



South Holland TODAY

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2014

STATE OF THE VILLAGE



INSIDE

State of the Village 2-4

2013 Crime Stats..... 8

Dr. King Program..... 10

Women's History
Month..... 15

STATE OF THE VILLAGE: ADVANCING OUR VISION

Dear Residents and Friends of the Village of South Holland,

What a winter 2013/2014 has been! Our shared experiences of heavy snowfalls and arctic cold temperatures will not be easily forgotten. This is truly a winter that reminds us that God is in control and we're not. It makes us more appreciative of a warm home, loving family and friends, and a great community to live in and share some of life's experiences. We can also appreciate our tireless South Holland Public Works employees, who have done an outstanding job keeping our roads open and maintaining the integrity of our infrastructure. We are grateful for our Police and Fire personnel who work around



Improvements to Cottage Grove Ave. bridge

the clock, making sure our 8,000 homes and nearly 750 businesses are kept safe and secure through some very hazardous winter conditions.

When experiences are shared, though sometimes difficult, they turn into unforgettable and often historical events. They become interwoven into the fabric of who are today as individuals, impacting us as families, and motivating us as a beautifully diverse community to dream together, creating a united vision for who we will become in the future. That's what is happening here in our great community of South Holland. Our shared experiences are developing us into a new and beautiful culture that uniquely identifies South Holland. It is no accident that we are considered one of the most desirable communities to live work, worship and recreate in all of Chicago Southland region.

The backdrop for our ambitious vision casting is based on our unity surrounding the principles of Faith, Family, and

Future. These principles permeate our thoughts, our dreams and the actions we have taken throughout 2013. It's amazing to already begin to see the results.

Our exciting ten-year vision is aptly entitled "Vision 2022". It began a year ago and is both extensive and exhaustive. The

Our shared experiences are developing us into a new and beautiful culture that uniquely identifies South Holland.

– Mayor Don De Graff

four main components emphasize South Holland's priority to provide "Responsive and Progressive Leadership", to be "A Connected Community",

that is "Clean, Bright, and Beautiful", and that develops "Signature Spaces and Places".

What a year this has been! Here are a few amazing highlights from 2013 and some continuing plans for 2014.



As a result of our **Responsive and Progressive Leadership** team, in 2013:

We have an extremely safe and sound community, having achieved an all-time, historic low crime rate, with a dramatic reduction in burglaries by **61%**. Our total crime index rate fell by over **17%**.

In an effort to provide the most progressive law enforcement efforts, we acquired and are developing the former South Holland Motor Bank into the absolute best police facility of any in the entire Chicago Southland region.

Our fire department responded to **3,701** fire/paramedic calls, delivering reliable and professional service.

ESDA (Emergency Services Disaster Agency) recruited nine new volunteer members to support public safety efforts at community events, to provide traffic safety assistance at emergency scenes, among other duties.



New contemporary police facility

We continue to be a financially strong community, annually balancing our budget and ending our 2013 fiscal year with revenues that have exceeded our expenditures.

We were grateful to be awarded a state grant for three community service improvement projects – **mitigation of flooding** around fire station two at 1450 East 170th Street; acquisition and installation of a **new generator** at the Sibley water pumping station; and upgrade to **cellular communications** of our water pumping and lift stations to ensure uninterrupted service.



Revitalized Fitness Center

In 2014, the Village of South Holland will continue to provide the highest quality public services, enriching the experiences of our constituency.

Already this year, we initiated a three-phase plan for transition to a fixed-point water meter network, which will allow for more accurate and efficient collection of water usage readings.

Our proactive approach to fire and crime prevention, along with well-trained public safety staff, will continue to provide a safe environment. Our new contemporary police facility will provide much needed space for our growing police department, including areas to host local community policing meetings, trainings, and municipal court hearings. Our fire department will pursue replacement of an ambulance, as well as further develop our Fire Prevention Bureau to better serve South Holland residents and businesses.

Also, as one very successful TIF (Tax Increment Finance) expires, a new TIF district will be pursued to provide for



Newly developed Extreme Car Wash

future economic development opportunities on the west end of town.



In 2013, as a result of our emphasis on being **A Connected Community**:

The *South Holland Today* was redesigned to a full-color magazine style publication, now released on a bi-monthly basis.

A new volunteer **Public Relations & Marketing Commission** was established, chartered to assist the village, on a consultative level, for the development of concepts,

plans, strategies, trends, programs, and activities that support, facilitate and guide the public relations and marketing efforts for the village.

We hosted engaging and fun **Neighborhood Block Parties** for our residents at Van-O Park and Paarlberg Park, which included horseback riding, bean bag toss, among other family-friendly games.

We upgraded the Heritage Haul run/walk event to chip timing, and introduced a challenging 15-mile bike course. Nearly **300** competitive runners, walkers and bikers crossed the finish line at the 8th annual event.

As we move forward in 2014, our village will continue to prioritize our mission of being a connected community by identifying and implementing new trends for connecting with residents, businesses and visitors. We will also continue to re-emphasize our brand as a community of *Faith, Family and Future*.

We will further advance our brand identity with the redesign of the village website and a new dynamic marketing plan to promote South Holland on a local, regional and national level.



As a result of a **Clean, Bright and Beautiful** community, in 2013:

The code enforcement “walking unit” conducted property maintenance inspections, resulting in the issuance of nearly **300** property deficiency letters.

We installed **new village street name signs with updated logo** along South Park Avenue, 170th Street, and Cottage Grove Avenue.



Gateway pillars welcome all to South Holland

Our signature community motto, *Faith Family Future*, is now prominently displayed on **three new gateway pillars** on Route 6 at the border of Harvey

We accomplished the unprecedented achievement of **re-surfacing three major roadways** – Route 6, State Street, and South Park Avenue – all in one year!

170th Street, from South Park to Kenwood Avenues, was completely reconstructed with new underground infrastructure, wider vehicle lanes, upgraded street lighting, new curbs,
(Continued, page 4)

State of the Village, from page 3

gutters and landscaping, and bike lanes. Notably, this project was recently recognized as the *Public Works Project of the Year* by the American Public Works Association, Chicago Metro Chapter – Southwest Branch.

In 2014, we will ensure that the character and personality of the community remain vibrant with the installation of the Faith Family Future pillars at the village gateway on 170th Street at the border of Lansing.

We will resurface many additional miles of our local roads and install additional street name signs throughout the community. The village will begin reconstruction of the Woodlawn East bridge, as well as more improvements to the Cottage Grove Avenue bridge and also plan for the major resurfacing of Cottage Grove Avenue, Vincennes Avenue and 154th Street, all north of Route 6.



Panera Bread celebrates grand opening



As a result of providing **Signature Spaces and Places**, in 2013:

We celebrated the continued growth of our business district with a number of new **new commercial developments**. Two of the more prominent projects included Panera Bread in Hamra Plaza at the corner of 162nd Street and Wausau Avenue, with convenient drive-thru and dine-in table service, and Extreme Clean Car Wash at 1111 East 162nd Street, offering free vacuum stations and self-serve dog wash systems.

Public Works, in partnership with our Fire Dept., completed the **renovation of Maicach Park** with a new fire engine theme.

Recreational Services and the Park Advisory Committee **revitalized the fitness center** at the South Holland Community Center with all new state-of-the-art equipment.

As one of our primary destination points, the Community Center served almost **9,000** customers and residents and visitors benefited from more than **1,000** classes and programs.

In 2014, we will move forward with the renovation and upgrading of our village parks, as part of a multi-year site improvement initiative. Additionally, Loves Travel Center, a national corporation, is expected to break ground this spring



Loves Travel Center to break ground

at the former Gibson Chevrolet and Truck-O-Mat properties, with a build-out of a modern facility providing a convenience and novelty store, fueling stations, and Hardee's restaurant. Also, CR England, the world's largest refrigerated trucking company, is relocating their major trucking terminal to South Holland.

It is exciting to realize that we are now receiving significant interest by major developers, especially at our critical corners along Route 6, including South Park Avenue (northeast and southwest corners), Wausau Avenue (northwest corner), Woodlawn East (southwest corner), and at the intersection of Route 6 and I-94 (northeast corner).



As we enter our second year of Vision 2022, I am so thankful for the unity of our village board and the individual gifts of our administration that have made this first year so successful and allow us to stay the course. I have stated on many occasions that it is my contention that 'a village that does not look forward will ultimately fall backward'. South Holland has a great reputation and we must not rest upon our laurels. We have a rich history and heritage, but nonetheless, we must continue to challenge ourselves to new heights.

May God continue to bless the great Village of South Holland as we do exactly that. I am convinced that together we will rise to the challenge and dream, plan and advance in this second year of engagement our united plan we call "Vision 2022."

sdg

Don A. De Graff, Mayor



Fire Department theme sparked the renovation of Maicach Park

SOUTH HOLLAND HAPPENINGS



African American History

February is African American History Month. The 2014 theme, *Civil Rights in America*, marked the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Mayor Don De Graff, village clerk Sallie Penman, members of the board of trustees and administration honor the men and women who were some of America's greatest contributors and advocates of social justice and civil rights.

Mayor's Coffee

The next quarterly Mayor's Coffee will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at the Community Center. The coffees provide an informal opportunity for residents to meet with the Mayor and other Village officials to ask questions and share comments and concerns.

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 17-21 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>.

'American English' comes to South Holland

South Holland Recreational Services will present "American English," a Beatles tribute band, on Saturday, March 22, at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St.

Considered to be the best Beatles tribute group of our time, the band was voted No. 1 at Beatlefest for three consecutive years. In addition, they were also recognized as Illinois Entertainer of the Year and Best Tribute Band by their Chicagoland fans.

Celebrate 50 years of Beatle memories at this dinner show.

Tickets are now on sale and may be obtained by calling 708-331-2940. Prices are \$40 for advanced tickets and \$45 at the door.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served until 6:30 p.m. A table can be reserved with the purchase of six to eight tickets.

Saran Dunmore to headline 2014 Chicago Women's Conference & Expo

South Suburban College proudly announces Saran Dunmore as the Keynote Speaker for the 2014 Chicago Women's Conference & Expo on Friday, March 14, located at the college's Main Campus in South Holland.



Dunmore is an energetic fitness and lifestyle expert who enhances the lives of her clients and viewers through her passionate and motivating approach. Her knowledge and zeal for fitness is evidenced on NBC 5, where she has been a regular Fit Club Coach during the

Saturday morning news hour, since 2007. Dunmore was also a trainer on the hit MTV weight loss show "I Used to Be Fat" from 2009-2012 and which is currently airing internationally. Saran is also an emcee, an athlete and a soon-to-be-author.

The Chicago Women's Conference & Expo is dedicated exclusively to women of all backgrounds ages 18 and up. This event features breakout sessions focusing on Health & Wellness, Business & Finance, and Personal Empowerment topics.

The cost of admission is just \$15 per person with advance registration by March 14 or \$25 at the door. The conference fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and admission to all of the break-out sessions. There will also be more than 50 vendors providing shopping opportunities with a wide range of products and services.

For information, or to register for the 2014 Chicago Women's Conference, call 708-596-2000, ext. 2455 or visit www.TheChicagoWomensConference.com.

South Suburban College is located at 15800 S. State St., South Holland.

South Holland Fire Department
invites you to an

All You Can Eat
Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 22
7 to 11 am
Fire Station #1
16230 Wausau Avenue

HAVE BREAKFAST WITH FIREFIGHTERS!

\$7.00
per person
Children 4 & under FREE

DON'T MISS THE RAFFLE!

SALUTES

University of Cincinnati student **Brian Edward Barney**, of South Holland, has been named Mr. Kuamka 2014, culminating the African American Cultural and Resource Center's Kuamka Week at UC. Barney is a 21-year-old health sciences/pre-physical therapy major.



South Holland resident, **Ricca Louissaint**, has been named Governors State University's 2013 Lincoln Laureate. She was honored for her outstanding contributions to the GSU community and commitment to helping her fellow students.



The South Holland Business Association (SHBA) recently presented longtime volunteer, **Ted Ver Haar**, with the first Ted Ver Haar Service Award. The Ted Ver Haar Service Award will be presented by SHBA twice a year in recognition of outstanding service to the organization.



SHBA hosts monthly business luncheons on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Community Center, 501 East 170th Street.



South Suburban College Head Baseball Coach **Steve Ruzich** was recently selected for the NJCAA Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. Ruzich will officially be inducted on May 23 at the 2014 NJCAA World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado.

South Suburban College Head Baseball Coach **Steve Ruzich** was recently selected for the NJCAA Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. Ruzich will officially be inducted on May 23 at the 2014 NJCAA World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Mayor Don De Graff issued proclamations in recognition of significant milestones and committed service.

Pictured at right: Zelda Birdsong, celebrated her 105th birthday in December. Shown with Zelda (left) are Pat Mahon, South Holland Deputy Administrator, and Pat Huey, Ms. Birdsong's niece (right).



Pictured below: During the board meeting in January, South Holland native, Norma Knopf, received commendation for nearly 40 years of serving as caretaker of land at the village entranceway at Interstate 94 and Route 6. Pictured with Norma

are her husband Ralph (left) and Mayor De Graff. Also recognized during the January board meeting was Antoinette Eberhardt on the occasion of her retirement from a 40 year tenure with ComEd.



America's Guardian Angels show appreciation

America's Guardian Angels had a Christmas dinner for veterans as well as South Holland police officers and firefighters, which was co-sponsored and hosted by South Holland Recreational Services.



Glennita Williams

Founder Glennita Williams, an honors student at Thornwood High School, wanted to express her appreciation toward the veterans and first-responders for fighting for our country and serving our community.

Military veterans from World War II, including a Tuskegee Airman veteran, to the Afghanistan War were present.

The Civil Air Patrol Color Guard was on hand to post the colors and Col. (Ret.) Stacker did the reading of the Fallen Soldiers Table.

With the help of high school and college students, Glennita gave flat screen TVs, Kindle tablets, digital cameras, grills and more to the veterans and first-responders for Christmas gifts, while other volunteers served the dinner.

For the first time, Glennita revealed the two books she is featured in for her volunteer work.

A new book called "Pay It Forward Kids: Small Acts, Big Changes" by Nancy Runstedler tells Glennita's story in Chapter 8, "Treating the Troops." The book explains how America's Guardian Angels began.

She also is featured in "The World Almanac For Kids 2012 - Volunteering All-Stars."

For information on Glennita and America's Guardian Angels, visit her website at www.americasguardianangels.org.

'Sweet Deal' is available at the South Holland Community Center

The South Holland Community Center is offering a "Sweet Deal" on party room, gym and pool rentals.

Residents who book a social gathering at the Community Center during the month of February for any calendar date in 2014 will receive 14 percent off the final contract price (some exclusions apply).

Take advantage of the spacious facility to hold a birthday party, anniversary celebration, bridal shower, baby shower or wedding reception.

The Community Center has a new Linen Package that offers complete set

up and clean up services allowing you to "be a guest at your own event." Convenient payment plans are available for Linen Packages.

Room reservations fill up fast, so book your party now and rest easy knowing that your special date is secured.

The South Holland Community Center is located at 501 E. 170th St.

For information or to book a date, call Sean Faulkner at 708-331-2940 or email him at sfaulkner@southolland.org.

This promotion does not apply to conference room rentals.

Ingalls to host free women's heart event

Ingalls Health System invites women to learn about heart disease and how to prevent it at the *Hearts in the Right Place* event at 11 a.m. Feb. 22 at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St.

Although heart disease is often thought of as a man's problem, more women than men die of heart disease each year. One challenge is that heart disease symptoms in women can be different from symptoms in men. Instead of shortness of breath and pains shooting down the left side of the body, women may experience vomiting and nausea, fatigue, shortness of breath, unexplained sweating, back or jaw pain, and flu-like symptoms.

"All women face the threat of heart disease," explains cardiologist Dr. Sabrina Akrami. "But becoming aware of symptoms and risks unique to women, as well as eating a heart-healthy diet and exercising, can help protect you."

The *Hearts in the Right Place* event

is a free program that will feature an informative presentation by Akrami geared toward women 40 to 60 years of age, interactive booths, health screenings, giveaways, prizes and more.

The program is funded by a grant from the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

"Although traditional risk factors for heart disease, including high cholesterol, high blood pressure and obesity, affect both women and men, other factors seem to play a more prominent role in the development of heart disease in women," Akrami said.

The good news is that by avoiding smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising at least 30 minutes most days of the week, and eating a diet low in fat, sodium and cholesterol can greatly reduce a woman's risk for heart disease.

For information or to register, call Ingalls Care Connection at 708-915-2273. Seating is limited.

Residents to conduct winter gardening series



University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners Jennifer and Bill Tobin, both residents of South Holland, will lead a Sunday Afternoon Winter Gardening Series at Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave., South Holland.

At 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, they will discuss Native Plants, which are easy to care for and are adapted to our climate. Native plants support populations of native insects that support native birds and other wildlife. Learn how to select native plants, to include grasses, wildflowers, perennials, trees and shrubs. Also learn about cultivar concerns when selecting what you might want to add to your landscape.

At 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, they will discuss Herb Gardening. Throughout human history, herbs have been used as flavorings, medicines, decorations, scents and protective garden plants. Herbs delight the senses whether you choose to cook and craft with them or just enjoy them as fine fragrant flora. Ideas on what herbs to grow and how to grow them for your situation.

Preregister by calling 708-868-0606. 10 people minimum are needed for the class.

This program is held in conjunction with the University of Illinois Extension and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police promotions ceremony marked by surprise

By Eric Pradelski

A police promotion ceremony last month also included a surprise marriage proposal for one of the officers moving up in rank.

Right after **Jill Mackowiak** was promoted from detective to sergeant and sworn in by Deputy Village Administrator Pat Mahon, her boyfriend, Rob Kruger, got down on one knee and proposed to her.

Also promoted was **Shawn Staples**, a special operations sergeant with more than 20 years of law enforcement experience, to lieutenant.

Staples began his career in South Holland in 2002 as a patrol officer and advanced to school resource officer, detective and patrol sergeant. He has been a special operations sergeant since 2013, supervising and training a unit of officers to investigate, conducting surveillance and making arrests for illegal gun and drug activity.



Sgt. Jill Mackowiak is sworn in by Deputy Village Administrator Pat Mahon.



Shawn Staples is congratulated by Mayor De Graff.

Next Citizen Police Academy session to begin in April

By Eric Pradelski

The next session of the Citizen Police Academy will start on Tuesday, April 8.

The Academy will be held Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. through June 24.

The purpose of the program is to help citizens better understand how the South Holland Police Department works and the challenges that police officers face trying to serve and protect the village.

This is an interactive class taught by South Holland police officers. There is no cost for the class.

Class size is capped at 20. You must be 18 years of age and a South Holland resident or business owner to be eligible to participate.

Applications are available at the South Holland Police Station at 16220 Wausau Ave.

This year, there also will be an optional CPR class on two Saturdays (dates to be determined) and possibly a Fire Extinguisher Class (date to be determined).

Crime rate for 2013 lowest in South Holland history

By Eric Pradelski

The uniform crime reporting figures for 2013 are in, and it was the lowest in the village's history.

Uniform crime reporting are statistics on crime required by all law enforcement agencies to report to the Illinois State Police and the FBI annually.

This year's total crime index was 472. That was down considerably from the results from 2012 of 596.

Police Chief Greg Baker attributed the drop to a combination of police efforts, citizens watching out for each other, and the blessings bestowed on our community.

Baker said the crime index tracks 10 types of crimes and the numbers of incidents of each type of crime. Typically, Baker said, South Holland's crime index would be somewhere between 500 and 600 incidents per year.

Baker said the number of incidents was down in just about all categories of crime, with the number of burglaries taking place in South Holland showing a significant drop by 61% during 2013.

Mayor Don De Graff attributed the reduction in the number of crimes taking place in South Holland to positive changes made within the Police Department in recent years.

Firearm safety and the new state law

By Eric Pradelski

Illinois' new Concealed Carry Law went into effect Jan. 1 and the Illinois State Police began accepting online applications only on Jan. 5.

To date, more than 13,000 applications have been approved. Those applicants will receive their concealed-carry permits, which are required by the new law, starting in April.

There are special requirements for transporting firearms in vehicles in Illinois. To be transported in a vehicle, a weapon must be unloaded, completely enclosed in a case, and transported by a person who has a valid FOID card.

For information on applying for an FOID card, you can visit the Illinois State Police website at www.isp.il.us.

For information on applying for a Concealed Carry License, visit www.ccl4illinois.com.

The South Holland Police Department wants to remind residents of firearm storage and safety tips:

ALWAYS:

- keep guns unloaded until ready to use.
- store guns in a heavy, locking safe to prevent unwanted/unauthorized access.
- store ammunition in a different area than your weapons.
- assume guns are loaded.

NEVER:

- point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.

Talk to your children about gun safety even if you don't own firearms. Teach them: *Stop, Don't Touch, Leave the Area, Tell an Adult.*

PUBLIC WORKS

Cook County OKs repairs along 170th Street

The Cook County Board voted in January to approve additional work to be done on 170th Street from the Bishop Ford Freeway in South Holland to Burnham Avenue in Lansing.

Chicago-based Capitol Cement Co. Inc. will receive a payment of \$53,378.24 to repair existing catch basins and pipes.

The board has approved purchasing items for storm sewer removal at various locations along 170th Street in South Holland.

County Board members will pay \$30,064.96 to G&V Construction Co. to do the work.

County officials said the expenditure was necessary to avoid conflict with proposed pavement repair of a damaged water service and repair of an existing storm sewer lateral between South Park Avenue and the Bishop Ford Freeway.

Public Works keeps us safe!

Water Main Break Repair

Since winter began its snow and then bitter cold cycle, the South Holland Public Works Department has had its hands full repairing broken water mains: **28** in December, **25** in January, and **20** in February.

Snow Removal

Village crews have been busy keeping streets clear for motorists. So far this winter they have:

- Plowed 50 inches of snow.
- Laid out 1,800 tons of salt.
- Used 2,000 gallons of calcium chloride.
- Used 2,600 gallons of fuel.
- Driven 9,000 miles.
- Worked 900 man hours!

Our Water Rates

Rates effective March 1, 2014

(Note: Gallons are read in thousands)

- \$5.51 per 1,000 gallons for first 25,000 gallons.
- \$4.87 per 1,000 gallons for next 100,000 gallons.
- \$4.76 per 1,000 gallons for gallons over 125,000.
- Sewer rate = \$.47 X number of thousands of gallons used.
- Flat = \$.38 per month.
- Refuse (Garbage Pick-Up) = \$23.10 per month.

Minimum charge for water is \$11.02, minimum total bill is \$34.50

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.



Dr. King program encourages residents to seize the vision

'Our children won't know the story unless we tell them. Too many don't know that he (Dr. King) changed America.' - Rev. Dr. Ozzie Smith, Jr.

By Cindy Cruz

Residents of all ages from all racial and ethnic backgrounds gathered together at South Holland's 9th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration to remember and pay tribute to the man who changed the world.

While past programs focused on the dreams of Dr. King, this year's theme was entitled, "Seizing the Vision" and served as a musical tribute for the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's March on Washington.

Program emcee Dr. Kathryn Worthen said Dr. King shared a dream that provided a vision of equality and hope for a struggling nation. There have been positive strides toward shared prosperity and racial harmony but there is still work to do.

Worthen said it was important to assess our successes and failures and determine our aspirations to seize the vision and move forward.

Performances by the South Suburban Chorale, Covenant United Church of Christ Praise Dancers, Rev. Dr. Ozzie Smith, pastor of Covenant United Church of Christ and the Seton Jazz Ensemble also highlighted the program.

Rev. Smith, the keynote speaker, said it was important to not only seize the dream but to do the dream.

Referring to the spirit of curiosity of a child that Dr. King carried into adulthood,

Rev. Smith said, "A child did this. He had the dream because what he saw was a nightmare."

Rev. Smith said being raised in a home where faith was lived out loud encouraged Dr. King to fight for justice.

When he was told by his white friend's mother that he could no longer play with her son because he was black, he returned to his own loving home where his grandmother told him to never believe he was not as good because of the color of his skin. She planted the seed in his spirit.

"Dr. King said, 'don't get mad, get curious,'" Rev. Smith said. "There's a child in each one of us. Today, Dr. King speaks to us from the grave saying seize the vision, don't tame the vision."

Rev. Smith said children need to know about Dr. King.

"Our children won't know the story unless we tell them," said Rev. Smith. "Too many don't know that he changed America.

He dared to believe it was possible for all people to live together in harmony. Just like a child, he reached for something that he was not supposed to touch and touched the hearts of people all over the world. We still have difficult times and there is some unfinished business."

Speaking to the young people, Rev. Smith said, "As a child you have opportunities to be anything you want to be. Remember you can kill the dreamer, but you can't kill the dream."

In closing, Mayor Don De Graff said he was thankful for the vision Dr. King set out for us.

"Think about the Sankofa, a mythical bird from West Africa," De Graff said. "As he moves forward, he carries in his mouth the egg of hope but he is constantly looking behind him to see where he was. The bright hope of the future is based on where he was. We want to be leaders like a Sankofa bird."

He stressed the importance of reflecting and looking back.

"I encourage each of you to be a Sankofa bird and look back because the future is very bright for us because of the vision that has been cast," De Graff said. "Thank you for all that you have done and all that we will do together. This village is committed to the living the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and we will carry that torch for as long as we live."



Trustee Andrew Johnson, Jr.



Rev. Dr. Ozzie Smith, Jr.



Praise Dancers



SSC Chorale

Dr. King Volunteer Service Awards honor the spirit of giving

By Cindy Cruz

The late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “everybody can be great because everybody can serve ... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

In the spirit of giving, the Village of South Holland presented the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Volunteer Service awards to several student organizations and schools in recognition of outstanding dedicated service to their community and school exemplifying the character and legacy of Dr. King.

South Holland Trustee Andrew Johnson, presenter of the awards, commended the students for their service, saying, “Your example of selflessness will inspire greatness in others.”

Among many volunteer activities of the schools are:

- Calvary School Student Council, sponsored a toy drive for Restoration Ministries;
- Coolidge Middle School Student Council, Ladies of Academic Success, National Junior Honor Society, and Students with Academic Pride sponsored several fundraising activities;
- Calvin Christian School sponsored fundraisers, among them a Rake-n-Run;
- McKinley Junior High School Honor Society mentored younger students, and facilitated a homework help program;
- Christ Our Savior Catholic School Student Council sponsored a Thanksgiving Food Drive Collection for those in need;
- Seton Academy’s Student Council, National Honor Society and Environmental Club hosted a walk-a-thon to benefit cerebral palsy and the Special Olympics;
- Thornridge High School National Junior Honor Society worked at the schoolwide food drive for the Thornton Township Food Pantry;
- Thornwood High School students have participated in South Holland’s annual Take a Bite Out of Grime (community cleanup day) and volunteered for Santa Comes to Town.

Shown below, Mayor Don De Graff presented awards to local schools for their outstanding community service:



Calvary Academy Student Council sponsor and band director Susan Russell accepted the award for the school’s Student Council.



Chevia Rush, sponsor and 6th grade teacher, accepted the award for the Coolidge Middle School Student Council.



Calvin Christian School Principal Randy Moes received the award for his school.



The McKinley National Junior Honor Society award was accepted by Christine Pearson, sponsor.



Seton Academy was recognized. Accepting the award were Melani McCoy and Kameron Marshbanks.

BUSINESS UPDATE



Business expands

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in December for Retriever Merchant Solutions, 530 E. 162nd St. The business completed a building expansion and renovation. ‘Pictured are Mayor Don De Graff, along with members of the village board and administration, Retriever owner Brian Kamstra and his family, and Retriever employees.

New businesses that have opened in South Holland:

- Anekwe Group LLC, 430 E. 162nd St., Ste. 310
- Arrow Tec Sheetmetal Inc., 2 W. 168th St.
- D Now LP, 15555 LaSalle
- Jacobson Companies, 16750 Vincennes Ave.
- Luxury Sports Auto Repair, 15520 Wentworth Ave.
- Mission Ready Training Solution, 430 E. 162nd St., Ste. 559
- PJ's Closet, 637 E. 162nd St.
- Q's Cleaning Service Inc., 137 W. 154th St.
- Serenity Chiropractic, 944 E. 162nd St.
- South Chicago Paents & Friends Inc., 16332 Evans
- Studio 52 LLC, 17106 South Park Ave.
- TEC Contractors Inc., 17075 Westview, Unit B

Resident named ComEd Neighborhood Hero

South Holland's Felicia Houston, who works with Anointed Wives Ministry in the South Loop, was named a ComEd Neighborhood Hero in the utility's Power of One Campaign in honor of African American History Month.



ComEd launched its “Power of One” campaign to recognize unsung heroes, like Houston, who are making a difference in the community. The campaign profiles 28 inspiring Chicago-area “Neighborhood Heroes,” and their unique stories of how they are powering lives.

“We are pleased to honor our heroes for their remarkable contributions to their neighborhoods and Chicago's rich African American heritage,” said Kevin Brookins, senior vice president of strategy and administration, ComEd. “For more than 100 years, ComEd has been committed to serving the communities where our customers and employees live and work, and this campaign is an extension of this longstanding commitment.”

“The Power of One” campaign includes videos profiling the neighborhood heroes. Since Feb. 1, all heroes have been profiled on ComEd's website ComEd.com/PowerOfOne, and its social media channels [Facebook.com/ComEd](https://www.facebook.com/ComEd) and [Twitter \(@ComEd\)](https://twitter.com/ComEd). In addition, the heroes will be highlighted in a series of radio, out of home, print and digital advertisements.

ComEd also invites the general public to nominate someone to be the next featured neighborhood hero. Visit ComEd.com/PowerOfOne and click on the “Nominate” section for more information.



EDUCATION

School superintendent receives 'Men of Excellence' honor



District 215 Supt. Creg Williams was named one of 50 'Men of Excellence' by the Chicago Defender newspaper. Pictured with him are his students (from left) seniors Jerica Foster and Monae Deloney, Williams, and seniors Kaylon Bradshaw and Seraenah Davis.

South Holland's Creg Williams, who is the superintendent of Thornton Fractional Township High School District 215, is among 50 men this year who received the "Men of Excellence" honor, which the Chicago Defender newspaper has awarded for the past six years.

"I see this as a great opportunity to make people aware of what is happening in District 215," Williams said. "It is recognition that we are doing good things here."

District 215, with high schools in Lansing and Calumet City, has a student body that is about two-thirds African-American. Williams cites the fact that it has a 92 percent graduation rate, along with a rate of 90 percent of its students applying to colleges and universities, and

just over 80 percent being accepted to some sort of higher education program.

"We're doing some things right here, and it's nice to see that we're getting some recognition for that," Williams said.

Recipients were recognized Jan. 31 at a ceremony at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive, in Chicago.

Other recipients this year include Cook County Circuit Court Chief Judge Timothy Evans, Eric Curry, of Aunt Martha's Youth Service, and Jonathan L. Jackson, of Chicago State University, a son of civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Williams has been superintendent of District 215 since 2007.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



ROMELLE HAYNES
EIGHTH GRADE
CHRIST OUR SAVIOR SCHOOL

Parents names: Helen and Richard Haynes

How long have you been a resident of South Holland? 14 years

Activities involved in at school: He attends Seton Academy High School each afternoon as part of the Seton Academy/Christ Our Savior Catholic School Math Scholar program. Romelle is enrolled in an algebra class along with some of his classmates from Christ Our Savior. They will receive high school credit for being in this class. He also works with the school lunch program each day to help the lunch coordinator and is in the percussion liturgical musical group.

Activities involved in outside of school: Romelle plays basketball for the school team.

Favorite subject: "My favorite subject is math because not everyone understands it right away. It is difficult, but I like the hard task."

Insight into school: "If you are looking for a good school with great teachers, education and sport teams, Christ Our Savior is the school for you. The teachers prepare the students for high school so they won't have any worries," he said.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

'Spring Forward'

MARCH 9, 2014

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK

CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

FLOOD PROOFING SERIES

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 25 percent rebate, to a maximum of \$2,500, 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

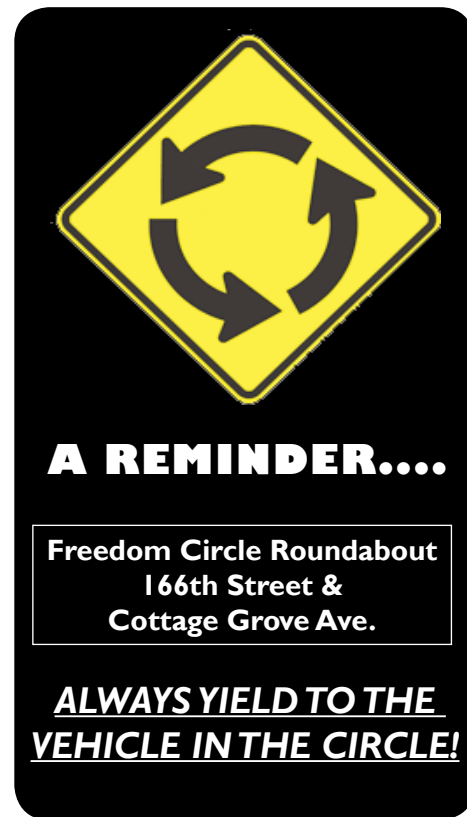
- ◆ Interior and/or exterior drain tile
- ◆ Crack repair and/or waterproofing foundation walls

It is imperative that those planning to apply for a rebate contact the P.D. & C.E. 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.



ASK SOUTH HOLLAND TODAY



Q: There seems to be an increase in train activity. With Canadian National's purchase of EJ&E, we anticipated fewer trains passing through town. What is the status?

A: CSX has acquired the rights to the Elsdon Subdivision portion of the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company (22.37 miles), which runs from Munster, Ind., through South Holland to Elsdon (just south of the Stevenson Expressway). This stretch intersects 170th Street, South Park Avenue, Route 6 and Vincennes Avenue. CSX is in the process of constructing connections at the Thornton Junction, which should assist in alleviating train-to-train and train-to-automobile congestion in the region. Once the connections are completed, CSX does anticipate a reduction in the number of crossing blockages due to train-to-train congestion despite an increase in the number of trains at crossings north of the Thornton Junction. Residents are encouraged to call 1-877-TellCSX with questions or concerns.

The rail line that runs north/south through town is owned/operated by Union Pacific (into the Dolton/Riverdale yard) and we haven't had anything new to report on that line.

Q: What large household items can I put out on trash day for pick up by our waste hauler?

A: The waste service will pick up two large household items per pickup. For example, a resident can set out a mattress and a dresser (stove, refrigerator, sofa, table) on their scheduled garbage pickup date. Construction materials like drywall, ceramic tile and kitchen cabinets have to be called in to our Public Works Department for a special pick up.



SPORTS

Sign up soon for youth sports

By Eric Pradelski

Little League

The final registration date for South Holland Little League is Saturday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street. The cost is \$175 per person.

Little League / Girls Softball

Girls ages 8 – 18 years of age who are interested in softball can register Saturday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St.

Jets Football and Cheerleading

The South Holland Jets Youth Football and Cheerleading organization will hold registration for its 42nd season in March at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St.

Registration for returning cheerleaders and football players ages 6-14 will take place on Wednesday, March 12, from 6-9 p.m.

Open registration will take place on Saturday, March 22, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Costs are as follows: Cheerleaders: \$175 for registration plus a mandatory fundraising donation of \$25. Football:

\$175 for registration plus a mandatory fundraising donation of \$25 for all levels except for Varsity. Registration for the Varsity level is \$210 plus a mandatory fundraising donation of \$25. The Varsity fee includes a personalized home jersey.

The Jets are coming off of a very successful 2013 campaign, capped off by a first-ever state championship for the varsity cheerleaders and a second Super Bowl Championship in three years for the Pee Wee football players.

Additionally, 40 participants earned South Holland Jets Honors, earning all A's and B's on their report cards.

All South Holland families are invited to become a part of the South Holland Jets family.

For more information, visit the Jets website at www.southhollandjets.org or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/southhollandjetsfanpage. They are also on Twitter at @shjets.

Babe Ruth League

The Babe Ruth Baseball League is seeking managers and coaches. For information, call Jim DeBoer, league president, at 708-670-3849, or John Pearson, player agent, at 708-895-6365 or 708-672-4973.



QUIZ

In honor of March being Women's History Month, we have compiled a short trivia quiz on five women who demonstrate this year's theme of Character, Courage and Commitment.

1. This singer was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Janis Joplin
Aretha Franklin
Tina Turner

2. She was the first woman to win an Academy Award for best actress.

Janet Gaynor
Mary Pickford
Norma Shearer

3. She was the first woman awarded a Pulitzer prize for fiction.

Edith Wharton
Willa Cather
Pearl S. Buck

4. This multiple Grammy Award-winning singer was dubbed "the first lady of song."

Ella Fitzgerald
Marian Anderson
Aretha Franklin

5. She was the first female composer to win an Academy Award.

Barbra Streisand
Dolly Parton
Carly Simon

Answers can be found on the village's website at www.southholland.org.



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Tues., Mar. 11 – 7:00 P.M.

Community Center
501 E. 170th St.

An informal opportunity for residents to meet with the Mayor and other Village officials to share comments and concerns.



Village of South Holland
 16226 Wausau Ave.
 South Holland, IL 60473

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT #4
 SO. HOLLAND, IL
 CARRIER ROUTE
 PRESORT FOR
**POSTAL
 CUSTOMER**
 SOUTH HOLLAND, IL

POSTAL PATRON

South Holland, Illinois 60473

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, March 3
 Village Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 11
 Mayor's Coffee

Monday, March 17
 Village Board Meeting

Monday-Friday, March 17-21
 National Flood Awareness Week

Monday, April 7
 Village Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 8
 General Election

Monday, April 21
 Village Board Meeting

*In observance of Good Friday, most municipal buildings
 and administrative offices will be closed on April 18.*

For activity details, visit www.southholland.org.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Village Hall210-2900

Don A. De Graff, President

Sallie Penman, Clerk

N. Keith Chambers, Trustee

Larry De Young, Trustee

Cynthia Doorn, Trustee

Mathew James, Trustee

Andrew Johnson, Jr., Trustee

John Sullivan, Trustee

Administration210-2904

Building Department210-2915

Public Works339-2323

Police.....331-3131

Fire.....331-3123

Recreational Services331-2940

Public Access339-2744

Thornton Township596-6040

South Holland Public Library.....331-5262

Emergency (Fire or Police)911

VILLAGE HALL HOURS:

Monday – Friday8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION CHANNEL
 WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES**

(Comcast – 4 / WOW! – 6 / AT&T – 99)

TUESDAY:

Redeemer Lutheran Church of South Holland – 11 AM, 7 PM

THURSDAY:

First Christian Reformed Church – 11 AM, 6 PM

Christ Community Church – 12 PM, 7 PM

First Reformed Church – 2 PM, 9 PM

FRIDAY:

Pioneer Missionary Baptist Church – 10 AM, 6 PM

River Oaks Community Church – 12 PM, 8 PM

Clean – Bright – Beautiful!