



South Holland **TODAY**

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

February / March 2016

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

Mayor Don A. De Graff



STATE OF THE VILLAGE

Progressing Our Vision

Dear Residents and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to report that the Village of South Holland is fiscally, organizationally, and operationally strong. Our board and administrative leadership team has ardently focused on how best to fulfill our **Vision 2022** strategic plan.

Each of our nine village departments have been taking their responsibilities very seriously as they conduct their own internal planning and reviews, and in so doing, are maximizing their available resources to contribute to our village's Vision 2022 Strategic Plan.

Our most valuable resources are our trained and dedicated personnel. Our village leadership team and employees distinguish themselves by and through their willingness to make such a positive difference in the lives of those they serve.

With that important priority, allow me to share with you how our united pursuit to accomplish Vision 2022 within each of the four main components has been realized in 2015, as well as share some of what we anticipate will keep us moving forward in 2016.

Responsive and Progressive Leadership

A "spirit of cooperation" best encapsulates the successes of our responsive and progressive team. It's an organic experience and one that demonstrates South Holland at its best when we work together internally, as well as with our regional partners. In 2015, we experienced the success of several new events and initiatives as one cooperative unit.

In July, we hosted a major sporting event at Veterans Memorial Park, the **Girls Central Region Junior League Softball Tournament**. Teams from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin played on our pristine fields with rigor and a fierce resolve to secure their spot as a contender at the Junior League Softball World Series in Washington. After 19 tournament games, plus the championship game, it was Kentucky who came out on top, advancing to the national World Series tournament.

The village is an advocate of Com Ed's Illinois Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act with the installation of **Smart Grid** technology in South Holland. In 2015, ComEd installed 4,274 smart meters in South Holland. The balance of 4,661 meters will be installed in 2016.

In 2015, we successfully acquired **Quiet Zone designation** at four at-grade crossings: 170th Street, east of the South Holland Community Center; South Park Avenue, north of 168th Street; 162nd Street, west of Van Drunen Road; and Vincennes Avenue, north of 162nd Street. Now in 2016, our new delineators and new signage at railroad crossings will facilitate our new quiet zone designation.

Our police and ESDA (Emergency Services Disaster Agency) departments continue to identify meaningful opportunities to connect and interact with stakeholders. In 2015, the department implemented a new **Walk & Talk Summer Program**, an initiative fully embraced by South Holland police officers. Officers go door-to-door in neighborhoods to speak with residents about relevant public safety matters and provide useful information. The department also introduced **National Night Out**, a program intended to build

community awareness, influence crime prevention, and foster a partnership with police and residents in a festival-like atmosphere. ESDA staff and volunteers contributed 4,273 man hours in 2015, assisting the police department in most community events.

In 2016, our police department will continue to collaborate with community partners in an effort to build stronger ties with youth. The department will lead training sessions on a Department of Justice sanctioned class, "**The Law and Your Community**," with Thornton Township, in an effort to establish better relations with police, the community, and young people.

Our fire department is equally active in connecting with stakeholders. In 2015, they responded to close to 4,000 emergency fire and paramedic calls. Also, the department created a **Citizens Fire Academy**, intended to educate residents in CPR, first aid instruction, basic fire science



Mayor De Graff throws first pitch at softball tournament



Firefighter Dave Nettles leads Citizens Fire Academy session



Police National Night Out

principles, and the use of specialized equipment and fire apparatus. The first academy class graduated 19 students in early October, during the fire department's annual open house. The department also introduced the re-developed **Fire Department Cadet Program**, with an initial enrollment of eight.

In 2016, the fire department is leading a charge to upgrade our community's **tornado siren/emergency alert system**. We anticipate an upgrade of one siren within the next year.

A Connected Community

Most recently, our South Holland team worked together to plan and execute the first ever **Winter Wonderland**, also held at Veterans Memorial Park. Nearly 1,000 people were captivated by an array of family-oriented offerings of Winter Wonderland. From the festive performances of Laren Montessori and Thornwood High School band, to the lighting of trees, train and trolley rides and The Home Depot workshop, this event captured the essence of South Holland's holiday spirit. Winter Wonderland was indeed an unbelievable success!

As a community, we initiated our Celebration of the Arts program with the introduction of the new **South Holland Master Chorale**. This 130-voices strong institution is now a civic arm of the Village of South Holland, performing in the community and throughout the southland. Also in 2015, the Heritage Haul race celebrated 10 years, followed by the introduction of a new Fall Fest.

The Department of Public Relations and Marketing continues to take an integrated approach to build a strong community brand. Our stories are broadcast using multiple assets, including our website - southholland.org, digital/social platforms (**Facebook, Twitter, YouTube**), our cable station - **Community Connection Channel**, and print publication - **South Holland TODAY**.

In 2016, Public Relations and Marketing will advance the way we process our print media by applying new technology trends. This advancement, known as **E-PUB**, will allow our readers to innovatively interact whenever they access the electronic version of print media.



McPheerson family at Winter Wonderland



South Holland Master Chorale



Winter Wonderland train rides



Updated signage for American Legion & VFW Hall



New signage on Cottage Grove Ave



Val Warner joins Mayor De Graff at 10th annual Heritage Haul

Clean, Bright and Beautiful

In 2015, the Village of South Holland earned a **Beautification Award** from the South Holland Business Association, which in large part, is due to the tireless effort of our Public Works Department to ensure a clean, bright and beautiful community. This team has worked countless hours to repair 27 water main breaks and 150 potholes. They removed 79 dead trees, of which more than 60 infected by the emerald ash borer. The department clocked in more than 500 hours of mowing at Gouwens Park and still more hours at Veterans Park to ensure that the nearly 600 baseball and softball games were played on well-maintained fields.

In conjunction with Planning, Development and Code Enforcement, the Public Works Department, advanced our goal of **consistent signage design guidelines** for municipal facilities and main thoroughfares. Prototypes of new signage have been installed at American Legion/VFW Hall on 157th Street (just east of South Park Ave.) and 163rd and Cottage Grove Avenue. Consistent with new design guidelines, the department is in the process of establishing a "**Landscape Sponsor**" program to foster ownership of our public spaces and encourage an improved aesthetic appearance at gateways and other landscaped area. One such public space currently receiving new landscape is at the four corners of our Route 6 viaduct.

The village's new **rain barrel program** has been embraced by our community, with already 150 residents registered to receive barrels. Also, we implemented a new curbside recycling program, under the management of our waste collection agency, Republic Services.

Our Department of Planning, Development and Code Enforcement (PD&CE) has advanced the recently developed "**walking property maintenance inspections**" in all 13 neighborhood areas.

In 2016, PD&CE, along with Public Works, will lead the implementation of **paperless, web-based software** that will allow these departments to respond promptly to residents' concerns, be more efficient, and lower operating costs.

Signature Spaces and Places

At Veterans Memorial Park, more than 600 new names were added to our **Eagle of Liberty** military service memorial, and the park received an additional **38-ft gazebo** at the north end, which will be used for a number of community events throughout the year.

The Department of Recreational Services is relentless in its delivery of great customer care. This department provides management and maintenance of the **South Holland Community Center**. Staff has advanced an initiative to update several areas of this popular facility, including the lobby, which is now freshly painted and has new modern furniture. Meeting rooms received new carpet, and our fitness center continues to offer state-of-the-art equipment.

Recreational Services regularly investigates, evaluates and executes new program offerings to ensure our families have many opportunities to engage socially and physically. In 2015, more than **9,000 participants** took part in just over **500 program sessions** at the South Holland Community Center. New to the line up were Youth Golf (in partnership with Glenwoodie Country Club), Pizza and Paint, Swim Team (in collaboration with Thornwood High School), Spinning®, and a Military Tribute. In 2016, they are introducing Daddy/Daughter Princess Party, Mom/Son Super Hero Party, managing stress classes, among other activities.

Our Department of Economic Development is actively pursuing new development opportunities that incorporate TIF alternatives, which could include retail, commercial, industrial, manufacturing and upscale mixed-use buildings. In particular, there is a new emerging interest to foster development of retail and residential properties in the **Town Center District**.

In 2015, the department also hosted the inaugural industrial park-focused **Innovation Breakfast**, which was well attended as an integral element of our Business Retention and Expansion Program. The next step in this program is to create a Resource Guide in 2016.

With the creation of new **Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts** for Zone A and I-94, in 2016 our Love's Travel Stop will be complete in a few months. The department will continue to aggressively market available opportunities to developers and interested businesses north and south of Route 6 on Van Dam Road. We are also in the process of creating a new **Gateway West TIF District** for the area bordering Route 6 and Vincennes Avenue.



Love's Travel Stop under construction



600 names added to Eagle of Liberty



New 38-ft gazebo at Vets Park

My Reflections

So much has been accomplished in 2015 and so much more to look forward to in 2016. The manner in which we serve will continue to be progressive and uniquely with a South Holland servant heart.

I was clearly reminded again at our recent Village of South Holland MLK celebration of how distinctive we are as a caring, diverse, and principled community of values. The overriding emphasis portrayed at that wonderful program, and indeed throughout all of our community events, is constituted in the intrinsic principle of servanthood. Within that context, all of our employees prioritize and are evaluated on core, foundational and aspirational values, including customer care, innovation, integrity, professionalism, and respect. That mindset has become engrained through our training regiment and that perspective is clearly now a part of our community ethos.

For, in South Holland, we thoroughly enjoy and see unlimited value in serving each other, against a backdrop where we daily witness the world around us flailing in international terrorist activity and pervasive domestic gun violence.

As a Community of **Faith, Family, and Future** we seek to provide the absolute best in essential public safety and services, which includes all of our personnel, policies, procedures, and equipment to insure our safety and security. As **Vision 2022** progresses, we will continue to place a significant priority on the sanctity and value of life, providing clear evidence of how God continues to bless this village.

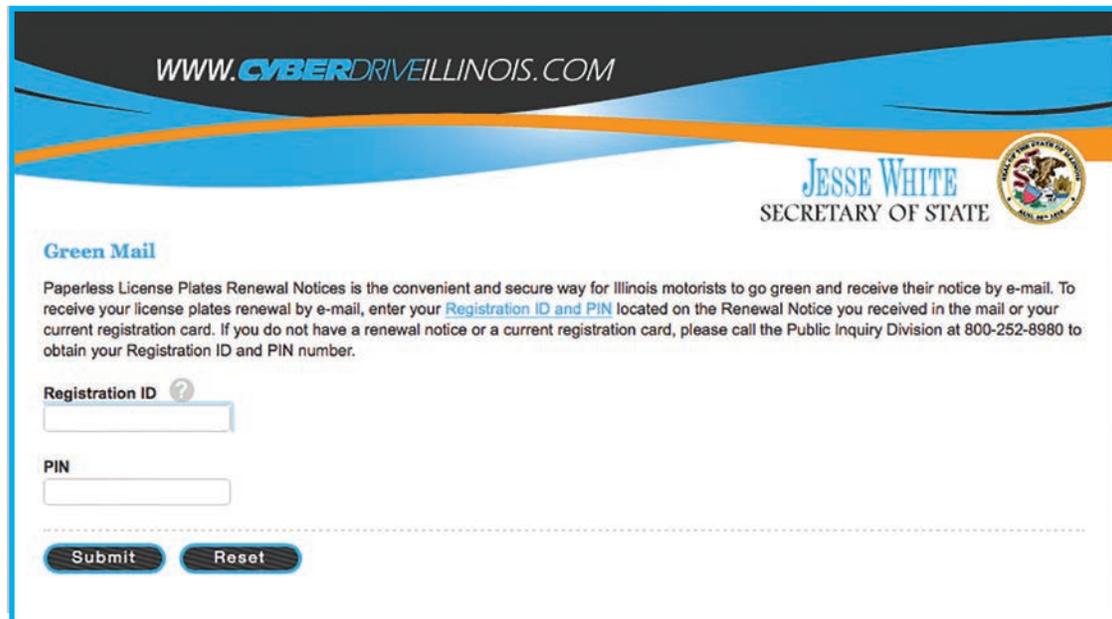
I will forever be grateful for the opportunity that He provides me and each member of our united Village Board to serve the great Village of South Holland, Illinois. sgd

Don A. DeGraff,
Mayor

HAPPENINGS

Illinois License Plate Renewal Notices Go Green

Illinois Secretary of State office calls it Green Mail, also known as “paperless.” The “Green Mail” paperless license plates renewal notice is now the only way for Illinois motorists to receive this reminder by e-mail. **The Secretary of State is no longer mailing renewal notices.** To receive your license plates renewal by e-mail, go online to <https://www.ilsos.gov/greenmail/> and enter your Registration ID and PIN (as pictured to the left) located on the Renewal Notice you received on your current registration card. If you do not have a current registration card, please call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain your Registration ID and PIN number.



The screenshot shows the website [www.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com). It features the Illinois Secretary of State logo for Jesse White. The main heading is "Green Mail". Below it, a paragraph explains that paperless license plate renewal notices are a convenient and secure way for motorists to receive notices by e-mail. It instructs users to enter their Registration ID and PIN from their renewal notice or current registration card. If they don't have these, they should call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980. The form includes two input fields: "Registration ID" with a question mark icon and "PIN". Below the fields are "Submit" and "Reset" buttons.

Water Rates to Increase on March Bills

The Village of South Holland receives its water from the City of Chicago. Over the last several years, Chicago has drastically increased its water rates to suburban municipalities.

As a result, the village will have no alternative but to pass through a rate adjustment which provides for the future stability of operating and infrastructure costs.

The following new rates will first be applied to water consumed beginning Jan. 20, 2016, and payable on the March 2016 bill:

- \$7.96 per 1,000 gallons for the first 25,000 gallons;
- \$7.32 per 1,000 gallons for the next 100,000 gallons;
- \$7.21 per 1,000 gallons over 125,000 gallons.

It is important to note that even with the current rate adjustment, South Holland's rates remain below the Chicago suburban average for all communities served with Lake Michigan water.

Convenient water bill payment options include:

- Direct debit
- Pay online using e-pay



To learn more, visit www.southholland.org

Holiday Closings

Most non-emergency village facilities, such as the Village Hall, will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, in observance of Presidents' Day and Friday, March 25, for Good Friday.

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

The annual breakfast with Mayor Don De Graff is scheduled for Thursday, May 5 at 7:30 am. The annual breakfast is sponsored by the South Holland Ministerial Association. The location and additional information will be provided later on the village website, www.southholland.org.

Lions Club Pancake Day

This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, at the South Holland Community Center. Residents are encouraged to attend and enjoy breakfast and fellowship with friends and neighbors. Additional information is forthcoming.

Memorial Day Parade & Remembrance Ceremony

This annual parade that honors the men and women who served in the military and made the ultimate sacrifice will run down South Park Avenue. It begins Monday, May 30, at 11 a.m. at 170th Street and finishes at Veterans Park. Following the parade at approximately 12:30 p.m. at Veterans Park will be a Remembrance Ceremony.

Volleyball Thursdays

Relieve stress of the week, get some cardio in, and have fun at the South Holland Community Center, 501 East 170th Street. Amateur co-ed volleyball is available every Thursday, 7-9 p.m. The fee is FREE for members and \$5 for non-members. For questions or to receive a reminder text, please call or text 708-790-1457.

POLICE

Don't Be An Identity Theft Victim With Online Shopping

Even as the holiday shopping season fades into memory, many shoppers will still be searching for online deals.

South Holland police urge residents to stay cautious even when taking advantage of the convenience of shopping from home or on your mobile phone or computer.

Online shopping offers shoppers the ability to compare products from several stores at once and avoid mall crowds.

Beware, however, of criminals who are looking to scam your information online, including your credit card information, bank accounts or social security number.

Here are a few scams for you to be aware of to avoid having your identity stolen and some advice on how to stay safe even online:

1. Create strong online passwords and update them often. A strong password will include a combination of numbers, lowercase and uppercase letters and symbols. For example, instead of using catsaregreat, a better password would be Cats22#arE%\$GreAt*.
2. Be aware and cautious with what you share on social media sites, like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and others. Oftentimes, your profile on each of these media sites is open and can be viewed.
3. Ensure that you keep your computer updated with the latest firewall software, using anti-spyware and anti-malware, updating your browser and securing your wireless network.
4. Don't fall for phishing scams that include requests for information or requests to click on certain links from either people or businesses that appear to be legitimate. Keep a keen eye as many of these scams can look very convincing.
5. Check your credit report to make sure there are not unsubstantiated accounts or charges. You can receive a free credit report annually at annualcreditreport.com. You can further protect your credit by putting a freeze on your accounts with each credit bureau.



FIRE



Fire Safety Starts with Heating Safety

Did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths, and that half of heating fires are reporting during the months of December, January and February? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, and portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Install smoke alarms in your home and test them monthly.
- Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.
- If you smell gas in your home, leave immediately and call 9-1-1.

If you have any questions regarding fire safety, call South Holland Fire Department's non-emergency number at 708-331-3123.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New South Holland Businesses Bring Jobs to the Community

Steel Guard Safety Products is a light industrial manufacturer that produces industrial curtain walls, welding curtains, strip doors, covers and related safety products for the automobile industry. They produce over 90% of the new Aluminum Repair Station Curtain systems for Ford Dealers to accommodate the new Aluminum Ford F-150. They will also be accommodating the majority of these stations as GM and other manufacturers roll them out. The company relocated from Terre Haute, Indiana to 16520 Vincennes, and will employ 25 people.

We are happy to welcome **ISC Water Solutions**, who will occupy a 43,000 square feet space at 410 W. 169th St. The company produces chemicals used to treat water. The product is used for such applications as treating engine corrosion for the locomotive industry and waste water treatment. They are expected to employ approximately 30 people.

USA Truck and Advocate Medical Expanding Facilities for Business Growth



USA TRUCK

USA Truck operates a service facility for medium-haul dry van carriers that specialize in hauling general commodities such as industrial items, electronics and automotive parts.

Located at 141 E. 168th St., the company will be expanding its current building footprint from 7,500 square feet to 21,000 square feet in order to expand its service area. The company is also adding a new entrance on the east end of the facility.

Advocate Medical is adding 5,000 square feet to its current footprint at 100 W. 162nd St., which is expected to be operational by the fall.



Flood Proofing Pays Off

The flood assistance program is available to qualified applicants for pre-approved flood proofing projects. The Village of South Holland offers two programs.

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

The grant offers residents a 50 percent rebate, to a maximum of \$5,000, for the following flood-control projects:

SURFACE WATER PROJECTS

- Overhead sewers (repairs and installation)

- Removal of sump pump and downspout connections from sanitary sewers
- Back flow valves

The rebate program offers residents a 25 percent rebate, to a maximum of \$2,500.00 for the following flood proofing projects:

SUBSURFACE PROJECTS

- Interior and/or exterior drain tile
- Crack repair and/or waterproofing foundation walls

Other projects may apply.

It is imperative that those planning to apply for a rebate contact the Code Department at 16240 Wausau, or call 210-2915, before beginning any flood-control project.

The department will meet with the resident, inspect their property, and assist in completion of the necessary rebate application. The department can provide a list of contractors who are licensed to do business in South Holland, if requested.

Homeowners are advised not to wait until the last minute, but to allow plenty of time to secure the required pre-approval and minimum of two bid proposals from contractors.

This is a great program and a lot of people are really thankful that the Village provides this resource to property owners.



Passport Achievement Lab Catapults Students to a Brighter Future

Passport Achievement Lab is an after school learning center operated by South Holland residents Michelle and Paul Johnson. The learning center will focus on math and reading intervention and enrichment for students in grades 1-8. They will also offer ACT/SAT College prep for high school students. The center is located at 16240 Louis Avenue.

Lest We Forget, South Holland honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Ronda Williams

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's annual celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was highlighted by a call to action in leading our children in these turbulent times of change and uncertainty. Hosted at Covenant United Church of Christ, the celebration was a masterful ceremony filled with stirring musical performances by the South Holland Master Chorale, the Thornwood High School Ethnicity Singers, and Rev. Dr. Ozzie Smith, Jr, pastor of Covenant United Church of Christ, as well as an inspiration sermon from Rev. Dr. Carolyn McKinstry.

Mayor Don De Graff introduced Dr. McKinstry with a reflection of a trip he recently took through Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham. "The journey was life changing and humbling to walk the paths of the Selma to Montgomery marches, and stand at the pulpit where Dr. King preached at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church," said De Graff. "Upon meeting and hearing Dr. McKinstry speak during my trip, I couldn't help but invite her to our celebration to share her story."

In her remarks, Dr. McKinstry illustrated how significantly her life was effected by Dr. King's teachings and the very personal and tragic events that occurred daily where she lived. She shared how Dr. King's leadership positively influenced her to become an engaged and purpose-filled contributor to society.

Dr. McKinstry is a fearless civil rights leader. As a fourteen-year-old member of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, McKinstry was the young girl who answered the threatening phone call warning of the infamous bombing that killed four of her friends. Since that time, McKinstry took to the street as a young civil rights activist. She continues her work today, speaking, teaching and challenging others to take up the mantle for social justice.

"I recall hearing Dr. King tell all of us young people, who were so filled with expectation that we are to stand against violence with kindness, goodness and determination," said Dr.

McKinstry. "Dr. King taught us that violence ultimately defeats itself and ends up leaving everybody blind. As adults, we have a responsibility to lead our children by fully investing in them and their future, teaching them cultural education and guiding them with Christian principles."

Dr. McKinstry called for everyone to live as family, loving one another, treating each other with respect and kindness. The responsibility is for us all, she implored.

Four South Holland schools received

awards for their service and commitment to positive change. Receiving this year's Drum Major for Service to Humanity award were the Dads of Calvary Academy, Peacemakers of Calvin Christian School, Live United of Seton Academy and AVID of Thornwood High School.

To close the celebration, the South Holland Master Chorale raised the audience to their feet with "Ain't Got Time to Die," led by soloist Isaiah Brown. It was an inspiring performance, ringing aloud with spontaneous "Amens" and hand clapping.

On February 4, 1968, at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, in speaking about how he wished to be remembered after his death, King said, "I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody."

And we sincerely hope that in our celebration to honor his life and his legacy, that we have remembered him as he truly was, a drum major for service to humanity.

"As adults, we have a responsibility to lead our children by fully investing in them and their future, teaching them cultural education and guiding them with Christian principles."

— Rev. Dr. Carolyn McKinstry





Rev. Dr. Ozzie E. Smith, Jr., Pastor, Covenant UCC



Dads of Calvary Academy, a recipient of Drum Major for Service to Humanity Award



Thornwood High School Ethnicity Choir



Isaiah Brown, South Holland Master Chorale

South Holland Celebrates African American History

Black History Month was started by Carter G. Woodson and has been taking place every February in the United States and Canada since 1976. It is intended to educate people about African American history, focusing on culture, as well as notable individuals and their achievements.

There are a number of events scheduled in South Holland this year to help celebrate the annual month-long event.

The **South Holland Library** will honor famous African American scientists, tinkers, and inventors. Come learn about truly amazing people, and have fun, too. Eat some cookies, play video games, and have a blast! Have fun with interactive games, activities, and exhibits for the whole family!

The library will celebrate African American History Month with song and dance on Thursday, Feb. 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thornwood High School's Ethnicity Choir and Band will provide entertainment.

South Suburban College will host "Black History 101 For Everyone," Wednesday, February 17, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Retired History Professor Art Burton will share some unknown facts about African American history. You will be entertained, educated, and fascinated. South Suburban College is located at 15800 South State Street.

Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave., will celebrate African American History Month with an Underground Railroad display and several Underground Railroad hikes you can join.

The Nature Center offers an educational display and interactive history hike. Take an imaginary journey and follow an Underground Railroad route used by escaping slaves in Illinois in the mid-1800s.

The free display and hikes will be offered from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28.

Library Hosts Valentine's Day Dance

Didn't have time to take that special someone out on Valentine's Day? The South Holland Public Library will host an evening of Salsa, Tango and East Coast Swing, Wednesday, February 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sweep your special someone off their feet. Dress up or dress down; come alone or with friends. Just come to have an enjoyable evening of dance. Light refreshments will be provided. The library is located at 16250 Wausau Avenue.

Please register for this program by calling the library, 708-331-5262, or visiting the library's website: <http://shlibrary.org>.

EDUCATION

Project Teaches Students About Their Community

At Greenwood School, students in 3rd grade are required to complete a special Social Studies project on their home community. Students make a pamphlet with information about South Holland. They gather their information from websites, interviews, and other resources. Students must report on at least five different jobs offered in the village and complete a section on South Holland history. Did you know that in the 1940's South Holland was determined to be the Onion Set Capital of the World? Well....now you do! The students get very creative in their pamphlet designs and enjoy learning about the community they live in.



Some examples of the South Holland pamphlets are displayed by the following students: Eva Hayes • Corey Hampton • Amani Harrington • Evan Hayes • Douglas Williams • Collin Adamus • Jatari Johnson • Angel Price • Terrianna Patrick • Chenniya Robinson.

Aerospace Course at Thornwood

By integrating a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Program into its' elective course selections, Thornton Township School District 205 is bringing the proven character-building fundamentals, aerospace education, and emergency service into schools across the Thornton Township community. Aerospace is the human effort in science, engineering, and business to fly in the atmosphere of earth and space. Aerospace education ensure that all CAP members have an appreciation for and knowledge of aerospace. CAP believes the program will help foster good-natured and healthy citizens who will develop an interest in and appreciation for aerospace/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects and careers. Students enrolled in the Civil Air Patrol course at Thornwood High School have answered the call and are currently building a Challenger Ultralight Aircraft.



Left to right - Cadet A1C Angelica Zayas and Cadet SMSgt Mohamed Konneh



Left to right - Major Le'on Willis, Cadet Amn Stephanie Allen, Cadet TSgt Bernard Walker, Cadet CMSgt Jesse Marr, and SSgt Katrina Roden.

**South Holland to celebrate education, August 6, 2016,
South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street. Stay tuned for further details.
Hosted by the South Holland Education Commission.**

RESIDENT YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Bob Bong

When Hortense Harris moved to South Holland in 1992, she didn't know anyone, so she became a voter registrar to meet her neighbors and to help with the electoral process. She hasn't stopped being a good neighbor, and along the way, found new ways to help people.

Hortense got to know so many people that when the village started the South Holland Neighborhood Organizing Committee a couple of years later, she was invited to join. "I've been with the committee from the beginning," she said, adding that its work has evolved over the years.

"Back in the day, we promoted block parties to get neighbors to know each other," she said. "We started Christmas decorating contests with themes and would judge the houses with the best decorations."

"We were responsible for starting the half-marathon and Town Center Marketplace," she said. "We also try to meet with the leaders of neighborhood associations to help them with their block parties or area meetings," she said.

Her work on the committee is a natural extension to her love of service. "I love doing service. I love helping people. I love making a difference," she said. In fact, Hortense earned the Sister Thea Bowman Humanitarian Award for her service to the community and her church.

In addition to her work with the village, Hortense also serves as Vice Grand Lady of the Knights of Peter Claver, on behalf of her church Holy Name of Mary Parish in Chicago. "It's a black Catholic organization," she said.

Knights of Peter Claver was founded more than 100 years ago and offers members the opportunity to partake in church and community service projects and charitable causes.

But it's not all service for Hortense, who is an executive assistant for an insurance brokerage firm in downtown Chicago. She's been doing that about as long as she's been living in South Holland, though she's thinking about the future. "I'm going to be 65 in April," she said. "I'm trying to figure out when to retire."

Prior to moving to South Holland, Hortense lived in Evanston and belonged to a dance troupe. "I was in my late 30s and early 40s," she said. "We did all kinds of dancing. We did jazz, flamenco, Mid-eastern dance styles, and even some line dancing. We danced at the Illinois State Fair, nursing homes, VA hospital in Chicago, the Daley Center, South Shore Cultural Center, and other places, and even danced for the troops," she said. Hortense and her dance troupe were even featured on the cover of the Chicago Sun-Times.

A world traveler, Hortense has visited Canada, France, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the Vatican City in Italy. Also, she has traveled to 38 states in the country, with plans to see all 50.

Through her time in South Holland, Hortense has always been a good neighbor and never shied away from lending a helping hand.

She's someone you should know.



"I love doing service. I love helping people. I love making a difference."

— Hortense Harris

LIBRARY

The South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Avenue, is a busy place during the next couple of months. Whether joining the winter reading program or participating in a special event or class, South Holland residents are sure to find something to meet their entertainment or recreational needs. Please register for programs by calling the library, 708-331-5262, or visiting the library's website: <http://shlibrary.org>.

Storytime at Panera
Friday, February 19, 9:30-10:00 a.m.

Come join us for stories, milk and cookies at South Holland's Panera Bread, 162nd Street and Wausau Avenue.

Family LEGO® DAY
Saturday, February 20, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

LEGO® builders of all ages are welcome to attend this fun STEM program. For Children and families.

Mexican Folklore Dancing, Monday, February 29, 6:30-8:30 pm

SPORTS

Babe Ruth Registration Begins Feb. 10

Registration for South Holland Babe Ruth Baseball will begin in February for the 2016 season.

Player signups will be at the South Holland Community Center: Wednesday, Feb. 10, from 5:30-7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 17, from 5:30-7 p.m.

If your date of birth is between Jan. 1, 1997, and before May 1, 2003, you are eligible to sign up. New players are required to bring a birth certificate to registration.

You must reside or attend a school full-time in the following communities: South Holland, Thornton, East Hazel Crest, Phoenix, Harvey, Dolton, Riverdale, and Glenwood (east of Vincennes Ave.). If you are 16-18 and live outside these boundaries, call 708-670-3849.

Registration is \$280 per player (\$300 for 16-18 year olds), payable to South Holland Babe Ruth League. The league is seeking managers and coaches for 2016.

For more information, please call Jim DeBoer, acting league president, at 708-670-3849.

SOUTH HOLLAND JETS YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING ORGANIZATION



2016 Registration at the South Holland Community Center 501 E. 170th Street

EARLY: Wed. Feb 24, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. Feb 27, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Football \$199 (\$245 Varsity)
Cheer \$175

GENERAL: Wed. Mar 16, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. Mar 19, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Football \$225 (\$270 Varsity)
Cheer \$225

Late: Sat. Apr 16, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Football \$250 (\$295 Varsity)
Cheer \$250

LEVEL	AGE	WEIGHT
Bantam	Age 6	up to 85lbs
Widget	Ages 7 & 8	up to 85lbs
Pee Wee	Ages 9 & 10	up to 105 lbs
JV	Ages 11 & 12	up to 125 lbs
Varsity	Age 13 and/or 8th grade	Unlimited weight but only players under 165 can carry or throw the ball
Cheer/POM	Ages 5-13 (or 8th grade)	N/A (Note - POM/Dance is for 6-8th grade only)

Little League Registration Underway

South Holland Little League registration is underway through the end of March. Here are in-person registration dates at the South Holland Community Center:



- Saturday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 23, from 7 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 29, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Online registration is now available through March 31; please visit sports.bluesombrero.com/shll.

The player draft is scheduled for April 15. Parent Night is scheduled for April 21.

The season's Opening Day is for Saturday, April 30.

Seton Basketball Starts Strong

The 2015-16 high school basketball season is off to a wonderful start at Seton Academy. The boys freshman team has a record of 8-3 and were champions of both the Joliet West Thanksgiving and the Whitney Young Christmas Tournaments. The Sting Varsity team is also 8-3 and secured 3rd place in the Joliet West Thanksgiving Tournament.

Lady Sting Varsity, who have won 20+ games and advanced to Super Sectional each of the past 4 years, got off to a tough start due to injury. But they are healthy now and have a record of 9-4. The Junior Varsity team earned the 3rd place trophy in the Plainfield Central Christmas tournament.



WISDOM FROM OUR CHURCHES

Are You Happy In This New Year?



Dr. Preston R. Winfrey
Pastor of Pioneer MB Church

"Take courage this year and declare that this year will be a year of happiness and free from drama."

— Dr. Preston Winfrey

Christmas has passed and the New Year is already more than a month old. Are you still happy? How are you doing in keeping with the resolutions you made before the end of year 2015? Did you know your happiness is a personal choice? YOUR CHOICE. The governing levers for your personal happiness is within you and not the opposite.

What are you going to do different this year than you did last year? Did you know that the epitome of insanity is when a person repeats what he has done (that didn't work) and refuse to change but expects a different outcome? Some traditions are good, and then, there are those traditions that should be left in the past. When evaluating whether or not a change must take place, a serious assessment must be done and I must add, courage is needed to make this change.

Do you have the courage to change for your own good? If you allowed others and their opinions about you to repress you, it may be time for you to break out of that mode. This year, refuse to be depressed, angry, mean-spirited, difficult, and a pin cushion for others. Take courage this year and declare that this year will be a year of happiness and free from drama.

There was once a man by the name of Bartimaeus who sought to better his condition and plight but was met with opposition from a few haters (Mark 10:46-52). This man refused to stay in his unhappy state and cried out to the Lord and when Jesus asked what this man wanted, he said "I want to receive eyesight." I can assure you that this was the beginning of a great New Year for Bartimaeus and it can be for you also.

Someone once said, "laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you will cry alone." Choose to be happy this year. I love you and I pray God's best on you and your family.

Dr. Preston R. Winfrey

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RECREATIONAL SERVICES

SH Community Center Kicks off New Year with Family Fun Activities

Fun Characters is a Class Act

Children are natural actors, imitating people and characters through vocalization and body movement. With time, imitating evolves into imaginary play with dolls, action figures and worlds beyond our adult ability to understand. For children, using imagination to tell a story is easy, but is becoming a lost childhood playtime activity.

Rose Morris, an accomplished actor and teacher at the South Holland Community Center, has a lifelong passion instructing children with basic acting techniques. "Acting is an expression of different emotions. Being able to exhibit these emotions is unique and amazing in its own right. I see these kids develop greater self-confidence, self-awareness and self-esteem," said Morris.

As an accomplished actor, Rose has been cast in documentaries, Broadway musicals and stage plays including, "400 Years Without a Comb," "Rags to Riches," and "Strong Man."

Fun Characters acting class is being offered at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street.

Children between 8 to 12 are encouraged to register for the next session, Mar. 24 to May 19. The cost of the class is \$40.00 Resident, \$45.00 Non-resident.



Comedy Comes to South Holland

Looking for a date night or some time to laugh with your closest friends? Join comedians Ron Baker Jr., Chasity Washington (pictured below) and Jay Deep for a meal and lots of laughs on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street.

Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m., and show time begins at 7:00 p.m. Advance Tickets: \$30.00 and door tickets: \$40.00 (as available). Reserve a table when you purchase 6-8 tickets.



History of African-American Music

African American Music has touched our souls for decades. Come and meet our local resident, Art "Turk" Burton, for this informative discussion. Art has been a member of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians since 1973. Art taught the History of Jazz at Governors State University and African American Arts at SSC along with lectures at Northwestern University on African Music in the Caribbean. Art will bring to life the concepts and characteristics of African American Music as he shares the history. As a special addition to this workshop, Art will do a demonstration on the bongos, Friday, February 12, 11:00 a.m. at the South Holland Community Center. Fee \$10.00

Celebrate Easter with an Egg Hunt at Veterans Park

South Holland residents are encouraged to celebrate Easter with an egg hunt at Veterans Park on Saturday, March 19. Children between the ages of 1 to 10 years are divided into five age groups and will hunt for eggs filled with candy. Bring a basket or paper bag to take home your goodies. This is a rain or shine event and pre-registration is required, along with proof of residency. Registration begins February 9th and ends March 12. SPACE IS LIMITED - SIGN UP EARLY! Veterans Park is located at 500 East 160th Place.

GET A GRIP ON YOUR STRESS

By Ronda Williams

Introduction to Creative Strategies for Managing Stress is being offered at South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St., Thursday, April 21. The workshop addresses basic, natural stress reactions so adjustments can be made in order to think clearly and feel better emotionally. When that is achieved, stress levels go down.

In the class, students learn ways to reduce stress levels through the Body Map, Breath Work, Deep Writing and Listening Practice, Movement, and simple hands-on art exercises – a basic scribble that anyone can do. This is a seriously fun class. According to the psychologist, Carl Jung, the best coping tool for life and better living is “creativity (play, fun and imagination).” In a creative environment, feelings of being overwhelmed are decreased and peace of mind is increased.

Claudia McFarlane, Creative Strategies for Managing Stress instructor, will lead the class. “Managing stress is not a life skill that we learn. We don’t think about our ability to manage stress until something happens and there we are feeling stuck, unable to move forward; anger, depression, sleep deprivation, not eating or overeating,” says McFarlane. “We are emotionally and physically drained. The biggest concern in not managing stress effectively is the overall impact it has on our health.”

Stressors cause stress and can range from major events like death of someone close, divorce, job loss, or even something as simple as misplacing one’s keys.

“Stress is anything that causes you to feel out of balance and comes from within. There is no way to avoid daily stress but there are ways to manage our response to stressful situations,” continues McFarlane. “Usually there is an underlying thought or belief that we are not aware of that determines our reaction to a stressful experience.”

Claudia McFarlane is a Healing Arts Practitioner and Certified Mandala Facilitator with the Judith Cornell Mandala Facilitation Organization. She has a Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology and Art Therapy and has been teaching and facilitating Healing Art for 20 years. Her Head Heart Hands Creative Arts Program is designed for people who need support mentally, emotionally and spiritually. For the last five years, her focus has been working with cancer survivors.

Creative Strategies for Managing Stress is available either 11 am - 1pm or 6:30 - 8:30 pm, the cost is \$35.00.

McFarlane is available for individual sessions, workshops and retreats. Contact: Claudia at innervisions555@yahoo.com.





Village of South Holland
16226 Wausau Avenue
South Holland, IL 60473



POSTAL PATRON
South Holland, IL 60473

Coffee with the Mayor

Tuesday, March 22
7:00 PM
Community Center



Residents can meet and talk about issues
of the day with Mayor Don DeGraff

Village Board

Don A. De Graff
President

Dr. Sallie Penman
Clerk

Larry De Young
Trustee

Andrew Johnson, Jr.
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