7065

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National companies call South Holland home

By Cindy Cruz

An excellent business environment in a stable, well managed, centrally located village with easy access has made South Holland home to several national corporations including Ed Miniat, Inc., Carl Buddig & Co., Accurate Dispersions and Calumet Carton. These companies provide about 1,300 jobs locally. All agree that South Holland is an excellent place in which to operate.

Two nationally recognized meat manufacturers, Ed Miniat, Inc. and Carl Buddig & Co., came to South Holland when looking to expand their operations and have both completed several expansions.

Ed Miniat, Inc. relocated from Chicago to South Holland in 1995 to build a $14 million meat processing plant. The company later constructed an $8.5 million addition, and most recently they completed construction of a culinary center and new executive office complex.

Miniat sells to the top nationally branded food companies in the U.S. as well as to many nationally recognized restaurant chains.

Their culinary center and executive office project was completed in December. “We are very pleased with the results and have received a good deal of compliments on our facilities from all of our visitors to date,” President Dave Miniat said.

“We are thrilled to be doing business in South Holland. We believe that it works so well because our company and the Village of South Holland are aligned in both work ethic and values. South Holland and its leadership, including Mayor De Graff, share our vision of hard work, integrity and mutually rewarding partnership,” Miniat said. “This has been evident in the way all of the various departments and board members work and behave. It is a pleasure to operate a business and bring jobs to a place where people care about fairness, community improvement and long term outlook. We look forward to growing our business in South Holland for many, many years to come.”

Carl Buddig and Company also came to the village from the south side of Chicago, where founder Carl Buddig opened his meat market in 1886 and later went into meat processing and brought his three sons into the business. Their products are sold in 94 percent of the grocery stores in the United States and Canada and on every military base in the world.

South Holland has been the home of Carl Buddig and Company for the last 31 years. Over the years, the company has built four large expansions and has worked closely with the village.

“South Holland is a welcoming community to businesses. I believe Carl Buddig and Company has an outstanding working relationship with village officials,” said Roger Buddig, Executive Vice President of Operations. “They have remained focused and have shown consistency in pursuing and reaching goals to ensure the quality of life for residents and businesses. Carl Buddig and Company is pleased and very proud and we look forward to many more years in the village.”

Calumet Carton has been a fixture in the south suburbs for nearly 80 years. During that time they have grown from a very small converter of brown Kraft mailing boxes to a leading supplier of mailing products. They are a major manufacturer of custom printed cartons for a number of industries including electronics, health care and personal products and food products.

“Our expansion has continued over the years and we have just completed construction of a 30,000 square foot building addition. As we progressed with this expansion, we relied heavily on the guidance provided by the mayor and village board,” said John Inwood, President. “We found them very easy to deal with and supportive of our goals. We know that others moving into South Holland will receive similar treatment. We believe in the future of South Holland and feel strongly that this will be our home for years to come.”

Chris Bergman, Vice President of Accurate Dispersions, said his company came to South Holland 22 years ago because of the availability of a good workforce for an industrial business, as well as TIF and tax abatements offered by the village. They had several acquisitions of property from 1996-2005.

“We started with four employees and today have over 200 and now operate four buildings in South Holland,” he said. “South Holland has been a good partner.”

The business manufactures the liquid color of paints and is a business unit of Sherwin Williams. The company has built a solid reputation for formulating and producing high quality custom colorants for the industrial marketplace and is a major supplier of colorants for the automotive, transportation, trade sales paint and packaging markets.

“We understand the importance of strong, viable businesses and we will do everything we can to make sure our businesses are extremely successful and continue to grow,” said Mayor Don De Graff. He said the village has always been attentive to the needs of its businesses and offers the perfect environment for both large and small corporations as well as small businesses.

BUSINESS AT HAND

South Holland business specializes in educating educators

By Dave Benjamin

Teachers are the frontline in the school system and one new South Holland business is dedicated to supplying educators the support and continued education they need.

The Network Room, Inc. specializes in educating educators who must complete continuing education units, or CEU’s, to fulfill an Illinois statute that requires all state licensed teachers to pursue 20 CEU hours for every five years of service.

“We’re bringing the development to the teachers,” said Dr. Maureen White-Rush, owner. “And teachers must drive this education. They are all working hard refining and perfecting the art of education.”

The Network Room will offer a wide array of classes based on needs expressed in superintendent and teacher surveys.

“Educators have the say in what professional development they are in need of,” added White-Rush. “There is no cookie cutter, one size fits all, approach to the needs of teachers in today’s classroom.”

The current hot topic in education is Response to Intervention. RtI is the practice of providing high-quality instruction and intervention matched to students needs using rate over time and level of performance. This means using differentiated instructional strategies for all learners, providing scientific research-based progress monitoring instruments, and making educational decisions based on a student’s response to interventions.

“The RtI state initiative is a way of referring fewer students to special education, which allows them to stay in class and receive tailored instruction,” White-Rush said.

Possible RtI subjects could include classroom management, differentiation instruction, literacy, guided reading and mentoring, to name a few.

South Holland is the perfect location for The Network Room. White-Rush has been a resident for eight years, teaching for 12 years, and has spent many hours traveling to three or four hours per day to attend CEU courses in Chicago and the northwest suburbs.

“South Holland makes you really feel like part of a community,” she said. “There’s an open reception of diversity among all people here, and one won’t have to travel so far for his or her CEU’s.”

The grand opening for the Network Room, 16145 LaSalle St., is slated for April - in time for teachers summer break.

More information on the business is at 333-7777.

Businesses open, expand:

› Wade’s Transportation, 16901 Van Dam Road, 596-4206
› Eugene C. Varnado, LLC, CPA, 401 East 162nd St., 362-5500
› Stevenson Crane Services, Inc., 16875 Van Dam Road, (630) 774-1824
› Granite Expo Corp. / DiSegno Construction, 16545 State St., 893-0300
› Ozalla Construction, 837 East 162nd St., 596-9117
**Community service made easy**

**SIMPLE IDEAS**

By Deidra Somerville

South Holland is a standout community in terms of volunteer opportunities. There are a variety of different types of committees, activities, and events available for residents who want to take a more active role in the village. Here are some tips that can help you find a volunteering opportunity that is right for you:

- **Follow your passion.**
  Look for a group that works with issues about which you feel strongly. If your passion is the environment, the annual Take a Bite Out of Grime in May is a one-day event you could participate in. You can also volunteer during the Day of Service in January at Sand Ridge Nature Center to help to beautify and maintain the Forest Preserve here in South Holland. If your passion is more unity and community building on your block then revive or join your block club. There is no end to the creative avenues for volunteering, just as there is no end to the need for volunteers.

- **Know your limitations.**
  Make sure the volunteer hours you want to give fit into your hectic life, so that you don’t frustrate your family, exhaust yourself, shortchange the organization or committee you’re trying to help or neglect your job. Do you want a long-term assignment or something temporary? If you are unsure about your availability, or want to see how the work suits you before making an extensive commitment, see whether the organization will start you out on a limited number of hours until you get the feel of things. Better to start out slowly than to commit yourself to a schedule you can’t or don’t want to fulfill.

- **Consider the skills you have to offer.**
  If you enjoy outdoor work, have a knack for teaching, or just enjoy interacting with people, you may want to look for volunteer work that would incorporate these aspects of your personality. Many positions require a volunteer who has previous familiarity with certain equipment, such as computers, or who possesses certain skills, such as ability in athletics or communications. For one of these positions you might decide to do something comparable to what you do on the job during your workday, or something that you already enjoy as a hobby. This sort of position allows you to jump right into the work without having to take training to prepare for the assignment.

- **Would you like to learn something new?**
  Perhaps you would like to learn a new skill or gain exposure to a new situation. Consider seeking a volunteer opportunity where you’ll learn something new. For example, volunteer to work on the newsletter for the local animal shelter will improve your writing and editing abilities—skills that may help you in your career. Or, volunteering can simply offer a change from your daily routine. For example, if your full-time job is in an office, you may decide to take on a more active volunteer assignment, such as leading tours at an art museum or building a playground. Many nonprofits seek out people who are willing to learn. Realize beforehand, however, that such work might require a time commitment for training before the actual volunteer assignment begins.

- **Combine your goals.**
  Look for volunteer opportunities that will also help you achieve your other goals for your life. For example, if you want to lose a few extra pounds, pick an active volunteer opportunity, such as cleaning a park or working with kids. Or, if you’ve been meaning to take a cooking class, try volunteering at a food bank that teaches cooking skills.

- **I never thought of that!**
  Many community groups are looking for volunteers, and some may not have occurred to you. Most of us know that hospitals, libraries, and churches use volunteers for a great deal of their work, but here are some volunteer opportunities that may not have crossed your mind:
  - Activities like Settler’s Day at the Sand Ridge Nature Center need volunteers to act as pioneers under a particular persona from that period.
  - The Faith Family and Future Center here in South Holland is enlisting volunteers.
  - Heritage Hall, South Holland’s annual 5K/10K event, is looking for volunteers.
  - Day care centers, Neighborhood Watch, Public Schools and Colleges, halfway houses, and Drug Rehabilitation Centers such as Restoration Ministries in our local area, which are run by South Holland’s own Spirit of God Fellowship.
  - Retirement Centers and Homes for the Elderly, Meals on Wheels, Church or Community-Sponsored Soup Kitchens or Food Pantries.
  - Museums, Art Galleries, and Monuments.
  - Community Choirs, Bands and Orchestras, including the one at your child’s middle school or high school.
  - Prisons, Neighborhood Parks, Youth Organizations, Sports Teams, and after-school programs, Shelters for Battered Women and Children.
  - Historical Restorations, Battlefields and National Parks.
  - Give voice to your heart through your giving and volunteering! Bring your heart and your sense of humor to your volunteer service, along with your enthusiastic spirit, which in itself is a priceless gift. What you’ll get back will be immeasurable!

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**CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARM**

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. March 8. Remember to “spring forward” one hour on all your clocks. At the same time, it’s a good practice to use Daylight Savings Time to observe twice-yearly maintenance on your smoke alarms. Early warning is essential for every fire escape plan. To ensure your family will be effectively alerted to any fire dangers, use the following guidelines when installing and testing smoke alarms:

- Only purchase smoke alarms that are listed by UL.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement.
- Consider installing additional smoke alarms inside all bedrooms.
- Smoke rises, so smoke alarms should be mounted high on walls or ceilings. Ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.
- Choose an installation location that is well away from the path of steam from bathrooms and cooking vapors from the kitchen.
  - Don’t install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
  - Test each smoke alarm every month.
  - Place new batteries in your smoke alarms at least two times each year. Changes in Daylight Savings Time are good times to do this.
  - If your smoke alarms are more than 10 years old, get new smoke alarms.

For additional information or assistance call Fire Inspector Eric Bruijnsmat at 331-3123.

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**SPRING BREAK IN SOUTH HOLLAND**

**MONDAY, APRIL 13 thru FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009**

Spend your week with us at the Faith Family Future Center

**16931 South Park Avenue**

**MONDAY**

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Basketball Tournament / Cheerleading Tournament (6-8th grade tournaments begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by 9-12th grade) (Teams will qualify to play in the finals on Friday)

**TUESDAY**

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Video Game Tournament

**WEDNESDAY**

Dodgeball & Double Dutch 1:00-2:30 p.m. 4th-6th grade Video Games all afternoon

**THURSDAY**

* College Preparation 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Cooking Demonstrations 12:00-3:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Basketball & Cheerleading Finals. Spring Break Cookout 3:00 p.m.

*Open Gym 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Pre-registration for all activities is available at the Community Center – 501 East 170th Street (331-2940)

Daily activities, with the exception of basketball and cheerleading tournaments, are free to South Holland residents. Non-residents pay $5 per day to participate. All participants are invited to the cook-out on Friday, April 17, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

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**Volunteer Den Leader Scott Pallay (middle, right) and Scoutmaster Bishop Lance Davis (far right) enjoy some overnight fun at the Field Museum’s Dozin’ with the Dinosaurs Program. As part of Pack 409, they camped out overnight in the Africa exhibit with their sons and other parent volunteers. Here they are learning about mummification with their sons through an interactive exhibit.**