

SOUTH HOLLAND

Living

Nov | Dec 2021

A Christmas Celebration
Winter Wonderland in the Park



WINTER WONDERLAND

**Friday,
December 3
6:00-8:00pm**

**Holiday festivities
and activities at
Veterans Memorial Park
500 E. 160th Pl,
South Holland**

**For more
information,
visit
southholland.org**

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

The holiday season is upon us, starting with Thanksgiving in just a couple of weeks. During this season of thanks, let us reconsider the theme that brings together the fundamental values that South Holland residents hold true to heart.

In this special holiday season, I am thankful for the grace and faithfulness of God. It is often difficult, especially during times of turmoil such as what we've collectively experienced over the past two years, to breathe in the clear evidences of His goodness in our own lives and in our community. I am very thankful to find that my strength, joy and true comfort in life comes as a result of my knowing that I belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

As Mayor, I am both humbled and thankful to serve this great community, where our residents are kind, caring, respectful and generous. I am genuinely thankful for our churches, schools, businesses, and service organizations that daily seek to care for our residents and friends who live, work and worship here.

In anticipation of a new year, I share with you a strong sense of gratitude as we approach our future together. As a community, our core values will continue to convey that we have a heritage of "faith," with a strong emphasis on "family" values, and an assurance of a very bright home for our "future."

I pray that you and your family have a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

VILLAGE BOARD

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Don A. De Graff

Clerk

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DID YOU KNOW?

LEARN ABOUT THE VILLAGE ORDINANCES THAT HELP KEEP SOUTH HOLLAND A CLEAN, BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY.



Did you know...

... that your house numbers must be visible from the street and must be 4 inches high?

... that it is unlawful for anyone to engage in home solicitation sales within the village without first securing a license from the police department?

... that garbage or household waste must not accumulate in a resident's premises for more than seven days?

... if a fire hydrant is located on your property, we are requesting you please assume the responsibility of keeping the snow removed around it, so our Fire Department can readily locate it in the case of a fire.

For more information about snow removal and Village ordinances, call the Building and Code Department at 708.210.2900.

PAY YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE!

We are now offering a new user-friendly, electronic payment system for water bill payments.

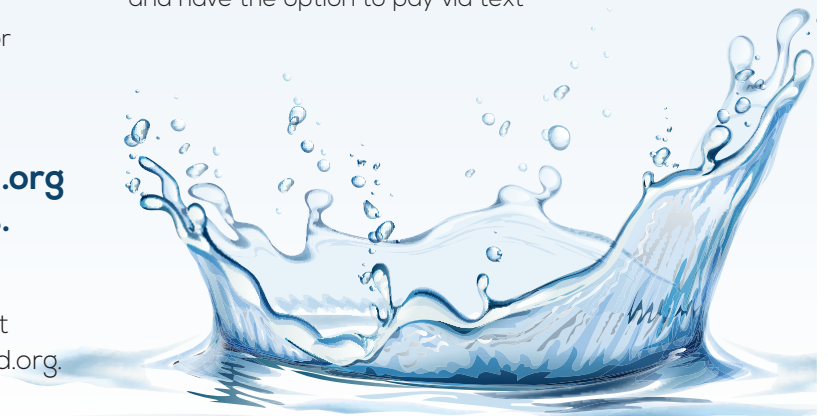
More payment options at your fingertips!

- Pay your utility bill anytime 24/7
- Manage your account and view up to two years of payment history
- Receive email reminders when your bill is ready, and for confirmation after payment
- Make a one-time payment or register to gain access to all features
- Schedule a payment for any future date (before the due date)
- Save time and avoid late or missed payments
- Get text notifications about your bill and have the option to pay via text

To get started, visit southholland.org and click on Online Payments.

Questions?

Contact the Village of South Holland at 708.210.2900 or clerksoffice@southholland.org.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



STREETLIGHT PROJECT

Beginning in 2020, we began a project to gradually replace our streetlights with LED heads. We replaced 300 last year, and now we are pleased to announce that we will replace all remaining 821 streetlights by the end of the year, thanks to a grant from ComEd. The brightness and color of LED street-lighting do not degrade over time, so our streets will be consistently well-lit. 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.



NEW WAY TO PAY

The Village is offering 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 and click on Online Payments to get started.



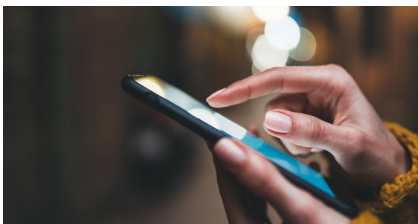
YARD WASTE PICKUP

The South Holland Public Works department would like to remind residents that Republic Services will stop picking up yard waste from their totes on November 30 through the winter months. Pickup will resume April 1. From December through March, the yard waste totes can be used for regular garbage.



SNOW ORDINANCE

Please be aware of the Village's snow ordinance, which states that vehicles shall not be parked on any street if snow exceeds two inches or more. This helps us plow the streets effectively and efficiently. When shoveling snow in a driveway, we recommend depositing the snow to the right side (when facing the street) to minimize plows from blocking you in.



ADDING THE AREA CODE

Residents with a 708 area code must now dial all 10 digits (the area code plus 7-digit telephone number) when placing phone calls, even when calling a local number. The change is part of a Federal Communications Commission effort to free up 988 as a three-digit method to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.



3rd Annual WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE

Sunday, December 5 • 2:00-6:00pm

Learn skills in each of the following sports:

BASEBALL • BASKETBALL
FOOTBALL • SOCCER

*** FREE * CHEER SESSION FROM 12:30 - 1:30 PM**

For boys and girls ages 3-10.

Limited spots are available for both the cheer session and the showcase.

Pre-registration is required.

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$20 BY NOVEMBER 22, \$25 AFTER NOVEMBER 22



South Holland Community Center
501 E 170th Street • South Holland, IL 60473
www.southholland.org • 708 331-2940



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



November 20 and 21 CALUMET HERITAGE DAYS

*10am-2pm, Sand Ridge Nature Center,
15891 Paxton Ave*

Experience the rich heritage of the Calumet Region through living history, interactive displays and demonstrations, historical reenactments, and guided walks.

December 3 WINTER WONDERLAND

*6pm, Veterans Memorial Park,
500 E 160th Pl*

The annual holiday extravaganza features a tree lighting ceremony, trolley rides, an iceless skating rink, holiday vendors, live music, refreshments and more. Visits with Santa are for South Holland residents only and advance registration is required; register at the Community Center.

December 4 COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS

9am, 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.

December 5

WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE

*2-6pm (free cheer session 12:30pm),
South Holland Community Center,
501 E 170th St*

In this inaugural event, boys and girls ages 3-10 will learn the fundamentals of baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. Registration is required; register at southholland.org or at the Community Center.

December 7

MAYOR'S COFFEE

*7pm, South Holland Community Center,
501 E 170th Street*

Residents can hear from and speak with Mayor Don De Graff. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

December 5 and 12

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The South Holland Master Chorale is hosting two holiday-themed concerts in December. The first is December 5, 4pm, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Homewood (17951 Dixie Ave), and the second is December 12, 4pm, at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Dyer (500 Northgate Dr). Both concerts will feature beloved Christmas carols and hymns.

December 14

COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

*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.

January 15

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TRIBUTE

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

The annual South Holland Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration honors Dr. King's legacy through music, dance, video, and more.

AT THE LIBRARY

VISIT THE SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY (16250 WAUSAU AVE) FOR THESE FUN HOLIDAY EVENTS!

November 1

BUDGETING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

7pm, Virtual on Zoom

Finding the perfect gifts for loved ones on a budget is tough. Representatives from the Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Northern Illinois will be sharing tips and tricks to stay financially responsible throughout the holidays. Registration is required.

December 9

THE COOKIE WORKSHOP

6pm, North Meeting Room

Join us for our first Cookie Workshop! Children, teens, and families are invited to decorate their own cookies. All supplies are provided. Children ages 5 and younger will need adult assistance. Registration is required; please let us know of any food allergies upon registration.

December 13

HISTORY OF THE HERSHEY COMPANY

7pm, Virtual on Zoom

It's that special time of year when we break out colorful Hershey kisses and make holiday decorations. Learn the history of these tasty family favorites. Treats will be given to all who register to participate.

December 16

WINTER WONDERLAND PALS

6:30 pm, North Meeting Room

Bring in the holidays with stories, music, and your very own build-a-furry fluffy friend experience. We'll provide all the supplies while you create the fun, while supplies last. Children ages 5 and younger will need adult assistance. Registration is required.

OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

FUN RUN 5K

More than 300 participants ran or walked the streets of South Holland for the Fun Run 5K. Held on September 11, the morning started with a moving 9/11 tribute. Then, participants took to the streets in costumes, accessories and bright clothing and were greeted with “fun stations” like the Thornwood High School band, bubble machines, cheerleaders, and others. More than \$3,500 was raised for Special Olympics Illinois.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

BREAST CANCER WALK/DRIVE

At the Fourth Annual Breast Cancer Walk/Drive “Men Get it Too” event, more than 300 participants walked Veterans Memorial Park and drove the streets of South Holland to raise awareness for breast cancer. The day featured stretching and warm-up by Jackie Clark-Edwards of the Chicagoland Fat Loss Camps, voter registration by Thornton Township, and a vaccination clinic compliments of Family Christian Health Services. Proceeds from the event benefit cancer research at the University of Chicago Medical Centers.

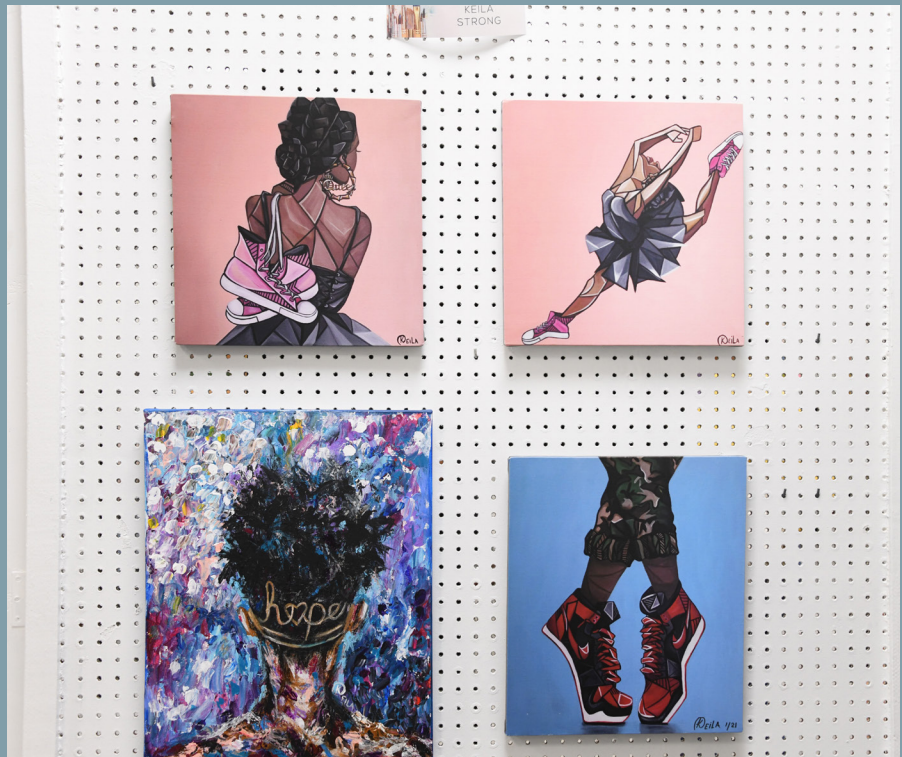


OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

ARTISTS' GALLERY

South Holland artists displayed their work at the Artists' Gallery in October. Held at the Community Center, the Gallery featured the artwork of 13 artists, including painters, photographers, woodworkers and more. The day ended with a Friends & Family Reception, featuring opening remarks by Mayor De Graff, hors d'oeuvres and a celebratory atmosphere.



Village of South Holland's

Dr. Martin Luther King

CELEBRATION



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

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

**Learn more at
southholland.org.**

FAITH IN

Motion

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

By Pastor Richard Zekveld of Covenant Fellowship Church

Dear first responders—police officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel,

We thank God for you this Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Most of us have no clue just how much you do to serve and protect us. We're free to go about our daily business because you go about yours. As we hit the pillow at night, you hit the streets.

You've flown by us in your police cruisers, firetrucks and ambulances, lights flashing, sirens wailing, horns blaring. We pause to glance out our windows or pull over until you've passed by. We then carry on with our business, without another thought to where you're headed in such a hurry.

Now and then, the disturbing realities you routinely deal with get our attention. Sometimes, we call on you for help. But so often we're oblivious to these realities because you are out there, addressing them for us.

How often do you not know what you will find on the other end of a call? How often do you not know what awaits you around the corner? Still, you race in because that's what you signed up to do.

Led by Chiefs Staples and Kolosh, you prioritize community outreach. You work hard to build bridges of trust with residents. You show up at community events and interact with courtesy, friendliness and respect.



Pastor Richard Zekveld



There is much you don't burden us with such as, what's it like to do your job when you're having a bad day? Or week? Or year? How do you handle the trauma that inevitably broadsides you? Where do you go for support? We may not know the answers to these questions, but we can keep these things in mind as we pray for you.

The work you do reminds me of a verb in the Bible that describes how God shows up for his people. English Bibles often translate this verb as 'visit.' But that doesn't quite do it justice. This verb describes the way God shows up in response to a 911 call to assess the need and then address it. In fact, Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, used this verb to describe how God was about to show up in Jesus that first Christmas to deliver his people: "Blessed by the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people" (Luke 1:68, ESV).

Thank you, first responders!

God bless you and yours.

Pastor Richard Zekveld, on behalf of grateful South Holland residents



Sweet Music

TEACHER BRINGS MUSIC EDUCATION AND APPRECIATION TO SOUTH HOLLAND COMMUNITY

By Carrie Steinweg
Photos by Michelle Hamstra

Allen Kern is extremely passionate about what he does for a living and he works to ignite the same passion within his students at the Senses to Soul School of Music, which opened in South Holland in October 2018.

Born into a talented family of church singers and musicians, Kern began playing saxophone in 7th grade when his parents enrolled him in private lessons because there was no music program in his school. He joined his high school concert band and competed in city and state solo and ensemble competitions, then continued his private studies through high school and college. Kern later earned his Bachelors of Performing Arts/Music Education and Music K-12 Illinois State Certification.

Kern's music career began in the Chicago Public Schools where he was a band director, choral director and





general music teacher in both elementary and high schools. He's now been a music educator for more than 20 years.

"I was very happy working as a music educator in Chicago Public Schools. I loved working with my students. They worked hard as they learned to work together. They became leaders," Kern says.

His teaching extended beyond the classroom as he travelled with students both locally and around the country competing and performing. "We gave them experiences outside of their own communities," he says. "Unfortunately, The Chicago Board of Education, like many school districts in our country, began to defund their schools' music programs. It became difficult to get instruments and teaching resources for my students. Frankly, I became frustrated, because I was no longer able to provide robust musical and educational experiences to my students."

Several years ago, Kern had an opportunity to partner with a fellow music educator to develop a community music program through Illinois State Representative Monique Davis's office. "Since the schools were taking music from the classrooms, our mission was to take music to the community. For about five years, we offered free vocal, percussion, woodwind and brasswind lessons to children and adults in the community," Kern says. "We would meet with our students after work. When Representative Davis retired we had to discontinue the music program. When I informed my students of the discontinuance, a few of them asked me to continue their lessons from my home. I taught from my home in the evenings for a few years until I was able to establish my music school full time in 2018."

Senses to Soul offers instrumental and vocal instruction to both kids and adults alike. Kern is grateful to the Village of South Holland and South Holland Business Association for their help in getting his business established and connecting him to volunteer opportunities.



"I've personally experienced and have seen firsthand the positive impact that music has on the development of people, particularly children," Kern says. "Not only are there cognitive, emotional, academic and social benefits of music, but music creates opportunities in so many areas. I've sent dozens of students to colleges on scholarships yearly, and discussed various career choices in the music industry. I have former students who are playing professionally, managing artists, in law, in promotions, in engineering and have other careers in music."

In addition to music instruction, the mission of the Senses To Soul School of Music includes supporting local bands. "We offer rehearsal space to local bands, we rent our studio space out to bands to livestream and host their own small concerts. We also host small concerts for local bands. Lastly, we offer very affordable high-quality full-service audio production for local bands," Kern says. "We just finished a jazz series. We partnered with the Southside Jazz Coalition, the Jazz Institute of Chicago and the Southside Music Alliance to bring world class local jazz musicians to the South Holland community."

Kern adds, "I am grateful that we are able to make local bands accessible to our community because it allows young people and families to enjoy live music without having to travel far, go to a bar or stay out late at night."

SENSES TO SOUL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

150 W 168th St
773.837.8638

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blues Series coming March 2022
Summer Band Camp coming Summer 2022

For information on upcoming workshops, clinics, concerts and other events, subscribe to receive emails at sensetosoulschoolofmusic.com. 🔥





Grateful & Blessed

We asked South Holland residents:

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

"I'm most looking forward to being together. Last year, with Covid, our celebrations looked very different. But this year, with our family all vaccinated, we will be able to be together—hugging and laughing and eating and mostly giving thanks!" -Mary D.

"May my family stay healthy." -Luzzk C.

"I'm looking forward to holiday festivities being back up and running again. Last year everything was canceled or altered, so it will be fun to take the kids to things like Winter Wonderland and visits with Santa again." -Kathy K.

"After a rough couple of years, I'm grateful to ring in a new year with my family and loved ones." -Isaac T.

CARVING AWAY

SOUTH HOLLAND GROUP TEACHES THE ART OF WOODCARVING

By Mike Krga
Photos by Michelle Hamstra

Artists with a penchant for woodcarving or woodturning might be right at home with a group that is one of South Holland's best-kept secrets.

The South Suburban Chiselers-Illiana Woodturners is a nonprofit organization that has been in South Holland since 1976, located at 163rd and Vincennes Avenue. Led by their president, Tom Waicekauskas, the South Suburban Chiselers-Illiana Woodturners offer personal instruction and hands-on training for members in the art of wood carving, woodturning, and other related techniques. The group gives members the supplies and resources they need to complete any project, including



Members of the South Suburban Chiselers-Illiana Woodturners





all wood, machinery, teachings and more. "I don't want people to think it costs a lot of money to participate," says Tom Waicekauskas. "We have all the resources available for them."

All kinds of people are welcome within the group. The 50 to 60 men and women who are currently members are artists, retired teachers, and computer programmers, to name a few. Several members' pieces were featured in the 2021 South Holland Artists' Gallery in October.

To join the group, anyone interested must simply fill out an application and provide a \$75 annual fee. With that, members get access to the workshop, supplies and resources. After joining, there is an introduction period where experienced members of the group watch new members turn or carve a small bowl safely and correctly. This





Louise Lerner



Curtis Murff



Chris Geisler

can be completed in one day or several, based on how comfortable a new member feels. "You take it at your own speed," Waicekauskas says. "It's not a race."

Tom Waicekauskas has been a member of the group since 1986 and now is their current president. Helping connect the group to other chapters and the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), Waicekauskas hopes to bring in more members and teach them about woodturning, carving and burning. He says that in his 35 years as a member, he has learned a lot of valuable skills and met a lot of outstanding people. He appreciates the fact that members are so willing to generously share their experience. He has hopes that the younger generation would join in order to keep the group thriving and spread more knowledge about the hobby to the public. "My goal" Waicekauskas says, "is to see it pass on to the new generations to come."

TO VISIT

The group's campus at 16236 Vincennes Ave is home of the Midwest School of Woodcarving and the Midwest Carving Museum, where one can view hundreds of items carved and turned by club members over the last 50 years.

TO JOIN

Those interested in joining the South Suburban Chisellers-Illiana Woodturners can call 708.331.6011 or visit the workshop at 16236 Vincennes Ave. 🔥

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



Toy Drive

The South Holland Fire Department is collecting new, unwrapped toys, from now until December 9. Toys will be donated to Restoration Ministries.

**DONATION DROP SITE:
SOUTH HOLLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
STATION 1
16230 WAUSAU AVE**



**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT THE
SOUTH HOLLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
AT 708.331.3123.**



southholland.org