



South Holland TODAY

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017



Winter Wonderland
December 2 & 9



South Holland's Winter Wonderland

Friday, December 2 & 9 at 6:00 PM

Veterans Memorial Park

500 E. 160th Place
South Holland

Schedule of Activities

December 2, 2016

Check-in to visit Santa opens at 5:15 p.m.

Tree Lighting at 6:00 p.m.

Santa Visits from 6:15-8:30 p.m.

Also enjoy . . .

Trolley Rides • Kids Train Rides

Live Reindeer

Santa's Workshop

Presented by The Home Depot (Homewood)

Face Painting & Balloon Art

Refreshments available for purchase.

December 9, 2016

CHOCOLATE NIGHT

Check-in to visit Santa opens at 5:15 p.m.

Chocolatiers shopping at 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Santa Visits from 6:15-8:30 p.m.

Kids Train Rides



Now is the perfect time to pick up delicious chocolate gifts for family and friends. A full assortment of chocolate products and gifts are available for the holiday. You will find the chocolate vendors in the pavilion at Veterans Memorial Park.

HAPPENINGS

COFFEE WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS:

Residents can meet and talk with members of the fire department from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave.



THE SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE

will hold its 16th annual Christmas concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at St. Victor Catholic Church, 553 Hirsch Ave. in Calumet City. The Chorale will be performing works by Holst, Rachmaninoff, Mendelssohn, as well as favorite carols of the holidays.



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

has changed from a morning meeting to evening, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the South Holland Community Center, 501 East 170th Street. Members of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning are special guests at the evening coffee. To read more details of this special coffee, see page 12.



SOUTH HOLLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION:

Monthly meetings are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the South Holland Community Center. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. The topic or speaker is posted on the SHBA calendar at its website at www.shba.org.



CLOSINGS: Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, for Christmas, and Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year's Day.



2017 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

TRIBUTE: Save the date for 2017 event, 10 a.m., Saturday, January 21. Christ Community Church, 1151 E. 170th Street, South Holland, IL



FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY: **HOLIDAY FIRE CULPRITS**

With the onset of winter holiday season celebrations, it is important to focus on fire safety and prevention.

This season brings with it potential fire culprits from the increased use of electric lights, decorations, candles, and, of course, the Christmas tree.

However, by increasing your knowledge of fire safety precautions, potential holiday fires, deaths, and injuries remain preventable.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Tree Hydration

If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, 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; however, a dry and neglected tree can be.

Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

There are just a few things to keep in mind when selecting a fresh tree. Needles should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Try bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and has probably dried out. This is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, such as 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 placing it at the curb to be hauled away by Republic Services.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Maintain Your 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!

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

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.

Artificial Christmas Trees

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

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.

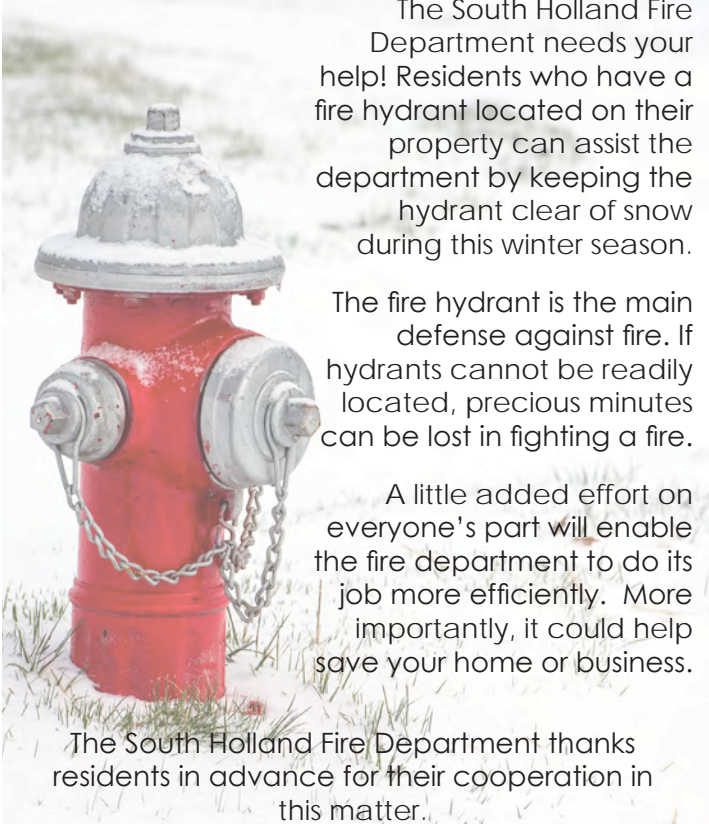
Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame – candles, lighters or matches.

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!

Illinois State Law requires working carbon monoxide detectors be 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.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ASKS RESIDENTS TO ADOPT A HYDRANT



The South Holland Fire Department needs your help! Residents who have a fire hydrant located on their property can assist the department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow during this winter season.

The fire hydrant is the main defense against fire. If hydrants cannot be readily located, precious minutes can be lost in fighting a fire.

A little added effort on everyone's part will enable the fire department to do its job more efficiently. More importantly, it could help save your home or business.

The South Holland Fire Department thanks residents in advance for their cooperation in this matter.

For information or questions, call the South Holland Fire Department's non-emergency number at 708-331-3123.

KEEP THE WREATHS RED A HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN DECEMBER 1 - 31

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 will be displayed outside of both fire stations in South Holland, decorated with red lights.

To help "Keep The Wreaths Red," residents and businesses are asked to take the necessary safety precautions during the holiday season to prevent fires.

If a fire should occur during the month, which was caused by holiday decorations, a red light in the wreaths will be changed to a white light.

It is hoped that the display of the wreaths will be a visual reminder to everyone to have a fire-free holiday season.

*Happy Holidays
from our families
to yours!*



Christmas Dinner Show featuring Rendition



Rendition is a group of four artists, each contributing their own style, experience and musical persona. They perform a variety of songs ranging from Jazz Standards to Motown to Current Pop. With different genres of music, the band appeals to a wide range of audiences. Rendition will even sing a few holiday classics!



Saturday, December 17, 2016

Doors open at 5:30 PM

Show starts at 6:30 PM

Advance Tickets: \$30.00

Door Tickets: \$35.00 (if available)

with the purchase of 6-8 tickets, a table can be reserved.



South Holland Recreational Services

501 E 170th Street • South Holland, IL 60473

Phone: 708-331-2940



SSC STUDENT ARTISTS WIN AWARD FOR BENCHES ON THE AVENUE CONTEST

Eight South Suburban College Art & Design students were presented with a municipal award from Tinley Park recently for their artistic bench entered in Tinley Park's 13th annual *Benches on the Avenue* contest. Narita Sharma, Devin Walker, Kathleen De Jong, Shelby O'Hara, Natasha Swindle, Alexis Jannotta, Samantha Bynum, and Nicholas Wyatt received the award for Best Group Project for their entry, *The Marauder's Bench*. Being part of a group project and sharing their love of the Harry Potter stories was the primary motivation behind the students' choice. The front depicts a well-known scene, while the back was designed to allow for different artists' styles by using a gallery theme. The group used their individual strengths and experience to work together during class time and until school security closed the building at night. "The bench was a great opportunity for our students to create and compete in a public art competition and commission," said Carol Weber, SSC Art & Design faculty member who oversaw the bench project. "I'm so pleased their

outstanding work was rewarded with the Best Group Project award, and I am appreciative to Tinley Park for inspiring such wonderful creations through this unique art program." The SSC Art & Design Program awards Associate Degrees and certifications with classes in painting, drawing, sculpting, pottery, photography, graphic design, and more. The college has three galleries on the Main Campus in South Holland that are open to the public. For more information about SSC programs, visit www.ssc.edu or call 708-210-5718.

Pictured: SSC students received the award for Best Group Project in Tinley Park's Benches on the Avenue contest for their entry "The Marauder's Bench."



SOUTH HOLLAND JETS 2016 YEAR-END BANQUET

**Sunday, December 18, 2016
12:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Serbian Social Center
18550 Stony Island Avenue
Lansing, IL 60438**

Annual Year-End Banquet celebrating the young women and young men who participate in the South Holland Jets organization and we will honor our "Jet Scholars" – student athletes with no Cs, Ds or Fs on their report cards (Green honor roll straight A's; White honor roll A's and B's).

MAYORS UNITE TO ADDRESS RESERVOIR ODORS

Working together in a prioritized and concentrated manner, Mayor Don De Graff from South Holland, Mayor Rich Hofeld from Homewood, and Mayor Robert Kolosh from Thornton met recently with David St. Pierre, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), to discuss immediate and effective solutions to the odors occurring in the vicinity of MWRD's Thornton Reservoir. St. Pierre provided valuable insight regarding the initial challenges presented in operating such a large tunnel and reservoir system and committed to the implementation of a series of odor mitigation improvements, several of which are already in process.

According to St. Pierre, "MWRD is well aware of the odor issues, having received a good number of initial calls from local businesses and residents immediately after the reservoir initially went online in 2015. After the creation of an internal task force, several short-term actions were taken at that time by MWRD to ensure that the problem was minimized. Consequently, the beginning of the Thornton Reservoir's first full summer proved uneventful."

In July of 2016, the southland area received up to 6" of rain in a very short duration event. Per MWRD's assessment, this massive amount of water feeding into the reservoir displaced air in the deep tunnel system and pushed the air out of the tunnels at a rate which overwhelmed the short-term mitigation actions taken previously. This rain event resulted in numerous complaints from the displaced air and generated odor readings at MWRD monitoring stations. Similar problems were experienced with another torrential rain event in August of 2016 and unfortunately, in a number of lesser rain events leading into the fall season.

Because the initial mitigation procedures have proven to be insufficient, St. Pierre and MWRD officials have since commenced the revision of their existing operating plans. These short and long term measures include:

- the diversion of fresh water to the holding reservoir when necessary,
- the installation of additional odor detection and neutralizing mechanisms,

- the installation of a landscaped, wind blocking barrier around the east side of the reservoir,
- the addition of 20 total solar powered circulators to oxygenate the water in the reservoir in order to create an odor buffer at the water's surface.

Upon observing the severity of the problem over the last several rain events, St. Pierre conveyed that additional immediate actions have already been taken by MWRD:

- MWRD has entered into an emergency contract to install temporary misting mechanisms at drop shaft locations with high odor readings.
- Operating procedures have been modified to close gates, pump down and flush the tunnel system completely, dispelling odor causing debris that is trapped in the tunnels.
- MWRD has adjusted odor call response protocols to ensure responsiveness to residents, to track the odor source effectively, and to properly mobilize odor neutralizing resources to offending site locations.

Executive Director St. Pierre reiterated to each Mayor that "MWRD will continue to monitor and evaluate the measures taken and adjust as needed to minimize odor emissions from the system. MWRD offers its apologies for the odors that have been generated from the system here at the onset of its operations. Because the Thornton Reservoir is part of a large, comprehensive system, which provides significant benefits to all residents in the southland area, it will take some time for the District to better understand how to fully and effectively operate it for all purposes, including odor elimination. MWRD will continue to strive to operate the system better and to employ all reasonable efforts to eliminate the odors."

To report odors, contact MWRD at (800) 332-3867 or visit online at mwrld.org.



The Thornton Reservoir holds sewer overflows before pumping the water 5.5 miles back to the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant for treatment. Communities that fully, or in part, benefit from the reservoir include Blue Island, Burnham, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Chicago (south side), Dixmoor, Dolton, Harvey, Lansing, Markham, Phoenix, Posen, Riverdale, and South Holland



Nominate
someone
for
Mayor's
Leadership
Awards

The Mayor's Leadership Awards are presented biennially to residents who demonstrate outstanding service to the community and who reflect our South Holland values of Faith, Family and Future.

Guidelines include:

FAITH: Nominee must be a South Holland resident who has demonstrated outstanding service to advance the heritage of Faith in the Village of South Holland.

FAMILY: Nominee must be a South Holland resident who has demonstrated outstanding service as a role model to married couples, families, children, and students within the Village of South Holland.

FUTURE: Nominee must be a South Holland resident who has demonstrated outstanding service to the village of South Holland to ensure its continued vitality.

Nomination forms are available at Village Hall, 16226 Wausau Ave.
The nomination deadline is Dec. 31.
Awards will be presented during the
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in March 2017.

TIME AGAIN FOR A FLU SHOT

NASAL SPRAY INFLUENZA VACCINE NOT RECOMMENDED THIS SEASON

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is urging everyone six months and older to get a flu shot, not the influenza vaccine nasal spray, as soon as it's available in your community.

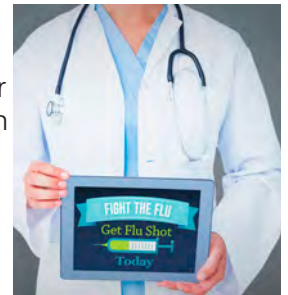
Due to concerns about how well the nasal spray vaccine has worked during the previous flu season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is temporarily recommending that people stick to getting a flu shot and skip the nasal spray.

"No one likes getting stuck with a needle, but no one likes having a fever, cough, sore throat, and body aches for days, or even weeks," said IDPH Director Nirav D. Shah. "Anyone can get the flu, even healthy people. Getting a flu shot is the first and most important step in protecting you and those around you against flu viruses.

"Influenza is spread mainly when people with the flu cough or sneeze. The flu can cause mild to severe illness, and can even result in hospitalizations or death. People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart and lung disease, and people 65 years and older.

Vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, missed work and school, as well as prevent

flu-related hospitalizations. Over a period of 31 seasons between 1976 and 2007, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people. During recent flu seasons, between 80 and 90 percent of flu related deaths have occurred in people 65 years and older.



The flu season typically runs from October to May with the peak between December and February. Last year the flu season started and peaked later than usual. It's not possible to predict what this flu season will be like. While flu spreads every year, the timing, severity, and length of the season varies from one year to another.

In addition to getting a flu shot, IDPH recommends following the 3 C's: clean, cover, and contain.

- Clean – frequently wash your hands with soap and warm water.
- Cover – cover your cough and sneeze.
- Contain – contain your germs by staying home if you are sick.

To find a location to get a flu shot in your community, check with your local health department or log onto the IDPH website at <http://dph.illinois.gov/> to use the flu vaccine finder.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES



SHRS RENTAL PROMOTION
January 1, 2017 – April 30, 2017

FOUR for THREE

Contract for **THREE HOURS** of Event Room Usage and get THE **FOURTH HOUR ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

- One FREE ½ hour set-up remains in effect
- Rentals must be held AFTER 3:30 p.m. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- **ALL ROOMS INCLUDED** EVENT ROOMS | SMALL & LARGE CONFERENCE ROOMS | GYM

Pool not included



SHRS RENTAL PROMOTION
(September thru December 2016)

"FABULOUS FALL RATE"
\$50.00 per hour, per room
Plus \$250.00 Refundable Damage Deposit

Rental must be held on a Friday or Sunday only

Our spacious facility is the perfect place to hold your next: Anniversary Celebration, Baby Shower, Birthday Party, Bridal Shower, Children's Party, Family Gathering/Reunion, Graduation, Quinceañera, Repast, Retirement Party, Staff/Sales Meeting, Wedding and/or Reception and much more.

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

Event Start Time must be after 3:30PM

RELAX, TAKE A DEEP BREATH *By Ronda Williams*



The end of the year can bring sheer panic for some. Just the thought of shopping for gifts, cooking for family and friends and let's not forget

writing next year's resolutions, again. Life can simply be overwhelming during the holiday season. Yoga instructor Loriann Keilman wants us all to relax and take a deep breath.

Keilman is a Hatha Yoga Instructor at the South Holland Community Center and has been teaching yoga for 16 years. Yoga means union of mind, body and spirit and that practice comes from the East Indian tradition. It is an ancient practice with multiple benefits that starts with making the body feel good through controlled breathing and meditation exercises.

Keilman's journey to becoming a yoga instructor started many years ago. She faced physical health challenges at a young age, made her own choices as a woman.

"Doctors wanted to give me medication to stop the pain I was in, but I refused. I took medication as a long-term solution," Keilman says. "Any medication I took was not the answer for me."

So, Keilman gave up her job and started teaching yoga and has not looked back. Keilman teaches her students to manage stress by staying in the present moment.

"The mind tends to wander to the future, which causes us to lose focus," says Keilman. "Yoga teaches us to live in the present moment and to breathe by focusing on our breath. By focusing on our breath from moment to moment helps reduce your stress."



GET READY

South Holland

EARLY PROMOTION

January 6

southholland.org/recservices

ms

become a yoga
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The class learns the principals of feeling better mentally and emotionally through poses, movement and breathing. Yoga is the mechanism to develop what Keilman calls "stress hardiness," one's ability to handle stress. Yoga changes the way your brain works so you learn to think through stressful situations to gain a positive perspective.

To help her students learn to be in a present mind state, Keilman teaches a combination of very basic yoga poses and breathing and relaxation exercises. Don't worry about doing a perfect lotus pose. If you can lie flat on your back, like a corpse, relaxing and breathing, you'll do just fine in this class.

When you're in the midst of realizing you prepared Christmas dinner for eight and 15 people show up,

Keilman's yoga instruction may be exactly what you need in the moment. She suggests

these three things you can do to control stress:

- Take breathing breaks – focus on the present moment.
- Schedule self-care time – help yourself so you can help others.
- Set boundaries – you don't have to do everything or feel guilty if you can't.



Join Loriann Keilman in January for the next session of Hatha Yoga. Find out more information about the class at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St. or visit online at southholland.org/recservices.

FIT IN 2017

land Community Center

501 E. 170th Street

GRAM REGISTRATION

ry 5 - Residents Only

& 7 - Open Registration

Online Registration Opens Jan. 6

BE AN ANGEL OF HOPE DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON *By Ronda Williams*

The holidays are here and everyone is busy preparing to celebrate in their own special way. For some, this time of year is filled with traditions and celebrations with family and friends. But for others, the holidays are reminders to lost loved ones, financially challenging times and stressful obligations.

For those in our community who need support, the South Holland Library would like to bring some joy through the Angel of Hope ministry. For the last several years, the library has partnered with Chicago Prison Outreach, a service organization whose mission is to bring the love of Christ to currently or previously incarcerated men and women and their families throughout the Chicagoland region.

From the second week in November through Dec. 5, the library offers patrons the opportunity to be an Angel of Hope by choosing a tag from the Christmas tree that lists specific items requested by the families of the Chicago Prison Outreach ministry. Patrons who participate are asked to bring the newly purchased items back to the library where they will be distributed to the recipients before the Christmas holiday.

Item requests range from children's toys and clothing to cleaning supplies. Last year, the library was able to provide 50 gifts to the ministry.

You can become an Angel of Hope for a family this holiday season. Visit the library to learn more and get involved.



CMAP AT NEXT MAYOR'S COFFEE

The Village of South Holland was recently awarded a Local Technical Assistance Grant by The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop of a Comprehensive Plan for our Village. A comprehensive plan is a written document formally adopted by the Village Board of Trustees that contains goals, objectives and strategies for the future development and conservation of the community. As the name suggests, the plan will be complete, thorough, and will build on the already established VISION 2022 plan, but encompassing broader elements and a longer period of time.

It is designed to be a long term "road map" for community growth, and as such requires the input of community stakeholders. Accordingly at 7 p.m. Tues., Dec. 13, during the quarterly Mayor's Coffee, CMAP will engage South Holland residents to gain their feedback prior to the drafting of the plan. Please join us at the South Holland Community Center on Tues., Dec. 13, to help us chart the future of our great community! The center is located at 501 East 170th Street.

Vision 2022



SOUTH HOLLAND SEES TIF FUNDING AS POSITIVE TOOL FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH *By Ronda Williams*

Business growth and economic development are indicators of a thriving community, primarily because the tax revenue generated from these occurrences is the primary way in which a community is funded. Unfortunately, when businesses exit a community and are not replaced with new ones, more businesses – and families – realize a much heavier tax burden. Fortunately for communities in Illinois, including South Holland, local governments are able to fight economic distress and business flight through Tax Increment Financing districts to self-finance redevelopment projects.

So-called TIF programs have helped South Holland retain and attract new business by redeveloping outdated buildings, upgrading infrastructure and paying for other public improvement projects that business owners look for when deciding to invest in a community.

Understanding how TIF districts work is complicated at best. At its basic level, TIF districts are specific geographic areas that exist per Illinois State law as an economic tool to drive business growth and expansion for up to 23 years. There are several criteria that must be met in order to qualify as a TIF district. There must be clear evidence that “but for” the incentive, development would not be possible.

Over the life of the TIF, increases in property tax revenue within a specific geographic area (known as a TIF district) are placed into a separate funding “bucket.” The monies in that “bucket” are governed by state statute and can be used to pay for infrastructure and other improvements within the district boundaries.

Once the TIF district expires, the property taxes rise to their new level for all taxing bodies that cover the former district. Any monies left in the “bucket” are distributed among the eligible taxing bodies. It is important to note that these monies would not exist without the investment in infrastructure that the TIF district permits.

TIF funding has specific requirements and must be applied in the following ways:

- Land assembly, acquisition
- Demolition and site clearance
- Costs related to rehab, reconstruction and remodeling of existing buildings
- Infrastructure (sewer, water)
- Detention ponds
- Reconstruction and street improvement



The newly constructed Love's Travel Stop is located in an area where TIF benefits are available for business development and growth. Love's was constructed on land that once was home to Gibson Chevrolet, 1533 East 162nd Street.

“Many TIF requirements are infrastructure related because they are some of the most costly requirements needed to support business development,” said John Watson, South Holland Economic Development Director. “South Holland has used TIF funding to replace old sewer and utility lines, as an example, to stimulate development. This directly led to the growth in new businesses in our downtown or Town Center area. Without these types of improvements, it would have been even more difficult to attract businesses to our community.”

Having used TIF funding responsibly since the 1980s to revitalize the community, the program has proved to be a beneficial tool for South Holland.

“Route 6 was once a very outdated area that needed many improvements,” said Watson. “We've been able to update, rebuild and upgrade many areas along the route that have attracted new businesses and created a plethora of job opportunities.”

To learn more about Tax Increment Financing in Illinois visit <http://www.illinois-tif.com>.

PUBLIC WORKS

SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC WORKS

IS READY FOR WINTER, *are You?*

Snowfall and cold days are standard for the winter season. But inclement weather conditions are not a concern for South Holland Public Works because they've been preparing since March. Yes, it's true. Even before meteorologists predicted the coming season's weather, Public Works already had a plan.

Every March, as winter comes to an end, the village estimates and purchases street salt needed to keep the roads clear of ice for

the coming winter season. Then in late summer, the village services and readies its seven large trucks, five pickup trucks and snow blowers to tackle anything from ice storms to mounds of snow. This process takes weeks to coordinate and the Public Works team knows exactly what to do.

So, are you ready for winter? Public Works wants homeowners to get involved and plan ahead for what could be a 2014 winter

repeat. Here are three things residents are reminded of for the winter season:

- Remove cars from the street after 2 inches of snowfall to allow for snow plows to clear the streets.
- Clear the area around fire hydrants in or around your house to allow emergency vehicles to easily locate.
- Disconnect water hoses from outside spigots to avoid freezing pipes.

NEW PLAN FOR E-WASTE COLLECTION

Electronic Waste, or "e-waste," is known as old electronic devices that are obsolete, broken, outdated, discarded, or at the end of its useful life. These devices may include cell phones, laptops, desktop computers, monitors, PDAs, televisions, printers, fax machines, scanners, and other electrical devices.

In January 2012, pitching old or unwanted electronic devices in the trash or tossing them out at the curb to be picked up became illegal in the State of Illinois. In fact, per our state's Recycling and Refuse Act, it is illegal to toss out more than 13 electronic products.

In the Village of South Holland, our challenge has been proper disposal of unwanted televisions. Residents leave old television units at the curb on trash day. Republic Services, our disposal service provider, cannot haul it away. Remember . . . It's against the law.

To address this issue, the Village of South Holland provided a drop-off site outside the Public Works garage. Unfortunately, the drop-off service proved to not only be a costly expense for the community, but also resulted in some unforeseen abuses by



Several community-wide electronic waste collection days are being planned in 2017.

nonresidents. In light of these issues, the drop-off site will be discontinued as of December 31, 2016.

However, the Public Works Department is working with the South Holland Public Library on a series of community-wide electronic waste collection dates for 2017, with the first planned in March. The full schedule for electronic waste collection days will be posted on the village and library websites – southholland.org and shlibrary.org.

resident you should know:

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO LIVE HEALTHY MARRIAGES AND HEALTHY LIVES *By Ronda Williams*



In today's "always on" world, we find ourselves living under an enormous amount of stress. The nonstop chatter from social media, constant cell phone alerts and increasing expectations from employers overwhelm our lives. Let's not forget family and friends we care for, aging parents, newborn babies, or expectant spouses. We all have a lot on our plate.

For women, the burden is uniquely heavy. Not only can the weight of caring for others be daunting but many women place unrealistic expectations on themselves to support and nurture everyone around them, all with feminine poise and grace.

Felicia Houston, licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) at Ingalls Hospital in Harvey and founder of Anointed Wives Ministry (AWM), a women's support group for married and soon to be married women, warns to take heed to the dangers of stress.

Women need to understand there are significant physical impacts of stress like heart problems, tiredness, and the inability to concentrate," says Houston. "So many women think that being overwhelmed and stressed is a good thing, like a badge of honor. We need to understand the severity of stress from a physical, emotional and mental place and change that way of thinking."

Houston's Anointed Wives Ministry, founded in 2008, is a global ministry that empowers, uplifts, encourages, and educates married and single women who desire a "till death do us part marriage."

Through AWM, Houston combines her clinical profession as a LCPC and her calling to support married women tackle the issues that make marriage challenging.

"We have to figure out what we are supposed to do for ourselves," says Houston. "You don't have to be the soccer mom or compare yourself to what other women are doing. Being stressful is not normal and unfortunately we are teaching our kids that you have to be busy to be OK."

Houston recalls conversations with women she has counseled who shared how they have lost themselves in the lives of their families, no longer knowing what they enjoy.

"We have to get to a point where we focus on what brings us joy. Then we can bring some joy to our family," says Houston.

"If I don't care for myself and my needs, everyone pays for it. I have women who come up to me and say, 'I used to ... dance, sing, sew, read, but I don't have time to do that anymore.' I challenge women to do some self-care."

To encourage women to reconnect with their interests, she hosts a night out, a couples date night and workshops.

"Our discussions frequently focus on finance, communication and intimacy, the three issues that oftentimes lead to big problems or even divorce," says Houston.

There are three things Houston believes all women should do to reduce stress and live healthier - emotionally, physically and spiritually:

- **Take care of yourself** – Without proper self-care you cannot care for others.
- **Say "No"**– Learn how to politely, but assertively, decline and say no. You can't be everything to everyone, everywhere.
- **Delegate** – There are things that need to be done but you don't need to do them all. Let someone else help with chores, cooking, running errands, even if it means the job isn't done exactly how you would like it.

Felicia Houston is married to Chris Houston and they have two children. Houston is a woman with a vision and a South Holland resident you should know.



**Get involved with AWM at
www.anointedwivesministry.com and
connect with Felicia on Facebook and Twitter.**

CHEIF BAKER OFFICALLY INSTALLED

South Holland Police Chief Greg Baker was officially installed as President of the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police during the 2016 Installation and Awards Dinner. The event was held Friday, October 26, at the Double Tree Hotel in Alsip, IL. Congratulations Chief Baker!



South Holland village officials celebrating Chief Greg Baker's (pictured center) installation were (front, l-r): Trustee Larry DeYoung, Trustee Cynthia Nysten, Deputy Administrator Pat Mahon, Trustee Andrew Johnson, (back, l-r) Fire Chief Brian Kolosh, and Village Administrator Jason Huisman.



JOURNEY OF

Joy

Invite your friends and neighbors to come experience the *Journey of Joy* live nativity, an eight scene re-enactment of the Christmas story.

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MATH TRIATHLON AT CALVIN CHRISTIAN *By Zac Hughes*

On Dec. 2, 2016, Calvin Christian School will host its 14th annual Math Triathlon.

The triathlon is a competition among 10 neighboring Christian elementary schools. Each school sends four representatives from third-through sixth-grade.

The players compete as a team, individually, and in a relay race. The competitions test their math skills above, at, and below their grade levels. The accomplished "mathletes" have an opportunity to both challenge and celebrate their abilities.



Calvin Christian School is located at 528 E. 161st Place and serves students from preschool to eighth-grade.

JUNIOR ENGINEERING IN VOGUE AT CALVIN CHRISTIAN *By Zac Hughes*

One of the graduation requirements at Calvin Christian School is for students to compete in either Junior Engineering or the Regional Science Fair.

Students can do this in their seventh- or eighth-grade year, and increasingly, more and more students are choosing to do both.

This year, there are 13 students participating in small groups in Junior Engineering. They are working on a project plan, a computer city and Powerpoint, and a research essay.

The final parts of their project will be a 3D model and an oral presentation to local judges in early December. Winners from Calvin will then be sent on to the Regional Junior Engineering Competition

(held at the University of Illinois at Chicago) on Jan. 7, 2017.

The Junior Engineering program is an extracurricular activity that students have devoted additional time to after school and on weekends. It is exciting to watch students working closely together to plan a comprehensive 21st century city that meets the challenges facing their world today.



Residents can see their final projects on Friday evening, Dec. 9, in Calvin's gymnasium starting at 6 p.m. as students showcase their work and have their projects judged.



THORNWOOD MARCHING BAND WINS DRUMLINE FESTIVAL

Thornwood High School's marching band was the winner when Chicago area high school marching bands competed Oct. 15 in the 12th annual Olympian Marching Band & Drumline Festival.

The competition was held at Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields. Thornridge High School in Dolton went up against Thornwood High School in South Holland in the "Battle of the Bands" competition. The winner was Thornwood.

The Rich Central Band Booster Organization hosted the event with support from Chicago Defender Charities.

Bands and drum lines from schools in Chicago and the south suburbs competed in both the Corps style and Southern Show style marching band tradition.

MOODY SELECTED AS NEW 6TH DISTRICT COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER *By Bob Bong*



Ed Moody, of Chicago Ridge, was selected Oct. 8 as the unanimous choice to become the new Cook County Board of Commissioner for the 6th District.

He is replacing Joan Murphy, who served on the County Board since 2002. She died Sept. 18 after a long bout with breast cancer. She was 79. The 6th District includes South Holland and most

of Thornton Township. Moody, the Worth Township Highway Commissioner, was selected over several other candidates at the Leonard Robinson Family Center in Richton Park. He made his presentation before a panel of eight 6th District committeemen.

The other candidates were Antoine Bass, of Richton Park, president of the Rich Township High District 227 School Board; John A. Daly, of Oak Forest, vice chairman of the South Suburban College Community College District 510 Board; Donna Miller, of Lynwood, who works in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry and is the wife of former 29th District State Rep. David Miller; Tricia Murphy, of Crestwood, daughter of Joan Murphy; Ed Paesel, of Sauk Village, executive director of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association; and

Crestwood Mayor Lou Presta. "There were a lot of good, strong candidates that were considered, said Thornton Township Committeeman Frank Zuccarelli. We felt that Mr. Moody was the total package for the 6th District.

Committeemen also pointed out that that he has worked with elected officials in all areas represented by the district. He is familiar with the budget needs of the district and how the county budget impacts the local municipal and township budgets, the committeemen added.

Moody said his experience in negotiating and drafting budgets give him an edge as the next 6th District Commissioner. He added that his experience in dealing with unions would be a plus.

I think that going down to Springfield, I would have some advantages that maybe some others don't, said Moody, pointing to his 25 years go managing campaigns and getting out the vote.

Moody and Vicki, his wife of 21 years, reside in Chicago Ridge. They have raised their nephew Ryan for the last 13 years. He is an administrator with the chief judge at the Bridgeview Courthouse. He is a former technician engineer for the Cook County Highway Department.

WISDOM FROM OUR *Churches:*



IT'S TIME TO PRAY *By Dr. Carl King Sr.*

In a matter of weeks, the nation will welcome the 45th President of the United States. Without a doubt, this political season hit an all-time low and reeked of incivility. Racial tensions that clearly demarcated and broadened the racial divide and investigations of questionable

integrity from both the left and the right fused a breeding ground for divisiveness and brokenness. In spite of it all the decision has been made and, whether or not your candidate of choice won, it is time to emerge and raise a standard that will repair the brokenness in our nation and in our communities.

Scripture offers a roadmap for reconciliation, exclaiming "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray.....then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will

heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14). Pray? Yes! God has the plan, and even a broken nation and divided community will transform into a sanctuary for unity when people unite and pray! Prayer is not reliant on left or right politics but on solely on what God says. Prayer is a conduit for clarity that will sensitize the Believer to hear God's platform for the nation. Prayer powers neutrality in politics, shifting the power back to God. It is the launching pad—the foundational building block for healing and unity.

The Bible tells us that there is a right time for everything on the earth (Ecc. 3:1), and it is time to pray! God has given a blueprint for restoration, and a nation in distress needs to mobilize for a Divine prayer appointment. Prayer defuses opposing viewpoints and re-centers, refocuses, and reshapes the community and the nation to become a people who represent God. This is good news, for God has promised to heal our land. So let us pray!

Mayor Don A. De Graff,
Clerk Dr. Sallie D. Penman &
the Village of South Holland Board of Trustees
present

2017 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. **TRIBUTE**

**Saturday, January 14, 2017
10:00 AM**

Hosted At

**Christ Community Church
1151 E. 170th Street
South Holland, Illinois**





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South Holland, IL 60473



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What an extraordinary 2016 year! Depending on one's perspective, there have been times of euphoria and of disappointment. The Chicago Cubs winning a World Series Championship and an unprecedented United States Presidential campaign and election have brought us to places in our life we have never before experienced. Through it all, it's important to know that we can all fall back on that we know to be secure in life.

We can all find security and joy this time of year; the joy of our upcoming Winter Wonderland, the joy of homecomings and family dinners, the joy of giving back, and the joy of service to others in need. May it be our prayer to give thanks continually for the certainty of God's graciousness that we've experienced here in South Holland. As we celebrate God's gift of the Christ Child, may we continue to humbly serve and to rejoice in the security and unity we share as a faith and family community.

As a Village Board, we and our entire administration express our sincere desire for each of you to experience the peace of security and joy during this blessed Christmas season and throughout the upcoming 2017 New Year!

Don A. De Graff

Mayor Don A. De Graff Clerk Sallie D. Penman
Trustee Larry DeYoung Trustee Cynthia Nysten Trustee Prince Reed Trustee John Sullivan
Trustee Vickie Perkins Trustee Andrew Johnson

