

SOUTH HOLLAND

Living

January | February 2021



SOUTH HOLLAND
FAITH ★ FAMILY ★ FUTURE

State of the Village 2021



SNOW ORDINANCE

**When 2 or more inches
of snow falls,
please remove your
vehicle(s) from
the street.
This helps snow plows
work faster and more
effectively.**

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State OF THE Village

LOOKING BACK AT PROGRESS MADE
AND FORWARD TO 2021 AND BEYOND

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR DON A. DE GRAFF:

Dear Residents and Friends of the Village of South Holland,

It has truly been **a year like no other**. In 2020, we have together experienced a devastating virus, civil unrest, significant political division, ongoing poverty, violence, natural disasters... an endless list of depressing realities. On a micro level, we've endured wearying isolation resulting from social distancing, wearing masks, canceling plans, and staying home. A feeling of disillusionment and disappointment has been pervasive for these past many months.

Thankfully, however, South Holland is **a village like no other**. The Village of South Holland is alive and well. When it seems like everything else was put on hold, we as a village have not held still. In fact, this year we have moved forward in a very significant manner. Despite the harsh realities of 2020, we've remained committed to Vision 2022, which is now in its ninth year. When it seemed that everything was canceled, we were incredibly productive in furthering the plans we have for our village.

We are a community of churches, where "Faith, Family, Future" is our village motto that intentionally broadcasts the visible values we believe in from the bottom of our hearts. Vision 2022 was borne from those values, and we take seriously our commitment to that vision. We have not lost steam nine years in, and even in a year of many challenges, we have built a strong layer onto the foundation of who we are as a community.

Let's take a look at what we've done in 2020. You're not going to believe what you're about to read.



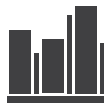


New payment dropbox



NEW PAYMENT DROPBOX

In order to provide an additional convenient and contactless method for paying water bills, we added a payment dropbox at the door of the Customer Service Center, 16220 Wausau Avenue, Building A. Payments can also be deposited at the dropbox at the U-shaped drive in front of Village Hall.



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK UPDATES

We have installed a large, beautiful, backlit sign at the north entrance of Veterans Memorial Park. This sign matches the aesthetic of the rest of the park and brings focus to the war memorial located at the entrance. We are also in the process of installing decorative fencing to outline the park as a means to enhance both security and appearance, continuing to set Veterans Park apart as a jewel in the south suburbs.



RESIDENTIAL RENTAL DENSITY ORDINANCE

An extensive research study evaluating the state of housing in South Holland revealed that the number of rental homes

has been increasing in South Holland, and that rentals account for a noticeable impact on municipal resources—most notably Police, Fire, and Code Enforcement. As a result, the Village Board passed an ordinance establishing a maximum number of residential rental licenses at 15 percent of the total homes in the community, or 10 percent of the total homes in any U.S. Census Block, whichever is less. The goal of the ordinance is to keep from over-burdening our municipal resources, but doing so in the least restrictive means possible, while still achieving a healthy balance.



LOOKING AHEAD

We are in the process of rebranding and updating our signage along Route 6, at the Route 6 viaduct, and in our Industrial Park area. In 2021 we will also add more of our signature bronze statues to landmarks throughout the Village. These additions will enhance the Village's aesthetic and cultural appeal and will boost residential pride in the Village of South Holland.



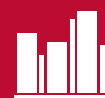
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New sign at north entrance



More statues to come in 2021

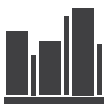


NEW/EXPANDED BUSINESS

In 2020, after being vacant for nearly a decade, the former Hampton Inn was acquired and will become a Best Western Plus hotel. This \$5.5 million development project is well underway and is scheduled to open for business in the spring of 2021. The three-year enhancement of all of our Halsted Street hotels—The Clarion, Best Western Plus, Travelodge, EconoLodge and Super 8—has upgraded that corridor with national brands that reflect their corporate brand standards and those of the Village. This greatly increases the opportunity to attract business and family travelers alike, bringing additional revenue potential to the Village.

After fifteen years, the long-awaited opening of the 170th Street gas station took place in December of 2020, operating under the Citgo brand. Station operator Aarohi Petroleum purchased the property and made the necessary infrastructure improvements. The investors are very excited to be in South Holland, and look forward to many years of success.

The long vacant former J Gill property at 16246 School Street has been purchased by Quentis Milsaps/Q's Cleaning Services. The company first moved to South Holland in 2014 and has grown steadily over the years. Their success and their desire to remain in South Holland helped to facilitate the opportunity for Mr. Milsaps to move from leasing to owning his property. As a result, twenty-six jobs will remain in South Holland, with plans to add an additional 5 to 10 employees in the near future.



LOOKING AHEAD

Plans are underway to improve the façades of two neighboring buildings at 1025 and 1023-1011 E 162nd Street. Both property owners will participate in our Façade Improvement Program and will install matching upgrades to their façades.

We are continuing to work hard to attract investors for the remaining parcels in Town Center. Additionally, we are working to strengthen our industrial corridor through business retention and expansions.



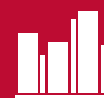
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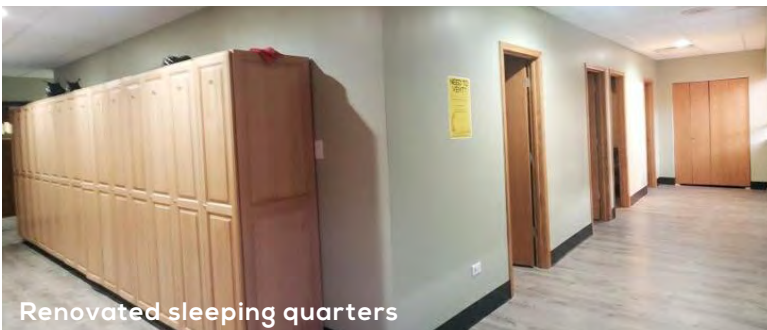
FIRE DEPARTMENT



Trustee Andrew Johnson, Deputy Fire Chief Dan Manning, Mayor Don De Graff



Renovated conference room



Renovated sleeping quarters



LIFESAVING TECHNOLOGY

In 2020, we were awarded a \$212,750 grant for purchase of new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. These are the devices our firefighters wear to enable them to breathe while fighting fires, and are a tremendous upgrade from our former equipment.



STAFF PROMOTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

After a nationwide search, we selected and hired Deputy Fire Chief Dan Manning, who was born and raised in South Holland. Additionally, three full-time firefighter/paramedics were trained and hired.



FACILITY UPDATES

We have renovated Fire Station 1, moving firefighters' sleeping quarters from upstairs to the main level in order to further improve response times. Our conference room also underwent renovation, resulting in an optimal place to hold meetings among staff and other regional fire professionals.



LOOKING AHEAD

We plan to design, spec and purchase a new fire apparatus to replace a front line fire engine. In addition, we will increase our part-time staff by 25 percent. Part-time Fire Department personnel are an integral part of our operation and receive training through our department. We are currently accepting applications for part-time firefighters. Applications can be obtained through the South Holland Human Resources Department by contacting Bridget Di Santo at bdisanto@southholland.org.



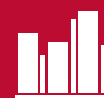
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PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CODE ENFORCEMENT



SEASONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTION PROGRAM

In an effort to keep South Holland clean, bright and beautiful, we have continued our program utilizing seasonal inspectors of residential and commercial properties. Successful results were achieved. Over 2,900 property maintenance violations were identified and we have had an overall compliance rate of 72 percent.



BUILDING PERMITS AND CODES

We issued 1,441 building permits, which represents the investment of \$14,413,427 in improvements to homes and businesses in our community.



GOOD NEIGHBOR RENTAL HOUSING INITIATIVE

This year we employed a dedicated inspector for the Good Neighbor Rental Housing Initiative (GNRHI). Based on our GNRHI Ordinance, we have issued 251 citations against rental properties, and their owners, that are not in compliance with our Triannual Rental Inspections Program. We prioritize these inspections to protect the values of all homes in the community.



REMOTE VIDEO INSPECTION PROGRAM

When the pandemic hit, the construction industry was deemed an essential service. As a result, we launched a Remote Video Inspection Program. This enabled us to protect the safety of our team and the public as we performed crucial inspections for code compliance. We also incorporated the Remote Video Inspections into our GNRHI program.



LOOKING AHEAD

We plan to continue to evolve as a department in response to COVID-19 so that we continue our pursuit of great customer care despite contact restrictions. We also aim to eliminate or re-write outdated ordinances and create new ordinances that better fit the needs of the future.



We have implemented a plan to demolish vacant properties to clear the path for the re-development of these sites.



Remote Video Inspection Program



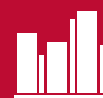
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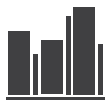
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FACILITY UPDATES

The South Holland Police facility underwent remodeling in the lobby and training room in order keep the facility modern and comfortable for our residents and officers.



NEW POLICE VEHICLES

In 2020, we added our first-ever Ford F150 pick-up squad car to our fleet. This vehicle offers a higher stance for better viewing/observation and more cab room for officers' computers and equipment.



LOOKING AHEAD

Later this year (pending COVID-19 regulations), we will host our first Dog Microchip Day, which will promote microchipping, vaccinations, and licensing. This will help the SHPD with identifying lost dogs at large.

We also continue to research new technologies and methods for improving public safety for our Village.



Renovated lobby



Renovated training room



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



DIGITAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN

In September 2020, we launched a large, yearlong marketing campaign to promote South Holland as the ideal place of residence for young professionals, ages 25-40, who value diversity and community. This campaign, branded "A Village Like No Other," consists of a series of videos, photography, multi-platform advertising, and an upcoming coffee table book. Visit southholland.org/south-holland-is-a-village-like-no-other to view the videos and to learn more.



ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS

In early 2020 we began sending a weekly email newsletter to subscribers promoting events and conveying Village news. This became especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest of 2020, when we used email to notify residents of important updates. As such, in a manner of just a few months we expanded our subscriber list by 34 percent. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be, you can subscribe at southholland.org.



NEW AND IMPROVED EVENTS

This year because of COVID-19, we were forced to reimagine nearly all of our special events. This presented an opportunity to enhance some events for the post-pandemic future. For example, our annual Heritage Haul 5K/10K/Half Marathon this year became the Fun Run 5K (with many safety measures in place), and it was such a huge success that we will continue with the Fun Run in the coming years.



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2020 we will launch a new apparel line so South Holland residents can represent and promote their community with pride. We will make the apparel available for purchase online, at select Village buildings, and at special events.

We are also continuously looking for ways to enhance communication with residents and opportunities for connection through special events.



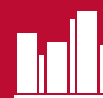
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Video marketing campaign



Fun Run 5K

PUBLIC WORKS



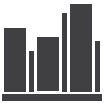
ILLUMINATED STREET SIGNS

Nine new illuminated street signs were added along Route 6 from Vincennes Road to Woodlawn East Avenue. Illuminated street signs increase visibility and make driving safer and less stressful for locals as well as visitors.



NEW SIDEWALKS AND BERMS

To improve pedestrian safety, a new sidewalk was added south of Veterans Memorial Park to connect the existing sidewalk on 160th Place to South Park Avenue and the sidewalk on 161st Street. In addition, many existing sidewalk squares that presented a potential tripping hazard were replaced throughout town. Berms were added to beautify the parking lots and properties at 155 W 162nd Street and the south lot of Veterans Memorial Park.



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

A new baseball-themed play structure replaced an aging play structure at Gouwens Park. The new structure, which meets current safety standards, consists of four slides, a rope climb, a climbing bridge, and four unique swing sets for children of all ages.



CLEAN TEAM

Overgrown foliage and debris were cleared from multiple locations throughout town, allowing for a cleaner appearance and safer passage for vehicles and pedestrians.



Gouwens Park Playground - Before



Gouwens Park Playground - After



LOOKING AHEAD

In June of 2019, we completed a Pavement Management Study to gather objective data about the resurfacing needs for streets throughout South Holland. We are using the data from the study to implement another \$1.5 million road pavement program in Spring 2021, which includes the resurfacing of approximately 21 streets, totaling around 3 miles.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES



Zoom fitness classes



FACILITY UPDATES

Due to COVID-19, and for the health and well-being of our employees and patrons, the South Holland Community Center has temporarily suspended its operations. We have used the opportunity of this closure to upgrade the facility with aesthetic updates. We have overhauled our lobby area to include a new front desk receptionist area and conference room. We have also repainted the entire facility, added new signage, and remodeled our locker rooms to include new showers, fresh paint, epoxy flooring, and granite countertops. The majority of the work was done by Village staff, and the granite was generously donated by South Holland company Sambor Stone.



NEW INITIATIVES

2020 marked the official launch of the South Holland Sports Commission. The SHSC is a collaborative effort between the Village of South Holland and its athletic and educational leaders. The goal of the commission is to make South Holland a destination for athletes and athletic competition.

This year there was also a renewed emphasis on increasing our technology. We were able to improve on our use of social media platforms by adding Twitter and Instagram to our social media offerings, along with Facebook. We also incorporated the ability to offer our classes and programs virtually through Zoom, which we plan to continue when the facility reopens.



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2021, Recreational Services will look to grow our youth program offerings through a new partnership with Major League Baseball to offer Pitch, Hit and Run and also the Home Run Derby this spring. We have also planned a new series of one-day tournaments and events which will include a parent and child Basketball Skills Competition, a Dodgeball Tournament, Bean Bags Competition, and Cannon Ball.



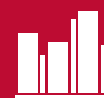
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Community Center renovations

My Reflections

As you can see, we have not stood still in 2020. When I look at the pictures of what we've accomplished this past year, I see that we have further laid the groundwork that has allowed us to be **a village like no other**. We've remodeled, renewed and rebuilt facilities. We've bolstered our products and services. We came up with new, creative ways to gather together and to keep our events alive in 2020.

The Village of South Holland was productive when it seemed like everything was quiet. When there was separation in the world around us, we as a village worked together to strengthen the foundation for our future.

As we enter 2021, we are determined to keep that momentum going and to excel more than ever at the four tenets of Vision 2022:

- *Responsive and Progressive Leadership
- *A Connected Community
- *Clean, Bright and Beautiful
- *Signature Spaces and Places

The Village of South Holland is clearly committed to these tenets, and what you've just read is evidence of that.



I am thankful for how God has blessed our community even in the most difficult of years. Please join me in celebrating the progress that has been made, and in looking forward to a bright, blessed 2021. sdg


Don A. De Graff
Mayor



The Village of South Holland Board of Trustees

BUILDING Community THROUGH A PANDEMIC

South Holland events in 2020 looked different from previous years. Thankfully, under the leadership of Mayor De Graff and the Village Board, we found ways to safely revise our events rather than cancel them altogether. "It was important for us to continue with our events as safely as possible so we could build community during a challenging time," says Mayor De Graff. Some events were virtual, but with the use of masks and social distancing practices, we were able to host many in-person events.

Here is a recap of the events held this year and the Board's presence at each of them.



Flavor Addicts Ribbon Cutting in January



**Mayor DeGraff,
MLK Tribute in January**



Sallie Penman [left], Heritage Community Party Golf Outing in September



Larry DeYoung, Military Tribute in November



Cindy Nylén, Unity Walk in June



Andrew Johnson, Unity Walk in June



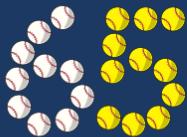
John Russell, Fun Run in September



Prince Reed, July 4th Music Parade in July



Vickie Perkins, Harvest Fest in October

CELEBRATING  YEARS
OF LITTLE LEAGUE
BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

The leaves have turned
and the snow has fallen
but opening day is in sight
do us a favor and register tonight!

Registration Ends March 1, 2021
AGES 4-13 | \$175.00

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[SOUTHHOLLANDLITTLELEAGUE.ORG](https://southhollandlittleleague.org)

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OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

HARVEST FEST

At the annual Harvest Fest, families drove through the Community Center parking lot to receive candy and goodies from vehicles decorated by Village of South Holland staff. Decorations were festive and creative, and many staff members and attendees alike dressed in costume.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

MILITARY TRIBUTE

Photos by Manuel Corazzari

In November we honored our veterans with a drive-thru celebration and a thank-you package containing a certificate, souvenir, and a T-shirt. The event featured a military band and therapy horses, along with a line-up of first responders. Veterans were asked ahead of time to share some of their favorite military memories, which were compiled into a booklet that was given to each Military Tribute participant. Attendees also generously donated gifts for the annual Fire Department Toy Drive.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

WINTER WONDERLAND

Photos by Manuel Corazzari

This year's Winter Wonderland was a drive-thru event, where vehicles were taken through a spectacle of lights and decorations, to meet Santa with a wave at the end. Families who registered received cookies, hot chocolate and candy bags, and all children were invited to bring a letter to Santa. Although Winter Wonderland was a one-night event, Veterans Memorial Park was filled with Christmas lights and decorations through the entire month of December.



FAITH IN

Motion

FINDING HOPE DURING A PANDEMIC

By Dr. Preston R. Winfrey of Pioneer Missionary Baptist Church

Since late March of 2020, we have been encouraged by health professionals to stay at home, socially distance ourselves, wash our hands for 20 seconds with soap, and to wear a mask to cover our nose and mouth when in public. Many businesses, schools, restaurants, and even our church properties have had to make adjustments because of this pandemic.

The pandemic has been the root cause for many disturbances in the world today. The cost of living has risen, prices on many goods have escalated, and countless other supplies are on back order. Many of our loved ones and friends have fallen ill, some of them have recovered, and unfortunately many have lost their lives. We have been forced into a new normal.

Our usual times of celebration have changed to this extent, as mass gatherings are discouraged. Most things are being done differently in an effort to keep our distance, and to remain safe:

- We are live streaming our church services or holding services from the parking lot.
- Funerals and memorial services are different.
- We are having drive-by birthday and anniversary celebrations.
- We are having virtual business meetings.
- Many people are now working from home.
- A great number of doctor visits are taking place on our smartphones and computers.
- Many of our usual family get-togethers are now virtual.

The social distancing has even affected our holiday celebrations—Easter, Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year's Day. Many people are lonely, sad and depressed because they are not able to get together as we once did for fear of either catching or spreading the coronavirus. We're not even sure whom we can trust, and this is so unfortunate.



Dr. Preston R. Winfrey

Good news can be summed up in four words from a Christian's perspective, as found in the Bible in Luke 2:6-14. Those four words are:

Joy: This joy is present, future, and it is unconditional.

Hope: This hope sustains the Christian in this life and comforts him at the grave. Because of Christ's first coming, we have hope of the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God.

Peace: True peace can only come from the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Salvation: This salvation is exclusive to those who hear and believe in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary.

As bad as this pandemic is, I pray that the joy, hope, peace and salvation that comes from the Prince of Peace will brighten your spirit as we begin a new year.

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