



South Holland TODAY

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

JUNE / JULY 2016



www.southholland.org



4th of July

AT VETERANS PARK!

7:30 AM	Rib Fest Check In
8:00 AM	Prayer at the Gates
8:00 AM	Rib Fest Kick-Off
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Fun Inflatables
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Kiddie Carnival
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Water Bucket Fun Station
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Bungee Jump Station
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Frisbee Golf
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Basketball Station
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Volleyball Station
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM	SHFD Corn Roast
11:00 AM to 8:30 PM	Home Plate Grill
12:00 PM	Wing Eating
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM	Dimples Balloons
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Air Brush Face Painting
12:30 PM to 4:30 PM	Kids Glow in the Dark Crafts
1:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Firecracker Express Kids Train Rides
1:30 PM to 2:30 PM	Library Presentation
1:30 PM to 3:30 PM	Danny Lemon & The Big Squeeze
2:00 PM	Pie Eating Contest
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Patches Face Painting
2:30 PM	Water Balloon Fight
3:30 PM	Rib Fest Judging/ Winners
3:30 PM to 4:45 PM	Traveling World of Reptiles
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Salsa in the Park
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	DJ / Line Dancing
7:00 PM	Glow Sticks For Sale
8:00 PM	South Holland Municipal Band
9:15 PM	Best Fireworks in the Region

In order to minimize congestion and address safety concerns of the residents in the area of Veterans Memorial Park, on Monday, July 4, streets feeding into the park area will be closed off to vehicular traffic at 7:30 p.m. This restriction is not applicable to residents who live in this area around Veterans Memorial Park. For a list of street closures, visit online at www.southholland.org.

HAPPENINGS

Town Center Market Place

**Opens Sat., June 11 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Rt. 6 & South Park Ave.**

Town Center Marketplace, located at 400 E. 162nd St. (northeast corner of Route 6 and S. Park Ave.) runs Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., from June 11 to October 1. Market shoppers will find a variety of farm fresh, organic fruits and vegetables provided by Chicago Heights-based Zeldenrust Farm and newcomer Lyons Fruit Farm from South Haven, Michigan. Additionally, a wide variety of food products and merchandise will be available for purchase. For more market information, check out towncentermarket.org.



Municipal Band

<http://www.southholland.org/municipalband>

South Holland's very own Municipal Band is adding a bit of jazz flavor to its repertoire of tunes during the annual summer concert season. The band's season begins with the Memorial Day parade and remembrance ceremony, and concludes on Labor Day with the tradition of Paarlberg Festival at the Historical Paarlberg Park, 172nd and Paxton Ave. Some concerts are Thursday evenings at the bandstand in Veterans Memorial Park, 160th Pl. and S. Park Ave. The municipal band also performs at Holland Home, 163rd and Wausau Ave. Check the website to learn more about the band's schedule of appearances.



Movies In The Park

June 25, July 23, Sept. 17

Movies in the Park is FREE and open to the public June 25, July 23, and Sept. 17 (evening of Fall Fest). All movies will be shown on the big screen at Veterans Memorial Park, 160th Pl. and S. Park Ave. Concessions, provided by Home Plate Grill, is available throughout the movies. Remember to bring chairs and/or blankets. Movie selections will be announced on the village website - southholland.org.



Garden Walk

Sat., June 11, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

The 18th annual Garden Walk will be Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain or shine). Meet at Veterans Memorial Park to take part in a walk through amazing, creative, and decorative local gardens. You may gain new ideas and inspiration for your own garden. Tickets will be \$5 (available morning of walk).



Christmas In July

July 1 - July 31

It is almost that time of year when members of the South Holland Fire Department sponsor their annual Christmas in July food drive. Together with village churches, businesses, employees and residents, firefighters collect nonperishable food items during the entire month of July. Food and cash donations can be made at Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Avenue. The beneficiary of this initiative is Restoration Ministries, which operates a food pantry in support of families in the region. For additional information, call 708-331-3123.



POLICE



THE WALK & TALK INITIATIVE

Presented by the

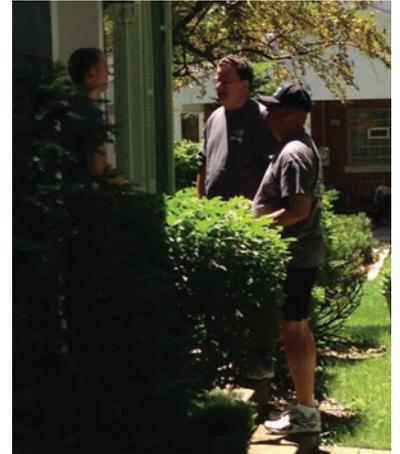
South Holland Police Department

This summer, residents can expect a greater presence of the South Holland Police Department in their neighborhood. Beginning in June and ending in August, the department will continue their Walk and Talk Initiative. The program is designed to increase the department's delivery of quality services. Police Officers will walk neighborhoods, engage the public in conversations, leading to relationships that increase citizen confidence, reduce complaints, and enhance overall communication.

Areas, Dates and Times to be announced soon!

If you have any questions regarding the Walk and Talk Initiative or would like additional information, feel free to contact the police department at 708-331-3131, option #2.

Mark your calendar for National Night Out, August 2, 5-8 p.m., at the South Holland Police Department.



Slurpee Patrol

SOUTH HOLLAND POLICE OFFICERS TO ISSUE KIDS FREE SLURPEE COUPONS FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR

Each year, 7-Eleven, Inc. helps thousands of local police officers recognize the good guys, specifically the young ones. For the 21st year, 7-Eleven is partnering with law enforcement agencies across the county to distribute free Slurpee® drink coupons through Operation Chill®, its popular community-service program.

Law enforcement agencies across the nation use the Slurpee coupons to enhance relations with the young people of their cities by rewarding them for good deeds, positive activities, and acts of kindness. This year, South Holland police officers will join this effort.

"Slurpee coupons are a great tool for officers who are on patrol in the community to reinforce positive actions of our youth," said Greg Baker, South Holland police chief. "It's a great way to encourage dialogue and engagement in a non-threatening manner.

The Village of South Holland is always looking for fun ways for our officers to build relationships in the community. Operation Chill makes it easy to interact with kids in a fun, positive way."

Operation Chill was developed by 7-Eleven to positively reward and encourage good behavior for kids during the summer months, and to support law enforcement agencies' community relations projects.

Since the program's inception in Philadelphia in 1995, more than 15 million Operation Chill coupons have been distributed to hundreds of law enforcement agencies across the country in areas where 7-Eleven operates stores. During 2016, up to 1.28 million coupons will be issued nationally, including in the Village of South Holland.

"I don't know who likes the Operation Chill program more, police officers or kids," said Mark Stinde, 7-Eleven Vice President of Asset Protection. "Police officers have told us they love having a positive reason to approach kids and surprise them with a Slurpee coupon, just for being good citizens."

7-Eleven's proprietary Slurpee semi-frozen carbonated beverage is celebrating its 50th birthday this year with ongoing promotions and celebrations.

The iconic drink has generational appeal with "slurpers," both young and old.

More than a half-million Slurpee drinks are purchased each day during the summer at 7-Eleven stores across the country.



FIRE

Citizen Fire Academy - Aug. 4-Oct. 1 Registration Now Open!

The Citizens Fire Academy is a ten week program that meets each Thursday evening beginning August 4, and concludes with a graduation at the annual South Holland Fire Department Open House on Saturday, October 1.

The Citizens Fire Academy provides an opportunity for residents to get an inside look at the work and training South Holland firefighters perform on a daily basis. "We are excited to offer a program that will engage our residents through an educational and fun manner," said Fire Chief Brian Kolosh. "Our mission is to serve the community, and through this initiative, our residents will better understand what it takes to provide the highest quality of EMS and fire protection available to them."

Topics will include:

- Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) – EMT versus Paramedic – what's the difference?
- CPR and First Aid – How can you help us to help you?
- Fire Suppression and Tactics – Put the wet stuff on the red stuff!!
- Public Education and Fire Prevention – From Smokey the Bear to Remembering When? Fire Prevention Campaigns for the community.
- Specialty Teams – Hazardous Materials, Water Rescue, and Building Collapse – Putting out fires is not our only job!
- Medical Helicopter landings and extinguishing live fires just to add some excitement to our program!

The Citizens Fire Academy is limited to 20 students. Registration forms are available at Fire Station 1, or apply online at southholland.org/fire. For questions or to receive additional information, contact Deputy Fire Chief Bryant Krizik at 708-331-3123.

Classes will be held at Fire
Station 1
16230 Wausau Avenue
Thursday evenings
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Beginning August 4



Upcoming . . .

Mayor's Coffee

Tues., June 14
7:30 a.m.

South Holland
Community Center
501 E. 170th Street

SALUTES

ExceleRate Illinois Receives Silver Circle



Congratulations to Yvette Adamus for receiving the Silver Circle of Quality designation from ExceleRate Illinois, the state's quality recognition and improvement initiative for early learning and development providers. "We are proud to receive the Silver Circle of Quality," said Adamus, owner of South Holland-based Little Ones Academy, 16852 S. Park Ave.

"Providing quality in early learning and development will help our children in South Holland be better prepared for success in school and in life." ExceleRate Illinois is a system of licensed child care centers, licensed family child care, preschool for all and center-based prevention initiative programs, as well as, head start and early head start programs.

SSC coach named to Hall of Fame



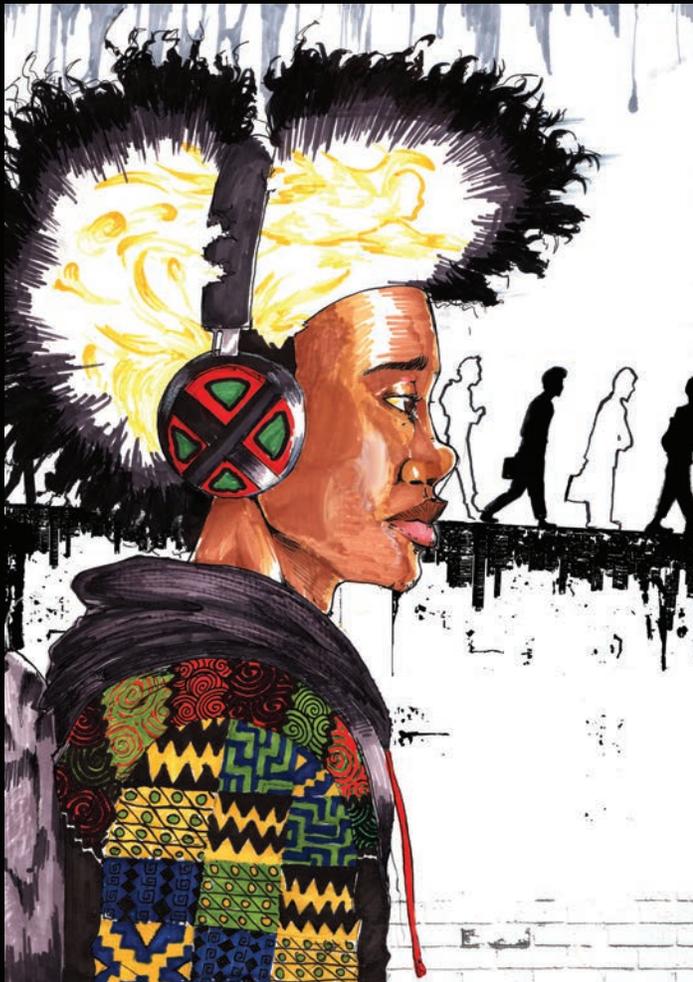
South Suburban College Coach Darrell Scott was recently selected for the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) Region IV Hall of Fame.

Coach Scott is a 1987 graduate of Grinnell College and is entering his 24th season of coaching women's basketball at South Suburban College. This is his first and only head coaching tenure in the women's ranks. His record is 450-298.

Scott's teams have made appearances at the national tournament in 2000, 2001, 2005, 2013 and 2015, have won regional championship five times and have been region finalists 4 times. Coach Scott also has 12 NJCAA All-Americans under his tenure.

He was honored on Feb. 20 after the Lady Bulldogs took on Illinois Central.

Paul Somerville Wins Robin Kelley Art Contest



Thornwood student Paul Somerville won this year's annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students residing or attending school in the 2nd Congressional District.

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly was the sponsor of the annual Congressional Art Competition.

Somerville will attend a ceremony this summer in Washington, D.C., where his winning artwork, titled "Boy in the Big City" (pictured left), will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol for one year. The artwork of second- and third-place winners will be displayed in Kelly's district offices.

Kelly announced the winners at a reception on April 9 in the Lee E. Dulgar Gallery at South Suburban College, 15800 State St., South Holland.

The high school art competition was established by the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982 to acknowledge and support the artistic talent of America's young adults.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business development remains a top priority for South Holland's board and administration. In recent weeks, village officials, along with members of the South Holland Business Administration, took part in two ribbon cutting ceremonies.



ISC Water Solutions officially opened for business at 410 West 169th Street. ISC provides integrated water treatment solutions, with expertise in water system process troubleshooting, water treatment equipment and technology, green chemistries, among other water solution areas. To learn more about ISC Water Solutions, visit online at iscwater.com.



Anytime Fitness celebrated its official grand opening at 911 East 162nd Street. The center offers 24/7 gym access, with options for cardio fitness, strength training, hydro massages, and boot camp. To learn more about Anytime Fitness, visit anytimefitness.com/gyms/4033/south-holland-il-60473/ or call 708-566-9630.

Students Conduct Board Meeting

The 28th annual Student Government event was held Monday, May 16, at the South Holland Community Center. Junior high students from South Holland public and private schools conducted their own student board meeting, while sharing the perspectives of the positions of various village officials. Participating students pictured below (l-r) with their village officials are:



Sonja Bradley, Coolidge Middle School (Economic Development Director John Watson); Jakiya Gray, McKinley Junior High School (Village Administrator Jason Huisman); Allison Meyer, Calvin Christian School (Trustee Larry DeYoung); Jaylen Holmes, Christ Our Savior Catholic School (Trustee Vickie Perkins and Recreational Services Director Ed Stewart); Kyli Williams, Calvary Academy (Trustee Cynthia Nylan); Derion Chew, Christ Our Savior Catholic School (Village Clerk Dr. Sallie Penman); Aaron Taylor, McKinley Junior High School (Village President Don A. De Graff); India Daniels, Calvary Academy (Trustee Dr. John Sullivan); Ana Lopez, Coolidge Middle School (Trustee Andrew Johnson, Jr.); Treyvon Kozup, McKinley Junior High School (Trustee Prince Reed & George Gunkel [pictured far right]); Amara Ude, Calvin Christian School (Village Engineer Pat Barker); Lauryn Dubose, Christ Our Savior Catholic School (Fire Chief Brian Kolosh); and Kaitlyn McGary, Calvary Academy (Police Chief Greg Baker).



Congratulations to our graduating eighth graders and a job well done!



EDUCATION

South Holland Preschool Jump Starts Kids Education

Preschool education and kindergarten readiness are essential to every child's educational success.

For South Holland, a commitment to early childhood education goes back 50 years. From the preschool's first location on South Park Avenue to its current location at the South Holland Community Center, this program has served families in the community with positive results.

Today, the program offers half- and full-day options with early morning and late afternoon care, and is directed by Dawn Stremplewski, who has been a part of the program since 1989.

Stremplewski is proud to be part of the long history of early childhood education in South Holland. She is committed to providing a variety of educational opportunities that the children will need in order to be competitive in life.

"When the 4-year-olds graduate from our program they are ready for kindergarten," said Stremplewski. "We begin reading and writing skills with our 3-year-old group and continue the next year



with the 4-year-old group. Kids are like sponges, they learn so quickly, so it is easy to teach new skills to them."

Each class had a total of 22 children who are taught by eight teachers. The children rotate in small groups between learning stations where they have a lesson from each teacher. They also have free play, rest hour and hot meals.

"We believe in teaching children independence and getting them ready to thrive in a competitive world," said Stremplewski. "So, through activities like show and tell, we are teaching them to speak in front of others and ask thoughtful questions. These are life skills they can take with them."

In addition to learning stations, children are introduced to the Spanish language through numbers and days of the week. The school does not have a bilingual program, but does invite bilingual children to participate.

What would preschool be without field trips? The preschoolers attend the circus, Disney on Ice, the apple orchard, the pumpkin patch, and the South Holland Fire Station during Fire Prevention Week.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in the program can take advantage of the 10 percent discount offered by the Community Center during registration. The program is open to 22 students for each level and is oftentimes at capacity.

If you are interested in touring the facility or have questions, contact Stremplewski at the South Holland Community Center, (708) 331-2940.

Camp iMPACT



This summer, Calvin Christian School has exciting news... Introducing Camp iMPACT! This camp has been in the works for a couple of years and Calvin School officials are excited that it is has come to fruition. There are three core values of Camp iMPACT:

1. Fostering a passion to have a PERSONAL relationship with Christ
2. Excellence in academia
3. Staying physically active - year round.

Therefore, iMPACT stands for "I Move, Pursue Academics, am Christ-Centered and Teach others!"

Each week is theme-based with a corresponding field trip on Friday. During a week, the assigned theme will be implemented and reiterated through various projects and lessons. As an example, 'Go Green/SuperHero Service' week will have service projects for Calvin Christian School and the community and then wrap up with a trip to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

Camp iMPACT is in session June 13 through August 12 at 528 East 161st Place, and is available for children who are enrolled at Calvin Christian School for the 2016-2017 school year. For additional information, contact Calvin Christian at 708-331-5027.



INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR

Thornwood's Danny Gray receives Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching



The Golden Apple, a leading nonprofit foundation committed to celebrating and developing great teachers with the ability and passion to make life-changing differences in the lives of students, surprised Gray with the award during one of his NFTE classes.

For the 2016 awards, more than 400 9th-12th grade educators were nominated by their students, parents, school staff, community leaders, school administration, and colleagues as a teacher who has positively affected the school community.

Gray teaches five sections of an entrepreneurship course in partnership with the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's Chicago Metro office. Annually, he reaches just over 100 students, some with discipline and behavioral challenges, with empathy and reassurance as they complete an original business plan for the course.

In his four years of teaching the NFTE course at Thornwood High School, he has led two student teams to the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge; a business plan competition where NFTE students pitch to esteemed judges for a chance to win venture capital for their future success.

In 2013, two of Gray's students Jesus Fernandez and Toheeb Okenla won the national prize of \$25,000 in seed money for their business, and now the NFTE alumni and students at the University of Illinois are awaiting the first shipment of their product from the manufacturer.

In addition to his commitment to NFTE Chicago Metro, Gray also spearheads a men's group entitled "A Few Good Men", which offers guidance and mentorship to male youth that reaches 125 young men.

The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship is a national organization with 27 years of experience training and supporting teachers like Danny Gray to implement a comprehensive entrepreneurship curriculum in urban high schools, creating an innovative entrepreneurial ecosystem for Chicago's youth.

Two youths found South Holland Youth Anime Club

By Bob Bong

Two South Holland youths have started an anime club that was scheduled to have its first meeting on May 27 at the South Holland Community Center.

Na'imah is a 14-year-old home-schooled ninth-grader and Elijah is 12-year-old home-schooled eighth-grader.

Both youths have a strong interest in community service and their first community endeavor is the South Holland Youth Anime Club.

The club meets from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. on Fridays at the South Holland Community Center.

The South Holland Youth Anime Club is designed as an outlet for youth from sixth-grade to 12th-grade who have an interest in watching, reading or drawing anime/manga and want to share with like minded youth in a safe and fun environment.

Club members hope to forge friendships that last a lifetime and even inspire careers in the arts.

Both Na'imah and Elijah have a lot to share with the youth of South Holland and they look forward to interacting with their peers in the South Holland Youth Anime Club and a host of different endeavors.



JEFFERSON AWARDS

By Arlo Kallemeyn

Sunday afternoon was a celebration of service to others at Thornton High School in Harvey, IL. The Jefferson Awards - Local Ceremony was modeled after the national organization of the same name. The Jefferson Awards Foundation mission is to empower others to have maximum impact on the things they care most about. Through celebration, they inspire action. Their programs and partnerships drive Americans to change their communities and the world.

Each year, the Jefferson Awards honor the most outstanding achievements in public service at the Jefferson Awards National Ceremony. The Jefferson Awards Foundation is the country's longest standing and most prestigious organization dedicated to activating and celebrating public service. Through their programs they train and empower individuals to serve and lead in their communities, amplifying their impact through a vast network of media partners, mentors and volunteers. The Jefferson Awards Foundation is a non-profit organization that "recognizes, inspires and activates volunteerism and public service in communities, workplaces and schools across America." The Institute was founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard.

The Student Board of Thornton Township High School has attended and represented District 205 at both the Regional and National Level of the Jefferson Awards. Due to the number of years that District 205 students have successfully competed in the Jefferson Awards Program, the Student Board is now considered an Ambassador School District. Through Students in Action, District 205 students have dedicated nearly 734,000 hours of service to our community. This service included over 1,500 projects and touched over 52,000 citizens in our community. Some of these projects include service at food pantries, tutoring elementary school students, assisting Seniors, and many more. We look forward to many more service projects from the talented and inspiring students of Thornton High School District 205.

This year's Jefferson Local Award Ceremony was held to honor community leaders who donate their time and talent in service to others.

The honorees include:

- Jessica Buckner (Lifetime Achievement Award)
- David L. Eanes (Excellence of Teacher)
- Jesse White - Illinois Secretary of State (Outstanding Public Service by an Elected Official)
- Frank M. Zuccarelli - Thornton Township Supervisor (Public Service Focusing on the Disadvantaged)
- Bonita Parker representing Commonwealth Edison (Outstanding Service from Major Corporation)
- Bruce Gaston (Outstanding Service by a Professional Athlete)
- Dr. John Sullivan (Outstanding Service by Private Citizen)
- LaRoyce Hawkins (Outstanding Service by Individual Under 35)



RESIDENTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

A Dream of Peace, A Musical Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King

Dr. Martin Luther King professed a world of peace, promise and passion. His message resonated throughout the world as the bells of racial inequality rang loud in America in the 1950s and 60s. He harnessed the power and spirit of our nation's youth to take on the mantle of justice and equality.

Today, Dr. King is still calling to our youth to stand up, speak out and march on behalf of those who can't or won't do it for themselves. South Holland resident Jeffrey Rush and his family answered Dr. King's call. This past February, in collaboration with his brother Donald, the Rush family released a song, A Dream of Peace to honor Dr. King, and their father Henry Rush.

"My father, Henry Rush (pictured right), originally penned the song The Story of Martin Luther King, said Jeffrey. "It was recorded and performed by the legendary gospel group the Norfleet brothers. My brother Donald and I rewrote the song and had my daughter, Kennedy Rush and niece, Noelani McComb (pictured below l-r), to record the vocals."

Henry Rush died in 2004 leaving a rich and deep rooted history of African-American achievements reminiscent of Dr. King's call to stand up and speak out. Henry was a trailblazer and voice for many African Americans in Chicago through the 1960s. As a young disc jockey from Alabama, Henry made a name for himself in the city as the creator of the swing session show on WXRT in 1967. Rush later launched Mail Call on WGN radio, a postal worker's news show, and produced the first exclusive Christmas special on Channel 26, featuring the postal workers choir.

Henry didn't stop there. As a singer and songwriter, he founded Rush Record company where his song The Story of Martin Luther King was written and recorded. He was a man of many talents who was committed to his faith, family and future.



"My father left his family a legacy to continue when he wrote this song," said Jeffrey. "His song is very relevant for our youth today. When we look around and see what is happening with our young men and women who are struggling with so many issues, we have to send a message to them that resonates and inspires them."

The Rush family recently hosted A Dream of Peace record release red carpet event at Kennedy King College and sang at Operation PUSH to promote the song. They also have been promoting the record on WKKC radio and other local radio shows and community events.

"This is an important time in our history," said Dr. Maureen Rush, wife of Jeffrey Rush. "Children need to understand that the pathway has been paved with the lives of people who worked hard to make it easier for them. They have a responsibility to pick up the baton and not let their ancestor's work be in vain."

This record is an honor not only to Dr. King but also to Henry Rush who was inspired by Dr. King who said, "The time is always right to do what is right." A Dream of Peace can be purchased on Amazon.com, CD Baby and iTunes. You can also find out more about the A Dream of Peace part two at <http://adreamofpeace.webs.com>.

Jeffrey Rush and his family are South Holland residents you should know.



LIBRARY

Library Makeover Focuses on Family and Youth Services

If you haven't recently visited the South Holland Library, you're in for a real treat. Over the last year, the lower level (pictured below) has transformed into a new world to open the minds, eyes and ears of young residents. With newly opened spaces, brightly colored walls, additional computers, gaming stations, and a host of new book genres and titles, neighborhood youth have a place to visit daily and engage in positive activities.

This is no traditional library space. Large video monitors for gaming, comfortable lounge chairs, a vending machine, and tables for craft projects fill the space. All the comforts that a young crowd would enjoy are available. Youth Services also has expanded its programming to meet the needs and requests from parents looking to participate in activities with their children.

"The toddler play area has been remodeled and we've added a new program space to accommodate more family activities," said Koll. "Parents appreciate being able to engage with their kids. We've seen participation increase three to four times over the last year and we're excited to be able to provide more activities for them."

A big part of the increase in family participation has been that programming age ranges have been expanded to accommodate families with multiple children. Youth Services has programs for children from birth to 18 years. This offers many families the chance to include everyone in the fun. And fun is a big part of the learning.

The Youth Services department has Lego Clubs, Robotics, Museum of Science and Industry STEM programs, Paws to Read, needle craft, knitting, cross stitch, and so much more. Teen programming has expanded to include cultural activities like anime and manga club that explores Japanese art, storytelling and graphic novels. Teens are also encouraged to participate in program development and implementation through the Teen Advisory Board.

Youth Services also has expanded its Spanish book selection and service. "We've increased the number of Spanish books, particularly for early readers and have bilingual staff to communicate with Spanish speaking families.

This summer Youth Services will host its summer reading program with a kick-off party on June 4. There will be a petting zoo, a host of family activities and food. This is one of the many ways that Youth Services brings attention to programs that encourage young readers to make reading a lifetime habit.

The South Holland Public Library is located at 16250 Wausau Avenue. To learn more about programs and services, call 708-331-5262.

New Youth Services Offerings

- Teen Advisory Board
- Summer reading program
- Anime and Manga club
- Paws to Read
- Museum of Science and Industry programming – STEM focus
- Robotics
- Bilingual staff and early childhood reading materials
- Lego club
- Knitting and stitching



Family Swim

FRIDAYS
7:00PM - 9:00PM
\$4 RES. / \$7 NON RES.
No Admittance after 8 PM



FAMILY SWIM DATES

JUNE 17

*

JULY 1

*

JULY 15

*

AUGUST 5

*

AUGUST 19

South Holland Community Center
501 E. 170th St.

WISDOM FROM OUR CHURCHES

Far-Sighted Pain

By Pastor Matt Waterstone
First Reformed Church of South Holland

This past week I finished teaching Christian Worldview for another cohort at Trinity Christian College. This cohort was just ten students, four males and six females. There were two Muslims and at least five non-practicing Catholics. Some of the students are older and looking for a second career. Other students are in their mid-twenties, already having gone to at least three different colleges, four different majors, and have racked up at least \$25,000 in student debt. Their last assignment is an oral presentation on their final Worldview paper. It's roughly a 5-minute presentation with some follow-up questions and answers. I was reminded once again of the normalcy of brokenness which is a part of all of our stories. One guy shared how his 26-year-old brother died last year from cancer. A female student shared openly about being in an abusive relationship. Another student shared the painful journey of the incarceration of her ex-husband. Another student shared how her father died last April from early on-set Alzheimer's. Another student was honest enough to share his deepest fears of fitting in and not fitting in with certain groups of friends.

I sat in the back row jotting down notes just reminded again at how the one thing which unites all of our stories is pain. This wildly diverse group of people all had some story, some nugget, some experience of pain. I was humbled by their candor. I was encouraged by their testimony. I was thankful to be a part of a cohort that was willing to be vulnerable with each other. Still, I couldn't help but think, "What's the Christian answer to all this pain?" As the pastor and professor in the room, I felt compelled in some way to provide an answer or at least some context to their pain. I didn't. I couldn't. It's one thing to name those painful experiences, but it's an entirely and completely different narrative trying to make sense of such pain.



To be honest, I think we try and make immediate sense of that pain by justifying it somehow. We're better, stronger, and more compassionate as a result of it. But as I look in my own life, am I a better pastor as a result of my parent's divorce? Sure. But I would trade my parents having a healthy marriage that celebrates 30 years over having gone through the carnage that is divorce. And absolutely, I'm eternally grateful for the sacrifices that my mom and others made for me to fill in those voids along the way. Or think about a stillborn baby or kids chained to addiction or car crashes that take lives. Don't you think we'd rather learn pain another way? You know what I mean? I could have learned the lessons of life's pain in a far less debilitating way. So while we might try to justify pain in some immediate sense, that answer still leaves me unsatisfied.

So maybe it's as simple and as complicated as in the end, God's vision of peace on earth wins out, right? I mean, we believe that. The Bible assures us of this. In the end, love, hope, peace and grace win out. Every tear will be wiped away. The lion will lie down with the lamb. The dragon will be cast out and the lamb is on the throne. That's it, my friends. So in a lot of ways it means that we need to do the difficult work of being far-sighted when it comes to our experience with pain. Seeing beyond our own temporal experiences. Seeing the justice and the grace of God in the midst of pain. Seeing the loving kindness from individuals who are conduits of God smack dab in the middle of pain.

Is that a cop-out answer? Maybe some will think so. But it's what I need to believe. I need to believe that in the end of all this pain and suffering, we know we have a real sense of home and wholeness in God's redemptive plan made perfect in Jesus Christ. In the end, it's all we've got, right? And maybe that's more than just enough.

Flood Proofing **SERIES**

Flood insurance - a wise investment

It is difficult to think of flood plains without also thinking of flooding. And nobody likes it when their home or business or neighborhood gets flooded. But flood plain areas are now also recognized as having an intrinsic value of their own as a part of the interconnected ecosystem and an influential role in increasing a community's quality of life. For example, the recognized benefits of a naturally functioning flood plain include the storage and conveyance of flood waters, the recharging of groundwater, the maintenance of surface water quality, and the provision of habitats for fish and wildlife.

These areas also provide diverse recreational opportunities, scenic value, and a source of community identity and pride. Clearly the potential gains of transforming stream and river flood plains from problem areas into value-added community assets are substantial.

Floods have caused a greater loss of life and property and have disrupted more families and communities in the United States than all other natural hazards combined. Despite the expenditure of tens of billions of tax dollars for structural measures, such as dams, levees, and channel projects to try to control flood waters, flood losses continue to rise. Thus, a new way of thinking about flood plain management has emerged in recent years that focuses on hazard mitigation. Flood hazard mitigation places greater emphasis on trying to adapt to the natural phenomena of flooding such as by maintaining flood hazard areas as open space, and less on trying to control floodwaters.

Flood plains play a valuable role in providing natural and beneficial functions to the area around, and including South Holland. Floodplains that are relatively undisturbed provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. These benefits provide aesthetic pleasures as well as function to provide active processes such as filtering nutrients. The Little Calumet River at Gouwens Park and Veterans Park, are both floodplains. Both are used as a means of recreation, discovery and are considered "wetlands". Both floodplains contain historic and archeological sites that provide opportunity for education and study. Both enhance waterfowl, fish and other wildlife habitats and provide feeding/ breeding grounds. Both floodplains provide natural erosion control and open space so further flooding damage does not occur.

The Village of South Holland is working to improve the flood plain for natural and recreational purposes. Gouwens Park and Sports Complex has a wetland and a bikeway. The Village is cleaning up the banks and channels both for flood protection and appearance purposes. The Gouwens Park wetland mitigation site consists of approximately 5 acres of native prairie, native wetland plantings, and open water. The site will remain as a natural wetland/prairie complex on the park property. In its natural setting, the site is used by a variety of wildlife and could easily be used for environmental education. In addition, the area undergoes flooding from the adjacent river and was designed to function in that manner. Who knows? Someday the river front may be the main attraction in town.

It is important to recognize that the flood plains serve many functions besides carrying or storing floodwaters. Thus, we should keep the water as clean as possible to help fish and other wildlife. Here are some things residents can do to protect the river:

- Bag or compost all yard waste.
- Take used motor oil to a licensed recycling plant.
- Do not wash paints, thinners, anti-freeze, and other chemicals into the street. Take leftovers to a household hazardous waste collection center.
- Cover bare soil with a mulch and seed it as soon as possible to minimize erosion.
- Carefully apply lawn chemicals and limit the amount of fertilizers and pesticides being used.
- Keep as much green areas as possible as natural or man-made drainage swales. Plant plenty of trees and shrubs.

Watersheds—the Big Picture

While it is important for communities to plan and take responsibility for the land uses that occur in their own flood plains, it must be recognized that flood level and water quality can be very much affected by land use activities occurring elsewhere in the watershed. Land uses along tributaries are likely to have an impact on downstream communities. Wise management of tributaries is therefore extremely important, as their protection can yield benefits for the entire network. Broad planning efforts among communities with a watershed can thus have far-reaching advantages.

Flood-proofing projects pay dividends for South Holland residents

Now that the rainy season is upon us, Planning, Development and Code Enforcement (Code) reminds residents of flood assistance programs available to qualified applicants for pre-approved flood-proofing projects.

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 Flood Assistance Rebate and a Sewer Back-up Pilot Program may be available for the following projects:

SURFACE WATER PROJECTS

- Diversion of downspout water
- Flood walls

SEWER BACKUP PROJECTS

- Overhead sewers (repairs and installation)
- Removal of sump pump and down spout connections from sanitary sewers
- Back flow valves

SUBSURFACE PROJECTS

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

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

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

Homeowners are advised to allow plenty of time to secure the required pre-approval and minimum of two bid proposals from contractors.

These are great programs and many residents who have taken advantage of this opportunity are grateful for the benefit that comes with flood proofing their home.



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