4th of July
in the Village of South Holland
AT VETERANS PARK!

8 am ...................................................Prayer at the gates
8 am ...................................................Rib Fest Contest Kick Off
9 am-2 pm .......................................Farmer’s Market
10 am-1 pm .......................................Inflatable s and Kiddie Carnival
11am-10 pm ......................................Home Plate Grill
11am-2 pm .......................................Senior Bingo
12 noon ..............................................Hot Wing Eating Contest
1:00 pm ..............................................Community Flag Project
1:00 pm ..............................................Rib Fest Judging
1:00-5pm ..........................................Game Truck, Dunk Tank, Inflatables
1:30 pm ..............................................Fizz, Pop, Bang Theory(Library)
2 pm .................................................Ase Robb & Company Band
2 pm-4pm ...........................................Patches the Clown
2:30 pm ..............................................Water Balloon Fight
3 pm .................................................Announcement of Rib Fest Winners
4-5 pm ..............................................Salsa in the park
4-6 pm ..............................................Stiltwalker
5 pm .................................................BMX Bike Show
6-7 pm ..............................................Line Dancing
6 pm- ...............................................Teen Pie Eating Contest
7 pm .................................................Glow Sticks for sale
8 pm .................................................South Holland Municipal Band
9:15 pm ..............................................Fireworks

In order to minimize congestion and address safety concerns of the residents in the area of Veterans Memorial Park, on Saturday, July 4, streets feeding into the park area will be closed off to vehicular traffic at 7:30 pm. This restriction is not applicable to residents who live in this area around Veterans Memorial Park. For a list of street closures, visit online at www.southholland.org.
The Village of South Holland is working with Republic Services to roll-out the new residential curbside recycling program. The program will not impact the normal garbage and yard waste schedule. It does, however, allow for residents to proactively participate in environmentally-friendly recycling on a two week cycle (every other week) beginning the week of July 6. Here are important elements of the program that every resident needs to know:

New toters will be delivered throughout the community between June 22 and July 3. One new toter, all blue, is for trash; One new toter, powder blue lid (as pictured), is for recyclables. The first recycling week is July 6.

Republic Services will provide (attached to the toter) a pamphlet of information regarding the program, a color-coded recycling map of South Holland, along with a “YARD WASTE” sticker (pictured below).

You may retain one (or both) of your current toters to use for yard waste or as an extra trash container.

If you decide to keep one of your current toters for yard waste, apply the red/white “YARD WASTE” sticker to the lid (as provided by Republic Services).

If you do not want your old toters, call Republic Services (708-385-8252) to schedule a pick-up.

New toters are of no additional cost. Residents who have recently paid the annual $30 toter fee for an extra yard waste toter can contact Republic Services to inquire about a potential refund.

Your regular garbage and yard waste pickup schedule will not change (weekly). Recyclables will be picked up on a two week cycle (every other week).

Yard waste will continue to be picked up by Republic Services through our normal November 30 schedule. The yard waste toter may be used for garbage removal during the winter months.

A quick guide to acceptable recyclable materials is available online at www.southholland.org. You can also find it at Village Hall, South Holland Community Center and the South Holland Public Library.

Residents can email their questions about curbside recycling to toter.service@republicservices.com or call 708-385-8252.
You’re Invited for Coffee

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.

Stay Fit for Summer Fun

Looking to get fit while having fun, the South Holland Community Center offers a variety of exercise classes and fitness programs for the entire family.

In addition, the community center has new programs which include youth golf, aqua jogging and spinning.

Contact the South Holland Community Center at 708-331-2940 to register.

Juneteenth Celebration at Sand Ridge

Join us from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 20 at the Sand Ridge Nature Center to celebrate freedom, family and country with an historical Underground Railroad program. Enjoy history displays, interactive interpretive hikes, traditional music, wild edibles, crafts, and much more. Event is FREE.

SHBA Golf Outing

The South Holland Business Association will hold its annual golf outing June 25 at Glenwoodie Golf Club in Glenwood to raise money for scholarships. If you are interested in sponsoring a hole or golfing, call 708-596-0065 or visit www.shba.org. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. Practice your drive or putting at 7:30 a.m. Tee time is 9 a.m.

Town Center Marketplace

The village’s version of a farmer’s market will kick off Saturday, June 27, and run through Saturday, Oct. 3. The market will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the northeast corner of 162nd Street (Route 6) and South Park Avenue.

Local vendors provide a diverse selection of locally grown fresh vegetables and fruits, garden plants and flowers, herbs and oils, organic nutritional supplements, fresh baked pies, jewelry, greeting cards, crafts, and more!

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 sessions at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 30 and September 15, at the Community Center.

Arbor Day celebrated

Wednesday, May 13, members of the South Holland Village Board and Administration conducted their annual observance of Arbor Day by planting a Royal Frost Birch tree in Veterans Memorial Park.

Shown at left, shovels in hand, are (l-r): Trustees Cindy Doorn-Nylen and Larry DeYoung, Clerk Dr. Sallie Pennman, Mayor Don De Graff, and Trustees Prince Reed and John Sullivan.
**SALUTES**

**Good Samaritan wins baseball tickets**
Kamal Alamreia, who runs the Shark’s Fish & Chicken Restaurant at 956 E. 162nd St. in South Holland, will receive four tickets to a Windy City Thunderbolts minor league baseball game for being an “exceptional person in the community.”

Alamreia was nominated for the honor by South Holland Deputy Police Chief Rich Good for his honesty during an incident over the winter.

In his nomination, Good said that Alamreia found an envelope containing $150 in the restaurant lobby on Feb. 18. Good said Alamreia brought the envelope to the South Holland Police Department and police were able to reunite the money with its grateful owner.

“Thanks to his honesty and integrity,” Good wrote, “a resident of our town was able to regain their property that was misplaced. Kamal Alamreia is someone that exceeds all expectations and deserves to be recognized for all he does.”

**Resident wins Lottery prize**
A South Holland resident came up a big winner when the numbers on his Lucky Day Lotto ticket matched all five numbers to win a $500,000 jackpot prize in the Thursday, April 23, midday drawing.

This resident, who has lived in South Holland for nine years, was at home when he looked up the winning numbers on the Illinois Lottery website and realized he had won. He plans to invest the windfall for retirement.

**Seton grad wins college scholarship**
A graduating senior at Seton Academy was one of three seniors to get a $1,000 boost to their college funds, courtesy of Comcast.

The cable company awarded one of its 189 “Regional Leaders and Achievers” scholarships to Michael Cross Jr., who graduated from Seton Academy in South Holland, during a McCormick Place ceremony on May 5.

“We look for quality in students,” said Jack Segal, communications vice president for Comcast.

Cross, who is only 16, hopes to join his uncle as a dentist. He will study premed in the fall at Marquette University in Milwaukee. He credits his mother, Mia – who allowed him to skip first grade – with instilling the maturity that will allow him to go off to college at a young age.

“He’s been a go-getter all of his life,” she said.

Cross said he was proud of the recognition. According to the company, Comcast has awarded 23,000 scholarships worth $22.8 million since 2001.

“It’s always good to hear that you are doing the right thing,” he said.

**Local grad travels ‘down under’**
Destiny Wesley, a recent graduate of Thornridge High School in School District 205, will represent the State of Illinois in the track and field division of *DownUnder Sports* in Australia this July.

As a student at Thornridge, Destiny participated in AVID (college prep classes), FCA leader (Fellowship Christian Athletes), Poetry, Fashion, Secretary of Senior Clubs and Captain of the track team, United Nations summer programs, volunteer at Renaissance Medical Center, K-Love, and Feed My Starving Children Foundation.

Destiny, her parents John and Sheila Wesley, along with three siblings, have lived in South Holland for 12 years.
It's that time again for residents to purchase vehicle stickers, animal licenses

Vehicle Stickers
The time has arrived to purchase vehicle stickers for the 2015-2016 period.
Old vehicle stickers will expire on June 30, and the new sticker must be purchased and displayed by July 1.
Vehicle stickers are available for sale at the collector’s office in Village Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.
All checks should be made payable to the Village of South Holland.
After July 1, there is a late fee penalty of 50 percent, and after Aug. 1, the fee climbs to $100.
Before applying the new sticker, remove the old one and display it in the lower right hand corner of your windshield.
For motorcycles, the sticker affixes to the license plate.
For new residents and new vehicles, you have 30 days to obtain a valid vehicle sticker.

Animal Licenses
An animal license (or dog tag) is required to be purchased annually for any dog owned by a resident of the village. The tag is valid from the date of issuance until the end of the calendar year. The form to acquire a license is available at the collector’s office.
Remember to keep the animal license and vehicle stickers current in order to avoid unwanted late fees and fines.
For further information on any of the above items, visit www.southholland.org.

Smart Meters have arrived
ComEd's new Smart Meters have arrived in the Village of South Holland. Every residential unit in the community will transition to a new, digital utility meter at no additional cost. The installation will be scheduled and performed by ComEd.

The utility company is modernizing its infrastructure to provide a more reliable and efficient smart grid. Ultimately, the new meters are designed to help customers manage their electric bills.
To learn about ComEd's smart meters, visit online at ComEd.com/SmartGrid.
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department urges residents to grill safely

By Ronda Williams

There’s no better way to enjoy summertime weather than to cook a delicious meal on the grill. The South Holland Fire Department wants to ensure your safety when enjoying delicious grilled food.

Grilling safety tips:
• Only use propane and charcoals grills outdoors
• Keep grills away from your house or overhanging trees
• Children and pets should keep at least 3 feet distance
• Always attend the grill
• Make sure the gas grill lid is open before lighting

Charcoal grill safety tips:
• Try a charcoal chimney starter to light the charcoal using newspaper
• Only use charcoal starter fluid to start the fire; never use it on the flame
• Keep charcoal fluid away from children and other heat sources
• Always let the coal cool completely before disposing in a metal container

Police and Fire Departments host picnic

As the American, State and South Holland flags rippled in the wind at half-staff, the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments converged at the municipal campus, Friday, May 15, for a special picnic in honor of Peace Officers Memorial Day. The afternoon was filled with camaraderie as village staff across departments honored men and women who selflessly serve the Village of South Holland, and those who serve communities across the nation.

Firefighter Dave Nettles prepares the winning entry.

Congratulations to the South Holland Fire Department on winning first place in the Sertoma Centre cook-off in May. The department’s winning entry, fish tacos, captured “Best of the Best” in the ethnic dish category.

Police Chaplain Rev. Carl King, Sr.

Village team members Frank Knittle and Jay Johnson
Police remind residents of curfew

The South Holland Police Department wants to remind residents that the village has a curfew for anyone younger than 17 years of age.

This curfew applies yearlong — not just during the summer.

According to village code, curfew times are as follows:
1. Between 12:01 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, through Saturday.
2. Between 12:01 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Sunday.
3. Between 11:00 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday.

When an underage person is present during the curfew hours “at or upon any public assembly, building, place, street, or highway,” they are considered to be in violation of the code.

A teen may be out if accompanied by an adult and participate in curfew exceptions such as work, school, religious events, or an emergency situation.

For information, please reference Article I, Sec. 11-6 Curfew of the South Holland Village Code, available on the South Holland website, www.southholland.org.

Citizens Police Academy to hold June graduation

The South Holland Citizens Police Academy will graduate its latest class on June 25 at the South Holland Community Center.

The recruits will emerge with a better understanding of police procedures and operations.

Sign up for next session

If you missed out on that session, another 12-week session is forming for the fall. It should begin sometime in early September, with a November graduation.

Classes are held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday nights at the Community Center. The classes cover a wide range of topics giving participants an inside look at what, why and how the police department operates. The training has been a community favorite since 2008.

Anyone interested in the academy must live or work in South Holland.

For information, contact Officer Kirk Kremski at 708-331-3131 ext. 2, or visit www.southholland.org.
BUSINESS UPDATE

Industrial firms invest in South Holland

By Ronda Williams

MJ May is a family owned South Holland company that converts bulk belting to custom uses such as Velcro belts and to custom sizes not readily available in large quantities, and distributes to end users. Previously leasing at 113 W. 154th St. for the past 10 years, the company is expanding its business in South Holland, having purchased the 10,000-square-foot former Silliker Testing Lab at 160 W. Armory Drive.

The owners are longtime residents of South Holland, and the move is expected to result in about three to five new full time jobs.

C&A Overseas United purchased the former Bible League building at 15925 Van Drunen. This is an expansion from their Morris facility – they will receive plastics, repackage and send overseas for end use.

The company will employ five people initially, which is expected to grow to 10 over the next two to three years.

The company will spend about $50,000 in capital improvements – including installing a sprinkler system and an additional loading dock.

Fusion Chicago Investments has purchased the 11,000-square-foot former Steiner Electric building at 401 W. Taft Dr.

The building owners have signed a long-term leasing agreement with DirectSat USA, a communications infrastructure company that provides installation, upgrade and maintenance services for major satellite content providers.

DirectSat will use the property to warehouse and repair Direct TV equipment and Direct TV products for offsite installations.

The move will see 44 full-time maintenance personnel and six full-time office workers relocate to South Holland from their Mokena facility.

Village modifies Sunday ordinance

After hearing from the village stakeholders regarding the Economic Development Commission’s recommendation to “consider the modification of the Sunday Closing Ordinance,” the South Holland Village Board of Trustees has concluded that we can change what we do and still remain a community of Faith, Family and Future.

The process has taken a significant amount of time with the Village Board resourcing the leaders of our churches, businesses and neighborhoods to discuss this topic at length. As a result of those informative discussions, the members of the Board voted unanimously during the June 15 board meeting to modify the Sunday closing ordinance, which will take effect on July 1, 2015.

In the April/May issue of the South Holland TODAY, Deputy Administrator Pat Mahon’s editorial – This I Know For Sure – pointed out the two primary questions presented to the focus groups which centered their discussion:

1. Can we change what we do while preserving who we are?
2. Is it the responsibility of the Village to legislate business on Sundays or is this the responsibility of individuals, families and churches?

As modified, the ordinance will continue to preserve peace and quiet within our neighborhoods by restricting contractors work on Sundays in residential areas. The ordinance will now allow all South Holland-based retail and manufacturing businesses to open on Sunday, if they desire, as well as allow realtors the ability to conduct open houses between the hours of 2 pm and 5 pm.

The South Holland Village Board of Trustees are committed to preserving the character and values of the community while progressively maximizing our potential for economic vitality and long-term stability. They believe in doing their best to be responsive to the needs of our residents, businesses, employees and visitors of our community, and in doing so, making South Holland an even stronger community.

South Holland Municipal Band

South Holland’s very own Municipal Band, which is celebrating its 73rd anniversary this year, began their season with the Memorial Day celebration and will conclude with the Paarlberg Festival in September.

The concerts are usually held at the bandstand at Veterans Park.

Below is the band’s schedule for this summer:

- Saturday – July 4 at Veterans Park, approx. 8 p.m.
- Thursday – July 23 at Holland Home, 7 p.m.
- Thursday - August 13 at Veterans Park, 7 p.m.
- Thursday – August 27 at Veterans Park, 7 p.m.
- Monday – September 7 at Paarlberg Farm, 3 p.m.
PUBLIC WORKS
Sibley Boulevard resurfacing, 394 ramp repairs underway

The Illinois Department of Transportation has announced that resurfacing work is underway along Illinois Route 83 (Sibley Boulevard) between Torrence Avenue and Dixie Highway.

In order to complete the work, temporary daytime lane closures on both eastbound and westbound Sibley should be expected until the end of August. The location of closed lanes will change daily on this seven-mile long project.

The project includes work in South Holland, Harvey, Dixmoor, Dolton, and Calumet City.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and be on the alert for workers and equipment.

Also this summer, the Illinois Tollway will repair the pavement on the ramp carrying southbound Interstate 80 to Illinois Route 394 in South Holland.

The work was scheduled to begin at the Illinois Route 394 Interchange at Interstate 294 and Interstate 80 in early May and electronic message signs have been posted in advance to alert drivers. Work at this location will include pavement repairs along the ramp and shoulder.

The project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, along with local municipalities and police and fire departments.

The repair project is necessary to extend the life of the bridges and ramps and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. The improvements are part of the 15-year, $12 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future.

A 45-mph speed limit is in effect on ramps in the construction zone whether or not workers are present. In addition, a 45-mph speed limit will be in place on I-294. Drivers should continue to watch for changing traffic patterns and use caution at all times.

Illinois State Police have zero tolerance for drivers speeding in work zones. The minimum penalty for speeding in a work zone is $375. Posted signs advise drivers of a $10,000 fine and 14-year jail sentence for hitting a roadway worker.


JULY 4TH ROAD CLOSURES / PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Village of South Holland will host its annual Independence Day event on Saturday, July 4th, at Veterans Memorial Park. As the village anticipates an increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic in and around the area, the South Holland Police Department will execute strategically planned parking restrictions and road closures. This effort is intended to ensure the safety of residents and visitors during an event that draws a high volume of people. Additionally, this plan will minimize challenges that emergency personnel often experience while maneuvering vehicles around the area.

Street closures beginning at 7:30 p.m. include:
- 160th Street, 160th Place, 161st Street, and 161st Place (from Cottage Grove to South Park Avenue);
- Evans Avenue and School Street (off of 162nd Street – closed at the alley near 161st Place);
- Parkside and Riverview.

Also, beginning at 7:00 p.m., South Park Avenue will close to traffic, from 162nd Street to 158th Street.

In addition, please be mindful of “No Parking” signs on streets to the north, south, east and west of Veterans Memorial Park. The boundaries are Wausau Avenue, 162nd Street, Cottage Grove Avenue, and 158th Street. The streets that run east- and westbound, parking will be restricted on the north side; streets that run north- and southbound, parking will be restricted on the west side.

Street closures are not intended to keep residents from their home. After 7:30 p.m., residents who live in neighborhoods around Veterans Memorial Park should enter only at 161st and School Street. Please be prepared to show your identification with your South Holland address.

Additional lots for parking will be available a short distance from the park:
- Calvin Christian School – 528 East 161st Place;
- MB Financial Bank – 475 East 162nd Street;
- First Christian Reformed Church – 16248 South Park Avenue;
- Calvary Community Church – 16341 South Park Avenue;
- Northeast corner of 162nd Street and South Park Avenue;
- First Reformed Church – 15924 South Park Avenue;
- Parkside and Riverview.

Cooperation of residents and visitors is greatly appreciated.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Watering restrictions are in effect

A reminder to residents of the village – water sprinkling restrictions are now in effect.

Per Section 21-12 of the Village Code, residents with odd numbered street addresses may only water their lawn and garden or wash their car on odd numbered days of the month, Monday-Saturday, and only between the hours of 7 p.m. and 11 a.m.

Residents with even numbered street addresses may only water their lawn and garden or wash their car on even numbered days of the month, Monday-Saturday, and only between the hours of 7 p.m. and 11 a.m.
Keep backyard pools maintained
for summertime fun

By Ronda Williams

Backyard pools are a great way to beat the heat but they require many tasks that need to be performed weekly and sometimes more frequently.

Trying to remember all of them is no easy feat. South Holland officials have provided a check list to assist in the maintenance of your pool. Keep in mind that this information is general in nature. To ensure you receive the best information for your specific pool, we recommend that you consult a pool professional for more individualized maintenance assistance.

Tasks to do two – three times per week (during pool season)

• Clean out the skimmer and pump basket.
• Use a leaf scoop to remove litter.

Tasks to do weekly (during pool season)

• Vacuum the bottom and sides.
• Test and adjust sanitizer level.
• pH level. Levels for pools should range from 7.4 to 7.7.
• Alkalinity level. Total alkalinity levels should stay between 100-150 ppm.
• Calcium hardness levels. Ch levels should be between 150-350 ppm.
• Check the water level and adjust as needed.
• Use algae removal products as recommended or needed.
• Shock the pool as instructed on the product label.
• Check the filter.
• Check for holes and tears in the pool liner.

Regular maintenance is a ‘must’ for backyard pools.

Properly maintained backyard pools are a great way to beat the heat all summer long.

Use a leaf scoop to remove litter, a task to be done 2-3 times each week.

Reminder: this is a general guide and is not meant to be a complete list of pool maintenance. All pools and set ups are different. Each requires different maintenance tasks based on the pools individual needs. Always consult the pool manufacturer’s recommendations on pool maintenance and consult with a pool professional to discuss your individual pool needs.
**SPORTS**

**Little League Regional comes to South Holland**

The Village of South Holland has been selected as the site for the Central Region Junior League Softball Regional Tournament at Veterans Memorial Park, 160th Place and South Park Avenue. The tournament, which has been played in Elyria, Ohio, for many years, is a weeklong event hosted by Illinois District 6. Girls, ages 14-15, softball teams from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin will participate in the tournament July 24 through July 30, with the winner advancing to the Little League Softball World Series.

The Village of South Holland is proud to earn this three-year commitment to host the Central Region Junior League Softball Regional Tournament.

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**SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS**

**SETON ACADEMY**

Girls Volleyball (Grades 5 – 9), June 22 – 25, 12 – 2:00 pm
Girls Basketball (Grades 5 – 9), July 13 – 17, 3 – 5:00 pm
Baseball/Softball (Grades 5 – 10), July 20 – 24, 3:30 – 5 pm
Boys Basketball (Grades 5 – 9), Aug. 3 – 7, 6 – 7 pm
Cost: $25.00 / one camp;
$20.00 each / two or more camps.
Contact Athletic Director Scott Pallay
708-339-8153, or spallay@seton-academy.org

**SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE**

South Suburban College, 15800 S. State St., will hold its Championship Basketball Shooting Camp from 1-4 p.m. June 22 to 25. Cost is $60.
The Championship Basketball Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 29 to July 2. Cost is $105.
Cost for those enrolling in both camps is $150.
Both camps are for boys and girls, ages 7 to 17.
For details, call John Pigatti at 708-596-2000, ext. 2524.

**SOUTH HOLLAND COMBO CAMPS FOR THE 2-SPORT ATHLETE**

Experience official summer camps of the Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Bulls.
Baseball option held at Irwin Community Center, Homewood (9:00 am – 12:00 pm); basketball option held at H-F Park District Auditorium, Homewood (1:00 – 4:00 pm), June 22 to June 26. Transportation provided to move participants from baseball location to basketball location. Camps are for ages 5-12. Cost: $385.
For details click on bullssoxacademy.com.

**GLENWOODIE GOLF CLUB**

The First Tee program is open to young people ages 7 to 17. Participants move through levels that introduce new and more advanced concepts of golf and life skills.
Summer sessions are: Session 1, June 16–July 2; Session 2, July 7–July 23; Session 3, July 28–Aug. 13. Fees for South Holland residents, $60 ($40 for Little Linksters).
For details go to TheFirstTeeGreaterChicago.org.
Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast

On May 7, 2015, the South Holland Ministerial Association presented the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer.

Roy Patterson, Station Manager for Moody Radio Chicago, served as guest speaker, while soloist Mary Huisman of King's Community Church marveled the audience with her renditions of Christian praise and worship songs.

Rev. Mel DeVries, pictured at left, received the first-ever South Holland Ministerial Association Mel DeVries Award for Faith and Service to honor his longevity and service in the village.

2015 Student Government Night

South Holland eighth grade students conducted their version of a student government meeting Monday, May 18, at the South Holland Community Center.

Participating students, paired with a village official, presented well-crafted reports profiling the roles of village mayor, clerk, trustees, administrators, and department heads. Students included (pictured from left): Sidney Mathis, Calvary Academy; Ahmed Hill, Christ Our Savior; Cruz Ibarra, Calvary Academy; Arielle Stallworth, McKinley Junior High; Stedman Ihejirika, Coolidge Middle School; Kaila Thornton, Calvary Academy; Nayeli Munoz, Coolidge Middle School; Natalie Bivona, Calvin Christian; Jacobi Dorsey, McKinley Junior High; Isabelle Neibert, Calvin Christian; Jennifer Lockhart, McKinley Junior High; Charles Woodson, Calvin Christian; Michael Ogunfowokan, Christ Our Savior; Joshua Purnell, Calvin Christian; and Cheyenne Rios, Christ Our Savior.
FLOOD PROOFING SERIES

The natural and beneficial functions of the flood plains

It is difficult to think of flood plains without also thinking of flooding. And nobody likes it when their home or business or neighborhood gets flooded. But flood plain areas are now also recognized as having an intrinsic value of their own as a part of the interconnected ecosystem and an influential role in increasing a community’s quality of life. For example, the recognized benefits of a naturally functioning flood plain include the storage and conveyance of flood waters, the recharging of groundwater, the maintenance of surface water quality, and the provision of habitats for fish and wildlife. These areas also provide diverse recreational opportunities, scenic value, and a source of community identity and pride. Clearly the potential gains of transforming stream and river flood plains from problem areas into value-added community assets are substantial.

Floods have caused a greater loss of life and property and have disrupted more families and communities in the United States than all other natural hazards combined. Despite the expenditure of tens of billions of tax dollars for structural measures, such as dams, levees, and channel projects to try to control flood waters, flood losses continue to rise. Thus, a new way of thinking about flood plain management has emerged in recent years that focuses on hazard mitigation. Flood hazard mitigation places greater emphasis on trying to adapt to the natural phenomena of flooding such as by maintaining flood hazard areas as open space, and less on trying to control floodwaters.

Flood plains play a valuable role in providing natural and beneficial functions to the area around, and including South Holland. Floodplains that are relatively undisturbed provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. These benefits provide aesthetic pleasures as well as function to provide active processes such as filtering nutrients. The Little Calumet River at Gouwens Park and Veterans Park, are both floodplains. Both are used as a means of recreation, discovery and are considered “wetlands”. Both floodplains contain historic and archeological sites that provide opportunity for education and study. Both enhance waterfowl, fish and other wildlife habitats and provide feeding/breeding grounds. Both floodplains provide natural erosion control and open space so further flooding damage does not occur.

The Village of South Holland is working to improve the flood plain for natural and recreational purposes. Gouwens Park and Sports Complex has a wetland and a bikeway. The Village is cleaning up the banks and channels both for flood protection and appearance purposes. The Gouwens Park wetland mitigation site consists of approximately 5 acres of native prairie, native wetland plantings, and open water. The site will remain as a natural wetland/prairie complex on the park property. In its natural setting, the site is used by a variety of wildlife and could easily be used for environmental education. In addition, the area undergoes flooding from the adjacent river and was designed to function in that manner. Who knows? Someday the river front may be the main attraction in town.

It is important to recognize that the flood plains serve many functions besides carrying or storing floodwaters. Thus, we should keep the water as clean as possible to help fish and other wildlife. Here are some things residents can do to protect the river:

- Bag or compost all yard waste.
- Take used motor oil to a licensed recycling plant.
- Do not wash paints, thinners, anti-freeze, and other chemicals into the street. Take leftovers to a household hazardous waste collection center.
- Cover bare soil with a mulch and seed it as soon as possible to minimize erosion.
- Carefully apply lawn chemicals and limit the amount of fertilizers and pesticides being used.
- Keep as much green areas as possible as natural or man-made drainage swales. Plant plenty of trees and shrubs.

Watersheds—The Big Picture

While it is important for communities to plan and take responsibility for the land uses that occur in their own flood plains, it must be recognized that flood level and water quality can be very much affected by land use activities occurring elsewhere in the watershed. Land uses along tributaries are likely to have an impact on downstream communities. Wise management of tributaries is therefore extremely important, as their protection can yield benefits for the entire network. Broad planning efforts among communities with a watershed can thus have far-reaching advantages.

Flood-proofing projects pay dividends for South Holland residents

Now that the rainy season is upon us, Planning, Development and Code Enforcement (Code) reminds residents of flood assistance programs 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 Flood Assistance Rebate and a Sewer Back-up Pilot Program may be available for the following projects:

**SURFACE WATER PROJECTS**
- Diversion of downspout water
- Flood walls

**SEWER BACKUP PROJECTS**
- Overhead sewers (repairs and installation)
- Removal of sump pump and down spout 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 the flood rebate or sewer back-up pilot program contact the Code Department at 16240 Wausau, or call 210-2915, before beginning any flood-control project.

A department representative will meet with the resident, inspect their property and assist in completion of the necessary grant application. The department can also provide a list of contractors who are licensed to do business in South Holland, if requested.

Homeowners are advised to allow plenty of time to secure the required pre-approval and minimum of two bid proposals from contractors.

These are great programs and many residents who have taken advantage of this opportunity are grateful for the benefit that comes with flood proofing their home.
MEMORIAL DAY IN SOUTH HOLLAND

PARADE WINNERS

MARCHING BAND
Thornton Township

PROFESSIONAL FLOAT
Thornton Township

AMATEUR FLOAT
Garden Club

WALKING UNIT
Red Sox

MOTOR UNIT
Wess Towing

ANNUAL MAYOR’S TROPHY
Spirit of God Fellowship Church
TOWN CENTER MARKETPLACE
4th Sat. in June - 1st Sat. in Oct.
162nd & South Park
Market Vendors

FRESH LINE
Zeldenrust Farm Market............................Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, Honey, Flowers, Plants
Danielions and Chrisanthemums.....................Flowers, Plants and More
Docter’s Interior Plantscaping........................Orchids and Violets

GRILLED LINE
Kirk’s BBQ
TK Gourmet
Soho Jerk
South Holland Fire Department
William’s Catering, Inc.

SWEET LINE
Dream Chef
Grandma Jan’s Tasty Treats
Kingdom Sweets

SPECIALTY LINE
AH-LIVE Organic Flavored Olive Oils
Baby Shea by Renee
Bub’s Wood Graft
Hannah’s African Designs
Mici’s Boutique
Pampered Chef
Scentaffection
Tastefully Simple
Tupperware

SPECIALTY SERVICE
Chiro One
South Holland Lions Club
Trim a Seal