



South Holland TODAY

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

DECEMBER 2014 / JANUARY 2015

*Time for
Caring and
Sharing*

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Dear Fellow South Holland Residents and Friends,

In God's providence, He has seen fit to establish our great Village upon a biblical foundation, now nearly 168 years ago. As we enter this Christmas season and a new year begins, it is my prayer that we will plan some special time to with family and friends, caring for and sharing with each other, and in so doing, be reminded of this very special locale we have been privileged to enjoy.

Over these many years, South Holland has a clearly distinctive history, developing us today into a wonderfully diverse, economically vibrant, and a very safe and sound community. We are very thankful to enjoy the lowest crime rate in our history, giving us yet more reason to be grateful to God for South Holland's uniqueness as we celebrate our heritage of Faith and boldly emphasize Family values. As a part of our Vision 2022 plan, our Future is indeed brighter for us and for generations to come.

It is also my prayer that this busy Christmas season will provide an opportunity for us to pause and remember the gift of the Christ child. His birth can provide a meaningful measure of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love for us, for those we encounter today, and into the lives and relationships that have shaped us this past year, and will for years to come.

On behalf of the Village Board of Trustees and our entire administration, I would like to encourage each of you to care and to share as we interact with each other throughout this coming year. Allow me, on behalf of the village clerk, trustees, and administration to extend our sincere desire that each of you will enjoy a blessed Christmas.

*Don A. De Graff, Mayor
Village of South Holland*



SOUTH HOLLAND HAPPENINGS

Coffee with the firefighters

South Holland firefighters will hold monthly coffees with the community on the first Saturday of the month, **8:30 - 9:30 a.m.**, at Fire Station No. 1, 16230 Wausau Avenue. "Coffee with the Firefighters" provides residents with an opportunity to personally meet the South Holland Fire Department staff. Members of the community will learn about the department, its special projects, and other related events. The next coffee is **December 6**

Mayor's Coffee time change

The next Village of South Holland Mayor's Coffee on **Tuesday, Dec. 9**, will switch from the morning to the evening. The meeting will be at **7 p.m.** instead of the previously scheduled 7:30 a.m. start. It will still be hosted at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St.

The December meeting will also feature a special guest presentation by Commonwealth Edison. The utility's External Affairs Manager, Bonita Parker, will lead a discussion followed by an open forum of questions and answers.

Sand Ridge Nature Center



The Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave. in South Holland, has a variety of events scheduled for December and January. For information and to register, call 708-868-0606.

South Holland Business Association

SHBA will hold its annual holiday party from **11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10**, at Glenwoodie Golf Club, 19301 State St. in Glenwood. There will be holiday spirits, networking, awards, gifts and giving. Please bring an unwrapped clothing item or a toy for a child 16 or younger. If you would like to be a sponsor for this event email Blevian at info@shba.org. For information, call 708-596-0065, email info@shba.com or visit www.shba.org.

Christmas Dinner Concert

The annual Christmas Dinner Concert

will be held at **6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13**, at the Community Center. *Rendition* will provide the entertainment. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets in advance are \$25 and \$30 at the door. For information, call 708-331-2940.

Holiday Music at Kindig

South Suburban College extends season's greetings with holiday concerts and recitals at the Kindig Performing Arts Center, 15800 State Street. For information on the concerts and recitals, call 596-2000, ext. 2316.



Jump into Winter Break 2014

South Holland students, grades 5th – high school, are invited to register for Winter Break*

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

- December 22 Movie, "Annie" at Hollywood Blvd Theater in Woodridge
- December 23 Extreme Trampolining at Sky Zone, Schererville, IN
- December 26 After Christmas Shopping at Rosemost Premium Outlet
- December 29 Live Performance, "The Wizard of Oz,"
The Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire
- December 30 Ice Skating at Midwest Training Center, Dyer, IN
- January 2 Lock-In at the South Holland Community Center

**Families with younger and older children may register as long as at least one child in the home meets the grade requirement.*

General Registration (through Dec. 17);
\$85, 1st child; \$80, each additional child

Late Registration (beginning December 18); \$90 each child

SALUTES



South Holland residents **Vickie Perkins** (picture at left, accepting award from AT&T External Affairs Manager Sam Balark), and **Michael Nylen** (picture at right with Sam Balark) were honored at the 2014 Diversity Inc. Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony for their selfless contributions to community spirit and vitality of the south suburban region. The dinner was held on October 8 at the Olympia Fields Country Club. AT&T is the annual sponsor of the Diversity Inc. Awards.

Home Depot grant awarded to Thornton Township

The Home Depot Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to The Thornton Township Youth Committee Program Inc. to support housing repairs for U.S. Military veterans who are foster parents.



Repairs will be provided in South Holland and other communities within the boundaries of Thornton Township. In keeping with The Home Depot Foundation's mission, all work will be completed by volunteers.

For more information, contact Mr. McCullough at 708-670-4045.



Abraham Lincoln: *Self-Made in America*

Lincoln Exhibit on display at Lincoln Oasis

"Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America," an exhibit dedicated to the extraordinary life of our 16th president and Illinois' native son, will be on display over the next two years at the Chicago Southland Lincoln Oasis located on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294/I-80) in South Holland.

The artifacts on display – replicas of the originals housed at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, including a copy of the president's iconic stovepipe hat – will bring the spirit of Lincoln to life for visitors.

The Illinois Tollway is pleased to work with CBRE Group Inc., the Illinois Office of Tourism, the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, to make this exhibit accessible to the millions of people who visit Illinois each year via the Illinois Tollway system.



MAYOR'S COFFEE

Tuesday, Dec. 9th
7:00 p.m. (new time)

South Holland Community Center
501 E. 170th St.

Residents are invited to attend this informal opportunity to meet with the Mayor and other village officials to share comments and concerns.

This December meeting will also feature a special guest presentation by Commonwealth Edison. The utility's External Affairs Manager, Bonita Parker, will lead a discussion followed by an open forum of questions and answers.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Village welcomes new Deputy Chief



Deputy Fire Chief Bryant Krizik

The Village of South Holland has announced the appointment of its new Deputy Fire Chief, Bryant Krizik.

Deputy Chief Krizik is a fourth generation firefighter who has over 30 years

of proven experience in fire safety as an administrator and as a professional firefighter/paramedic. Additionally, he oversees the Fire Science Program at Moraine Valley Community College, is

the Coordinator of the Incident Safety Officer Program for the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors, and provides emergency management contingency planning for special events, such as the Chicago Marathon and numerous major triathlons.

“We are excited to welcome Bryant Krizik to our fire department/emergency management team. Bryant’s addition firmly reinforces our Village’s commitment to sustaining the highest levels of responsiveness and exceptional customer care for our residents and guests for years to come,” said Mayor Don De Graff.

According to Chief Brian Kolosh, “Bryant’s extensive experience in the preparation and management of catastrophic events, emergency response and safety training, and grant writing are just a few of the areas where he will be instrumental in advancing our community’s public safety capabilities and the fiscal stewardship of our organization. We are looking forward to the many ways in which Deputy Chief Krizik’s background and experience will assist in moving this organization closer to our vision for greatness.”

Deputy Chief Krizik holds a bachelor’s degree in Fire Science Management and a master’s degree in Public Administration. His official appointment took place at the October 6 meeting of the village board.

Fire Department offers child safety seat check



The South Holland Fire Department wants children to travel safely in cars. Installing a car seat for younger children and babies can be a challenge.

The Department has a trained child passenger safety technician who can check to make sure your car seats are installed correctly and teach you how to use and install a car seat on your own.

For more information, contact the South Holland Fire Department at 708-331-3123.

Firefighters ask residents to *Keep the Wreaths Red* this holiday season

The South Holland Fire Department is again participating in the holiday fire safety campaign entitled “Keep the Wreaths Red.”

Starting Dec. 1 and continuing until Dec. 31, holiday wreaths decorated with red lights will be displayed outside of both South Holland fire stations. If a fire should occur during the month, which was caused by holiday decorations, one of the red lights in the wreaths will be changed to a white light.

Residents and business owners are asked to take safety precautions during the holiday season to prevent fires in order to help “Keep the Wreaths Red.”

Firefighters hope the display of the wreaths will be a visual reminder to everyone to have a safe holiday season.

Fire Department reaches out to community

South Holland Fire Department is taking a positive approach to connecting with the community as firefighters and department leadership. In October, the department held the annual Fire and Rescue Ceremony and Parade of Lights at Thorn Creek Church, and hosted an open house at Fire Station 1. In early November, the department hosted its first *Coffee with the Firefighters* at Fire Station 1. As the department plans to continue with this new initiative, *Coffees* will be held the first Saturday of every month, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. The next two *Coffee with the Firefighters* are Saturday, December and January 3.



Parade of Lights fire ladder

Parade of Lights fire ladder



Coffee with the Firefighters



Lt. Scott Steginga (left) and Fire Chaplain Matt Waterstone (below)



SHFD hosted an open house at Fire Station 1

TIPS TO KEEP THE HOLIDAYS SAFE

Natural Christmas Trees

If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If a lot of needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by community waste collection service.

Artificial Christmas Trees

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch. Do not leave holiday lights on unattended!

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace

Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

Candle Care

Avoid using lit candles. If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Do not go near a Christmas tree with lit candles, lighters or matches.

Smoke Alarm

As in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home. Test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help, and remember to practice your home escape plan.

It is the law to have working carbon monoxide detectors installed within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes. It is recommended that there is at least one carbon monoxide detector installed on each story of the home including basements.



Alarm systems – keep them working properly!



The South Holland Police and Fire Departments are committed to working with residents and businesses to ensure their safety. Many law enforcement agencies recommend professionally installed alarm systems as an effective deterrent against burglary, and many fire agencies and departments promote fire and smoke detection as an effective means of saving

lives and minimizing property loss.

Proper installation, use and maintenance of your alarm are essential to ensuring that alarms are an asset rather than a liability, and helps to reduce the likelihood of a false alarm occurring at your premises. Those who have repeat occurrences of false alarms will be fined.

Here are some common causes of false alarms:

- User error (users not properly trained on how to arm or disarm the system);
- Forgetfulness (forgetting to disarm your alarm in the morning or forgetting to disarm when you come home in the evening);
- Systems not well maintained (annual inspection and maintenance is strongly recommended);
- Systems not properly installed (i.e. keypad is too far from entryway).

Here are some tips on reducing false alarms:

- **User Error:** Anyone with access to your home or business can set off an alarm (i.e. visiting family members, service personnel, babysitters, house sitters). Make sure these persons are familiar with the location of the keypad(s) and provide proper training on disarming the alarm, as well as how to cancel a false alarm before emergency personnel are dispatched. (Consider providing instructions in any language necessary to communicate with the Central Monitoring Service.)
- **Motion Sensors:** Be mindful that when the air conditioning or heat turns on, it can blow curtains, plants, balloons, etc., and this motion can set off your alarm. If you have a pet, be sure to have motion sensors that are designed for pet owners.
- **Keypads:** Keypads should be placed strategically so that they can be reached in plenty of time to enter the code. They should be located in a well-lit place and accessible to flashlight beams. Consider adding an additional keypad if necessary.
- **Door/Window Contacts:** Make sure windows and doors are not warped, or the weather stripping torn or unevenly worn; door latch hardware needs to fit securely to prevent unintended movement that can set off an alarm.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the South Holland Police Department at 331-3131 or the Fire Department at 331-3123.

ALARM PERMIT FEES AND FALSE ALARM FEES

Emergency response to fire and burglar alarms is a critical component of their effectiveness. To make sure that the South Holland Police and Fire Departments have current emergency contact information for all alarm users, the village requires an annual alarm permit.

Initial fee for alarm permit:

\$25 – residential; \$50 – business

Permits are available at the Village Collector's Office, 16226 Wausau Ave.

If a permit is not on file at the time an alarm call is dispatched, a municipal ordinance ticket will be issued, and a court appearance is mandatory, with a maximum fine of \$750.

Annual renewal of alarm permit:

\$0.00 – residential; \$25 – business

Permits are renewed annually. A notice will be mailed in December of every year and is due by Jan. 1.

Alarm permits renewed after Jan. 31 of each year will incur a fee of \$25 for residential and \$50 for business permits.

Each year, South Holland emergency personnel respond to nearly 3,000 alarms. Approximately 98 percent are false alarms. That is more than eight false alarms per day.

Each business or home is allowed two false alarms per calendar year. Each false police alarm will result in a \$50 fine, while false or malfunctioning fire alarms will result in a \$200 fine.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Police Department hosts FBI seminar

Police Department welcomed the FBI at the Community Center in hosting a Security Awareness Training in September.



Scam Alert

The South Holland Police Department would like to remind residents that identity theft happens everyday. It could result in someone assuming your identity to commit fraud or other criminal acts.

The most recent identity theft scam is a phone caller soliciting your personal information for Medicare or Medicaid. This is a scam! Never provide your personal information over the phone - social security, date of birth, banking information, etc.

When someone calls asking for your personal information, please do not respond. If you receive this call, you are advised to alert the police department by calling 331-3131, option 2.

The Village of South Holland hosts the
9th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Event



*Advancing the dream . . .
Elevating social justice*

January 17, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
Covenant United Church of Christ

FEATURING:

Earl James, Coordinator of Multiracial Initiatives and
Social Justice, Reformed Church of America

Rev. Dr. Ozzie E. Smith, Jr., Senior Pastor,
Covenant United Church of Christ

Rev. Matt Waterstone, Senior Pastor,
First Reformed Church of South Holland

Gospel performances by local schools and churches

Covenant Praise Dancers

Reception immediate follows the service,
featuring Seton Academy Jazz Band.

Police offer day, night Community meetings

Starting in March 2015, the South Holland Police Department will make some changes in its Community Policing meetings.

The department will start holding two meetings each month, both at the Community Center.

There will be a daytime meeting from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Tuesday of the month, which is new.

The traditional evening meeting will be from 7-9 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month.

The format of the meetings will be similar to the existing format, with information given by officers to residents, not just from one zone but from the entire village. Officers also will give presentations on different topics to keep the residents informed.

The Holidays – a time for

The winter holiday season is upon us, with plans for celebration, joy and time spent with family and friends. The true meaning of the season. What unites us as a community is far greater than what divides us. We share our treasures with others in need of support. On these pages are a few examples of the South Holland community.

Library's 3rd Annual Giving Tree Event

Once again, the South Holland Public Library has partnered with a local charity, Chicago Prison Outreach, in their Angels of Hope program, whose mission includes providing that sense of joy and hope to children who, through no fault of their own, will not be able to celebrate the holiday season with a parent.

Look for the tree in the library decorated with the red angel tags. Select the angel you wish to care for and sign out your angel with your name and phone number in their guest book. Please return the wrapped gift, with the angel card by Dec. 10.

The library would like to thank everyone in advance for their generosity during this holiday season.



Elizabeth DeJong, Head of Circulation, with angel tree.

Calvin School celebrates holidays



Students make fleece blankets for the homeless.

Many things are happening at Calvin School around the holidays.

- Students will go to the Holland Home to read their stories to residents and to sing carols.
- Students in the after-school program are sharing their talents by making fleece blankets for the homeless and making cards for those who are sick in our community.
- Calvin's annual Christmas Concert will be held at First Reformed Church on December 15 at 7:00pm.

- Staff members will be serving at *Feed My Starving Children* over Christmas Break.

Seton Food Drive

Students from Seton Academy College Prep accompanied by students from District 205 along with family and friends, conducted the 6th Annual Harvest Food Drive for Catholic Charities. Residents in South Holland left filled grocery bags on their porch which were picked up, brought to Catholic Charities and sorted for distribution. Thousands of pounds of food will be shared due to the generosity of the village residents who truly live the motto of **Faith-Family-Future**.



Seton Academy students organize bags of groceries collected.

Christ Church



for Caring and Sharing

family and friends. Members of the *South Holland Today* staff encourage all to reflect on the s. Make a new connection and demonstrate a caring spirit. Share your time, unique talent and and community bringing harmony, gifts, and worship to every open heart. Season's Greetings!

Calvary Dads leading initiatives

The Dads of Calvary Club (D.O.C.) strives to make a positive difference in the lives of Calvary Academy children by providing examples of leadership, faith, and excellence, and to provide for children's spiritual growth, academic and social well-being, and vocational preparedness.

This holiday season, the D.O.C. Club is leading a few initiatives at Calvary Academy, including a food drive, toy collection, and turkey giveaway. These initiatives are intended to benefit families of Restoration Ministries, as well as Calvary Academy families in need of care.



SHFD collects toys

South Holland Fire Department and Local 4109 collected new, unwrapped toys to donate to Restoration Ministries.

Restoration Ministries will host a toy sale for parents who would not normally be able to purchase any items for their children. All items donated are made available to parents for purchase with their own money, however at greatly reduced prices. This gives parents a sense of pride by enabling them to buy toys for their children.

The proceeds from the toy sale are returned to Restoration Ministries in support of their other programs.



Community Church

◀ **Holiday Food Drive** – collection of nonperishables to share with families in need.

Angel Tree Network Partnership – collection of new clothes or toys for children of families in the Angel Tree Network. ▼



Police Dept. continues tradition

South Holland Police Department will continue its new tradition of bringing holiday cheer to local families.

On Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, South Holland police administration and staff will welcome selected children and their parents for an evening of refreshments, caroling, gifts, and a special guest appearance by Santa Claus.

Last year, the department supported eight families. They look forward to, once again, demonstrating their care for residents and sharing with families in need.

PUBLIC WORKS



Director of Public Works George Gunkel, shown with his family.

New Director appointed

George Gunkel is the new director of the South Holland Public Works Department, as appointed by Village President Don De Graff, at the recommendation of the Public Works Committee.

Prior to this appointment, Gunkel served five years as the deputy director of Public Works and two years as a foreman, during which time he managed the daily operations of the department.

Gunkel joined the South Holland Public Works Department in 1984, two years after earning a bachelor's degree in Industrial Education at Murray State University. A dedicated and innovative department leader, Gunkel possesses a breadth of knowledge and experience in the industry.

Village Trustee Mathew James, chairman of the Public Works Committee, said, "I am extremely pleased with Mayor De Graff's decision to appoint George to the position of Director of Public Works. The village board is supportive of George, who is well respected by the Public Works team. We are confident in his ability to make significant contributions to the department."

Gunkel is a lifelong resident of South Holland with his wife, Sandy, and their two boys, Andrew and Danny.

In addition to his bachelor's degree,

Gunkel is certified as a Class A Public Water and Wastewater Operator by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and he is a member and past president of the South Suburban Water Works Association.

In 2010, Gunkel earned the Village of South Holland Excellence in Service Award for modeling excellent customer care.

"George's vast experience, solid work ethic, and positive attitude will be of tremendous value as he takes on the leadership position in Public Works," said De Graff. "His commitment to quality and high standards ensures the Public Works Department will continue to provide excellent public services that have characterized the department for many years."

The appointment took place at the Village Board meeting of Oct. 20.



Outdoor holiday tips

By Ronda Williams

Winter brings holiday traditions and celebrations with family and friends. Here are a few tips to prepare your home for fun and joyous festivities.

- **Prep your yard** for winter by removing leaves and debris, storing yard furniture, protecting plants and the a/c compressor. Applying a winter lawn treatment is a bonus for a spring preparation.
- **Clean out gutters** and grass of leaves and debris to ensure melting snow and rain water are draining properly.
- **Keep walkways well-lit.** When displaying seasonal holiday lighting, be sure to remove them two weeks following the holiday celebration, weather permitting.
- **Ensure your walkways are clear of snow** by piling the snow onto grassy areas and not onto the streets or other public walkways.
- Have a licensed professional **tune up your heaters or boilers** for a warm home. They should check filters, burners and other operating elements for optimal use.

WINTER SAFETY

Winter in South Holland brings cold and snow, sometimes with temperatures far below zero and snow far above our heads.

The village is preparing for resident safety by ensuring the streets are clear of snow and accessible for cars and emergency vehicles. Below are a few reminders of how you can prepare too:

- Fire hydrants in front of your residence should be cleared of all snow.
- Remove automobiles from streets after a snowfall of 2 inches or more, or risk being towed.
- Shovel and salt sidewalks to prevent slips and falls.
- Lending a helping hand to a neighbor always brings a smile!

By working together to keep our streets and sidewalks clear of snow this winter, we can help ensure village residents and workers stay safe to enjoy a warm spring.

BUSINESS UPDATE

By Ronda Williams



South Holland Walgreens celebrates update

South Holland recently celebrated the renovation of Walgreens, complete with a beautifully updated pharmacy area and new signage that features the South Holland Faith, Family, Future logo design. The sign in the tower area of the store is the brainchild of 56 year resident, Helen Varichak (pictured to left of Mayor Don De Graff, center), who proposed the idea at a Mayor's Coffee.



Burger King groundbreaking ceremony held in October.

Burger King breaks ground

Burger King restaurant will open in South Holland in 2015. The restaurant will be built according to the Village Town Center design, consistent with Panera and Walgreens, and feature an interactive gaming area, projection screens and comfortable seating.

“The Village actively worked with the restaurant owners to identify an optimal location where residents will benefit while continuing to build on South Holland’s Vision 2022 of economic growth and development,” said John Watson, Director of Economic Development of South Holland. “We are excited to have Burger King join our Village.”

Enterprise Zone designation

The Village of South Holland has combined with Cook County and five neighboring South Suburban communities (Calumet City, Dolton, Lansing, Riverdale and Thornton) to apply for Enterprise Zone Designation. Enterprise Zones are designed to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in strategic economic areas of the State of Illinois, and are awarded through a meticulous and competitive process. If awarded, businesses within these zones are eligible to receive significant tax incentives and are subject to relaxed governmental controls.

The South Holland business community has communicated their strong support by revealing impressive plans for job creation and investment that anticipate receiving Enterprise Zone Designation. Letters of support received from our South Holland businesses estimate that approximately 900 new jobs and over \$100 million of new investment can be expected within a 15 year period. This number does not include the other communities involved in the application. Applications are due by the end of December; awards will be made in 2016.



Ingalls Care Center moves

Ingalls Care Center ribbon cutting held October 30 at its new location, 16246 Prince Drive. Mayor De Graff, Village Board members, South Holland administration and staff, Ingalls executives and their staff took part in the ceremony.



Holiday Neighborhood Decorating and Spirit Contest

- sponsored by the South Holland Neighborhood Groups Committee -

Neighbors, show your seasonal cheer by decorating your home and neighborhood to demonstrate the best and brightest holiday spirit in South Holland. Contest form must be submitted by Friday, December 12, and decorations must be completed by December 19. Judging in participating neighborhoods will take place Saturday, December 20, beginning at 6:15 p.m. Winning entrants will be featured in the South Holland Today and the village's Community Connection Channel, and will receive a special holiday treat from Santa's helpers.

The criteria to be judged:

Originality: Unique design and creative use of lights and decorations

Arrangement: Display and placement of decoration

Theme: Storyline or scene

Spirit: Neighborhood participation

Overall: Overall presentation



Entry forms must be turned in at the South Holland Village Hall no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 12. Village Hall is located at 16226 Wausau Avenue. Convenient online registration is available at www.southholland.org.

Neighborhood Holiday Decorating & Spirit Contest

ENTRY FORM

Neighborhood Representative Name: _____

Neighborhood Location: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email (if available): _____

Theme: _____

Deadline: 5 p.m. on December 12.

WISDOM AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUR CHURCHES



The Power of Saying “Merry Christmas”

Words are powerful and should not be chosen lightly. The right words can make a bad situation good and the wrong words can make a good situation bad. The above caption is what we would classify to be good words because they were used by an angel of the Lord on Joseph, the husband of Mary, as told by St. Matthew.

It is very sad that many professing Christians are afraid to utter the words “Merry Christmas” in public for fear of what the repercussions will be. More people are simply saying “happy holiday” which is a generic term that could describe a combination of holidays. Atheists’ and anti-Christian religions take offense when they hear the words Merry Christmas because the name Christ is in it. Many manufacturers, businesses, and places of business are forbidding the use of Merry Christmas and are using a generic “happy holiday.” And to this end, we have what is called holiday pay, holiday celebration,

and holiday tree and holiday turkey. I can recall as a little boy, I was introduced to the term “Merry X-Mas.” While I thought this was an abbreviated form of saying Merry Christmas, the powers of darkness were slowly trying to erase Jesus Christ, the savior of sinners.

I went online and found several articles on “What does Merry Christmas mean?” When a person wishes you “Merry Christmas” they are implying several things. First, the “Merry” part is a wish that you will find the season, more specifically the occasion, as cheerful, hopeful and joyous. Agreeable or pleasant are applicable too, with joyful probably being the single closest definition.

Let us lift our voices today during this season by saying Merry Christmas. When we say this, we are saying;

- God was born in the flesh, justified in the spirit;

- Jesus Christ my Lord was born over 2000 years ago;
- Jesus Christ is God’s only begotten Son;
- Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior;
- Jesus Christ one day gave his life as a ransom on Calvary one Friday;
- One day, Jesus Christ is coming back again for all of those who have accepted Him as their personal Savior.

When you factor all of this in your heart and allow it to resonate, most assuredly you will not only have a Merry Christmas, you will have a Blessed New Year. So from the Pioneer family we say to you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We love you.

– Rev. Preston Winfrey, Sr. Pastor
Pioneer Missionary Baptist Church

VISION 2022 PROGRESS

Service project

Twenty volunteer members from Trinity Christian College baseball program took advantage of the beautiful weather on Saturday, Oct. 25, to paint the playground equipment in 10 of South Holland’s auxiliary parks.

“The painting of our slides and swing sets in our neighborhood parks was the next Clean, Bright and Beautiful project on our radar,” said newly appointed Public Works Director George Gunkel.

“When the baseball team notified us of their desires to serve our community, we were ready to take full advantage of their services,” he said. “Not only was their work ethic outstanding, but their passion and enthusiasm throughout the day was commendable.”

The South Holland playground project was the first of two community service events the baseball program will undertake.





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

- December 9** Mayor's Coffee
- December 15** Village Board Meeting
- January 3** Coffee with the Firefighters
- January 5** Village Board Meeting
- January 17** Annual Dr. MLK Event
- January 20** Village Board Meeting

Most municipal buildings and
 administrative offices will be closed
 December 25, January 1, and January 19.

For upcoming 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-Nylen**, 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 – Friday 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Saturday 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

WINTER/SPRING RECREATIONAL PROGRAM REGISTRATION

SOUTH HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
501 E. 170TH ST.

- South Holland Residents Only: ... Thursday, January 8, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- Open Registration: Friday, January 9, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- Saturday, January 10, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**