



South Holland TODAY

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

2 0 1 8



Front (l-r): Clerk Dr. Sallie D. Penman and Mayor Don De Graff,
Back (l-r): Trustees Andrew Johnson, Jr., Larry DeYoung, Vickie Perkins, John R. Russell, Prince Reed, and Cynthia Nylen

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

DEAR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS,

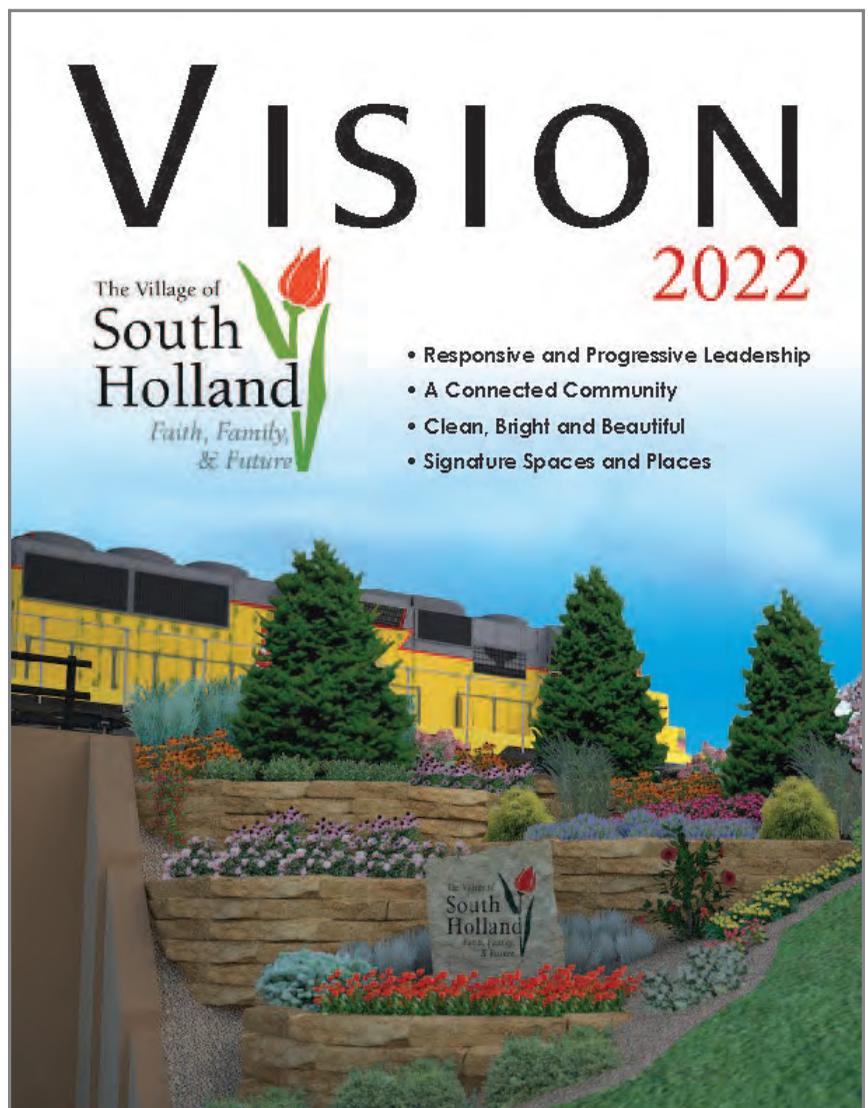
One of the unique privileges I enjoy serving as the Mayor of South Holland includes the ongoing opportunity to interact with our Federal and State Senators and Representatives, County Board Commissioners, Township Officials, as well as fellow Mayors, and municipal and business leaders throughout the Chicago Southland region. If only you could hear the positive feedback about our community as I stand with each of them in a variety of venues and various contexts where I have the pleasure of representing our great Village of South Holland.

Here's the bottom line. The word is definitely out and the message is constant, it's growing, and universally consistent. It is humbling and gratifying. Here it is: We are perceived and, in reality, are known to be a Village that is set apart. The distinctiveness of our historic faith and family value system as identified in our motto is uniquely representing us as a united community connoting honesty and integrity. We are recognized as a Village that works, selflessly serving our residents and business community, having developed a reputation where South Holland is now known as the most responsive and progressive residential and business friendly environment in the entire Chicago Southland region.

There's a reason. Now, having progressed through the first five years of our 10-year strategic plan entitled "Vision 2022," our Village leadership team has set in motion a steady stream of conscious planning and conscientious implementation that has raised the bar. There is a higher standard of quality of essential and non-essential life giving services evidenced by all. These nuances are seen clearly, both by those who are intently watching us outside of our Village boundaries and by those we

daily have the privilege of serving who live, work, worship, and recreate here in South Holland. Yes, the bar has been raised and there is a new foundation for us to build upon as we enter the last five years of "Vision 2022."

As we enter an exciting new year, allow me to share with you some of the progress we experienced in 2017, as well as wetting your appetite for how 2018 will provide for us even more exciting new plans and experiences. All of our Village departments have set priorities within each of the four strategic components of "Vision 2022" and as explained below, they have produced great results and the table is now set for another productive year in 2018.



RESPONSIVE & PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ADMINISTRATION

A healthy organization

The Village of South Holland continues to maintain a healthy, balanced budget, with the village board seeking new revenue sources to keep the tax burden as low as possible for our residents, and annually exceed our operating expenditures. Under the direction of the village administrators, our fiscal readiness and stability set us apart and ensures economic growth continues as a priority for our community. When we have a

healthy balanced budget, new revenues provide for a higher quality of life.

The Village administration continues to emphasize organizational health, by providing middle management and leadership development training programs and by championing employee wellness. These ensure the village maintains a robust leadership succession plan, such as the transition of Shawn Staples to Police Chief, who succeeded retired Chief Greg Baker in 2017.



Mayor Don De Graff (right) extends his congratulations to newly appointed Police Chief Shawn Staples, who took the reins as head of the police department following the retirement of Chief Greg Baker.

Village Hall improvements

As customer care is a foundational value of the Village of South Holland, building improvements have been made in the Village Hall lobby. These aesthetic upgrades, such as new flooring and freshly painted areas, enhance the customer experience as residents stop by the Clerk and Collector's Offices to pay water bills, purchase vehicle stickers and dog tags, apply for an employment opportunity, among other services.



With recent upgrades to the Village Hall, South Holland residents will enjoy a warm and friendly environment when paying their water bill, purchasing a vehicle sticker or dog tag, among other services provided by the Clerk and Collector's Office.

Looking ahead

In 2018, the Education Commission will introduce the new Teacher Appreciation Red Tulip Award. The award is designed to recognize certified teachers in South Holland who demonstrate outstanding service by going beyond their daily duties to improve the educational experience and effectively change the lives of students.

Teachers nominated for the award must demonstrate a high commitment toward student achievement; extend him/herself

beyond the classroom; exhibit enthusiasm about teaching and caring for students; model appropriate behavior for students; and exemplify professionalism.

Nominations can be submitted by South Holland school principals or administrators, only, with a deadline of March 2, 2018. To learn more about this initiative of the Education Commission, visit <http://www.southholland.org/red-tulip-award/>

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

GNRHI

The Planning, Development and Code Enforcement Department (Code) has achieved great progress toward its goal of becoming 100 percent compliant with the village's Good Neighbor Rental Housing Initiative (GNRHI).

Successful Program

The Summer Walking Program and property maintenance inspections resulted in the issuance of 400-plus warning tickets.

High ratings

The department has continued to improve the village's community flood rating (Class 5) per the FEMA Community Rating System.

Looking ahead

In 2018, Planning, Development and Code Enforcement plans to establish an inter-departmental action procedure with the South Holland Police Department for vacant property checks. The department also plans to update the village's building code to comply with the 2018 edition of the International Building Code, as well as, implement a foreclosure registration program.

POLICE/ESDA

Foot Patrol Program gets rave reviews

Foot Patrol is the second generation of an on-the-street program implemented in 2016, known as Walk and Talk. Foot Patrol is exactly what it describes – police officers walking through the community, in uniform, meeting and interacting with residents and business owners.

As a throwback to community policing, where officers walked a beat, Foot Patrol does the same. Officers walk through neighborhoods, visiting with business owners, customers



In 2017, South Holland's property maintenance inspection program resulted in more than 400 warning tickets.



By improving its ISO rating to 2, the Code Department helped to lower homeowner's insurance rates.

and residents. The goal, as with all of the department's community programs, is to build positive relationships and trust, while ensuring public safety.

In 2017, officers increased the number of interactions with business owners and customers by changing their route to include more business districts.

Lunch with the Law is a hit with students

Throughout 2017, the South Holland Police Department made significant strides to build positive relationships with area youth. One program, Lunch with the Law, gives elementary school students time to talk and interact

with police officers. The program has been embraced by educators but, most importantly, by the students who look forward to their frequent lunchroom chats with Officer Kirk Kremiski.

National Night Out Kicks off Back to School Theme

Last year, police enhanced the National Night Out experience by re-branding it as National Day Out, with a “back to school” theme. The change was made to increase community engagement and build partnerships with residents, providing this annual opportunity for stakeholders to get up close and personal with local law enforcement.

While normally held on the first Tuesday in August, in 2017 the event was moved to Saturday to accommodate more families and provide students with school supplies to start the year. The police department also included more entertainment including magicians, face painters, inflatable jumping houses, and local vendors.



Looking ahead

In 2018, the Police Department will continue to develop programs that engage residents. A high school police outreach academy will be unveiled this year.

The junior academy is a one-hour after-school program held for six to eight weeks. Participants will be trained in policing, learn about the law and get a taste of what a career in public safety looks like. The goal is to partner with

teens, through in-depth and open conversations about policing and public safety and to expose them to policing as a possible career choice.

Also, as a result of the positive response to the Foot Patrol from residents and business owners, the program will return in 2018 and run from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

FIRE

SHFD receives high marks from ISO

South Holland's Fire Department made great strides to improve their ISO rating to 2, out of 10, from the Insurance Service Office. This accomplishment recognizes the department's standards for equipment and communication systems efficiency, ability to deliver water from hydrants to fight fires and, most importantly, performance and training procedures.

This new rating brings the SHFD into the top 3 percent of fire departments nationally. Along with this distinction, area businesses may see a reduction in insurance premiums because of the village's commitment to fire safety, planning and training demonstrated by this improved rating.

To achieve this rating, the fire department provided over 20 hours of training for firefighters per month, assessed their efficiency in recordkeeping, and ensured staffing and equipment exceeded expectations.

Enhanced technology to improve efficiency and resident care

The South Holland and Homewood fire departments worked together to purchase new record management software to improve daily operations and patient care reporting. This joint endeavor spread the cost of expensive, but much needed, software that will be used to document thousands of incidents annually. In addition to the patient care reporting tool, the SHFD will install and implement other applications to manage online firefighter training and scheduling. These new software tools help the department meet national standards and requirements for data collection and retention, while improving efficiency and resident care.



Last year, SHFD required more than 20 hours per month of training for firefighters, which greatly contributed to the department achieving a high rating of 2 from the Insurance Service Office.

Looking ahead

To maintain a high level of service for residents and businesses, the fire department will hire three new firefighters, in addition to replacing retiring personnel. New firefighters are thoroughly screened to ensure performance of rigorous demands and a commitment to the village's values. Candidates for full-time employment with the fire department must pass written and physical agility tests, complete a thorough oral interview, polygraph, psychological and medical evaluations, in addition to extensive background checks.

The new hires will complete three weeks of orientation training before being placed on their 24-hour shift. New staff members are assigned to one of our current full-time firefighter/paramedics who will serve as their mentor to assure a successful transition.

Also, the department will continue to focus on improving how community members can

immediately assist those in the midst of cardiac arrest. By introducing the SHFD Hands-Only CPR Training initiative and installing AED machines in all village-owned public buildings, many lives may be saved by those willing to help.



In 2018, the department plans to hire three new firefighters, as well as, fill positions vacated by retiring personnel.

A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

PR & MARKETING

A *Connected Community* is all about citizen engagement through the creation of public communications and expansion of social and cultural opportunities. Last year was a year of creating new opportunities for residents to connect and build relationships.



Resident Dessert Social was held in October 2017 by the South Holland Neighborhood Groups Organizing Committee, with the support of School District 205's Thornwood High School.

Dessert Social

Building on the success of the New Residents Breakfast concept that was introduced in 2016, Public Relations and Marketing, along with the South Holland Neighborhood Groups Organizing Committee, hosted a Resident Dessert Social at Thornwood High School. Members of the

committee were joined by Thornwood's culinary arts students, who prepared and served desserts during the event. Entertainment segments were provided by Thornwood's marching band and gospel choir. Also, students of the Civil Air Patrol conducted tours, including a look at their airplane project

Summer Socials at the Commons

In 2017, the new Town Center Commons area (161st and South Park Avenue) was created in the downtown district of South Holland. With this development came the introduction of Town Center Commons Socials. Three social events were held in this new signature space in June, July and August, attracting more than 1,000 guests during the summer. Guests were treated to fun activities, such as karaoke, water foam pit, live music performances, and a variety of delicious food sampling by such vendors as Jodi's Italian Ice, Kilwin's Ice Cream, Don Raja Tacos, South Holland Fire Department Corn on the Cob, and more.

Looking ahead

With the perpetual emergence of new digital technology, the Public Relations and Marketing Department will continue to identify and evaluate latest media trends, tools and resources to connect with community stakeholders.

In 2018, the department, with the assistance of the Public Relations and Marketing Commission, will complete a comprehensive marketing plan for the community. The plan will be used as an effective tool to target diverse audiences to market South Holland as a community of choice.



Town Center Socials were introduced in 2017, offering a variety of activities and entertainment, including karaoke and live band performances.

CLEAN, BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL PUBLIC WORKS CREATES BEAUTIFUL, BRIGHT AND FUN PLACES

Throughout last year, the Public Works team was busy making lasting improvements to streets and updating public spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Here are some of their accomplishments in 2017:



Street resurfacing

The street resurfacing program went well in 2017. 167th Street from Drexel Avenue to Ellis Avenue was resurfaced, 167th Place from Cottage Grove to Greenwood Avenue, as well as, 169th Street and Avalon Court, and 171st Court off of Paxton Avenue. The entrance to Paarlberg Park was resurfaced going back 675 feet to the historical buildings. Coming in under budget, Public Works was able to resurface the parking lot at Maicach Park, which needed much attention.

Area beautification

During the summer of 2017, Public Works staff aesthetically enhanced areas around Village

Hall and the Town Center District by hanging baskets filled with vibrantly colored flowers on light poles. This small and beautiful investment in the community will extend in 2018 to include portions of Cottage Grove Avenue. Additionally, the new observation deck at Veterans Memorial Park was completed with sidewalk and grading, as well as, installation of nesting boxes at the north pond to attract local and migrant birds.

Parking lot resurfacing

The South Holland Community Center parking lot was crack sealed and seal coated this past fall, giving it a new look with fresh striping and turn arrows.



Continued to beautify Town Center Commons by installing 2 pergolas and a center planter.

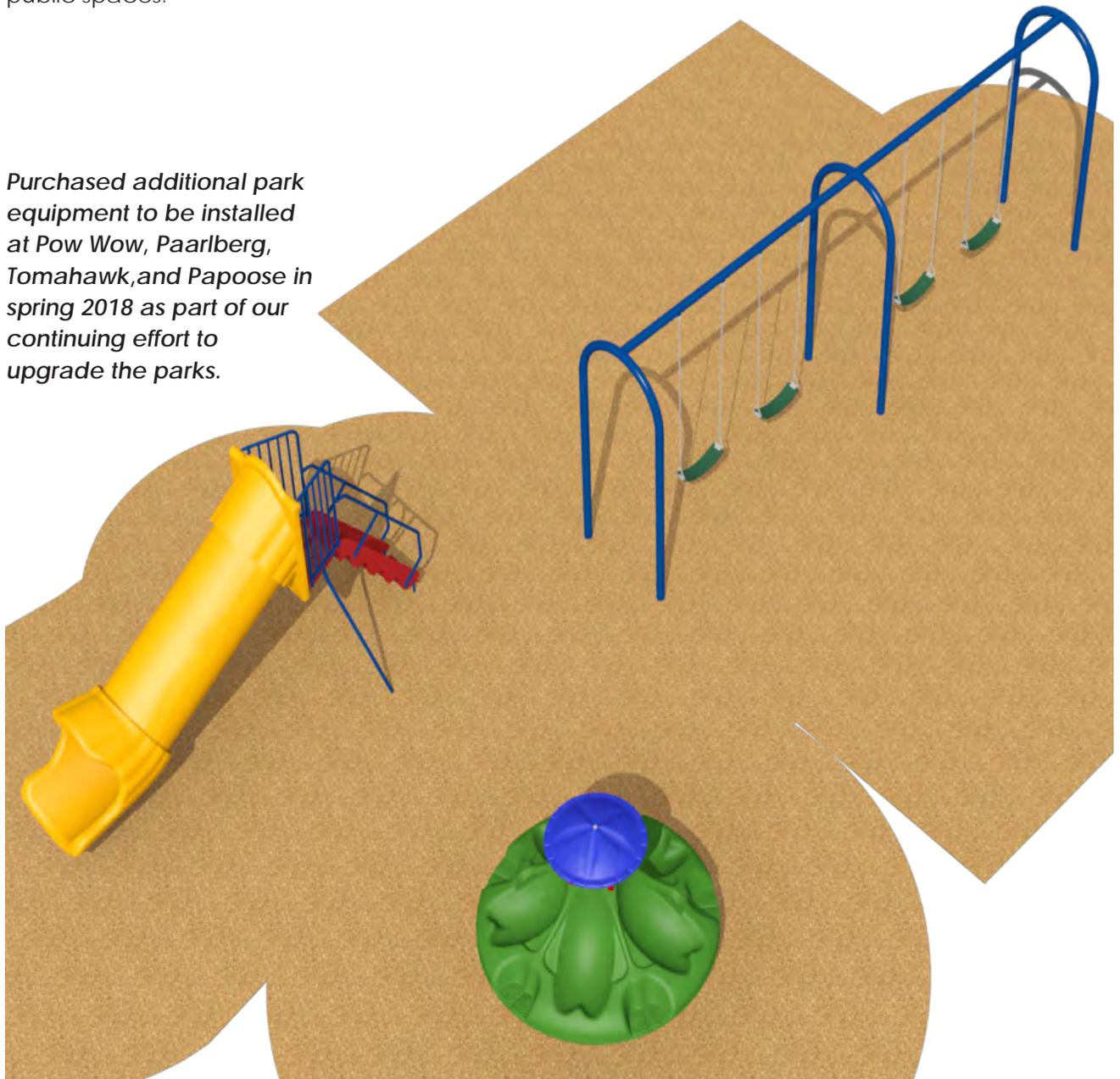
Park improvements and updates

- Installed a new play structure and a three- bay swing set at Maicach Park South near 166th Street.
- Installed a new free-standing slide and a two- bay swing set at Maicach Park North.
- Installed new player benches at Municipal Park Ball Field.
- Continued to beautify Town Center Commons by installing 2 pergolas and a center planter.

Looking ahead

In 2018, the Public Works Department will continue to make impactful park improvements. New equipment has been purchased and scheduled for installation at Pow Wow, Paarlberg, Tomahawk and Papoose parks in the spring as part of the department's continuing effort to upgrade the public spaces.

Purchased additional park equipment to be installed at Pow Wow, Paarlberg, Tomahawk, and Papoose in spring 2018 as part of our continuing effort to upgrade the parks.



SIGNATURE SPACES & PLACES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A year of planning

The Village of South Holland is in the final stages of updating a Comprehensive Plan, crafted by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the village and a volunteer steering committee. The plan will support Vision 2022 and shape development in coming years. Key elements of the plan are based upon those outlined in the Illinois Planning Assistance Act, and include land use, economic development, housing, natural resources, transportation, community facilities, image and identity, and implementation strategies. The plan will be completed and adopted in early 2018. Funding was provided through a competitive Local Technical Assistance (LTA) grant from CMAP.

A year of growth

2017 was a year of growth. The Village had several new business openings and expansions. Thorntons opened a signature facility at the gateway of our community on the southwest corner of Route 6 and Woodlawn East. The groundbreaking of Vintage Scripts/The Grind at the northeast corner of Route 6 and South Park will further grow our Town Center District.

In the industrial corridor, Gurtler Industries (15475 LaSalle), a manufacturer of commercial laundry cleaning products, wastewater chemicals and

chemical dispensing systems, expanded their business by 64,000 square feet, representing an investment of over \$1.2 million in the village. Carl Buddig (50 W Taft), South Holland's largest employer, purchased the meat processor formerly known as Rupari Foods (15600 Wentworth), saving 200 jobs and increasing employee count to over 1200.

Overall, commercial/industrial vacancy rate is only 3%. Continued successes will push it even lower.

Looking ahead

I am thrilled to share that Chipotle will come to South Holland! The popular fast casual restaurant, and a major customer of South Holland meat processor Miniati, will locate at the southwest corner of 162nd and School Street, next to Meekhof Tire and across the street from Blueberry Field. Groundbreaking is anticipated March 2018 and a grand opening in the summer.

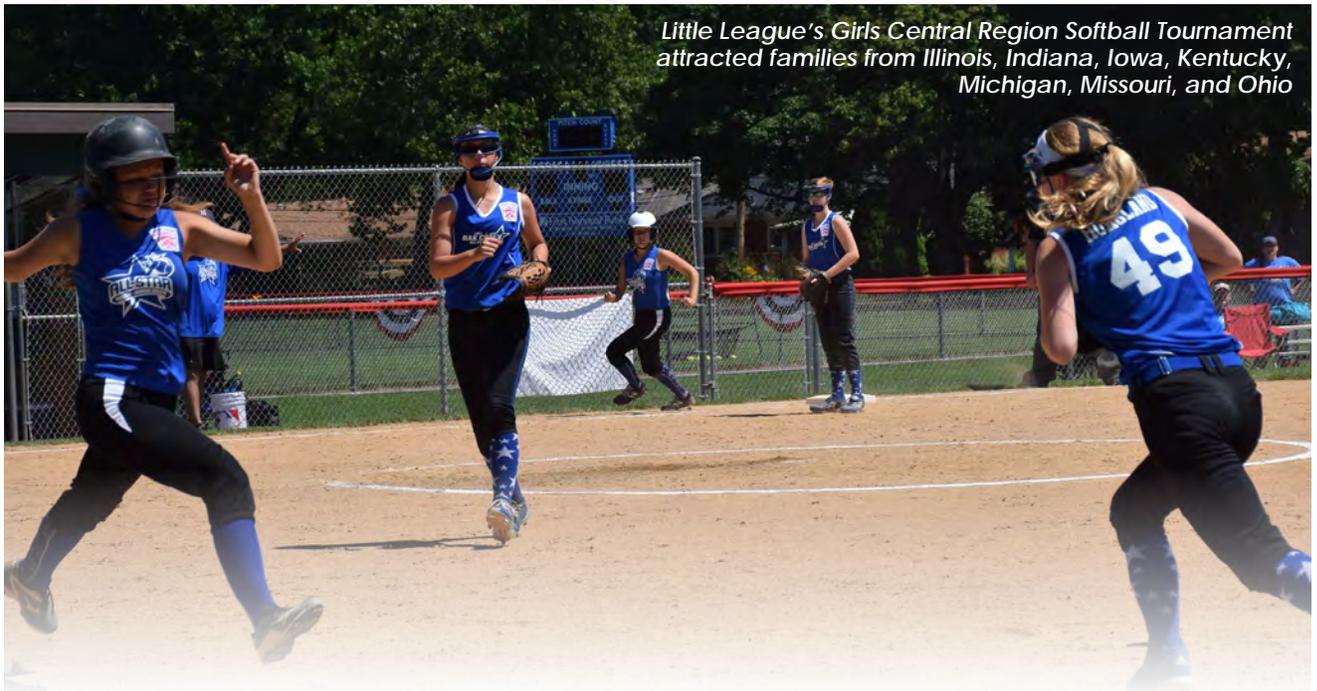


South Holland anticipates celebrating the opening of a new Chipotle at the southwest corner of 162nd and School Street



In 2017, Thorntons became a new signature place in South Holland.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES



Little League's Girls Central Region Softball Tournament attracted families from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio

Increased participation

The South Holland Community Center, a signature place in the village, earned an increase in participation in 2017 due, in part, to multiple events hosted last year. The community's Holiday Luncheon and Military Tribute had a successful turn out of 225 participants at the Community Center.

Also known as a signature place in South Holland, Veterans Memorial Park is home to such signature events as the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony, Independence Day, Heritage Haul and Winter Wonderland, all of which earned increased popularity and attendance in 2017. Also hosted at Veterans Memorial Park in 2017 was the third annual Girls Central Region Softball Tournament.

Membership growth

In 2017, fitness center membership and Community Center rental revenue increased due to monthly promotions. Participation in community outreach events has allowed the Recreational Services Department to collaborate with organizations such as River Oaks, Thorntown Township Senior Health Fair, Calumet City Health Wellness Fair, and many more.



Recreational Services Department hosted 225 people at the holiday gala luncheon held in November 2017, which included a special military tribute to local veterans.

Looking ahead

In 2018, the South Holland Community Center plans to update its large conference room and its fitness center with new equipment, along with

renovations in the pool area, new paint in the hallways and lobby area, and LED lights in the parking lot.



MY REFLECTIONS

So there it is. God continues to bless us as a community. He has provided us a vision and a mandate to serve and within that context our Village leadership is ardently seeking to be the "best that we can be." With that in mind, we are prioritizing new life enriching projects and addressing current and relevant issues that represent "Responsive and Progressive Leadership." We are purposefully striving to be "A Connected Community" where relationships will grow and information is free flowing. Our daily 2018 goal continues to set us apart as extraordinarily "Clean, Bright, and Beautiful." The physical and visual reality of what is seen within our borders clearly represents the inner spiritual reality of who we are as a people who care for each other and for those who cross our borders. We are continuing to develop new "Signature Spaces and Places" where each of us can celebrate life in new and refreshing venues. Ultimately, we are creating more and more destination points for us to relax and enjoy spending time with family and friends.

Dear friends, on behalf of our Village Board and entire Administration, I'd like to extend our appreciation for allowing us to serve our great Village of South Holland. We take our responsibility very seriously and are grateful for God's call to serve. We are thankful for each of our residents, businesses, churches, schools, and volunteer service organizations for being such great partners, establishing South Holland, Illinois as a premier, life giving community of "Faith" and "Family." May it be our prayer that God will continue to surround us with His protection and lead us with His guiding Spirit as we venture together down this exciting new 2018 highway. For our path is unobstructed, it's focused and well lit, clearly leading us into a very bright "Future." sdg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don A. De Graff".

Don A. De Graff
Mayor



MAKING
HIGH SCHOOL
COUNT

OPENING DATE
AUGUST 15, 2018
SOUTH HOLLAND, IL

WE BELIEVE HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD BE MORE
VISIT WASHINGTON D.C. • BUILD ROBOTS FROM SCRATCH
CODE THE NEXT COOL APP • ARGUE A MOCK TRIAL CASE
LAUNCH A NEW BUSINESS • DESIGN SOME FURNITURE
GET THROUGH A HIGH ROPES COURSE WITH CLASSMATES

Save the Date
Parent Information Nights
Monday February 12 and
Monday March 12
6:45-8:30 pm.
UCA Campus
16341 South Park Ave. South Holland
Get details & RSVP:
WeAreUCA.org/openhouse
VISIT WeAreUCA.org

HIGH SCHOOL.
Redefined.
Redesigned.

Forest Preserves Welcome Event



Date & Time:

9 am-12 pm

Thursday, March 22nd

Join us!

Join us for an introduction to Sand Ridge Nature Center and Camp Shabbona Woods. We'll have ongoing exhibits, events and programs, hiking trails, pioneer cabins, and live animals. There will be opportunities to discover and share your interests.

Admission & Parking: FREE!

Sand Ridge Nature Center

15891 Paxton Avenue, South Holland, IL 60473, 708-868-0606



**FOREST
PRESERVES**
of Cook County

fpdcc.com



WATER BILL BREAKDOWN

Water	\$8.28	per 1,000 gallons for first 25,000 gallons
	\$7.62	per 1,000 gallons for next 100,000 gallons
	\$7.50	per 1,000 gallons for gallons over 125,000
Sewer	\$0.47	per 1,000 gallons used
Flat	\$0.38	per month
Refuse (Garbage Pick-Up)	\$25.48	per month

Minimum charge for water is \$16.56; minimum total bill is \$42.42.

NOTE: Make check payable to "Village of South Holland".

A \$100 deposit is required for: All new customers, customers who have had water shut-off, customers who have written two returned checks in a 12-month period

Water shut-offs occur for default accounts of \$75 or more. There is a \$75 re-connection fee.

FLOOD-PROOFING PAYS OFF

The Flood Assistance Rebate program is available to qualified applicants for pre-approved flood-proofing projects.

For example, residents planning to install overhead sewers in their 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

- Diversion of downspout water
- Flood walls

SEWER BACKUP PROJECTS

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

SUBSURFACE PROJECTS

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

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.

SSC OFFERING FREE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CAREERS TRAINING PROGRAM

South Suburban College offers a Free Highway Construction Careers Training Program at their Oak Forest Campus. The Highway Construction Careers Training Program has been implemented to increase the number of minorities, women, and disadvantaged individuals working on IDOT highway construction projects. The training consists of an intensive 12-week program to learn the skills necessary for acceptance into the highway construction trades and gives the opportunity for a career with high wage potential.

Career Opportunities Include:

- Cement Mason
- Electrician
- Pipefitter
- Carpenter
- Laborer
- Equipment Operator

Requirements:

- Valid driver's license
- 18 years or older
- High School diploma/GED
- Interest working in the Construction Trades

Construction will always be needed for new buildings, roads, bridges, and other structures. Some of the more skilled construction careers, such as engineer, require higher education while others, such as cement masonry, can be learned as an on-the-job apprentice.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ssc.edu/hcctp, or call (708) 225-6042, or email hcctp@ssc.edu. Para Información En Español Llame: (708) 210- 5740. The Oak Forest Center is located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois 60452.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE SOUTH HOLLAND LIBRARY



During Black History Month, the South Holland Public Library offers a series of programs for adults and families. It is recommended that patrons register for programs with an asterisk (*).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 1-2 P.M.: *Black History Month Concert - Presented by the Thornwood High School Band.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 7-8:30 P.M.: *African Americans from Slavery to Emancipation: A Living History - Join historian Tammy Gibson and explore the displays of hidden treasures and artifacts from the early African American culture from Slavery to Emancipation at the family event.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 7-8 P.M.: *LIFE Coaching program - Join Charmaine Moore of "Face of Hope and Beauty," who will offer insights, encouragement, and empowerment to women feeling overwhelmed.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 7-8 P.M.: Neck It - Learn to maximize your style with scarfs. Stay until the end of the program for a special surprise.

COMING IN MARCH . . .

Tuesday, March 13th, 7-8 p.m.: *Women of WWII - Join Barb Deane, historical women's fiction novelist. Learn the ways in which Women of World War II were on the front lines and the home front.

Wednesday, March 14th (Miércoles, 14 de Marzo) in the East Meeting Room: Club de Lectura (Spanish Book Club) - The South Holland Library will inform patrons when the book will be available at the Circulation Desk. Manténgase en contacto para saber qué libro leer. La dejar saber cuándo esté disponible en el mostrador de Circulación. Llame al 708-527-3160.

For more information regarding any of the programs, please call the South Holland Public Library at 708-527-3160. The library is located at 16250 Wausau Avenue.

MUSEUM EVENTS

DUSABLE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Storytime at the Du!

South Holland residents are invited to visit the DuSable museum on Saturdays and Sundays to join the Education Department in Storytime. Learn stories about African American history and make a craft you can take home! Check the website (dusablemuseum.org) for exact dates. Age: youth K-2nd grade. Must be accompanied by an adult. DuSable is located at 740 East 56th Place, Chicago, IL.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART

Guided Public Tours

February 24, March 24 - English tour at 1:00 p.m., Spanish tour at 2:00 p.m. Enjoy a tour of Nuestras Historias: Stories of Mexican Identity from the Permanent Collection. A docent will guide visitors through the gallery and discuss highlighted works of art. FREE! The National Museum of Mexican Art is located at 1852 West 19th Street, Chicago, IL.

CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 19, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.- Visit the Chicago History Museum as they honor the endeavors and accomplishments of America's presidents including an ensemble concert from the Chicago Brass Band and a production of Meeting the Lincolns by With Lincoln Productions. Discover the lives behind the legends of the American presidency through storytelling, performances, and hands-on crafts for all ages.

Chicago's Birthday

Sunday, March 4- On this date in 1837, Chicago was incorporated as a city. Mark the occasion with a visit to the Chicago History Museum and celebrate Chicago's 181st birthday with some 4-star family-fun! Chicago History Museum is located at 1601 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL.

RESIDENTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

THE WALNUT ROOM: A WIDELSKI FAMILY TRADITION

BY AMBRIA ELLISON

Family gatherings are a time for reconnecting with loved ones, and for some, continuing traditions. The Widelski family has taken this concept to a vast new meaning. What began as a casual outing evolved into an annual event bringing with it multiple generations each year.

During the holiday season of 1968, Wally Widelski took his wife, Sue, and both his sister, Martha, and brother, Steve, to lunch at The Walnut Room. The family enjoyed the festive experience so much so that they decided to continue the downtown Chicago outing for the following year. Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the Widelski Christmas tradition.

"We try to go the Sunday before Christmas every year, stated Wally Widelski, a 50 year resident and retired Director of South Holland's Recreational Services Department. "We usually have 45 to 50 people in attendance and it is very rare that someone cannot come."

Each visit to The Walnut Room has created warm and special memories for the Widelski family, such as wedding proposals, holiday shopping, and even meeting celebrities, and these are only a few reasons that make their Christmas holiday season

special. "The little ones really get excited because we go downtown and everyone ends up having a good time," said Mr. Widelski. "Hopefully, the family keeps up the tradition for another 50 years."

Like most outings, it is the ability to enjoy the love, laughter, adventure, and joy of family that creates memorable moments. For the Widelski family, it is their annual trip to The Walnut Room.

Wally and Sue Widelski started the family's holiday tradition of dining at The Walnut Room, located in Macy's on State Street in Chicago's downtown – loop area.



Several generations of the Widelski family annually gather as part of their Christmas tradition.

HAPPENINGS



Underground Railroad hike at Sand Ridge Nature Center. Photo credit to Sand Ridge Nature Center

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sand Ridge Nature Center will hold a free Black History Month event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25. "Underground Railroad Hike" is an imaginary journey following an Underground Railroad route used in Illinois before the Civil War.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 19, for Presidents Day, and Friday, March 30, for Good Friday. Police and fire services will be available 24 hours a day.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

The March Coffee with the Mayor is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street.

NATIONAL FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States



and its territories in all months of the year. National Flood Safety Awareness Week from March 16-22 is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what you can do to save life and property. For information, visit <http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/index.shtml>.

Photo credit: National Weather Service

ELECTION DAY

The primary election will take place on Tuesday, March 20. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early voting will begin on Monday, March 5. For voter information, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com and click on Elections.

MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The annual breakfast with Mayor Don De Graff is scheduled for Thursday, May 3. The annual breakfast is sponsored by the South Holland Ministerial Association. The location will be announced later on the village website.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

The Department of Recreational Services is looking for local businesses, organizations, school bands, churches, etc. to register to march in the annual Memorial Day parade. 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 28, at 11 a.m. at 170th Street and finishes at Veterans Park. Following the parade at approximately 1 p.m. at Veterans Park will be a Remembrance Ceremony. To register for the parade, contact the Department of Recreational Services at the South Holland Community Center, 708-331-2940.

NEW RESIDENT BREAKFAST

Now is the time to register for the annual New Resident Breakfast, scheduled 9 a.m. Saturday, April 21, at the South Holland Community Center. New residents are invited to enjoy a delicious, hearty breakfast, meet village officials and local organizations, and learn of many opportunities to engage in community life. To add your name to the guest list, please call Tanesha at 708-210-2947 or email tnewman@southholland.org.

**Save
the
Date**

NEW

RESIDENT

Breakfast



APRIL 21ST

9:00AM

**SOUTH HOLLAND
COMMUNITY CENTER**

501 E. 170TH ST.



**CALL (708) 210-2947 OR
EMAIL TNEWMAN@SOUTHHOLLAND.ORG
TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE GUESTS LIST**



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

*****ECRWSSDDM*****
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SO. HOLLAND, IL
PERMIT #4

MAYOR'S COFFEE

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 13
7 P.M.**

South Holland Community Center
501 East 170th Street



DON A. DE GRAFF
President

Village Board

DR. SALLIE PENMAN
Clerk

LARRY
DE YOUNG
Trustee

ANDREW
JOHNSON, JR.
Trustee

CYNTHIA
NYLEN
Trustee

VICKIE
PERKINS
Trustee

PRINCE
REED
Trustee

JOHN R.
RUSSELL
Trustee