

# SOUTH HOLLAND

*Living*

January | February 2022



State of the Village 2022





# SNOW ORDINANCE

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**When 2 or more inches  
of snow falls,  
please remove your  
vehicle(s) from  
the street.  
This helps snow plows  
work faster and more  
effectively.**

CORRECTION: In the Nov/Dec 2021 issue, page 10, the person listed as providing stretching exercises for the Breast Cancer Walk should have been Doris Foster of Eye Candy Fitness.

## VILLAGE BOARD

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Don A. De Graff

### **Clerk**

Dr. Sallie Penman

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# State OF THE Village

LOOKING BACK AT PROGRESS MADE  
AND FORWARD TO 2022 AND BEYOND

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR DON A. DE GRAFF:

## Dear Residents and Friends,

We have come upon the tenth and final year of our Vision 2022 strategic plan! It is hard to believe that just a short decade ago, we were drafting big dreams for South Holland, and now as we look back, we see that many of those dreams have come to fruition!

As you will see from the written and photographic proof on the following pages, these strategic plans are more than official names and line items. Here in South Holland, when plans are made, work gets done. The plan holds us accountable to the goals we have set for ourselves, and that accountability brings about clear and effective action that greatly benefits our community.

Our Board and Administration have not lost steam as Vision 2022 has winded down. In fact, over the past year, the energy put toward the plan has ramped up, and tremendous progress has been made in the following areas, the core tenets of Vision 2022:

- \*Responsive and Progressive Leadership
- \*A Connected Community
- \*Clean, Bright and Beautiful
- \*Signature Spaces and Places

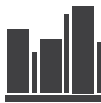
Allow me to share with you some of the remarkable accomplishments in 2021, as well as our plans for the final year of Vision 2022.





## LED STREETLIGHTS

This year, thanks in part to a grant from ComEd, the Village has officially replaced 821 streetlights with LED heads, bringing South Holland to a 100% LED streetlight conversion. This means our streets will be consistently well-lit, as the brightness and color of LED street-lighting do not degrade over time. Also, because of the high efficiency and long lifespan of LED lights, the Village will see a significant cost savings as a result of this project. Over 10 years, the savings is expected to be well above \$500,000.



## STATUES AND SWINGS

New bronze statues have been placed at Town Center Commons and Veterans Park. The set at Town Center Commons depicts five children with their hands over their hearts in salute of the newly installed American flag. At the recently updated north entrance to Veterans Park, a soldier salutes a statue of a fallen comrade's boots and helmet. In addition to the statues, large built-in swings were installed in both locations as well. The swings provide the opportunity for residents to sit and enjoy the beautiful amenities of our parks.



## WATER BILL PAYMENT SYSTEM

In November 2021, we launched a new, user-friendly electronic payment system for water bill payments. With this system, you can schedule recurring payments, receive your bill via email, pay by text, and more. Visit [southholland.org](https://southholland.org) and click on Online Payments to get started.

## LOOKING AHEAD



We are in the process of building a dog park here in South Holland! Located just east of the Community Center, the park will be a special location designated for our canine friends. Look to see the dog park open in the Spring of 2022.



**RESPONSIVE AND  
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LEADERSHIP**



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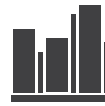


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## NEW/EXPANDED BUSINESS

The Village acquired the strip mall previously anchored by Perruso Cleaners at 425 East 162nd Street to make way for 2,200-square-foot Starbucks with a drive-thru. The ribbon cutting was held on March 12, 2021.

A beautiful new 103-room Best Western Plus Hotel at 17345 Halsted is preparing to open this month. This project was a conversion of the former Hampton Inn.

Martin Produce, a wholesaler of food service products to various restaurants, expanded their footprint in our community through the purchase of the 91,504-square-foot building at 16800 Canal. The building is expected to be operational in 2022.

Recent data shows that the South Holland commercial vacancy rate is 3.1%, the lowest reported rate since this kind of data has been available. To add perspective, the Village has approximately 7.1 million square feet of commercial and industrial property. Of that, 3.1% represents approximately 222,367 square feet of available space.

## LOOKING AHEAD



The Village is converting to a new web-based business licensing system, allowing for electronic payment and data collection, which will provide a more convenient process for business owners.



Various initiatives will be implemented to encourage business retention and expansion, including the return of the successful Innovation Breakfast, which is expected to be combined with a Career Fair to facilitate new employment opportunities for our businesses. We will also engage in various public outreach initiatives throughout the year to ensure that our community stakeholders are well informed about the various resources available to them through the Village.



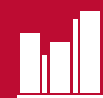
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### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

In an effort to keep South Holland clean, bright and beautiful, we have continued our program of seasonal inspections of residential and commercial properties. The inspectional services team issued 1,356 warning letters and 1,922 citations in 2021 to ensure that our neighborhoods and business corridors are stable and attractive.



### COMPLETED DEMOLITIONS

The department coordinated demolitions of seven old commercial and residential buildings that had outlived their useful lives in order to make way for future development and beautify the community. These properties include an old car wash and gas station near 155th and South Park and the old Kramer's Grocery Store near Thornwood High School.

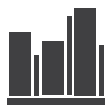


### GATHERING PLACES

The Village acquired the historic home at 16129 South Park Avenue and converted it into SoHo Sweets, an ice cream and coffee shop that also serves breakfast and lunch. The beautiful two-story building, and accompanying patio with fire pit, has quickly become a popular spot for South Holland residents to gather. It opened in August 2021.

This spring, the Village also completely renovated the Legion Hall, located at Van'O Park, to become an optimal spot for hosting functions of 50-60 people. The space features an abundance of natural light, upgraded materials and decor, new exterior siding, and a fully functional kitchen. The name was also changed to Heritage House.

## LOOKING AHEAD



### ZONE A SITE AT ROUTE 6 AND I-94

After the planned development was cancelled due to the pandemic, the Village is actively soliciting new project designs for the northeast corner of Route 6 and I-94. Our team is working hard to bring an impact use for the community.



### VACANT HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Our team was awarded grant funds through the Illinois Housing Development Authority to allow for the acquisition and rehabilitation of vacant homes. The first round of acquisitions has been targeted and is anticipated to be completed in 2022. This effort will beautify neighborhoods by eliminating vacant homes.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT



## LIFESAVING TECHNOLOGY

Through prudent budgetary planning, we were able to acquire two new Zoll cardiac monitors and an additional Zoll mechanical CPR device (Auto-Pulse). These purchases give our paramedics the best technology available to provide life-saving procedures for our residents and patients.



## NEW LIFE-SAVING FIRE TRUCK

This fall we finalized the specifications and placed an order for a new fire engine to replace a 22-year-old fire engine in our fleet. The new engine will be put into service at Fire Station 1. The engine was designed from the ground up to meet the specific needs of our village's residents, homes, commercial occupancies, and industrial facilities. In addition to its firefighting capabilities, the engine is designed to serve as an Advanced Life Support apparatus. This means we can provide all the services of an ambulance except the ability to transport patients.



## LOOKING AHEAD

We are in the process of designing a state-of-the-art training facility for our public safety teams! Our vision is that this facility will be used by our firefighters, as well as our police officers, public works personnel, and other local jurisdictions as a regional headquarters for specialized training. The facility will allow us to provide critical response training while keeping our personnel in the village and ready to respond to actual emergencies. The training grounds will be located behind the South Holland Public Library and will contain a driver's training area, a fire training building, an LP gas-fueled fire training trailer, and a house to practice firefighting and police operations.



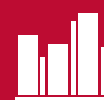
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# MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



## A VILLAGE LIKE NO OTHER CAMPAIGN

In 2021 we continued our “Village Like No Other” marketing campaign to promote South Holland as the ideal place of residence for young professionals, ages 25-40, who value diversity and community. The campaign features video testimonials from residents and business owners, along with coverage of special events throughout the year. We also reserved four billboards in Chicago neighborhoods to promote South Holland as an ideal place to live. Visit [southholland.org/south-holland-is-a-village-like-no-other](https://southholland.org/south-holland-is-a-village-like-no-other) to view the videos and to learn more.



## APPAREL LINE

This fall we launched a brand-new apparel line so residents and friends can show their South Holland spirit in a special way! Men’s and women’s t-shirts, hoodies, and hats are available in three designs that reflect South Holland themes: A Village Like No Other, Faith Family Future, and SoHo (slang for South Holland). Each theme has a modern design that is on trend with similar fan apparel lines. The apparel can be purchased at [southholland.org/apparel](https://southholland.org/apparel).



## EVOLVING EVENTS

This year because of COVID-19, we were forced to reimagine nearly all of our special events. This presented an opportunity to enhance some events for the post-pandemic future. For example, our annual Heritage Haul 5K/10K/ Half Marathon this year became the Fun Run 5K (with many safety measures in place), and it was such a huge success that we will continue with the Fun Run in the coming years.



## LOOKING AHEAD

We are in the process of designing a new, user-friendly website to be launched in Spring of 2022. The site will feature a new design with large photos and icons that better direct users to actions like permits, payments, event information, etc. Upon completion of the website, we will also launch an app as an additional means of digital access for our residents and business owners.



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New South Holland spirit wear



2021 Fun Run 5K





## DOG MICROCHIPPING

The South Holland Police Department teamed up with the South Suburban Humane Society to offer free microchipping for South Holland dog owners. This team effort allowed for more than 200 dogs to receive microchip implants. This implant allows law enforcement to identify the owners of any lost pets.



## POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The South Holland Police Department has partnered with Lexipol Technologies, a company that manages policy and procedures for public safety departments. Through this process, we have updated and successfully released over 300 new policies for sworn personnel. This helps guarantee that the South Holland Police Department remains in complete compliance with all 2021 Safe-T Act Police Reform Laws.



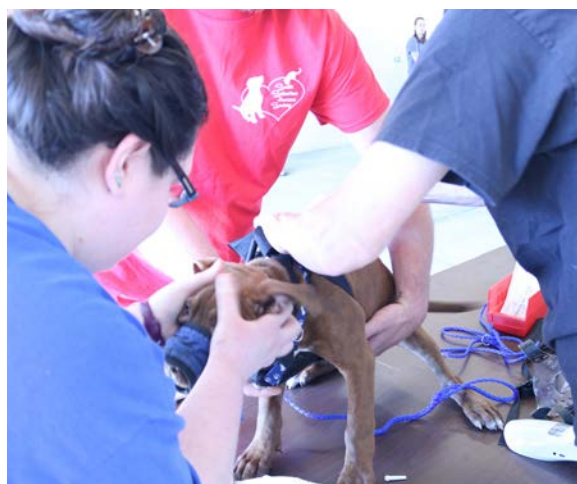
## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In an effort to establish community between police officers and residents, the SHPD held several events in 2021: Coffee with a Cop, a back-to-school backpack giveaway, Dunkin' Coffee for Champions, the above-referenced dog microchipping event, and a Christmas Bingo event for seniors. All of the events were well attended and well received, and we are looking to continue them in 2022.

## LOOKING AHEAD



We are working to update our firing range for police training. The range was built in 1964. Realizing that firearms training for law enforcement has changed over many years, the South Holland Police Department is looking forward to implementing new virtual trainings that include new range stalls and retriever systems on the firing range.







New Public Works facility



### NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

This year, we have taken several large steps to begin the development of a new Public Works facility. The facility will be located on Route 6, just east of Extra Space Storage. The existing Public Works facility, which was built when our population was much lower, can no longer accommodate the modern fleet and services. The new facility will include a salt dome so we can store road salt in an environmentally safe way, and be able to keep an ample supply to keep our streets safe. We expect to start construction in May or June of 2022.



### SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to reduce sanitary sewer overloading during periods of extended, heavy rainfalls, an assessment of the sewer infrastructure was completed in 2018 and 2019. Utilizing the assessment information, the Village Board authorized the implementation of a Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Project to seal and reconstruct 64 sewer manholes. The project was completed in October 2021 and the Board authorized the next phase of improvements with the contract for 4,570 linear feet of sewer lining to be undertaken in Spring 2022.



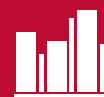
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## PUBLIC SPACES

### WINDMILL SIGNS:

This year, two large "windmill" signs were installed on Route 6 at the off ramps from I-94 and close to the intersection of Route 6 and State St. Two smaller signs were also installed at the intersections of State St and Sibley Blvd and South Park and 154th St. We also installed new Village of South Holland signs on the railroad viaduct crossing on Route 6 near the Village Hall Complex.

### VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK NORTH ENTRANCE:

Throughout the summer and fall of 2021, the Village revamped the signage, walking paths, lighting and landscaping of the north entrance of Veterans Memorial Park. All new concrete walkways were installed including contemplation benches (donated by the South Holland Ministerial Association) and memorial statues. Landscaping was revised and large conifer trees were planted along the path into the park. New decorative swings were strategically placed to encourage visitors to relax in the new area.

### MUNICIPAL PARK UPGRADE:

The Village purchased and installed a new upgraded playground set in Municipal Park. The set contains swings, slides, a jungle gym, fun glider and two zipline stations.

### TOWN CENTER STRING LIGHTS:

The Town Center area of South Park Avenue now has a festive set of string lights hanging overhead, stretching from 161st Place to 160th Place. The lights give even more character and ambiance to the ever-growing downtown area.



## LOOKING AHEAD



In 2022, the Village will resurface 4 to 6 miles of streets. The 2022 Street Resurfacing Program will be completed before Fall 2022.



In 2022, we will move forward with the construction of the new Public Works facility referenced earlier. Project completion is slated for Fall 2023.



# RECREATIONAL SERVICES



## PHASED REOPENING

December of 2020 marked the first time in the history of the Community Center that our building had to close for any significant period of time. Due to Covid, our operations were temporarily suspended. During the closure, the Village invested in substantial upgrades and remodeling for the benefit of our residents. On April 12, 2021 the first phase in our reopening plan began with the opening of the fitness center for our members and summer camp for the children. The next phase saw the addition of in-person classes and programs. In the final phase, large in-person special events resumed with the Trunk or Treat and Veterans' Military Tribute. It has been a welcomed sight to be able to see the smiles on the faces of our members and participants alike after our closure. The reopening has been well received.



## NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM

August marked the update of our registration software. ActiveNet allows us the capability to be more efficient for our in-person and online registration platforms as well as the ability to access reports and data in a more efficient manner. ActiveNet also gives us the ability to send out messages to our members as well as automatic fitness center billing.



## ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING

With Covid and the closure of our facility, it gave us an opportunity to take a closer look at our operations. Our goal was to find more efficient and fiscally responsible ways to operate. During this process, we updated our organizational chart and job descriptions as well as added some positions that will assist us in moving our department forward for the future.

## LOOKING AHEAD



### ONE-DAY SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

This Spring, we will begin to host a series of one-day sports tournaments. The plan is to provide structured recreational activities in a competitive environment. We will kick off in March with a 3-point competition, followed by a bags tournament in April and a cannonball tournament in May.



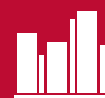
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# My Reflections

As you can see, 2021 was a year of incredible growth and progress. When I look at the pictures of what we've accomplished this past year, I see that we have moved closer and closer to the core tenets of Vision 2022. We've beautified our parks and roadways. We've opened new and exciting businesses. We have bolstered our products and services. And we did so with a commitment to better serving our residents, businesses, schools, churches and service organizations.

We are excited to finish the final stretch of Vision 2022, and we greatly anticipate our next strategic plan, which will be even bigger and bolder. We will be releasing details of that new plan in the coming months.

In the meantime, we celebrate the progress that has been made and we thank God for blessing our community with quality people and places. As we look forward to 2022, it is my prayer that we will remain united, connected, and committed to being a village like no other.



Don A. De Graff  
Mayor





## OUT AND ABOUT

### FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

#### WINTER WONDERLAND

Children and adults filled Veterans Memorial Park for South Holland's Winter Wonderland. The evening began with a tree lighting that also lighted the whole park with a dazzling display of Christmas lights. The event also included visits with Santa, an iceless skating rink, viewing of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and trolley rides through town.





## OUT AND ABOUT

### FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

#### TRUNK OR TREAT

Village Trustees and staff decorated booths and handed out candy to more than 200 kids for a Trunk or Treat event at the Community Center. The event was originally intended to be an outdoor event but was moved inside due to stormy weather.



#### MILITARY TRIBUTE

South Holland veterans were honored at the 7th Annual Military Tribute, which took place at the Community Center. The veterans were treated to a lunch followed by a moving tribute and live entertainment. Local dignitaries and current members of the military were present to pay their respects.





# OUT AND ABOUT

## FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

### WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE

The South Holland Recreational Services department held its annual Winter Sports Showcase, which was an instructional sports clinic for boys and girls ages 3-10. Clinics included baseball, basketball, football, soccer, and cheer. More than 50 kids attended the showcase held at the Community Center.



### BINGO TILL YOU JINGLE

South Holland residents aged 55 and up were invited to celebrate the holiday season by playing bingo with the South Holland Police Department. Participants were treated to lunch and the opportunity to win prizes, plus a fun afternoon with our South Holland police officers.





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Please note that the following events are subject to be changed or cancelled due to Covid-19 mitigations.*



### January 15

#### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TRIBUTE

*10am, Spirit of God Fellowship Church, 16350 S State Street*

The annual South Holland Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration honors Dr. King's legacy through music, powerful speaking, and more. Local duo RAIL & Whitney, who have performed with artists such as Alicia Keys, Ed Sheeran and Estelle, are the headlining performers for this special tribute.

### February 4

#### MOTHER/SON '80S PARTY

*6:30-9pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th Street*

Mothers and sons are invited to enjoy a 1980s-themed evening that includes food, dancing, pictures and more. All sons must be accompanied by their mothers or favorite lady. Come dressed to impress in '80s attire. Register at the Community Center.

### February 5

#### COFFEE WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS

*8:30am, Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave*

Residents can meet and talk with members of the South Holland Fire Department on the first Saturday of every month. (Note: There is no January event due to the New Year's holiday.)

### March 4

#### DADDY/DAUGHTER HAWAIIAN LUAU PARTY

*6:30-9pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th Street*

At this Hawaiian-themed event, dads and daughters are treated to a special night of dinner, dancing and photos. All daughters must be accompanied by their dad or favorite guy.



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed on Monday, January 17, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, February 21, for Presidents Day.

## January 11 and February 8

### COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

*Jan 11: 7pm, Feb 8: 10am, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th Street*

The South Holland Police Department hosts a Community Policing Meeting on the second Tuesday of every month, alternating mornings and evenings. This is an opportunity to address any questions or concerns for the Police Department.

## AT THE LIBRARY

The following are programs held at the South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Ave, unless otherwise indicated.

## January 7 and February 4

### SOHO SWEETS STORYTIME

*9am, SoHo Sweets, 16129 South Park Avenue*

Enjoy sweets and stories with us at SoHo Sweets Creamery & Cafe!

## January 18

### JOB CLINIC

*7pm, North Meeting Room*

Need help finding work? Need some polish on your resumé and cover letter? Our job clinic can help at any stage of the hiring process. Bring your resumé and cover letter for review. Registration required.

## February 17

### LET'S TALK HAIR CARE WITH RITA BARNES

*6pm, North Meeting Room*

As part of Black History Month, Rita Barnes, owner of Thairapy Beauty & Wellness, will teach about natural hair, protective styles and more. Demonstrations and goodies will be provided to registered participants.

## February 25

### AFTER HOURS LIVE MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY

*6:30pm, North Meeting Room*

Conclude Black History Month with music performed by the students of school districts 150, 151 and 205.



MOTHER/ SON

# 80s Party

**FEBRUARY 4**

**6:30 - 9:00 PM**

**South Holland Community Center**

**Tickets: \$35 per mother/son pair (ages 3-14)  
\$10 per additional son**

*Join us for our '80s theme party. Mothers and sons are encouraged to come dressed to impress in '80s theme attire. You will enjoy an evening that includes food, dancing, pictures and more. All sons must be accompanied by their mother or favorite lady for a spectacular evening.*






DADDY / DAUGHTER  
HAWAIIAN

# LUAU PARTY

MARCH 4 • 6:30–9:00 PM  
SOUTH HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

TICKETS: \$35 PER DADDY/DAUGHTER PAIR  
(AGES 3–14)  
\$10 PER ADDITIONAL DAUGHTER

Dads, bring your daughter(s)  
to this special night of dinner,  
dancing and photos, creating  
memories to last a lifetime. All  
daughters must be accompanied  
by their dad or favorite guy for a  
dazzling evening.



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Village of South Holland's



# Dr. Martin Luther King

## CELEBRATION

**Saturday, January 15**  
**10:00am**

Spirit of God Fellowship Church  
16350 S State St

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through song,  
art, and a powerful message.

**Learn more at [southholland.org](http://southholland.org).**



[southholland.org](http://southholland.org)