



South Holland **TODAY**

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

VETERANS
MEMORIAL
PARK

South Holland
Illinois

Dedicated
Memorial Day
2008

State of the Village

by Mayor Don A. De Graff



STATE OF THE VILLAGE

Realizing our vision

Dear Residents and Friends

As we enter 2015 and the 169th year since the early settlers landed in the shores of the Little Calumet River, I am pleased to report that the Village of South Holland is alive and stronger than ever! In fact, we have never before in our rich history, since statistics have been recorded, achieved our lowest ever crime rate for two years in a row!

It is remarkable and extremely exciting to know that in 2014 we trumped a great 2013 year with a further reduction in crime by **5.9%**. That's a two year total percentage reduction of **26.7%**! What a remarkable accomplishment by our South Holland Police Department! It is a prime example of how we are beginning to realize "Vision 2022", now entering the third year of our comprehensive 10 year plan.

Our village government and administration's continuing vision emphasizes a unity of purpose, intended to serve each other, and provide for the highest quality of life for our residents. The three core values of *faith, family* and *future* are the backdrop for how we can accomplish so much together.

I was again reminded last month at our 11th annual MLK celebration, inspiring all who attended, that we are a community that is intentionally and proactively "Advancing the Dream" that Dr. King proclaimed. Our desire is first to intently listen to each other, and then seek to experience together the ever-evolving legacy of love, justice, fairness, and equality for all who enter our borders.

As a result, South Holland is clearly identified as one of the leading municipalities in the Chicago Southland region. This isn't something that happened by accident! Nor did it occur overnight. We begin designing a plan for the future of this community a number of years ago.

This plan provides a footprint for us to cooperate with and facilitate communication between all of our residents, our churches, schools, businesses, and service organizations to produce a very special spirit of unity and cooperation.

Let me share with you some specific results identified under each of the four main components of Vision 2022, as well as how we'll be moving forward with enthusiasm and passion as we enter 2015.

Responsive and Progressive Leadership

In 2014, the outstanding work of our Police Department has also resulted in implementation of the new **Secure Our Seniors (SOS) Program** to give extra care and attention to the seniors in the community, as well as expanded the police **Special Operations Unit** to strategically focus on crime prevention and crime solving efforts to mitigate future occurrences.

Our Fire Department, also the best in the Chicago Southland, has produced a slate of new community-friendly programs and events, including their **open house event and monthly "Coffee with the Firefighters."** These activities are designed to encourage and enhance interaction with residents and provide an opportunity for promotion of the **Paid-On-Call program**. In an effort to better serve our customers, as well as minimize back injuries to firefighters/paramedics, the department purchased three **mechanical stretchers**.

Our Village Administration has been working with the **Chicago Southland Fiber**



Secure our Seniors program



Mayor Don De Graff congratulates Police Chief Greg Baker on another successful year for the police department. 2014 marked the second year in a row that the village has reduced the crime rate to an all-time low.



Fire Department open house program

'I am pleased to report that the Village of South Holland is alive and stronger than ever!'

Mayor Don De Graff

STATE OF THE VILLAGE (CONT.)

Network Project to ensure access to high-speed broadband technologies for regional public and private entities. To date, fiber network has been installed at Fire Station 1, and will be expanded to include the library and new police station. The team is also actively seeking to achieve **100% compliance** with the village's Good Neighbor Rental Housing Initiative (GNRHI), which ultimately promotes a healthy rental/lease environment and maintains a high quality of life and neighborliness in our community. In partnership with South Holland's Education Commission, we anticipate conducting a presentation before the **WK Kellogg Foundation** for submission of a potential \$1 million or more grant application to enhance public education for South Holland students.



New police facility currently under construction

In 2015, the Village of South Holland will continue to provide the highest quality public services, enriching the experiences of our constituency. We will look to further enhance customer care by exploring the potential of installing **touch-screen kiosks** at the Village Hall and the South Holland Community Center for convenient access to village information, registration and remittances of payments.

In 2015, the Village of South Holland will continue to provide the highest quality public services.

Mayor Don De Graff

Phase one of our new **modernized police facility**, located at 163rd and South Park Avenue, will be completed this year. The bulk of the work in this phase is interior upgrades, such as electric, plumbing, and HVAC. We will also begin to move forward with engineering work for Phase Two, which will address the build-out of the jail. Our fire department will further develop the **Fire Cadet Program** to provide teens an opportunity to learn about a career in fire safety. The department will also research the development of a **Citizens Fire Academy** to educate residents in CPR, first aid instruction, basic fire science principles, and the use of specialized equipment and fire apparatus.

Future regional initiatives include a partnership with the **Southeast Commuter Rail Transit District** to secure funding for the development of the **Southeast Service Rail Line and the South Holland Metra Station**. We have taken steps to apply, at the regional level, for the **Promise Zone Initiative**. This is a federal government project to improve educational and employment opportunities, health and wellness, economic activity, housing rehabilitation, and crime reduction in the Chicago Southland region. A Promise Zone designation is for 10 years.



Metra partnership project

As part of our Vision 2022 plan, the village has combined with Cook County and five neighboring South Suburban communities (Calumet City, Dolton, Lansing, Riverdale and Thornton) to apply for **Enterprise Zone Designation**, which is designed to stimulate economic areas of the State of Illinois. Applications were due by the end of December; awards will be made in 2016.



Community news brochures

Also, the village has been working with Robinson Engineering to finalize a **quiet zone** at several rail crossings in South Holland.

A Connected Community

Our Public Relations and Marketing Department has engaged in activities to develop a stronger digital media platform to enhance our mobile connection to village stakeholders. The department produced, with coordinated efforts of police and fire, seasonal emergency preparedness **blogs** and **community news brochures**. The team also achieved significant growth for the **Heritage Haul Half Marathon** with the partnership of South Suburban College.

The village established a new **Public Education Sub-Committee** to identify opportunities for stakeholder education in the areas of safety, economic development, recreation, infrastructure, home maintenance, and general community life and engagement.



Heritage Haul sees significant growth

(Continued, page 4)

STATE OF THE VILLAGE (CONT.)

(Continued, from page 3)

As we move forward in **2015**, our village will continue to prioritize our mission of being a connected community by partnering with local schools to engage high school and college students in village government, civic projects and community service activities.

We will further advance our brand identity with the launch of a new dynamic marketing plan to promote South Holland on a local, regional and national level. Also, we will establish and monitor an employment portal that will connect South Holland residents to available employment opportunities in South Holland.

Clean, Bright and Beautiful community

In an effort to further mitigate flooding issues on our community, Planning, Development and Code Enforcement **increased the rebate** amount for overhead sewer installations to encourage residential upgrades. The department also issued 1,324 permits for commercial and residential projects, which represent more than **\$27 million investment** in our community.

Our Public Works Department took the lead on enhancing **15 community pocket parks** with a fresh coat of paint, creating a more inviting and modern appeal.



Directional signage planned for Route 6

In **2015**, Public Works will continue to enhance village signage with the planned replacement of the **gateway sign** with a more prominent re-branded three-pillar model at 170th Street (Lansing border). We will incorporate visually stimulating **directional signage** on Route 6 that directs traffic to businesses located in our Town Center business district. As we strive to maintain the clean, bright, beautiful character of our community, we will create a program to educate residents on **exterior/interior home maintenance**.

In addition, Veterans Memorial Park will receive a **new gazebo** at the north end of the park, by way of a state grant. Also, a **new playground structure** will be erected at Willowbrook Park, and a **pergola with benches and evergreens** are planned to improve Hollandale Park.



New village gateway signs



Indoor cycling program at Community Center

Signature Spaces and Places

The South Holland Community Center, under management of the Department of Recreational Services, continues to serve as the hub of our community. With the effective leadership of Recreational Services, membership at our Fitness Center **increased to over 2000** for the first time since the center opened. The department introduced a web-based and instructor-based **indoor cycling program** at the Community Center, and installed a **power lift assist chair** in the pool for customers with disabilities.

Our Department of Economic Development has further enhanced the climate of our business industry with the commitment of business expansions by **Eagle Express Lines and The Miniatur Corporation**, and with the construction of a new **Burger King** located at the site of the former Walgreens (southwest corner of Route 6 and South Park Avenue). The fast food chain is expected to open this month, weather permitting.



Business expansion at Ed Miniatur, Inc.

In **2015**, we will move forward with the construction of **Love's Travel Center**, a national corporation, 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. Other former business locations under contract for development include the old Allison Haggerty property, 555 East 162nd Street, slated for build-out of a 20,000 sq.ft. **Charter Fitness** facility, and the former Pat Fitzgibbon Mitsubishi, 113 West 162nd Street, which will become a **U-Haul** location. Also, South Suburban College is planning a **130,000 sq. ft. building addition for a medical training facility**.

(Continued, page 5)

STATE OF THE VILLAGE (CONT.)

(Continued, from page 4)

The former Bible League building, 15925 Van Drunen, is under contract by **C&A Overseas United**, which is looking to expand their Morris, IL facility, and **MJ May Material Specialists** is purchasing the former Silliker building on Armory Drive.

The village, under the direction of the Economic Development team will implement a **Business Retention and Expansion program** in an effort to help increase the competitiveness of South Holland businesses in the marketplace, along with assisting them with job creating expansions and helping them survive economic difficulties. Also, we will continue to attract traditional and emerging industries to our industrial complex, while creating new traffic and employment generating businesses in Town Center, on Route 6, and in our Interstate Zoning District.

My Reflections

In conclusion, having been granted the privilege to serve our great village as mayor for more than 20 years is truly an honor and a privilege. Also, it is a blessing to be born and raised in South Holland and to witness who we have become in 2015. It is my belief that South Holland's rich and distinctive history has been guided by the love and goodness of God. I have seen how His presence has been prevalent here and has united us as a people. I've witnessed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities

and challenges that have characterized this growing and diverse community.

Our passion as a Village Board and Administration is for all of us – residents, churches, schools, and businesses in South Holland – to live together in a growing and united community. I am very thankful to report that we are well on our way to “Advance the Dream” and we are expanding upon the legacy that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed so clearly and prominently 50 years ago as he walked in unity over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

It is with that resolve that we, as the Village Board and Administration who love the Village of South Holland, will continue to be dedicated to advancing Vision 2022 throughout 2015 and beyond. Our village will continue to thrive because we believe in and live by our “Heritage of Faith,” our “Emphasis Family values,” and we realize South Holland is a “Home for our Future.”

Let us confidently move forward having never been stronger, more diverse and more ready economically, socially, and spiritually to face our future together.

sdg

Don A. De Graff



Mayor

SOUTH HOLLAND HAPPENINGS

Farmers Market moving – New day & time

Town Center Marketplace is moving to Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 29–Oct. 3. The market will remain at its current location, northeast corner of 162nd Street and South Park Ave. For more information, visit online at www.southholland.org and “like” the market’s new Facebook page, www.facebook.com/southhollandtowncenter/.

Coffee with the Mayor

Residents can meet and talk about issues of the day with Mayor Don DeGraff at one of his regular Coffee with the Mayor session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Community Center.

Coffee with the Fire Department

The fire department invites residents for coffee every first Saturday of the month at Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave., from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Check the village website, www.southholland.com, for upcoming dates.

National Flood 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 16-20 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>.

South Holland resident to represent IL in Australia

Destiny Wesley has been selected to represent the State of Illinois on the Central Conference Track and Field Team, striving to bring back the 2015 Down Under International Games Championship Title. Tournaments will be hosted on the Gold Coast of Australia this summer. Wesley is a student at Thornridge High School.

Concert recital

The Concert Orchestra of the William A. Wirt / Emerson Visual and Performing

Arts School will perform Chinese and Western music at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at South Suburban College (SSC). Lea Larson, guest conductor. Free admittance.

**SOUTH HOLLAND
EDUCATION
COMMISSION
VOTERS' FORUM**



**MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD
CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICTS
150, 151 AND 205**

March 14, 2015, 2 – 5 p.m.
**Fellowship Hall
16350 State Street
South Holland**

South Holland Community Center, the talk of the town

By Ronda Williams

Conversations Café couldn't be more appropriately named as the South Holland Community Center's juice bar.

If you don't already know, something special is going on there. Walking into the Community Center, you are greeted with a friendly smile and welcome, not only from the staff but from other residents who just happen to be enjoying coffee in the sitting area.

The friendly atmosphere is contagious. It's bustling and free flowing. Before you know it, you've engaged in polite conversation, while sipping on a fruit smoothie from the juice bar.

It's not just friendly chatter that's going on though. Throughout the

building, residents are engaged in many activities that range from working out to getting a massage. If there was one place in the village that brings the community together, it's the Community Center. And if you want to know what's going on in the village, this is the place to be.

Opened 14 years ago on July 1, the South Holland Community Center, affectionately called the Community Center, was built with the intention of creating a safe and comfortable place

for families and children to engage in recreational activities. Originally called the Roosevelt Center and located in downtown South Holland, the current building offers more space for programs including the swimming pool and fitness center.

Ed Stewart, Director of Recreational Services, has witnessed the tremendous growth and has seen many lives positively impacted by the programs, as well as neighborly atmosphere. "We have a strong family environment where everyone speaks to each other and is warm

We'll soon need additional space to accommodate the growth."

Annually, nearly 8,000 people participate in recreational activities, with an additional 2,500 attending special events. The center offers health and wellness seminars, massage therapy, and rental space for private events.

"As far as recreational and extra-curricular programs go, we are very competitive when it comes to class offerings," said Stewart. "The staff does a great job of staying current with new fitness trends and offering what residents find interesting."

The center has 59 staff members made up of both full-time and part-time employees, with an additional 43 contractors who teach the classes. They all have

an active role in making the Community Center warm and welcoming.

The Community Center fosters village values of faith, family and future, something residents hold dear. If you're not in on what's going on, you're missing out on something very special.

Interested in recreational programs? Contact the Community Center at 708-331-2940 or go to www.southholland.org. Program books and class registration are online.

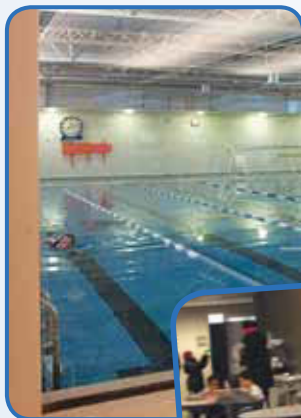
*'We have a strong family environment...
This is what sets us apart.'*

— Ed Stewart, Director, Recreational Services

and welcoming. This is what sets us apart from other centers," said Stewart.

It's not just the comfortable and bright atmosphere that keeps residents coming back, but the wide range of classes, seminars and events.

"Some of our most well attended classes are the swimming programs, aerobics and senior fitness classes, youth basketball, gymnastics, and our dance programs," said Stewart. "Each year we see resident participation growing.



A wide range of activities keeps residents coming back to the Community Center. Among the activities offered are (from left) swimming for all age levels; free coffee in the sitting area; basketball programs for all ages; and working out in the fitness area;



Spring inspires home remodeling projects



By Ronda Williams

Spring sprouts home remodeling ideas that can dramatically improve the look, feel and value of your home, or not. When done the right way, your home becomes your showcase, a source of pride. When done the wrong way, it becomes a money pit undoing substandard work. So to make sure your project goes well, enlisting the help from the village Planning, Development and Code Enforcement Department is a good first step. They can help you achieve your remodeling goals

by reviewing structural plans, inspecting the site for code and village standards and ensuring the contractor you've chosen has the appropriate liability insurance.

Brian Smith, Senior Code Enforcement Officer for the Planning, Development and Code Department, works side by side with residents to get them the home remodeling outcome they desire. By reviewing project plans and inspecting the work, you are protected from poor workmanship and building code violations.

"Our department is focused on protect-

ing residents by upholding building code standards," said Smith. "We review and approve projects that have a sound project plan, and the proper liability insurance that will hold the contractor responsible for problems or worker injuries that may occur during construction."

As you start to think of home remodeling projects, Smith wants you to feel confident that the village is here to make sure all goes well. Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about getting started.

WHAT WORK REQUIRES VILLAGE APPROVAL AND PERMIT?

- Siding, soffit and fascia
- Window and entry door replacements
- Roofing
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Flood protection and waterproofing
- Interior remodeling
- Weatherization

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET MY PLANS APPROVED?

Basic home additions and remodeling plans take 5 to 7 business days for review and approval. If revisions are requested, a new set of plans will need to be reviewed before final approval.

I DON'T WANT TO USE A CONTRACTOR. AM I ALLOWED TO DO THE WORK MYSELF?

Yes, you can do work on your home without the help of a contractor. If you have help from an assistant, it is advised you are present at all times. Project plans are still required for review and approval by the village.

SHOULD I OBTAIN A VILLAGE PERMIT FOR THE CONTRACTOR?

You can apply for the permit, however, be sure to review the contractor's liability insurance before they begin work. Sometimes a contractor may ask you to obtain the work permit because they do not have proof of insurance. Not having liability insurance can cause problems for you if an onsite injury were to occur.

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 50 percent rebate, to a maximum of \$5,000, 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 Code 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.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tornado preparedness is key to staying safe

By Ronda Williams

Warming weather of spring is coming and can bring tornados to our area. The Chicago area, which includes Cook County, has seen 38 confirmed tornados since 1950.

The State Climatologist Office For Illinois/National Weather Service states that the most common month for tornados in Chicagoland is April between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

As we are all vulnerable to inclement and changing weather, the South Holland Fire Department reminds residents to be on alert when a tornado siren is activated. The sirens are only activated when a tornado has been spotted in the



general area and lasts for three minutes.

When the warning sirens sound, residents should immediately seek shelter in the basement or the lowest level of their homes. The safest spot is in the southwest corner of the basement. Residents without basements should seek shelter in the inner most part of their homes, such as an inner hallway or bathroom.

It is vital that everyone keeps away from windows, doors, or anything which may inflict injuries. Flying glass and debris is the number-one cause of injuries and deaths in a tornado. It is advised to seek shelter under something

sturdy, such as a table, and to keep your head protected at all times. A portable radio should be used to keep you advised of current weather conditions. Never seek shelter in an automobile, truck, or camper.

When the danger has passed, an "all clear" signal will be activated, which is a wavering up-and-down signal of sirens for two minutes.

If during severe weather there are injuries, fires, fallen electrical wires, or other emergencies, residents are urged to use 9-1-1, or call the Fire Department at 331-3123 or the Police Department at 331-3131 to report the emergency.

To become familiar with the sirens and to ensure the sirens are operational, the South Holland storm signal sirens are tested the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

If you would like information on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Tips, please contact the South Holland Fire Department at 708-331-3123.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Know when to NOT to dial 9-1-1!

By Ronda Williams

School-aged children learn the importance of dialing 9-1-1 to get the fire, medical or police departments for emergencies. It is an easy number to remember and can mean the difference between life and death. Oftentimes, though, residents call 9-1-1 when no emergency exists. Calling 9-1-1 in a non-emergency can create delays in handling other very serious emergencies that require immediate attention.

The village is committed to serving and protecting residents in emergencies and encourages residents to get non-emergency help by calling directly to the Fire Department (708) 331-3123 or Police Department (708) 331-3131. Here's a quick guide to knowing when to use the non-emergency numbers. These are general guidelines, and if any doubt exists about your situation, please call 9-1-1.

Examples of NON-EMERGENCY situations are:

- Minor illness or injury not requiring immediate help
- Flu/common cold
- Chronic (ongoing) aches and pain
- Minor cuts
- Broken fingers or toes
- Emotional Upsets
- Routine transportation to medical offices, clinics and hospitals
- Weather Reports and Road Conditions
- Pets up a tree, barking dogs, excessive noise that is non-urgent
- Power outages or inquiries

Police warn of air conditioner thefts

By Bob Bong

Even though it's winter outside, thieves have been busy in the region stealing air conditioners from houses and businesses.

The thieves aren't interested in cooling off. Rather, they are interested in the copper tubing used in air conditioners and other appliances, which they rip out and sell to a scavenger for a small fraction of its actual worth.

The trouble is that the thieves often cause thousands of dollars in damage while stealing the AC units.

South Holland police are imploring residents to keep their eyes and ears open and to report suspicious activity, especially in the vicinity of vacant homes and businesses.

Police said there also are locks available that may help deter such copper thieves. Property owners can padlock their power disconnect box with a quality disc-type padlock. This type of lock makes it difficult, if not impossible, to cut the lock. Home improvement stores offer many brands of these locks for under \$20.

"Anything that can be done to limit the reward and make the theft more difficult will substantially reduce the probability of victimization," said Police Chief Greg Baker.



LIBRARY

New programs and activities offered

Over the last few years, the South Holland Public Library (SHPL) has increased the amount of programs and activities offered to young adults. In addition to the fun and exciting activities and clubs, they have added special computer programs just for young adults. With funds the library received through the Digital Divide grant, from the IL Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, they have added new computer programs geared towards helping young adults learn how to use new digital content and software by completing exercises in various programs, including Adobe Photoshop and Flash.

Computer classes currently offered:

- **Digital Drawing:** Learn how to use Adobe Photoshop to color in sketches after scanning them into the computer. You can also draw directly to the computer using our new Wacom drawing tablets.

- **Introduction to Animation:** Learn the basic principles of animation and learn how to apply them by creating an animation sequence of a ball bouncing.

- **Library Resources for Young Adults:** SHPL has a large amount of digital resources available to South Holland Library card holders that can be accessed through our website. EBSCO databases allow access to journals, magazines and other scholarly articles.

- **Job Searching and Resume Building:** Focuses on how to design a resume with or without work experience. We also show how to use Career Cruising to help locate and apply for jobs.

Activities for young adults:

Along with these great educational classes, the library offers a variety of activities and materials for young adults.

- **Video Games and More:** SHPL has

the latest games and systems available for free play in our North Meeting room. Feel free to check out one of the games in our collection or bring your own to play.

- **Anime/Manga Club:** Join fellow anime and manga enthusiasts as we talk about our favorite manga and watch the latest anime series or movies.

- **Creative Club:** Come have fun and create art! Activities can include: learning how to draw superheroes, shading techniques, and even creating pieces of art with duct tape and spray paint.

- **Teen Book Club:** Popular Young Adult (YA) titles, including graphic novels and manga, are highlighted for discussion.

- **YA Collection:** Includes titles from popular authors, state and national award lists, non-fiction books, magazines with young adult appeal, graphic novels, and manga titles.

Times and registration information for these and all library programs can be found on their new website: www.shlibrary.org or in their newsletter, Pages, which is available at the library.

WINTER BREAK FUN!



The South Holland Youth Commission wrapped up another winter holiday seas of interactive and engaging youth activities. Winter Break, as branded by South Holland students, is a series of fun field trips, such as ice skating, extreme trampolining, live theatre, and a lock-in at the South Holland Community Center. The program is sponsored by local businesses, including Providence Bank, MetroSouth Medical Center, Reed's Wings & Things, and ASFME Union Local 3991 (Local 3991 members pictured left with a few students from the "Break" program).



Activities included (left to right), Sheri Mathis preparing smoothie contest, fun at Sky Zone, and ice skating.

Celebrate Black History Month in February

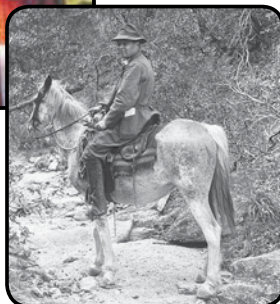
SAND RIDGE NATURE CENTER, 15891 Paxton Ave., will celebrate Black History Month with an Underground Railroad display, and several Underground Railroad hikes you can join.

The imaginary hike follows one of the multiple Underground Railroad routes that were used in the state of Illinois for escaped slaves to find freedom.

The display will be featured from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22.

The center will also present an interactive presentation at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, on the life of Dr. Henry Chandler Cowles and his contributions to the science of ecology.

This presentation is for adults and children ages 12 and up. Registration required by Feb. 19. For information, call Sand Ridge Nature Center at 708-868-0606.



Take part in an imaginary hike along the Underground Railroad route (top), and learn about Dr. Henry Chandler Cowles at the Sand Ridge Nature Center.

SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE

South Suburban College celebrated Black History Month with a performance of “A Taste of Black History through Music and Song,” on Feb. 4 at the Kindig Performing Arts Center.

The musical journey, provided by the “Afro Blues Ensemble,” celebrated African-American Musical history and culture. Members of this ensemble are world travelers and have performed with musical giants.

Additionally, History Professor Art Burton provided dialogue and insight into the wonderful world of musical contributions made by African Americans.

Immediately following the performance, participants were given tickets to join in a “Taste of Soul” in the Kindig Performing Arts Center Lobby.



SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library present a number of special programs in celebration of Black History Month:

Finding Your Roots with Genealogist Tony Burroughs, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7-8

pm. Genealogist Tony Burroughs will be on hand to offer tips on finding your roots. Tony Burroughs is founder and CEO of the Center for Black Genealogy.

African American Music and Dance, Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:30-8:30 pm. The troupe of Raw Talent Performing Arts will

entertain with music and dance.

The library also has a number of databases for those interested in the African American culture. **African American Heritage** contains historical records for African Americans including Federal Census, marriage records and registers of slaves and free persons of color.

American Mosaic covers African American history and its relation to U.S. history.

Honor outstanding women in March Celebrate Women’s History Month

Honor Women of Destiny

South Suburban College presents a motivational talk at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 4, for Women’s History Month, featuring Pamela Calimee. Back by popular demand, Calimee is a published author and an alumna of South Suburban College. Her presentation is personal, touching and inspiring and will focus on enhancing the lives of women and bringing positive outcomes to fruition



MEXICAN DANCE GROUP TO PERFORM

The South Holland Public Library will host the Mexican Folklore Youth Dancers, a community youth group.

They will perform native Mexican dances, on Thursday, Feb. 26, 7-8 p.m.



HOLIDAY SPIRIT DECORATING CONTEST



First Place: *Wayne & Louevina Brown,
170th and Paxton Avenue*



Second Place: *Will & Lillie Hull,
170th and Paxton Avenue*



Third Place: *Ed Braasch, East 156th Street*

Neighbors showed their seasonal cheer by decorating their home and neighborhood to demonstrate the best and brightest holiday spirit in South Holland. Judging for the Holiday Neighborhood Decorating and Spirit Contest took place on Saturday, December 20. Winning entrants are shown above.

It's never too early to start planning for the 2015 Holiday Neighborhood Decorating and Spirit Contest. The entry form will be available late fall.

Advancing the dream . . . Elevating social justice

Village of South Holland 11th Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute
January 17, 2015



Mayor Don De Graff



Trustee Andrew Johnson



**Alfonzo Surrett with
Mayor Don De Graff**



**Dr. Kathryn Worthen and
Mayor Don De Graff**



**Covenant UCC
Youth Choir**



McKinley School Choir

RESIDENT TO KNOW

Capturing memories, one proposal at a time

By Ronda Williams

Everyone loves to hear or see a romantic marriage proposal caught on camera. That's why marriage proposals rank among the top viral videos on YouTube and wedding shows like "Say Yes to the Dress" and "Four Weddings" are so popular.

The genuine element of surprise brightens faces and warms hearts. The moment captured as it happens is what makes these "popping the question" videos so exciting. Before now, elaborate schemes to set up video cameras to capture the moment eliminated any chance of naturalness. No longer though.

South Holland resident Elliott Barney, along with several business partners developed the perfect camera to capture these dear moments. The Ring Cam, a high definition ring box camera, secretly records the proposal. As the ring bearer on bended knee opens the ring box, the camera unnoticeably records the occasion.

The Ring Cam began as a napkin sketch inspired by Barney's Hope College classmate Nick Haugen. Nick wanted to record his own marriage proposal without an obvious entourage of videographers interrupting the spontaneity of the moment. As the idea grew from a drawing into a tangible concept, Nick Haugen enlisted support from Barney, Sam Tzou, Scott Bahash, Russell Fyfe and Scott Brandonisio to finalize the product development and marketing plans.

Initial concepts and brainstorming were done with help from the Center of Faithful Leadership Incubator, previously

known as the Hope Entrepreneurship Initiative. This program was designed to assist burgeoning college student entrepreneurs. Barney and his classmates worked tirelessly to validate their idea with assistance from coaches, mentors and subject matter experts.

Dr. Steve VanderVees, professor of management and director of the Center of Faithful Leadership Incubator, said, "To help them discern their callings and co-create work experiences that matter, the incubator provided them a safe environment in which they could share their ideas with one another and develop their products into businesses."

The nurturing environment, business training and collaborative learning sessions provided by the Center of Faithful Leadership helped the group effectively transition from college to the workforce, launching their new business in October 2013.

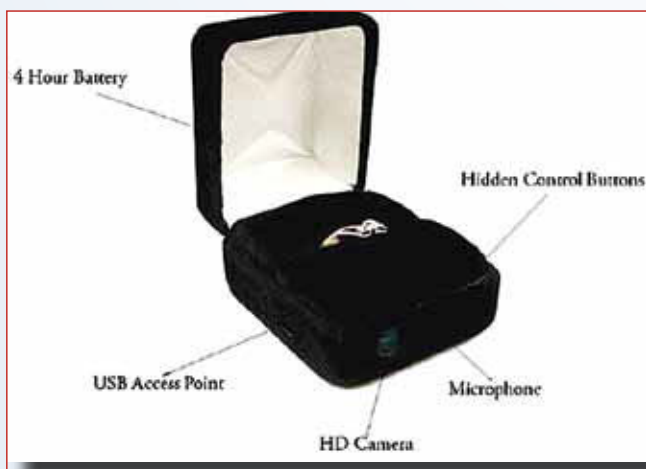
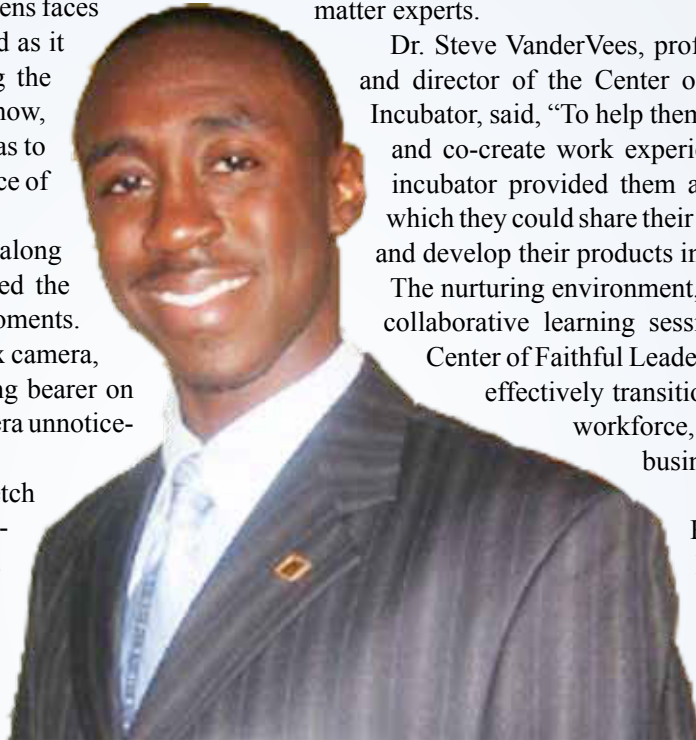
The success of the Ring Cam is inevitable. Initial promotion and media coverage on Good Morning America, CNN.com, Huffington Post, Shark Tank and YouTube, validate Barney and

his business partners' efforts. Their website www.getringcam.com, their Facebook and YouTube campaigns testify to the products viability.

Barney's journey to entrepreneurship has been enriched by community service, hard work and thoughtful planning. During his years at Hope College, Barney was a Phelps Scholar (2009), a member of the National Society of Black Engineers and the Arcadian Fraternity, an organization that promotes social awareness, community service and academic excellence.

As all entrepreneurs do, Barney and his partners are busy developing new concepts and ensuring their profitability. They have received a patent for the Ring Cam and are working on new concepts.

Barney is an inspiration and role model for young students who have a natural curiosity and innate ability to create new products, commit to service and excel academically. The entire community is rooting for Barney's continued success and looking feverishly for more proposal videos on YouTube from Ring Cam.



The Ring Cam, co-developed by resident Elliott Barney.

EDUCATION

Eisenhower P.E. teacher enjoys best of both worlds

'The look on their faces when they finally accomplish something they thought was impossible is awesome.'

- Dawn Love

By Cindy Cruz

Combining a desire to teach children with a love of sports led to the perfect career for Eisenhower School physical education teacher Dawn Love.

"I played several sports growing up, so my love of sports and children is really what pushed me toward becoming a physical education teacher," Love said.

Love graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in education. She earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University in 2010.

She describes her teaching style as skill-based and student-centered. Her class always starts with a description and a demonstration (either by Love or one of her students) of the skill or activity. The students practice and then Love incorporates a game or activity where they can practice these skills in a modified game situation.

"One of my favorite units to teach in P.E. is bowling. After we have practiced our bowling skills in the gym, I plan a bowling field trip for my third-grade students. I take them to Lan-Oak Lanes in Lansing. This is a fun way for the students to show off their bowling skills."

She also incorporates technology into her curriculum.

This year, the third-graders have started using pedometers. Each month she has a Fun Run and they wear the pedometers and write down the amount of steps they have jogged during class. At the end of the year, students will add up all the steps to see how far they have gone over the school year.

The P.E. department has really come a long way since Love first started working in District 151. The students now receive physical education daily for 30 minutes, something not too many other schools in the area offer.

"In the future, I would love to teach my students yoga. I did a mini lesson last year and the kids really seemed to enjoy it and still ask about it. There are many benefits to doing yoga from flexibility and coordination to focus and self-esteem."

In addition to teaching, Love is also involved in many special activities at Eisenhower. Every year, Eisenhower has its annual Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart event. The students raise donations for the American Heart Association during two days of basketball and jump rope activities. Last year, Eisenhower raised \$3,825, its highest

total to date.

Eisenhower also has a Fine Arts Night. Each year, Mrs. Owens (the art teacher) and Love film the students talking about what they like best about P.E., art and music. They then edit the video and put together a movie to show the parents and students on Fine Arts Night. At the end of the school year, Eisenhower has a field day at where students can participate in a variety of games.

"The most rewarding aspect of my job is watching the students learn something new, whether it is a new game or skill. The look on their faces when they finally accomplish something they thought was impossible is awesome," Love said.

For someone pursuing a career in education, Love advises staying organized, being flexible, finding a mentor to ask lots of questions and realizing that nobody's perfect; not even teachers.



Dawn Love

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



NATALIE BIVONA
8TH GRADE,
CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Parents names: John and Holly Bivona

How long have you been a resident of South Holland? All my life (13 years).

Activities involved in at school: Junior engineering and basketball.

Activities involved in outside of school: Babysitting.

Favorite subject and why: "I like math because my teacher is very relatable and she makes the subject fun. I also like it because I like to learn about equations and inequalities."

Insight into school: "I have been going to Calvin for three years now and Calvin not only excels in academics but also in the student's spiritually growth. Calvin has a great environment and lots of friendly faces all around. Calvin's academics are also great. In the higher grades, they have advanced math and lots of clubs that you can do during the day for academics, such as Geography Bee, Spelling Bee and a Math Triathlon. Calvin is a wonderful school to attend."

BUSINESS UPDATE

By Ronda Williams



Eagle Express Lines to bring jobs to village

Eagle Express Lines, a longtime member of the South Holland business community located at 715 W. 172nd St. in the industrial park, is a full-service trucking contract carrier specializing in on-time delivery of sensitive materials, including a large portion of U.S. mail in the Midwest.

The company has agreed to expand by acquiring the 25,000-square-foot property at 600 W. 172nd St., formerly owned and operated by Lippert Inc.

Eagle Express Lines will relocate its truck repair facility and approximately 30 employees from Blue Island to their expanded location in South Holland, adding to the 40 employees that currently work out of the South Holland facility. The company is also expected to hire new employees.

Traveling made easy at Love's Travel Stops

Love's Travel Stops is coming to South Holland. The company has purchased the former Gibson Chevrolet, the former Truckomat, and the former Napleton warehouse in order to construct their newest location, one that will be their closest to a metropolitan area.

The estimated \$9 million development will feature the sale of auto, diesel and compressed natural gas, a convenience store, a mobile tire shop, lube service, and a Hardee's restaurant.

Demolition started in January and construction is expected to begin by early spring.

Rota Skipper ensuring South Holland's future workforce

Congratulations to South Holland business Rota Skipper and General Manager Bob Greaney as they were recognized for their commitment to developing the future workforce through participating in the Calumet Manufacturing Careers Internship Program.

Rota Skipper is a machining, mechanical engineering and integrated systems control operation. They also have a division branded as Pizzamatic, manufacturing machinery for pizza topping and processing. They have been part of the South Holland community since 1962.

MB Financial donates to education

MB Financial Bank presented a \$25,000 check to South Suburban College recently at its Main Campus in South Holland.

The donation is a part of MB's \$45,000 commitment to support a renovation of the college's primary conference room and to establish an endowed scholarship through the SSC Foundation. The commitment includes an additional \$20,000 endowment over the next four years to permanently establish an MB Financial Bank Scholarship Fund at the college. The donation developed through a long-standing partnership between the South Holland branch and its neighboring community college.

"MB Financial Bank and the MB Financial Charitable Foundation believe that education has the power to transform people and communities," said Vicky Arroyo, President of the MB Community Development Corporation. "As part of our long-standing commitment to the communities we serve, we're delighted to help South Suburban College achieve its mission as it brings an affordable education to a large and diverse student population. By working together, MB and South Suburban can help even more people achieve their goals."

With the cost of higher education on the rise and the level of state funding on the decline, students are finding it more and more difficult to afford a full-time college education. The MB Financial Bank Scholarship Fund endowment will allow the SSC Foundation to award a new MB Scholarship every year.

"I would like to thank MB Financial Bank in South Holland for their commitment to education and improving our community," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Chairman of the SSC Board of Trustees. "I also thank the wonderful people from the MB Financial Bank Community Development Corp. and MB Marketing who took the time to visit our campus and speak with our students. This project was truly a team effort that will provide some financial relief to the college and our students while also serving as an extension of the MB Financial Bank mission."

South Holland welcomes new businesses

- **Sew Elegant For You** (Garment Alteration & Sewing, 837 E. 162nd St.)
- **The Smile Boutique** (Dental Office, 605 E. 170th St.)
- **Hendricks Racing** (Auto Repair, Detail & Speed Shop, 16524 Vincennes)
- **Your Feel Products Corp.** (Research & Development, Power Coatings Manufacturer, 505 W. Taft)
- **Metro PCS** (Cell phones & Accessories, 924 E. 162nd St.)

SPORTS

SOUTH HOLLAND JETS YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING REGISTRATION 2015

Celebrating 43 years of teaching life lessons through football and cheer

There are three registration categories (all registration dates are for new AND returning players/cheerleaders). Early registration is HIGHLY recommended. All registration fees must be paid in full.

EARLY REGISTRATION -

\$199 FOOTBALL, \$175 CHEER/POM

Wednesday February 25, 2015 6pm - 8pm

Saturday February 28, 2015 9am - 12pm

Varsity football \$234 (includes personalized jersey)

GENERAL REGISTRATION -

\$225 FOOTBALL, \$200 CHEER/POM

Wednesday March 18, 2015 - 6pm - 8pm

Saturday March 21, 2015 - 9am - 12pm

Varsity football \$260 (includes personalized jersey)

LATE REGISTRATION -

\$250 FOOTBALL AND CHEER/POM

Saturday April 18, 2015 9am - 12pm

Varsity Football \$285 (includes personalized jersey)



SOUTH HOLLAND LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL AND GIRLS SOFTBALL

Registration for 2015 Season

Baseball ages 4-12 – Girls softball 9-18

February 28
10-1pm

March 19
6-9 pm

March 28
10-1 pm

Registration takes place at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street

Online registration is also available thru March 31. Register online at <http://sports.bluesombbrero.com/shll>

SHLL accepts cash, credit cards & checks for payment. Please make all checks payable to South Holland Little League.

Questions: Email us at southhollandlittleleague@gmail.com

Archbishop Cupich visits Seton



Chicago's new Archbishop Blase Cupich joined Seton Academy College Prep students recently for a conversation on their college plans and goals.

Seton students were proud to share that they are representative of the class of 2015, all of whom are college-bound. Based on a 10-year history, more than half of the students will receive scholarships to the university of their choice.

Pictured above are (front row, from left) Seton Principal Earl McKay; students Jose Garcia, Stanton Owen and Kierra Harris; Archbishop Blase Cupich; Steve Parker, Seton executive director of technology; student Jayla Hill; Bishop Joseph Perry, auxiliary bishop of Vicariate VI; and Coach Mycah Brooks; (back row, from left) students Michael Cross, Maleet Hooper, Mycah Brooks Jr., Daniel Ousley, Ernest Baker and Danielle Wilson.



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

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**POSTAL
CUSTOMER**
SOUTH HOLLAND, IL

POSTAL PATRON

South Holland, Illinois 60473

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 17 Village Board Meeting
February 24 Consolidated Primary Election
March 2 Village Board Meeting
March 10 Mayor's Coffee
March 16-20 Flood Awareness Week
April 6, 20 Village Board Meeting
April 7 Consolidated Election

Most municipal buildings and administrative offices
will be closed on February 16 and April 3,
in observance of Presidents' Day and
Good Friday

For upcoming activity details, visit www.southholland.org.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Village Hall210-2900

Don A. De Graff, President
Dr. 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
 Police331-3131
 Fire331-3123
 Recreational Services331-2940
 Public Access339-2744
 Thornton Township596-6040
 South Holland Public Library331-5262
Emergency (Fire or Police)911

VILLAGE HALL HOURS:

Monday – Friday8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
 Saturday8:00 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 – 12:30 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!