



South Holland TODAY

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND
OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2018





YOU'RE INVITED TO THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND'S

Artists' Gallery
2018



OCTOBER 4 & 5, 12PM-8PM
OCTOBER 6, 10AM-1PM

South Holland Community Center • 501 E 170th St

SOUTH HOLLAND POLICE HOST ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OUT

The South Holland Police Department hosted its fourth annual National Day Out with the Police on August 4 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

During this event there were numerous vendors from the village and Thornton Township, which provided residents with information regarding a variety of services and opportunities.

Also, as part of this event, there were face painters, a balloonist, a magician, and a reptile guy who showed off many different reptiles and allowed the young residents a chance to pet and see some of these magnificent creatures up close.

Officers took time during this event to cook hamburgers and hot dogs, make snow cones, and have fun with residents. The event gave them a chance to interact with residents on a social basis.

It was fun time for everyone involved and the residents had a good time.

The focus of this event for the last four years continues the building and strengthening of relationships among residents, the youth of the village, and police officers.



The Police Department passed out back-to-school bags filled with school supplies and some small gifts from our department.

The village plans on continuing this event for years to come to make sure residents know that beyond anything village officials want to have a great relationship with each of them and always be approachable and friendly.





UNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

A NEW PARADIGM OF CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

BY RONDA WILLIAMS

In April 2014 a small planning committee of educators, church leaders, community volunteers and South Holland residents met to talk about how best to serve high school students in the south suburbs. What was born out of those conversations was Unity Christian Academy, a faith-based high school redefined and redesigned for the Millennial Generation.

The mission of Unity is to empower a diverse community, united by Christ, to achieve excellence in education for the flourishing of all creation. Unity is forging a new path to serve families who value faith-based education and desire a fresh and innovative approach that breaks the norm.

August 15 was the first day of school for 24 freshmen who now represent the founding history of Unity Christian Academy and a new paradigm for high school education.

The freshman class is a diverse group of students who are creating an educational culture that breaks the mode of a traditional education curriculum and celebrates an enlightened and driven generation. The educational approach is an inter-connected curriculum of community integration, self-knowledge, authentic work, collaboration, servant leadership and spiritual connectedness.

"Unity's educational curriculum reflects highly-respected published research that argues the effectiveness of hands-on, interactive learning experiences to develop life skills," said Mike Nysten, Director of Operations and Finance. "Our educational structure tailors learning to the needs of every student by first assessing the student's interests, skills and talents and helping them to master those skills through ongoing teacher-student interaction."

Unity boasts a staff of seasoned educational professionals all energized and pumped up to move the future of education forward and to give the students all the tools they need to use their God-given talents.

"During the first week of school, students took a field trip



to tour local parks," said Nysten. "The goal was to get the students talking about how they can contribute to the success of the community and what it takes to plan and develop a project that makes a positive impact."

In addition to being creators and critical thinkers, students are encouraged to participate in their own learning; mastering skills that help them excel in college and in life.

As such, school starts at 9am with a unity circle where students and faculty discuss what's going on in the world, and at 9:30am classes begin. The curriculum is designed to integrate six key areas: humanities, STEM, world cultures, wellness, spiritual development and creative arts. Students are prepared to meet the demands of a college curriculum through rigorous and engaging projects. They also have opportunities for internships and dual-college credits throughout their four years.

Each year a new freshman class will enter to build upon the foundation started by the class of 2022. Families interested in learning more about the school can visit weareuca.org to get started.

ALL SOUTH HOLLAND BUSINESSES MUST HAVE VALID VILLAGE LICENSE

The value of a South Holland business license is immeasurable. With it comes access to a plethora of opportunities to grow your business and to connect with the local community. There are, however basic steps that need to be taken to insure that your business can enjoy these opportunities in our business friendly community.

When inquiring within the Department of Economic Development about businesses here in town, one of the first things potential customers always ask is if the business is currently licensed by our village. A South Holland business license validates that the business is legally in compliance with the high standards that the Village is known for.

It is required that all businesses are licensed with the village on an annual basis, regardless of type. This includes home businesses. Licenses are valid from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 of each calendar year, and must be renewed annually.

The renewal period runs from Sept. 15 – Dec. 31 of the current business year. New license applications require supporting documentation that includes copies of the

business articles of incorporation (or assumed name certificate if a sole proprietor), a copy of the lease or purchase contract, federal EIN and Illinois sales tax numbers, and the appropriate fee.

Once submitted, the application goes through zoning review, and then is scheduled for inspections by the fire and building departments. Once compliant with each area, the business license is issued and hand delivered to the business. This is usually completed within 7-10 days pending compliance with inspections.

We want to make sure all businesses are fully able to realize the many growth opportunities afforded to them. The village actively encourages and supports patronizing any and all of our businesses as long as they possess a valid business license for the current year.

If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact Angela Harris in the Economic Development Department at 708-339-8749 or visit our website at southholland.org.

SMALL IMPROVEMENTS THAT ADD UP

The South Holland Public Works Department has been working hard this summer to beautify our streets, parks and roadways. Here are just some of the projects they have accomplished over the past couple of months:



Painting of South Park guardrail going to Thornton Bridge.



Van Dam Road cleanup (weed whacking) and guardrail painting.



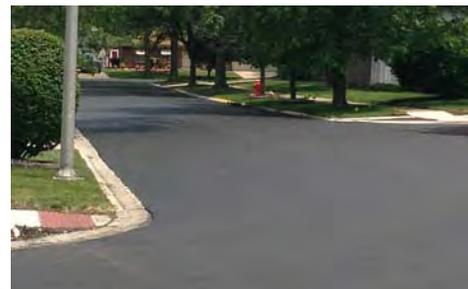
Cleanup of Dunkin' Donuts alley.



Sealcoating and striping, along with new stop blocks, at Paarlberg Park and sealcoating of Veterans Park maintenance driveway.



New signs at: Little Calumet Bike Path and Pow Wow, Thorncreek, and Terrace View parks.



Resurfacing of roads at 157th Street / State to Calumet Avenue, 166th Place / Greenwood to Woodlawn East, 166th Place / Woodlawn Court, West Wabash Alley 150th to 151st.



HARVEST PARTY TO OFFER SAFE FAMILY FUN

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

A kid-friendly South Holland tradition returns this fall that is sure to be great entertainment for your little munchkins!

The Harvest Party, organized by the South Holland Recreational Services Department, will take place Thursday, Oct. 25, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the South Holland Community Center. The celebration is open only to South Holland residents between the ages of 3 and 12 years old. There is no admission charge for the Harvest Party.

The fun includes a costume contest, games with prizes, and a craft project. Kids are welcome to bring a pumpkin from home and decorating materials will be supplied. There will also be goodie bags (while supplies last) full of candy for those who participate.

"This event has been celebrated for over 29 years. I started working for the village in 1989 and had the pleasure of assisting with the Harvest Party and now for over 15 years I have been in charge of it," said Preschool Director Dawn Stremplewski. "Like all village activities and celebrations, it gives families a chance to be together in a safe environment and enjoy all the fun activities scheduled for each event,"

Pre-registration is happening now and proof of residency is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This event fills up fast, so be sure to sign up early!

SOUTH HOLLAND TO HOLD INAUGURAL BREAST CANCER WALK WALKING IN TANDEM: MEN GET IT TOO!

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

Lace up your walking shoes and plan on heading out for the inaugural South Holland Breast Cancer Walk with the theme "Walking in Tandem: Men Get it Too!"

This first-time event is sponsored by the South Holland Parks Advisory Committee and is open to all ages.

"The Parks Advisory Committee has decided to sponsor this event for those in the community who wanted to participate in a Breast Cancer event close to home," said Edward Stewart, director of recreational services. "Members of the committee have had loved ones affected by this disease and wanted to find a way to give back. Our walk will be different as we are looking to recognize both men and women who have been affected by Breast

Cancer. Many of us are not aware that men also suffer from breast cancer."

Mark your calendar for the Oct. 6 event, but there are discounted participation fees if you sign up in advance. Fees are \$35 for adults and \$20 for kids 12 and under until Oct. 5, and \$40 for adults and \$25 for kids if you register on the day of the event.

The timing of the walk coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

"So far the response has been well received we have already made contact with groups who plan to walk or would like to donate for the event," said Stewart.

NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER A ONE-STOP SHOP

The Village is always seeking ways to improve residents' experience, and beginning this fall, we are launching a new Customer Service Center to do just that.

Up until now, residents have had to visit two different buildings on the Village Hall campus (16226 Wausau Ave.) in order to complete tasks such as pay a water bill or apply for a permit. Beginning in October, all of those services will be combined under the same roof: the northeast building on the campus (formerly the police station). The Village staff is being cross-trained so that every employee in the center can serve each need.

This move saves residents time by sending them to one place instead of multiple, and with a robust staff ready and able to serve them.

"The goal is to provide one-stop shopping to our residents. This will minimize confusion as to where to pay for a business license or a water bill," said Michelle Lidell, Village collector. "With the merge we will have a great customer care team and we are very excited to serve our residents."

The building will also house the Village's Economic Development, Code Enforcement and Information Technology departments. Village Hall will contain offices for administrative staff, and will still be the location for board meetings.

In addition to the Customer Service Center, there are other convenient ways for residents to pay their water bills. Payments can be inserted into the drop box outside of Village Hall, and there is also an option to pay via auto debit. Contact the clerk's office at 708.210.2900 for more information.



Michelle Lidell, Village Collector, at the new Customer Service Center



FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS

The South Holland Fire Department recognizes the service of three recent retirees and two individuals who have been promoted recently.

On August 20, Ron Kalkowski moved up from firefighter/paramedic to the rank of captain. He now is part of the Fire Department administrative staff, where he will continue his commitment to excellence serving the South Holland community.

Jeff Vincent was elevated to the rank of lieutenant on August 21. His talent, hard work and determination shine through within the department.

South Holland village officials and Fire Department brass paid tribute to firefighter/paramedic retirees Joseph Eaker, Eric Erickson and Charles E. Jansma for their dedication to the village and for outstanding contributions to the team. Erickson and Jansma served in the department for more than 20 years, Eaker for 30 years, each retiring in 2018. All three men earned many state certifications and commendations throughout their years of service with the South Holland Fire Department.



Firefighter/paramedic retirees Charles Jansma, Eric Erickson, and Joseph Eaker

POLICE ANNOUNCE INAUGURAL STUDENT POLICE ACADEMY

For many years, the South Holland Police Department has been successfully running a popular Citizen Police Academy.

The Citizen Police Academy is an informational class created to inform adult residents and business owners what the South Holland Police Department does, how they do what do, and why they do what they do.

This year, the South Holland Police Department is proud to announce it will be holding its first-ever Student Police Academy. The Student Police Academy will be specifically designed for high school students (freshman to senior) who have an interest in law enforcement as a career or those who would just like to learn the mission and model of South Holland policing.

The nation as a whole has seen a disconnect between law enforcement and the younger population for many years. Police departments across the nation are seeing less and less people interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Under the direction of Chief Shawn Staples, the South Holland Police Department has decided to see what the

village can do to foster a relationship with teenagers and open up an avenue for communication.

The Student Police Academy will be held through October 24 from 3:30-5 p.m. at the South Holland Police Department.

Classes will cover such topics as patrol, investigations, use of force, police interaction, and knowing your rights.

Public Education Officer Kirk Kremski, who is the program director, stated, "One day, I would like to see a fully functioning Police Explorer Program here in South Holland. We can bring students in at 14 and have them work with us as an Explorer until the age of 21. They can then apply and take our test to become a South Holland Police Officer. You can't have a better Community Policing Program than Police who grew up in the Community."

If you are, or know, a high school student who either attends school in South Holland or lives in South Holland and is interested in participating in the next Student Police Academy, please contact the South Holland Police Department.



RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS JOIN TORCH RUN

On June 12, the Village of South Holland participated in the Special Olympics of Illinois Torch Run.

There were more participants this year than in the years past. Participants from the Police Department, Fire Department, Village Hall, ESDA, and community members joined the run.

Runners participated in a three-mile run from 154th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue and ran with the torch to 168th and State streets.

South Holland has been able to raise over \$5,500 for the Special Olympics of Illinois so far this year due to the volunteers that participated in the Torch Run, Cop on a Roof Top, and local donations.

This was a great display of support by the community members as well as all the different village employees. The Special Olympics of Illinois does so much for the athletes it represents, and this was a great way for the Village of South Holland to show its support for the athletes as well.

REPAIR OR REPLACE THAT OLD FURNACE?

Your old furnace is always acting up. You need to replace it ... or do you? You'll want to weigh the original cost of the appliance with the time and money it will take to repair it. (Hint: Professional repair costs can get expensive quickly.)

Here are a few basic guidelines to determine whether or not you should repair or replace an appliance.

- If your appliance is more than eight years old, it's usually best to replace it. High-end models may be an exception.
- If the repair is more than half the cost of replacement, replace it.
- If you paid \$150 or less for the appliance, replace it.
- If your appliance is still under warranty (partial or full), inquire about a repair. Be persistent with the manufacturer.
- Want to be green? Repair your appliance and help reduce the amount of old appliances that wind up in landfills.

Source: consumerreports.org

**MAYOR'S
COFFEE**

**TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 11
7:30 AM**

**South Holland
Community Center
501 East 170th Street**

ADVENTURE AWAITS

THE SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY CHALLENGE

South Holland Public Library's annual Summer Library Challenge was a huge success. This year's program started with a kick-off party complete with pony rides, a petting zoo and hot dogs. Over 700 kids, teens, and adults were able to participate in contests, activities, and programs all summer long. Special events included a variety of popular shows and topics including a family storytime with African American Storytellers, Iditarod Dog Sleds, Dave Dinaso's Traveling Reptile Show and an outdoor movie night. The Library also provided 1,147 lunches for children as part of the Rise and Shine Illinois Summer Meals Program in conjunction with the Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church. None of these activities would have been possible without the generous contributions of the following sponsors: Applebee's, Brookfield Zoo, Buddig,

Chicago Fire, Chipotle, Illiana Financial, Jimbooo's Italian Beef, JMA Architects, Oberweis Dairy, MB Financial Bank, Providence Bank and Trust, Walt's Food Center, Wendy's All Star Management, and the Windy City Thunderbolts. Thanks to these supporters, the Library was able to create a Summer Library Challenge full of adventure and fun.



UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

OCTOBER

Rules of the Road for Seniors Hosted by the Illinois DMV
Wednesday, Oct 3, 1:00 PM

Autumn Landscape Centerpiece with Kathleen Obirek
Tuesday, Oct. 16. 6:30 PM

Before You Call a Handyman with Daniel Findley
Thursday, Oct. 18, 7:00 PM

Paint a Pumpkin
Thursday, October 18 6:30pm

Halloween Party
Wednesday, October 31 4:00pm

Halloween Storytime & Costume Parade
Wednesday, October 31 10:30am

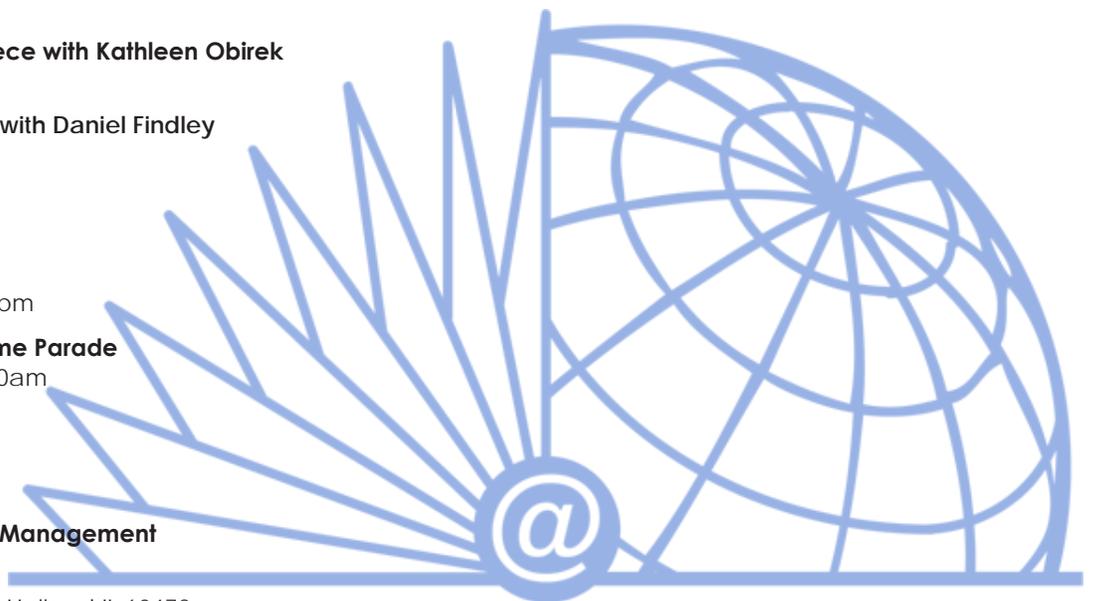
NOVEMBER

Dia De Los Muertos Program
Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7:30

Tai Chi Gong for Stress & Pain Management
Tuesday, Nov 6, 7:00 PM

16250 Wausau Avenue, South Holland IL 60473

Please remember to call 708-527-3150, or visit the Library to reserve a spot.



YOUTHS GET GUIDANCE ON GO-KART BUILDING IN RUSTIE KARTS PROGRAM

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

Do you know a young person who loves to build things and is fascinated by anything with a motor? Yes? They'd probably be a perfect candidate for the new Rustie Karts program being organized by the South Holland Recreational Services Department.

This premier Go-Kart program guides pre-teens and teens between the ages 10 and 17 as they build their own go-kart. Working with professional auto mechanic Marlin Courtiers, participants meet once a month from 6-7 p.m. at the South Holland Community Center to get suggestions and feedback and they then work at home on their assembly.

"The goal is for each contestant to have a year to build his or her own go-kart. The karts are not restricted to any style and they can use their own design," said Roger Crawford, recreation supervisor. There are a few rules that young mechanics must adhere to,

including no use of flammable or nitro systems.

This is the first year for the program and Crawford sees it as a great family bonding experience. "This is for fathers, uncles, big brothers, moms, nieces, nephews to have time to connect together and have a project they can work on together as a family," he said.

Registration is \$25 for residents and \$35 for nonresidents plus the cost of materials to create the go-kart, which Crawford said can range from a few dollars into the thousands, depending on how complex the design is.

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 16220 Wausau Ave., 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.

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE OFFERS 'MUSICAL TREASURES'

The 2018-2019 season has begun for the South Holland Master Chorale, under the direction of Director Albert M. Jackson.

This season, the concerts will provide music ranging from African-American spirituals to choral/orchestral music by romanticist composer Felix Mendelssohn.

The new season starts off with great beauty and power, as the Chorale will sing music from "our own backyard," including pieces by Randall Thompson, Robert Shaw, spirituals by Moses Hogan, and many others. They'll even

make a brief visit to Hollywood to sing music from one of the great epic films of the 1950s. This concert takes place Sunday, Oct. 14, at 4 p.m. at First Reformed Church.

All Chorale concerts are free. Free-will donations are gratefully accepted.

For information about the Chorale, please visit southhollandmasterchorale.org, email chorale@southholland.org, or call 708.218.2913

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE 2018 / 2019 CONCERT SCHEDULE

October 14, 4pm

Americans All
First Reformed Church
15924 South Park Ave.
South Holland, IL

December 9, 3pm

18th Annual Christmas Concert
(additional date)
St. Maria Goretti Catholic Parish
500 Northgate Dr., Dyer, IN

May 5, 3:30pm

Music of Mendelssohn (additional date)
Covenant United Church of Christ
1130 E 154th St., South Holland, IL

December 2, 4pm

18th Annual Christmas Concert
St. Victor Catholic Church
553 Hirsch Ave., Calumet City, IL

April 28, 4pm

Music of Mendelssohn
St. Ann Catholic Church
3010 Ridge Rd., Lansing, IL





TIPS TO ENJOY A SAFE AND FUN HALLOWEEN

That time of year is almost here when goblins, ghosts and ghouls will be parading the streets, looking for some special treats.

Halloween is a fun time for children and parents alike, so here are a few tips from the South Holland Police and Fire departments to not only make it fun -- but to also keep everyone safe:

- Children should always be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.
- If older children are going un-chaperoned, make sure they are in a group and plan and review the route that is acceptable and have a set time to return home.
- Make sure to carry a flash light or glow sticks.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use crosswalks whenever possible. Always walk and never run across the street.
- Only walk on the sidewalk, or the far edge of the road facing traffic.
- Obey all traffic signs and look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never cross the street between parked cars, in the middle of the block or diagonally through intersection.
- Only go to houses that have the porch light on and never enter a house or car for treats.
- Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- Make sure costumes are visible, if not put reflective tape on them and the trick or treat bags.
- Swords, knives and other costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.
- Avoid masks which will obstruct vision.
- Make sure to dress for the weather.
- Avoid using electronic devices while out trick-or-treating so your head will remain up and you will be alert.
- Avoid replica toy guns. They may be mistaken for the real thing.
- Do not eat any non-factory wrapped treats. Wait until you return home and the treats have been checked.

Enjoy your trick-or-treating and remember to be safe!

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY TO PREVENT THANKSGIVING COOKING MISHAPS

From dad's fried turkey to grandma's famous macaroni and cheese, Thanksgiving is the time when everyone wants to show off their cooking chops. It's also the time when dinner can go from a comfortable celebration to an overnight tragedy.

Thanksgiving Day fires in homes cause more property damage and claim more lives than home fires on other days. The increase is troubling. It is easy to get wrapped up in entertaining guests, but it is important to monitor meal preparations since most cooking fires start when the food is left unattended.

Turkey fryers pose a big threat since they use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures, and many units can easily tip over, spilling hot cooking grease. The use of turkey fryers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries and fire.

The Fire Department offers the following safe cooking tips to help make your holiday dinner safe and enjoyable:

- Always use cooking equipment tested and approved by a recognized testing facility.
- 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.

Keeping these things cooking safety precautions top of mind will keep the celebration going for years to come.
Source: NFPA





SOUTH HOLLAND BAND CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

BY BOB BONG

Not many towns are privileged to have their own band, but South Holland has had its own municipal band since World War II. The South Holland Municipal Band was formed at the height of World War II in 1943 when about 15 musicians got together to keep the community entertained in the summer. This year it celebrated its 75th anniversary.

In those early days, the musicians would rehearse in Village Hall and perform a variety of pops, marches and overtures from the backs of farm trucks.

Their current repertoire tends to favor show tunes and patriotic tributes, but they have recently incorporated jazz and a soloist in order to expand their audience.

This year, the band scheduled eight performances including one for the Special Olympics at Thornwood High School on May 5. They also played twice at the Holland Home assisted living residence, at the Paarlberg Festival on Labor Day, and four times at Veterans Park including the Memorial Day ceremony and Independence Day celebration.

Today's band numbers more than 50 men and women from the south and southwest suburbs. New band members must first audition for Band Director Roland Rose.

One of the longest participating musicians is Gary Kurc, an attorney by trade who also plays trumpet for the band. Kurc joined the band in 1979. "I'm pushing 200 performances," he says.

Kurc started playing trumpet in the fourth grade and continued through high school and college

before giving it up while in law school. He missed playing and soon started again. "I was finishing up in law school and started playing with the Oakton College Band."

The South Holland band rehearses once a week at South Suburban College and during the winter Kurc plays with the South Suburban College Symphonic Band.

All of the musicians have other jobs. "The guy I sit next to in the band is another attorney," says Kurc.

Kurc says his family has been supportive over the years. "They show up to most of our performances." He moved to South Holland in 2002 after living in Dolton for a number of years.

As for his future with the South Holland Municipal Band? "I plan to stick around for the foreseeable future." So, too, does the band.



RESIDENT YOU SHOULD KNOW

NEW THORNWOOD PRINCIPAL DON HOLMES

BY BOB BONG

New Thornwood High School Principal Don Holmes has been around education since he was a toddler and would go with his mother while she was learning to be a teacher at Chicago State University.

"I would be in the classes with my mom at Chicago State," says Holmes, 41, who took over as principal in July.

He continued to be exposed to education for the next 35 years, as his mother became a Master Teacher in Chicago.

Holmes moved to South Holland with his family when he was 12 in 1988 and he played football for the South Holland Jets. "That experience helped focus me as a young man," he says.

He continued to play football as a student at Thornwood and was heavily recruited to play football at Northwestern University in Evanston.

As a Wildcat, he started out as a radio-television-film major but switched to communications study because of the time involved with being a football player.

He was the starting middle linebacker for the Wildcats when the school won back-to-back Big Ten championships and played in the Rose Bowl and Florida Citrus Bowl.

Holmes had a brief pro football career as a linebacker with the Ohio Cannon, a team in the short-lived Regional Football League.

He came full circle in 2001 when Thornwood hired him as Dean of Compliance and defensive coordinator and linebackers coach for the football team. He became suspension coordinator in 2005.

He left Thornwood to become a dean at Hillcrest High School in nearby Country Club Hills for 10 years before returning to Thornwood as assistant principal in 2014. Along the way he earned a master's degree in educational leadership and a doctorate in educational leadership and administration, both at Concordia University.



Holmes has enjoyed his time at Thornwood and foresees a bright future. "I've had a lot of success at Thornwood," he says. "I reduced in-school suspensions by 75 percent and improved the climate inside the school."

His theme for Thunderbird students is "Excellence Begins with Effort."

"I want Thornwood to again become a beacon. I want school to be fun and engaging. I want to put Thornwood back on the map as one of the best high schools.

"At the end of the day, I want to make sure our students are taking advantage of their opportunities."

Holmes and his high school sweetheart, Ladwina, who is a cheer coach at Thornwood, still live in South Holland with their three children, including a 17-year-old son who is a senior at Thornwood and their 13-year-old daughter who has Down Syndrome. They are members of the House of Hope Church.



WISDOM FROM OUR CHURCHES

THE ROYAL WEDDING

One of the most publicized and celebrated events this year was the wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. Prince Harry is a member of the British royal family and Meghan Markle is an American and former actress. Upon the marriage, they became Duke and Duchess of Sussex. It was reported that about 29.2 million people watched the wedding in the U.S., and the global audience was estimated to be in the hundreds of millions. By our standards, this indeed was a Royal Wedding. There was a massive effort to ensure that this event would reflect class, elegance and excellence. Individuals spent months and weeks of planning, preparation, and rehearsals to ensure the ceremony was flawless. The bride had to be ready for her bridegroom.

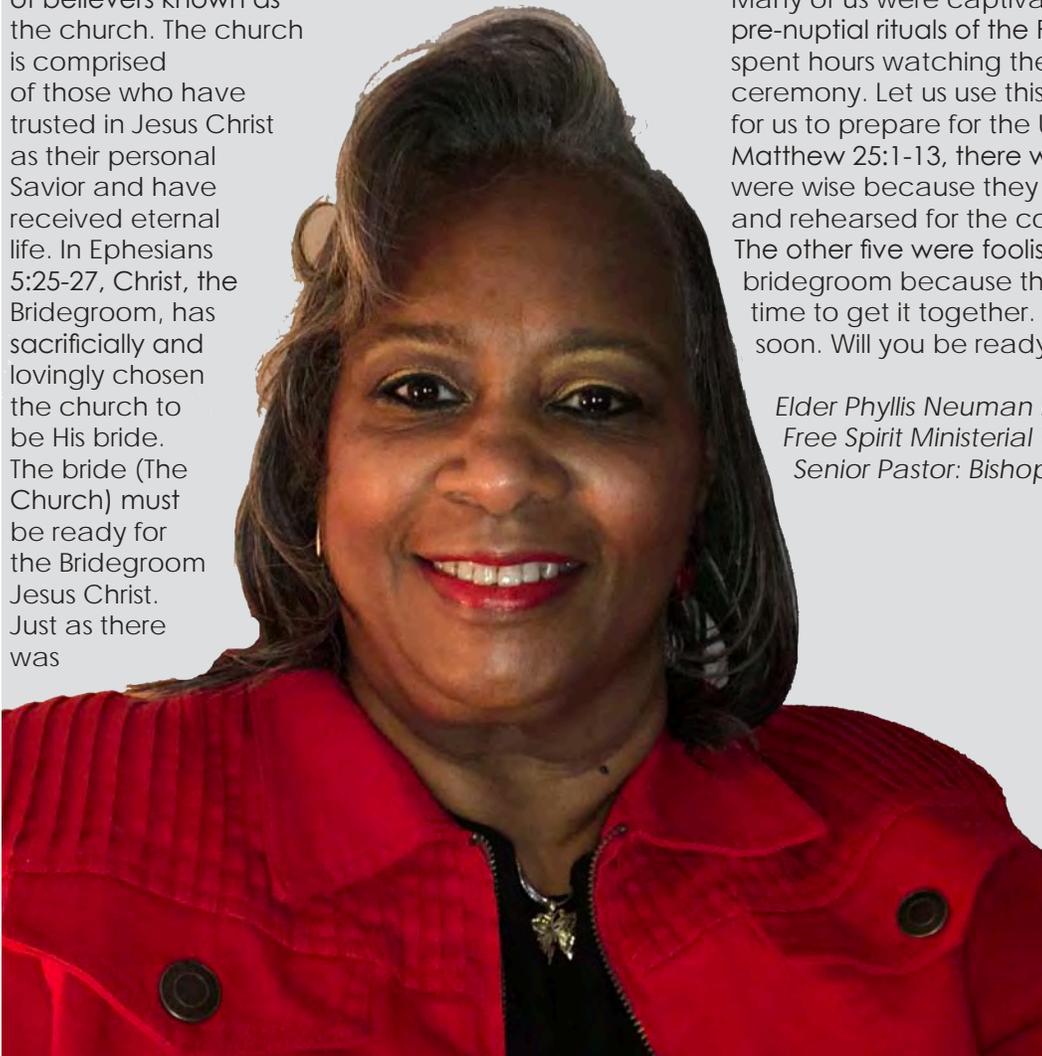
In the Bible, the imagery and symbolism of marriage is applied to Christ and the body of believers known as the church. The church is comprised of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and have received eternal life. In Ephesians 5:25-27, Christ, the Bridegroom, has sacrificially and lovingly chosen the church to be His bride. The bride (The Church) must be ready for the Bridegroom Jesus Christ. Just as there was

a betrothal period in biblical times during which the bride and groom were separated until the wedding, so is the bride of Christ separate from her Bridegroom during the church age. Her responsibility during the betrothal period is to be faithful to Him. At the rapture, the church will be united with the Bridegroom and the official "wedding ceremony" will take place and, with it, the eternal union of Christ and His bride will be actualized.

Believers in Jesus Christ are the bride of Christ, and we wait with great anticipation for the day when we will be united with our Bridegroom. During our wait, are we planning, preparing and rehearsing for our ceremony? Our time should be spent in prayer, meditation on the Word of God, being an example of the love of God and serving one another.

Many of us were captivated with the anticipation and pre-nuptial rituals of the Royal Wedding while others spent hours watching the lengthy processional and ceremony. Let us use this natural event as an example for us to prepare for the Ultimate Royal Wedding. In Matthew 25:1-13, there were ten virgins. Five virgins were wise because they had planned, prepared and rehearsed for the coming of the bridegroom. The other five were foolish and unprepared for the bridegroom because they thought they would have time to get it together. Our Royal Wedding is coming soon. Will you be ready?

*Elder Phyllis Neuman Brown
Free Spirit Ministerial Worship Center
Senior Pastor: Bishop Timothy Byron McGhee*



HAPPENINGS

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS: Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed on Monday, Oct. 8, in honor of Columbus Day; Thursday, Nov. 22, for Thanksgiving; and Tuesday, Dec. 25 for Christmas.

SOUTH HOLLAND ARTISTS GALLERY:



The Artists' Gallery features a unique collection of oils, watercolors, pastels, graphite and colored pencil, prints, photographs, sculptures, pottery, and miniatures. The gallery is currently recruiting artists—junior high, high school, and adult artists are welcome. The Gallery will be held Oct. 4-6 at the Community Center. Everyone is invited to come and check out artists' presentations by South Holland residents. Hours will be noon to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4; noon to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6.

COFFEE WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS:

Residents can meet and talk with members of the fire department from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave. In October, firefighters will be available Oct. 6, and Nov. 3 in November.

THE SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER

CHORALE: The Chorale will hold its inaugural concert of the season "Americans All" at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, at First Reformed Church, 15924 South Park Ave. The concert will feature pieces by Randall Thompson, Robert Shaw, spirituals by Moses Hogan, and many others. The Chorale will also sing music from one of the great epic films of the 1950s.

HARVEST PARTY: The annual Harvest Party will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, at the Community Center. The fest will include costume judging, candy bags, games and pumpkin decorating (bring your own pumpkin) for children ages 3 to 12. Space is limited to first 150 registrants. Registration is required.

HALLOWEEN HOURS: Trick-or-treat hours will be Oct. 31 from 4-7 p.m.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR will be a breakfast event at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Community Center.

PARADE OF LIGHTS: The annual Parade of Lights will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 9. There will be a brief public service at Thorn Creek Reformed Church, 1875 E. 170th St., at 7 p.m. and the parade will begin there at 7:30 p.m. The parade will then wind through the streets of South Holland, Thornton and Homewood, ending at the Homewood Fire Station, 17950 Dixie Highway, in honor of Homewood Firefighter Brian Carey who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting a structure fire in Homewood.

VETERANS DAY: Post 9941 will hold a Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11, at Veterans Memorial Park.

EARLY VOTING: This is an election year and early voting will take place Oct. 22 through Nov. 5 at South Suburban College in the Conference Center Thornton Room, 15800 S. State St. South Holland, Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. Election Day will be Tuesday, Nov. 6. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SOUTH HOLLAND BUSINESS

ASSOCIATION: Monthly meetings are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the South Holland Community Center. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. The topic or speaker is posted on the SHBA calendar at its website at shba.org.



Parade of Lights



TRICK OR TREAT HOURS:

Oct. 31 from 4-7 p.m.



**DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME
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