



South Holland TODAY

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016





South Holland's Winter Wonderland

Friday, December 2 & 9 at 6:00 PM

Join...

Mayor Don De Graff
Clerk Dr. Sallie Penman
Trustee Larry DeYoung
Trustee Cynthia Nylen
Trustee Andrew Johnson, Jr.
Trustee Vickie L. Perkins
Trustee Prince Reed
Trustee John Sullivan

Veterans Memorial Park
500 E. 160th Place
South Holland

*Hot chocolate, coffee and
other treats will be served.*

Schedule of Activities

December 2, 2016

Holiday Lights Ceremony 6:00 p.m.
Santa Comes to Town 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Trolley Rides 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Kids Train Rides • Face Painting
Balloons • Live Music
Refreshments

December 9, 2016

Chocolate Night 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Chocolate Treats and More
Available for Purchase
Kids Train Rides
Pictures With Santa
Holiday Carolers

www.southholland.org

HAPPENINGS

Quiet Zones Approved and Active

In 2015, the village successfully acquired approval for Quiet Zone designation at four at-grade railroad 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. Following approval, the South Holland Public Works (pictured right) completed the installation of new delineators and signage at certain crossings, resulting in an official approval to activate the four Quiet Zones.



South Holland Master Chorale

Season of Celebration Concerts - October 16 and December 4

The South Holland Master Chorale will hold a concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, at First Reformed Church, 15924 South Park Ave. and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at St. Victor Catholic Church, 553 Hirsch Ave. in Calumet City.

The South Holland Master Chorale, with a growing membership of more than 130 voices, has established itself as one of the premiere singing ensembles in the Chicago Southland. To receive a full schedule of upcoming concerts, visit shchorale.org.



Early Voting

October 24th - November 7th

Thornton Township Hall

This is an election year and early voting will take place Oct. 24 through Nov. 7 at the Thornton Township Hall, 333 E. 162nd St. The hours vary, so please check the schedule online at <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/earlyvoting/Pages/EarlyVotingLocations.aspx>. Election day will be Tuesday, Nov. 8. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Mayor's Coffee & Holiday Closings

Mark Your Calendar

The next Mayor's Coffee is 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 13, at the South Holland Community Center. This is a non-agenda meeting with Mayor Don De Graff, along with members of the village board and the administration.

Also, keep in mind that most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed on Oct. 10 in honor of Columbus Day; Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day; Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving; and Monday, Dec. 26 for Christmas.



Mayor's Leadership Awards

Now Accepting Nominations for 2017

Mayor's Leadership Awards are presented to residents who demonstrate outstanding leadership and service to the community and who reflect South Holland's values of Faith, Family and Future.

Awards are presented during the bi-ennial Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in February.

Nomination forms are available online at southholland.org, as well as in-person at Village Hall, 16226 Wausau Avenue.



FIRE

Annual Fire and Rescue Parade of Lights

The South Holland Fire Department sponsored its annual Parade of Lights on Tues., Oct. 11, in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9-15.

The department was joined by many other suburban fire departments in a silent tribute to fallen firefighters and citizens who have suffered a loss in fire emergencies. Firefighting apparatus, including fire engines, fire aerial ladder trucks, squad cars, and ambulances, formed a lights only parade through the streets of the villages of South Holland, Thornton and Homewood. The parade concluded at the Homewood Fire Station, 17950 Dixie Highway, in honor of Homewood Firefighter, Brian Carey. Prior to the parade, there was a brief public remembrance service at Thorn Creek Reformed Church, 1875 E. 170th St., hosted by Fire Chief Brian Kolosh, with South Holland Fire Chaplain, Pastor Matt Waterstone of First Reformed Church.



Focus on Fire Safety in the Kitchen

With the onset of holiday season cooking, it is important to focus on fire safety and prevention. Cooking fires increase during the holidays as families and friends gather to celebrate. By following general fire safety precautions, potential holiday fires, deaths, and injuries remain preventable.

The South Holland Fire Department offers the following safe cooking tips to help keep holiday dinner safe and enjoyable.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, towels or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Always keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing. Have the oven serviced before you use it again.
- Replace the battery in smoke/carbon monoxide detectors twice per year, and keep units clear of dust and cob webs.

Source: National Fire Protection Agency

South Holland's Winter Wonderland

**Friday, December 2 and 9
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Veterans Memorial Park

520 East 160th Place

www.southholland.org

MAYOR'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Mayor's Leadership Awards are presented to residents who demonstrate outstanding leadership and service to the community and who reflect South Holland's values of Faith, Family and Future.

**NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2017
DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2016**

Awards are presented during the bi-ennial Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in February.

Nomination forms are available online at southholland.org, as well as in-person at Village Hall, 16226 Wausau Avenue.



PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works is Working for You

This summer, the village resurfaced two streets, Church Drive between Gouwens Lane and 157th Street, and King Drive between Woodlawn East and 156th Street. Resurfacing enhances roadway safety and improves ride comfort.

Dates to remember:

Oct. 31 will be the last day for chipping branches before trucks transition for winter snow removal.

Nov. 30 is the last day for pick-up of yard waste.

Starting **Dec. 1** residents can use yard waste containers for trash.

Branch pick up will resume in April.

Winter weather reminders:

Please help emergency personnel during the winter months by removing snow from around fire hydrants in your yard. Emergency personnel appreciate help with hydrant snow removal, as it can help save lives when residential fires occur during the winter. Residents are also reminded that automobiles parked in the street are subject to tow after snowfalls of 2 inches or more.



Facelift at Freedom Circle

The roundabout, known as Freedom Circle in honor of military veterans and public safety personnel, recently received a facelift. In mid-September, the pavement of the roundabout was re-stamped to provide a fresh, clean surface just in time for the community's annual Heritage Haul race. "This improvement is part of the village's Vision 2022 - Clean, Bright and Beautiful initiative," said George Gunkel, Director of South Holland's Department of Public Works. "I greatly appreciate the patience and understanding of our residents and businesses during the two days Freedom Circle was closed. This allowed us to complete the re-stamping project quickly and expeditiously." Freedom Circle, located at 166th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue, was installed in 2008, as part of Cook County's larger infrastructure improvement project of Cottage Grove Avenue, from 162nd Street to 170th Street.



MAYOR'S COFFEE

MWRD Raised Awareness of Flood Issues

By Mary Ann Thornton

Mayor Don De Graff, along with members of the village board and administration, welcomed David St. Pierre, executive director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), to the Mayor's Coffee this past September. St. Pierre was among a small group of subject matter experts on hand to help the community better understand the structure of storm and sanitary sewers, and potential ways to mitigate flooding problems. Also present at the quarterly coffee were representatives of Perma-Seal, Eveready Flood Control, South Holland's flood programs, and homeowners insurance companies.

In addition to fielding a host of relevant questions from the audience, St. Pierre shared his in-depth knowledge of why flooding happens in the State of Illinois, the Chicagoland region, and more specifically, in the Village of South Holland. He noted that the heavy summer rain event, which occurred on July 29, coupled with excessive rainfall on August 20, would be considered a 100-year rain event. These storm events resulted in temporary street closures, flooding, and sanitary sewer overflow/back-ups throughout the Village of South Holland.

According to St. Pierre, our community has significantly reduced overbank river flooding due to MWRD's Diversion Tunnel and Transitional Reservoir project, which has been in operation since 2003. By reducing the amount of Thorn Creek and Little Calumet river water that reaches South Holland during excessive rainfalls throughout the region, the number of homes and businesses in flood plains has reduced from 2,000 down to 45.

Additionally, MWRD's 2015 opening of the Deep Tunnel and Thornton Reservoir has helped a small portion of our community that are serviced with a combined storm and sanitary sewer system, in alleviating sewer overflows and back-ups. Unlike Chicago and many neighboring communities, the majority of South Holland has a more modern, separated sewer system, which is designed to keep storm water separated from sanitary sewage for environmental purposes.

During his Mayor's Coffee presentation, St. Pierre advised property owners to explore flood mitigation based on their specific issues. There are a number of possible projects that can be done to alleviate the incidents of flooding of properties. For some, the mitigation will come in the form of installing overhead sewers or backflow devices. For others, flood relief may be accomplished by the repair of foundation cracks, the waterproofing of foundation walls, the installation of drainage tiles, or by simply redirecting downspouts away from the home.

To assist with the cost of these projects, the Village of South Holland has two flood prevention programs to help property owners – the Flood Assistance Rebate Program and the Sewer Backup Prevention Pilot Program. To learn more about flood mitigation projects that may best fit your specific flooding challenge, contact the South Holland Planning, Development and Code Enforcement Department at 708-210-2950.

Lastly, the Public Works Department continues to actively lead village efforts in addressing the frequency of flooding in certain areas, including:

- exploratory telescoping of storm and sanitary sewer lines upon request,
- regular testing of all sanitary sewer lift stations, which have been deemed to be operating at maximum capacity, and
- pre-cautionary testing of 120,000 feet of main sanitary sewer lines using sonar-technology.

For any questions concerning Public Works' flood mitigation projects, call the department at 709-339-2323.



David St. Pierre, Executive Director of MWRD, was guest speaker at the Mayor's Coffee

NEW WATER BILL ROLL OUT COMING SOON!

While water customers will receive a new water bill, they can expect the same reliable service and various payment options. The new letter-size bill is expected to be introduced in November 2016. Convenient payment options remain intact, including direct payment from a bank account and online payment through the State of Illinois E-Pay system, which can be accessed from a personal computer or via the village's mobile app from a smart phone or tablet. IL E-Pay is free, so water customers will not incur a service or processing fee when payments are made online using E-Pay. In addition, in-person payment at Village Hall will continue to be available.

Water bills are released to customers at the start of every month, and payment is due by the 20th of every month.

Water customers should feel free to contact the Clerk & Collector's Office with any questions regarding the new bill. The number is 708-210-2900. Additional information is also available online at southholland.org.



SH POLICE DEPARTMENT MAKES NEW HOME OFFICIAL

The former bank building at 16330 South Park Avenue is now officially home to the South Holland Police Department, accommodating a team of more than 60, including officers, administrative and support staff. The department made the transition late summer, and on October 3, they celebrated the completion of this progressive Vision 2022 project with an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony. Conducting the ribbon cutting ceremony were Mayor Don De Graff, Trustee Andrew Johnson, Jr., and Police Chief Greg Baker. In addition to the ceremony, police officers conducted a series of tours of the new facility for the sizeable audience that attended the event.





TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS

HALLOWEEN WILL BE
CELEBRATED ON MONDAY,
OCT. 31,
TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS
ARE 4-7 P.M.

- Check your children's candy before they eat it! Send them out with "safe" starter candy.
- Remind children to NEVER enter anyone's home or car.
- Set a time for older trick-or-treaters to be home and remind them to call 911 if there is unlawful or suspicious activity.
- Tie small glow sticks or use reflective tape on your child's costume so they are easily seen in the dark.
- Avoid costumes with cumbersome masks that can obstruct your child's vision and hearing.
- Always walk. Never run across the street. Children should obey all traffic signs and look both ways before crossing the street.
- Use available sidewalks and crosswalks, and never cross the street between parked cars, in the middle of the block or diagonally through intersections.
- AVOID replica toy guns as they may be mistaken for the real thing!
- Use Jack-O-Lanterns or high intensity glow sticks to light porch steps to ensure trick-or-treaters do not trip.
- Only trick-or-treat in neighborhoods where you know residents and at houses with porch lights on.
- Make sure young children are accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager when they go door to door, and trick or treat in groups.
- Carry a flash light to help illuminate you and your party when crossing the street.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Hip Hop Gets Kids of All Ages Moving

By Ronda Williams

Hip hop is more than just music with a driving beat and stirring lyrics. It's a creative, freeing and enjoyable expression of life.

For Creeana Fobbs, hip hop dance instructor at the South Holland Community Center, teaching dance is a passion that she enjoys sharing with young people. Creeana believes that giving children a little encouragement and a lot of patience goes a long way. And she knows because she's seen it firsthand.

"I recall a little girl who wouldn't dance at all. She didn't participate in any of the activities," said Creeana. "After a few classes she surprised me when at the end of the class, she danced the entire routine that I taught earlier. You never know the impact that you have on kids, even when you think they aren't paying attention."

Every hip hop class starts with floor routine warm-ups that includes stretching and elongated body movements. The kids then go from one side of the room to the other doing high kicks to get their blood flowing and continue stretching. These warm ups help them to prevent injuries and sore muscles.

"After the kids are all warmed up, we start with our dance routine," says Creeana. "I keep the dances simple, yet fun, so everyone feels comfortable and enjoys the class. The big deal for me is that everyone has a good time."

Creeana began her own love affair with dance when she was five years old, dancing in her mother's dance studio. Her love of dance continued through her college years at Southern Illinois University where she was captain of the marching band dance team, a choreographer at the Southern Illinois Dance Company, and a competitor on a national level with the Salukis Shakers.

This coming fall, Creeana plans to showcase her students dance moves at a winter Christmas event held at the community center. This will give parents the chance to see the dance routines the kids have learned throughout the year and celebrate their accomplishments.

If you're interested in getting your little ones moving, contact the South Holland Community Center, 708-331-2940, or visit online at southholland.org/recservices. Hip hop dance classes are held every Saturday between 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., and is open to girls and boys ages five to 18. There are two class levels split between younger and older students. Get your kids moving more with an activity they won't soon forget!



"You never know the impact that you have on kids, even when you think they aren't paying attention."

— Creeana Fobbs

RESIDENT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Former Guardsman gives back to South Holland Community

By Ronda Williams



Giving back and living to serve are what drive Jamieson Clay to make a positive change in South Holland.

A 16-year resident, Clay left the West Side of Chicago in search of a diverse, safe and thriving community for his family. With his wife Valerie and son Darius in tow, the Clay family found their home in the village

where they quickly became part of the thread that makes this community so special.

Growing up on Chicago's West Side as a student at Westinghouse High School, Clay's mother strongly encouraged him to participate in ROTC.

"Well, I really didn't have a choice to participate in ROTC," says Clay. "My mother wanted me to develop lifelong discipline, structure and order. ROTC was her way of making sure I did just that."

After his first year in ROTC, Clay was given the choice to leave the program. He decided to stay. This decision led him to join the National Guard where he served from 1989 to 1999.

While in the Guard, he became an expert in military grade weaponry. He was promoted to 1st

Sergeant and received a service medal while on active duty during Operation Desert Storm.

Clay's service didn't stop there. Once he and his family became South Holland residents, Clay immediately found other opportunities where he felt he could best contribute.

So for 13 years, he has been an Emergency Service Disaster Agency volunteer. In this role, Clay assists police with non-emergency patrols, such as crowd and traffic control, search and rescue from natural disasters, and weather spotting for the protection of community residents.

In 2008, after participating in a South Holland Community (Diversity) Dinner, Clay was encouraged by Mayor Don De Graff to get involved with the Economic Development Commission (EDC). Clay wanted to share his ideas for helping the business community thrive after the 2008 housing crash. Again, with a spirit of service and dedication to the community, Clay volunteered, and currently serves as co-chair of the commission.

"This was an especially challenging time for the village," said Clay. "I thought I could help with ideas to bring businesses back to our community."

To get things going, the EDC conducted a resident survey to better understand what types

of businesses and services people wanted to see. They also engaged the University of Illinois to conduct an economic study to learn what business opportunities would be a fit within the village.

The combination of these two projects, along with many hours of discussion, led to some of the new businesses we see today, including Panera Bread and Love's Travel Stop.

He is very optimistic about the future of community business growth, and as part of the EDC, he is working on ways that provide residents many opportunities to live, shop and be entertained in South Holland.

Clay is a member of Living Springs Community Church in Glenwood, where he will soon be ordained as a pastor.

"Diversity is very important to me and I've found that in my community and at church," says Clay.

Clay is invested in the community for the long haul. And his most important role is just beginning as a proud grandfather to his five-year-old granddaughter, Xyaria, who is a student at Calvin Christian School.

Jamieson Clay is committed to his community and is a South Holland resident you should know.

HARVEST FOOD DRIVE

The month of November marks the start of the holiday season with the anticipation of Thanksgiving. In South Holland, November is a season of giving and caring for others. With this in mind, community members, including students from Thornton Township High School District 205, as well as many volunteers from the area, gather annually on the 2nd Saturday of November to deliver food donation bags to residents in the community. The following weekend, students and volunteers return to collect bags of donated food for the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, located at 16100 Seton Road, South Holland. Young adults from the local high school district and dedicated volunteers help to make this event a success year after year. Please join students on Saturday morning, November 12 and 19, from 7 to 11 a.m., at the Food Pantry housed in the former Seton Academy building.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS!

ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 12TH Volunteers will deliver paper bags to residents in all of South Holland neighborhoods. To participate, please fill the bag with non-expired canned goods and place it outside the front doors of your home for pick-up..

ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 19TH Volunteers will return between the hours of 8 and 11 a.m. to pick up filled paper bags that are left outside the front doors and deliver to the Food Pantry.

Please help support this great cause to help feed the hungry. For more information about this initiative or to donate, call Christopher Torres at 708-333-9239 or Linda Abbott at 708-339-6010.

The **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Kirk's BBQ Opens in South Holland

By Bob Bong

Over the past three years, Kirk Edwards had made a name for himself through his delicious barbecued ribs and chicken sold at farmers markets throughout the south suburbs.

Earlier this year, he decided there was enough demand to try his luck with a brick and mortar location.

That dream came to fruition for Edwards and his wife, Denina, on Aug. 19 when they cut the ribbon to officially open Kirk's BBQ at 16102 South Park Ave.

"The customers decided they wanted Kirk's barbecue more than once a week," he said.

Kirk said the secret to his success is an old family recipe concocted by his father.

"It's a down-home Southern sauce," he said, adding that he has tweaked the recipe a bit.

Kirk's BBQ has already been featured on Channel 7's "Windy City Live," thanks to co-host Val Warner.

Kirk's is closed Sunday and Monday. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

For information, call Kirk's BBQ at 708-574-6001.



Little Caesars Opens

Little Caesars is officially open in South Holland at 1000 E. 162nd Street in the Pacesetter Shopping Plaza. Hours of operation are Sun.-Thurs.: 10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. (lobby), Drive-thru open until 10 p.m.; Fri. and Sat.: 10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. (lobby); Drive-thru open until 11 p.m. For more information, call the store at 708-331-7380.

New Business

By Bob Bong

In other business openings, PRC Transportation added a learning center on Aug. 25 when it officially cut the ribbon at 401 E. 162nd St., Suite 103.

Recent openings include

- Gas Depot at 15 E. Sibley
- Li Nails at 1056 E. 162nd St.
- JF Freight Co. at 310 W. 162nd St.
- 3R Healthcare Products Inc. at 543 W. Taft Drive
- Geos Auto Body Repair, 16647 Vincennes Ave.
- Bartkowski Life Safety Corp. at 140 W. 168th St.
- Smith & Son Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners at 16411 Evans Ave.
- Salter Decorating Service, 15548 South Park Ave.
- Rose Cleaning, 808 E. 160th Place



Passport Achievement Lab Celebrates Student Achievement

After one year in business, Passport Achievement Lab (PAL) After-school Learning Center is celebrating the achievements of its students. Owner and founder, Michelle Johnson, is excited to share how PAL scholars (students) have made major improvements on standardized test scores and achieving in the classroom. What brings her more joy is seeing their confidence boost by making small wins. As an educator, administrator, and owner of PAL, Johnson believes all children can succeed. They just need others to believe they can. PAL is ramped up for the new school year to continue its meaningful work of helping scholars who need intervention in reading and math, first-12th grade. To learn more about PAL's after-school program, visit the website at palscholar.com.

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS



“Magnetic Line of Force”

Exhibition by Jeff Stevenson

Open Through October 20

Lee E. Dulgar Gallery
South Suburban College
15800 South State Street
South Holland, IL 60473

Gallery Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 AM to 6 PM • Friday 9 am to 4 pm

South Holland Master Chorale

Music For Celebration

First Reformed Church of South Holland
15924 South Park Ave
South Holland, IL

Sunday, October 16, 2016

4:00 p.m.

Music by Haydn, Handel, Widor,
and Mascagni, as well as
spirituals and a newly-composed piece.

Free Concert & Reception
Open to the Public

LIBRARY

Fall Fun Festivities for All

Fall fun is around the corner at the South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Avenue.

The Youth Services Department has a number of events planned for kids of all ages including pumpkin painting, a Day of the Dead celebration, the science of cooking, and more.

The annual Youth Services Halloween Party will take place on **Monday, Oct. 31**. Come dressed in your best to play games, make crafts, and eat tasty treats!

Excited for the new J.K. Rowling (author of the Harry Potter series) movie? Well, in November, the library will have fun events and activities to get you ready for *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

In the Public Services Department, there are a variety of events taking place for adults this fall, including jewelry making, designing holiday cards, adult coloring, essential oils making classes, coffee tasting, and many other exciting activities. The library is introducing three sessions of conversational Spanish classes where participants will learn basic words and phrases to communicate with each other.

Shredding Service

The semi-annual shredding event will take place Saturday, Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. until noon. The truck will be parked at the south end of the library's parking lot.

With so many activities this fall, there's no reason for the entire family not to visit the South Holland library.

Information about all of these events and more can be found at shlibrary.org/events-calendar/.



SALUTES

Three make NIU Dean's List

Northern Illinois University recently announced its Spring 2016 Dean's List students.

Information released by NIU's Office of Registration and Records indicate Dean's List students from South Holland include:

Travis Ellison, College of Engineering; Shavonne Stephenson, College of Health & Human Sciences; and Fatima Taylor, College of Education.

To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Let's Connect:

Connect with us from your mobile device. Download the Village of South Holland app today. Also, for the latest news and list of upcoming events, visit southholland.org.

Let's get social on Facebook @villageofsouthholland.



WISDOM FROM OUR CHURCHES

The CHANGER Who Changes Not

Isn't it wonderful to know that God is responsible for the change of seasons! This word "change" implies a fundamental difference and transformation of one thing to another. And as God transforms the seasons, His divine purpose for each season is being fulfilled. So, we are thankful for the rain that falls and for the directions of the wind that blows. We thank God for the brightness of the rays of the sun and the glistening of the beautiful white snow that falls from the heavens. God has purpose in everything and He is the CHANGER who can change anything and He changes not. Malachi 3:6 reminds us what God says, "For I am the Lord, I change not." And in Hebrews 13:8, we learn that Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Man, because of his heart change, plants the Fruit of the Spirit that the book of Galatians speaks of, which includes seeds of love, joy, peace, kindness and goodness (just to name a few). With love being the center of this planting, man expects to reap a great harvest.

So, as we embark upon this Thanksgiving season and this time of great harvest in every way, we pause and reflect on the goodness of our God to us and to all of mankind. We are thankful for family, friends, and our future in God as we live by His faith. Because He has changed our hearts, we thank Him that we can love our neighbor as thyself. (Matthew 19:19). I encourage you today, to allow the CHANGER to change your life. You will begin to "see" clearly; have a better perspective on life; and choose to love God because He first loved us and gave Himself for us on the Cross at Calvary. During this Thanksgiving season, let's be forever grateful to God for being the CHANGER who changes not!!

Blessings,

Evangelist Betty Wilson
Breaking of Bread Fellowship

Flood Proofing **SERIES**

Why flooding sometimes occurs in South Holland?

Overbank Flooding

South Holland is subject to overbank flooding from three sources: the Little Calumet River, Thorn Creek, and the Calumet Union Drainage Ditch. The Little Calumet River flows through the Village from east to west. The Little Calumet drains northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana via several tributaries. At South Holland, the river's watershed is over 200 square miles. A small tributary, Thorn Ditch, drains the central part of South Holland. Its overbank flooding is caused by backwater from the Little Calumet.

Thorn Creek flows from the south and joins the Little Calumet on the southeast side of town. Thorn Creek collects water from Deer, North, and Butterfield Creeks, and Lansing Ditch. The Thorn Creek basin drains over 100 square miles, accounting for over half of the water that enters the Little Calumet at South Holland.

The third stream is the Calumet Union Drainage Ditch, a man-made ditch that drains 18 square miles of the Markham and Harvey areas to the west. It joins the Little Calumet River in the west part of the Village.

Most of the Village's overbank flooding problem is in the Little Calumet River's floodplain. Because the area is so flat, the flooding of one stream is accompanied by flooding on the other two. Therefore, while there are three sources of overbank flooding, the problem is treated as one floodplain.

Flooding History

Flooding has occurred in South Holland's streams since the last glacier left Illinois. Early settlers avoided building too close to the rivers. As late as the 1940s, large areas of the south suburbs remained vacant, primarily because it was too marshy to build on. These areas were used by the rivers to carry and hold excess rain runoff and snow melt.

Beginning in the late 1940s, this scene changed as the Chicago area population expanded to the south. Urban development put pressure on the vacant land along the rivers. The floodplains were built up during the 1950s and 60s, primarily with single-family housing. It was not until the 1970s that local governments passed floodplain management regulations to require the elevation of new buildings in the floodplain. Since then, floodplain development has slowed down, but developers still fill floodprone areas for new homes or commercial properties.

In the 1920s, the Calumet-Sag channel was

completed and the Little Calumet received an additional outlet. Instead of flowing into the Grand Calumet and Lake Michigan, most of its water now flows west through the Cal-Sag to the Des Plaines River. There are locks on both the Cal-Sag and the Grand Calumet to control low flows.

At the other end, Burns Ditch was connected to Lake Michigan in the 1920s. During high flows, the Indiana portion of the Little Cal drains west. These two diversions mark the northwest and eastern limits of the Little Calumet River's watershed.

With post-war growth to the south of Chicago, farmlands were replaced with roofs, parking lots, streets, gutters, storm sewers, and more ditches. Under urban development, more rainwater ran off the land and into the rivers and it ran off faster. As with floodplain regulations, it was not until the 1970s that communities began stormwater management regulations that require developments to restrict runoff.

In short, while the rivers of the Little Calumet basin flooded in the past, the problem has escalated since the 1940s. Until 1981, the worst flood on record for all three streams was in July 1957. Heavy summer storms caused widespread flooding in northeastern Illinois. The subsequent flood on the nearby Kankakee river was estimated at being a 750-year flood.

The 1957 flood was exceeded in 1981 by another flood caused by summer storms. While there was not as much rain as in 1957, the 1981 flood caused much more damage because there was more development. Because so many homes and businesses were affected, the June 1981 flood resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the area. Another presidential declaration followed the December 1982 flood.

One of South Holland's worst floods on record occurred in late November 1990. Heavy local storms caused the Little Calumet and its tributaries to rise higher than before, over half a foot higher than the 1981 record.

Flood Data

Flood heights have been recorded since 1947 on a river gauge that is currently located at the Cottage Grove Avenue bridge over the Little Calumet. Recorded flood heights can be shown in stage or in elevation. Stage is measured in feet above an arbitrary starting point that was set when the gauge was first installed. Elevations are in feet above sea level.

"Flood stage" is the elevation where the river leaves its banks. There is no official "flood

stage" for the Little Calumet. Yards and parks are flooded when the river reaches an elevation of approximately 590 feet above sea level. Buildings are affected at approximately 593 feet.

The 100-year flood at Cottage Grove would reach an elevation of 598.0. The 500-year flood is predicted to crest at an elevation of 601.5, 3 1/2 feet higher than the 100-year flood. As the river flows from east to west, flood elevations are higher in the east and lower in the west. The 10, 100, and 500-year flood elevations for various locations are shown below:

PROJECTED FLOOD ELEVATIONS

River				
Mile*	Location	10-yr.	100-yr.	500-yr.
	Thorn Creek at 170th	596.2	599.5	602.6
9.4	Little Calumet at Eastern Vlg. limit	595.0	598.7	601.8
8.0	Little Calumet at 159th	595.0	598.5	601.8
6.8	Little Calumet at Cottage Grove	594.4	598.0	601.5
5.9	Little Calumet at Calumet Union Ditch	593.8	597.4	601.2
4.4	Little Calumet at Western Vlg. limit	591.7	595.6	600.2
	Cal Union Ditch at Grand Trunk RR	595.3	597.8	601.5

* miles above confluence with Calumet-Sag channel

Village Flood Services

The Code Enforcement office at 16240 Wausau (708/210-2915) provides the following:

- Information on whether a property is in a mapped floodplain, and related flood insurance rate map data;
- General records of past flooding throughout the Village, but not for specific parcels;
- Advice on how to protect a building from water problems;
- Guidance on the laws that govern construction and property improvements, and;
- Site visit (when a lot is part of a flood rebate program and after receipt of at least two estimates from waterproofing companies) to view the cause and suggest possible solutions to a problem.

Flood maps and flood protection references are also available at the South Holland Public Library. We would like to remind everyone that dumping in ditches, storage basins and wetlands is a violation of the Village Code.



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