



South Holland **TODAY**

NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

STATE OF THE VILLAGE 2017



STATE OF THE VILLAGE



DEAR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND,

From our more than 30 community churches of "Faith" to our 29 beautiful "Family" oriented village parks; from our consistent lowest crime rates to the highest level of professional public safety; from the widest array of recreational services to the most rapid responses to public works infrastructure needs; from the strong major economic advances in new business development to our unique ability to celebrate South Holland through a wide variety of exciting special festivals and events, the Village of South Holland, Illinois has set the pace and is providing the "Future" prototype for each of Chicago Southland regional communities to emulate.

As we enter 2017, I am very pleased to confidently report that the Village of South Holland has never been more strategically, operationally, or financially prepared and excited to advance our vision in this 2017 New Year. As a "Community with a Vision" and a "Mandate to Serve," we are, with determination and resolution, advancing our strategic plan entitled "Vision 2022." The real key to our success is the unified manner in which our outstanding Village Board and Administration are able to plan and work together. It is with passion that we desire "to be the absolute best we can be," we seek to provide the absolute highest quality of essential services to each of our residents and guests who enter our gates.

With this ongoing 2017 mandate, we are prepared to expand upon 2016's remarkable progress to even greater accomplishments that have characterized our Vision 2022 Strategic Plan since its inception in January of 2013. The four main components of our

plan prioritize "Responsive and Progressive leadership"; seek for us to celebrate our diversity by becoming more and more "A Connected Community"; create an increasing home town pride as we advance South Holland as a "Clean, Bright and Beautiful" community; and helps us develop "Signature Spaces and Places" for lasting memories and meaningful locations where we can celebrate South Holland for many years in the future.

Allow me to share with you some 2016 results which demonstrate our continued growth in the Village of South Holland.

VISION 2022

The Village of
**South
Holland**
*Faith, Family,
& Future*

- Responsive and Progressive Leadership
- A Connected Community
- Clean, Bright and Beautiful
- Signature Spaces and Places



RESPONSIVE & PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ADMINISTRATION

Education Commission

The Village of South Holland established an Education Commission to provide information on meeting the formative needs of public, private and parochial school children at all levels of development, and advocate for educational excellence. In 2016, the Commission held its inaugural Education Fair which offered the community academic, health and wellness, and financial education.

There were hundreds of residents in attendance who enjoyed the South Holland Library Reading Room (pictured above), master gardener demonstration, financial aid advisors, and lots of fun activities for the kids.

Each South Holland school showcased their learning institution exceptionally well.

In addition, Universal Dental was on hand to provide free checkups, the Lions Club Hearing Mobile Unit offered on-site hearing tests, Prevent



The South Holland Public Library was among several community service partners that participated in the inaugural Education Fair.

Blindness demonstrated interactive ways to test a child's vision, and Life Source conducted health screenings and blood donations.

The Commission is excited to continue to provide educational outreach to the community, and to promote coordination among all groups and individuals involved in our local education system.



During the Education Fair, Thornwood High School Assistant Principal Don Holmes shares a high-five with a student.

Quiet Zones

Quiet Zones, which fall under federal jurisdiction, are sections of rail line that contains one or more consecutive public crossings at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded. In 2015, the Village of South Holland successfully acquired approval for Quiet Zone designation at four at-grade railroad crossings:

- 170th Street, east of the South Holland Community Center
- South Park Avenue, north of 168th Street
- 162nd Street (Route 6), west of Van Drunen Road
- Vincennes Avenue, north of 162nd Street.



In 2016, South Holland Public Works completed the installation of new delineators and signage at certain crossings, resulting in official approval to activate the four Quiet Zones.

POLICE/ESDA

Modernized Police Facility



The South Holland Police Department moved into their new facility on July 7, 2016 (pictured above and below). This new smart and intelligently designed facility boasts over 33,000 square feet, with private meeting rooms, a bright, modern waiting area, and advanced

video technology to ensure safety of detainees, visitors and officers.

The new location provides a safer and less congested environment, with better service to residents and guests of our community.



Lunch with the Law

Are you of age to remember Officer Friendly? This program was retired many years ago but has recently been reimagined in South Holland as *Lunch with the Law*. This program, focused on elementary school aged students, gives children time to meet and interact with local police officers during their lunch periods at school. In conjunction with the SHPD's elementary school bikes program, where each quarter a boy and girl who exemplifies high standards is chosen to receive a bike from the police department, this program is another form of building trusting relationships.

The SHPD is eager to engage kids early on so they can be part of the conversation of community protection, safety and goodwill. These weekly visits to local elementary schools will continue throughout 2017. Learning to communicate face to face and interact directly with those who serve the community will boost community relations and encourage more dialogue.

National Night Out Program

The South Holland Police Department held its second National Night Out event on the first Tuesday of August 2016. Residents and police officers danced, played games, and shared safety concerns and tips. This event has been celebrated in many communities across the country since the 1990s and has proven to help build community relationships and increase safety awareness.

This past year, nearly 700 residents attended, a 25% increase from the 2015 event. The SHPD is committed in its efforts to serve the community and foster caring, respectful relationships while conducting themselves with integrity and honor. As community events like the Memorial Day Parade, Fourth of July, Harvest Fest and others continue to grow in number bringing more exciting activities, the SHPD is focused on crowd safety and protection by increasing active patrols and planning for emergency situations.



In August 2016, Police Greg Baker, along with Thornton Township launched "The Law and Your Community" Program to 1500 local high school students.

The Law and Your Community Program – Partnership with Thornton Township Youth Services and NOBLE for high school aged students

This national high school aged program was established by the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) to mimic real scenarios between officers and community residents. The program, established many years ago, was recently revived as a way to increase communication, trust and understanding between police officers and youth.

This educational tool has been piloted across the country to very positive reviews. The program is a learning tool that engages officers and students in in-depth discussion and role play scenarios to see various points of view. Most importantly, it teaches principles of law that helps students to gain an understanding of basic law, crime, misdemeanors, probable cause and other terms that many people may hear but do not understand the meaning. These include understanding:

- 1) Consequences of actions and things that occur if you violate the law or if you feel you've been violated.
- 2) Hands on aspect of interaction with the police officers – role reversal scenarios that allow officers and students to be placed in the other persons "shoes."

This program benefits both students and police officers in bettering communication and interaction.

The full program is taught over 13 weeks as part of the school curriculum by a certified instructor who is trained and has a genuine interest in youth. In lieu of the 13-week program, the SHPD, along with Thornton Township, introduced this program to 1500 students at South Suburban College in August 2016 and is looking forward to many more programs throughout 2017.

FIRE

Citizens Fire Academy Graduation Kick-off to Open House



2016 Graduating Class of the Citizens Fire Academy

During their annual Open House, the South Holland Fire Department graduated nearly 50 students from the Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) in 2016 and is poised for another strong showing of enthusiastic students in 2017. In addition to the CFA graduation, the open house, held on the first Saturday in October, provides an opportunity for kids and adults to experience the life of a true firefighter. They learn to spray a real fire hose, climb into our fire engines, or take a nice ride 100-feet above beautiful South Holland in our Tower Ladder, and learn Fire Safety. But so much more of a firefighter's life experience is covered in the adults-only Citizens Fire Academy.

The Citizens Fire Academy is an opportunity for our residents to get an inside look at the work

Recruitment of New Firefighter/Paramedics

Most recently, the village has worked to attract some of the brightest and most civic minded recruits to join our fire department through initiating programs such as a fire cadet program and collaborating with our community colleges.

By attending job fairs and career days in our local high schools, some of the best young adults in our community have been recruited into the fire cadet program. This structured program is open to anyone ages 16 to 21 who has a desire to serve the community and learn the basics of firefighting and EMS. Cadets are encouraged to use this program as a foundation to starting a career in fire service.

and training South Holland Firefighters perform on a daily basis. The program engages residents through an educational and fun manner. The mission of the Academy is to serve the community, and through this initiative, South Holland residents better understand what it takes to provide the highest quality of EMS and fire protection available to them.

Classes are held at Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave., on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and is free to South Holland residents.

Those interested in participating in this complimentary class are encouraged to apply online at www.southholland.org/departments/firedepartment or visit the fire station soon.

Another initiative that has brought some of the brightest and hardest working college students from our region into our fire department is an agreement with Moraine Valley Community College. Through this program, South Holland FD is an approved site for internship of the recruits. Fire Academy students are provided with an opportunity to learn how to work as a firefighter by responding to emergency incidents and completing the daily work routines with our personnel. This program provides us with a student who can function as a firefighter, at no cost to the village. The program runs from January to May each year and is a good source of potential employees for our department.

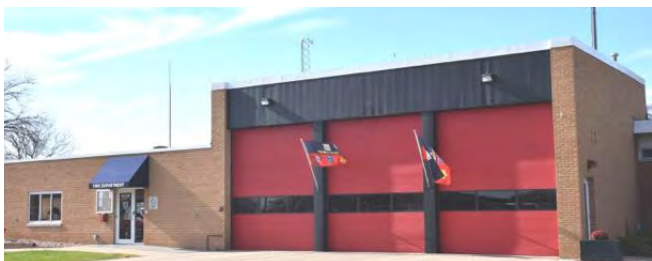
Village Sirens



The Village of South Holland currently operates and maintains 2 warning sirens throughout the Village. These sirens are located at each of our fire stations. These sirens are typically utilized during severe weather events and are also capable of being activated during other major emergencies to alert the public to possible or imminent threatening conditions. Some of the situations where the siren may be activated would be the confirmed

sighting of a funnel cloud or tornado; a major incident involving evacuation such as a hazardous material incident, or terrorism type incident. Since these sirens play a vital role in public safety, the siren location at our Fire Station #2 at 170th and I-94 was replaced in 2016. This was the completion of Phase 1 of a multiple phase project to improve our early notification siren system within the Village.

Fire Station Improvements



It had been nearly 15 years since the walls of Fire Station 1 have been painted and they were starting to show serious wear. The firefighters recognized that the tenets of Clean, Bright and Beautiful also apply to their fire station and took to work on sprucing up the facility.

A water feature consisting of a fire hydrant fountain was installed outside fire station #1 to help clean up the old and dead bushes that were along the front of the fire station. This landscape project was initiated by our Cadet Dan Howard as part of his Eagle Scout project.

The ceiling and walls of the fire apparatus garage were recently painted by the helpful hands of many of our firefighters. The lion's share of the work however, was completed by firefighters/paramedics Tom Farr and Chuck Jansma. The newly painted walls brighten up the interior of the fire station and are clear examples of the pride our personnel have in their work and living spaces.

A long held tradition of fire stations was that their overhead doors are painted red. This tradition goes back to city fire stations that painted their doors red to differentiate the fire station doors and those of the neighborhood. The red doors also provided a quick and easily identifiable location for neighborhood kids to run to if they needed to seek assistance from the firefighters inside. FF/PM Farr painted the overhead doors of Fire Station #1 this past fall.

Community Events

Every year, the Fire Department participates and hosts numerous public events to get to know residents. Firefighters are civil servants who enjoy working for and in the community; that's their number one job. These public events connect them to the residents through educational activities that are fun and exciting. It helps people understand what to do in case of emergencies and, most importantly, how to prevent them.

These events include Coffee with Firefighters every first Saturday of the month, annual Breakfast with Firefighters (Pancake Breakfast), block parties, school events, library events, and village functions.



Firefighter/Paramedic Dave Nettles is always eager to demonstrate equipment uses for residents who visit Fire Station 1.

A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

PR & MARKETING

The village has made great strides to advance its goal to maximize visibility and recognition of South Holland as a community of choice in the Chicago southland region. As the Department of Public Relations and Marketing builds a unified branding concept, residents will witness progressive changes to publications, including *South Holland Today* and our seasonal program book, among other print and digital media.

The Public Relations and Marketing team is currently working with the Department of Recreational Services to create brand awareness for programs and activities hosted at the Community Center. In recent months, we rolled out a new design for the cover of the Winter/Spring seasonal program book, now titled "FIT." This improvement establishes a more distinct, authentic and visual brand for Recreational Services and the program offerings at our Community Center.

The Department of Public Relations and Marketing leverages print communications by maximizing our new water billing system, which provides opportunities to include community-related announcements with the monthly bills.



The new "FIT" design for Recreational Services programs and activities re-energizes and authenticates the brand.



The new "FIT" postcard is just one example of recent inserts distributed via our new water billing system.

Now that we have transitioned to letter-style water bills, this affords the village an additional touch point for marketing directly to our residents and businesses. We now have the flexibility to include relevant visual messages, using both graphics and text.

Village staff continues to advance our technology systems to creatively connect with stakeholders. Most recently, the Department of Public Relations and Marketing worked with our Department of Recreational Services to expand digital signage at the South Holland Community Center. This new digital signage system provides full access to upload digital media (images and video), as well as run a daily schedule of activities and meetings. Currently, the feed is available in the fitness center, Conversation Café area and the lobby. This system allows us the flexibility to expand to other municipal facilities, including Village Hall and the South Holland Police Department.



New digital signage is installed at the South Holland Community Center, with plans to expand to other municipal facilities in 2017.

COMMUNITY COORDINATION & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

In the realm of Community Coordination and Civic Involvement, the village continues to grow and maximize community participation. Last July, the Neighborhood Groups Organizing Committee successfully initiated a "New Resident Breakfast" program as part of the "Welcome Wagon" concept. More than 50

new residents attended the event, along with local community groups, such as the Lions Club, Garden Club, South Holland Jets & Cheerleading, South Holland Little League, Education Commission, Recreational Services, and others.



The inaugural New Resident Breakfast welcomed more than 50 residents who received an orientation of community life, activities, and engagement opportunities. The next breakfast is planned for Saturday, April 22.

ALLIANCES & PARTNERSHIPS

By supporting the growth of local service organizations, the village has developed strong alliances and partnerships in the community. The village has advanced its mission to stimulate our arts and cultural goals through a new partnership with the South Holland Master Chorale. This musical organization, under the direction of Al Jackson, is a 100-plus member chorus, known throughout the Chicago south suburban region and Northwest Indiana for its performances of many great masterpieces of classical choral and orchestral literature. As a highly respected symphonic chorus, the South Holland Master Chorale has performed with premiere orchestras, including the Chicago Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, the LaPorte Symphony, the Illinois Philharmonic, and the Lake



Featured at the recent Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute at Christ Community Church was the South Holland Master Chorale, directed by Al Jackson.

Shore Symphony Orchestra, as well as undertook a successful European concert tour to Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic.

Under its alliance with the Village of South Holland, the chorale hosts an annual series of live concerts from October through May, including its annual performance at South Holland's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute.

CLEAN, BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL PUBLIC WORKS

New Observation Deck



In 2016, Com Ed, in partnership with Openlands, awarded the Village of South Holland a Green Region Grant, an initiative of the partnering organizations for open space projects that focus on conservation, preservation and improvements to local parks and recreation resources. South Holland's project establishes a

wildlife area and observation deck at the north end of Veterans Memorial Park. The deck, which is expected to be complete and ready for residents and guests to enjoy in 2017, will allow the public to view migratory wildlife, raising ecology awareness, and enhance the local ecology system.

Gateway Signs

Our Village updated three Welcome signs in 2016. Those new and improved gateway signs display stunning limestone, accented with beautiful flowers. The flowers that will be featured are annuals, perennials, and tulips, which will brighten up our welcome signs.



Fixed Point Transmitting Devices



The Public Works Department of South Holland is constantly making the daily effort to improve the living conditions of our community. Public Works tackles a vast amount of tasks each and every day for the village's livelihood. For example, as of 2016, the state-of-the-art Fixed Point transmitting devices are being installed in houses across the Village of South Holland. By 2020, these devices will be in every household, enabling Public Works to read all the water meters in town from the clerk's office within hours, giving real time usage numbers by the hour. They also store information for up to 30 days, have a battery life expectancy of 20-28 years, and will aid in billing discrepancies.

Viaduct



Chances are that you have noticed the upgrade in scenery around town. Public Works has worked diligently to enhance your driving experience around town through planting and hardscaping. Most recently, the viaduct on 162nd street has been cleaned, colored, and updated to its new, beautiful state. The addition of bushes and hardscaping add character to not only our street, but our community.

Freedom Circle



The "Freedom Circle" roundabout at 166th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue has a brighter appearance. Established in 2008 in honor of our public safety and military veterans, Freedom Circle is a highly visible and well traveled intersection in our community. Public Works made a significant improvement to enhance the appearance of this roundabout. In 2016, a new color-coated sealant was applied around the intersection to brighten the pavement. This improvement aesthetically enhances the area.

ComEd



In 2016, Com Ed upgraded old electrical lights with LED lights. This major improvement saves Com Ed and the Public Works Department a great deal of time and expense, as the new LED lights (installed on Com Ed's wooden light poles) require less electricity and shine brighter than the old halogen lights that were traditionally used to illuminate our roads. With the installation of new LED lights, Com Ed joins the nation in the movement towards a greener community.

SIGNATURE SPACES & PLACES

TOWN CENTER

Our Town Center district remains a major development priority. The concept combines residential, commercial and recreational amenities into one central district, further distinguished by zoning and design guidelines that insure a specific look and feel in the area. In many cases, given the reality of rising costs, prospective businesses that may be interested in coming to Town Center are faced with financing gaps that could hinder or halt their plans in locating or expanding in South Holland. Our prudent yet aggressive approach to addressing these opportunities involves the strategic use of available incentives.



Within Town Center, our efforts have yielded success and generated momentum for further development. Hamra Plaza (pictured below), anchored by Panera, is a development that many have cited as a "game changer" for commercial development in Town Center. The plaza is fully leased, with Universal Dental Clinics and the Sprint Store now in operation, and a recent commitment from CD One (pictured above) cleaners to occupy the last remaining space. This plaza – including Panera – would not have been possible without our strategic use of available incentives to close the financing gaps of the project. Our efforts in this area will continue.



TOWN CENTER

The development of additional retail and dining options are a fundamental and greatly desired outcome of our Town Center development. These types of businesses depend on access to large numbers of pedestrians, or "foot traffic." This can be generated from multiple sources that are familiar to many, each acting as a "destination" point for residents and visitors alike. They include shopping malls, office centers (i.e. Oakbrook IL and Rosemont), large employers or numbers of employers, transportation hubs, and special events. Where there are high numbers of pedestrian traffic, there are strong retail and dining options.

The village is actively pursuing these kinds of traffic generating opportunities in Town Center so that we can leverage them to attract desired retail and dining options. While there is not enough space available for a large shopping mall or large Class A office space as exists in the communities referenced above, there is room for small- to mid-size commercial office buildings with multiple



Kirk's BBQ provides a new dining option in Town Center.

tenants, similar to the MetroSouth building in Town Center (pictured below). These types of buildings attract high quality tenants in the professional services industries and within their supply chains, and in others, such as logistics and information technology. These kinds of tenants not only help to provide the needed amount of pedestrian traffic to the area, but also represent well-paying employment opportunities. This allows for the kind of incomes needed to attract desired retail options, and for the numbers of employees that restaurants desire access to as customers.



IZD & GENERAL BUSINESS

Transportation access is extremely important to any business, whether it is for the benefit of their employees, vendors or customers. Fortunately, strong transportation access is one of the key assets that our village is able to leverage to drive commercial development. Our strength is based around two primary areas: our general business zone, which is primarily located on Route 6 from the Bishop Ford Expressway to our western border; and the Interstate Zoning District (IZD), which is the area that spans from the former Pure Oil/Union 76 Truck Stop property south to the village water tower. Both areas are vital to our ability to attract strong commercial developments.

Created in 2007, the Interstate Zoning District allows for the expansion of retail and commercial space in the village, and is targeted at specific business types that stand to benefit from proximity to and exposure from the Bishop Ford Expressway. With an average daily traffic count of nearly 130,000, the Bishop Ford, between the Route 6 exit and where it intersects with I-80, is a very heavily traveled stretch of highway. Our efforts in this area have resulted in the opening of Love's Travel Stops (*pictured right*), which is enjoying a very successful operation to date. Love's is one of two properties expected to catalyze development in the IZD, while helping to build on the well patronized retail shopping corridor that includes both Calumet City and Lansing. The other is the former Pure Oil/Union 76 truck stop property, a

26-acre parcel located across the street from Love's. This is arguably the most valuable parcel of property in the village, and there is significant interest in the property from permitted retail and commercial users. The success of Love's has brought increased attention to the parcel, helping to augment our aggressive efforts to market available properties in the IZD to interested parties.

Our latest success in the general business zone is significant, as it represents the final repurposing of our former automobile dealer facilities. Collision Repair operator, Service King (*pictured below*), is now open in the former Pat Fitzgibbon's Dodge/Mitsubishi showroom. Based in Dallas, TX, Service King has grown since their founding in 1976 to become a leader in the collision repair industry and one of the largest paint and body accident repair networks in the U.S. Their parent company recently acquired the former Riverdale Body shop. Service King made a significant financial investment in remodeling the property, and brought 30 new jobs to our community.



INDUSTRIAL PARK



Buddig Expansion



Miniat Expansion

While business attraction is important, equally... if not more...important is the retention and expansion of existing businesses. There is no stronger economic indicator of a community than for its commercial businesses to successfully operate and grow over a long period of time. This is especially important in our industrial corridor west of State Street, where a collection of manufacturers, logistics companies and various businesses within those supply chains are domiciled. These businesses are among the largest in the village, and collectively employ the largest amount of people in South Holland. Our largest employer, Carl Buddig (*above left*), with over 1,000 employees, is currently investing over \$3 million to remodel their facility to expand production space. Miniat Corporation recently completed a \$30 million, 62,000 square foot expansion (*pictured above right*) and have hired over 100 people within one year, driving their employee count up over 600. This makes them the third largest employer in South Holland (South Suburban College is #2).

The process of working to ensure the retention and expansion of these businesses is one that

is very involved and requires many steps. To aid in our efforts, the village held its first annual Innovation Breakfast (*pictured below*) at the South Holland Community Center. The event was designed to provide a forum for our industrial stakeholders to further understand all of the resources available to them in South Holland, while giving them an opportunity to surface critical ideas and suggestions directly that can ensure a thriving industrial community. Over 80 people were in attendance for the event, catered by Andy's Grille. Additionally, members of the Illinois Economic Development Association (IEDA) have worked with the state's new economic development agency (Intersect Illinois) to standardize a retention and expansion program for all state municipalities. With an acronym of CORE (Creating Opportunities for Retention and Expansion), the program is a template for executing a consistent strategy of existing business outreach that includes messaging alignment, expansion opportunity identification, retention risk mitigation and data aggregation for policy development. The Village of South Holland will be active and aggressive users of this program.



Innovation Breakfast

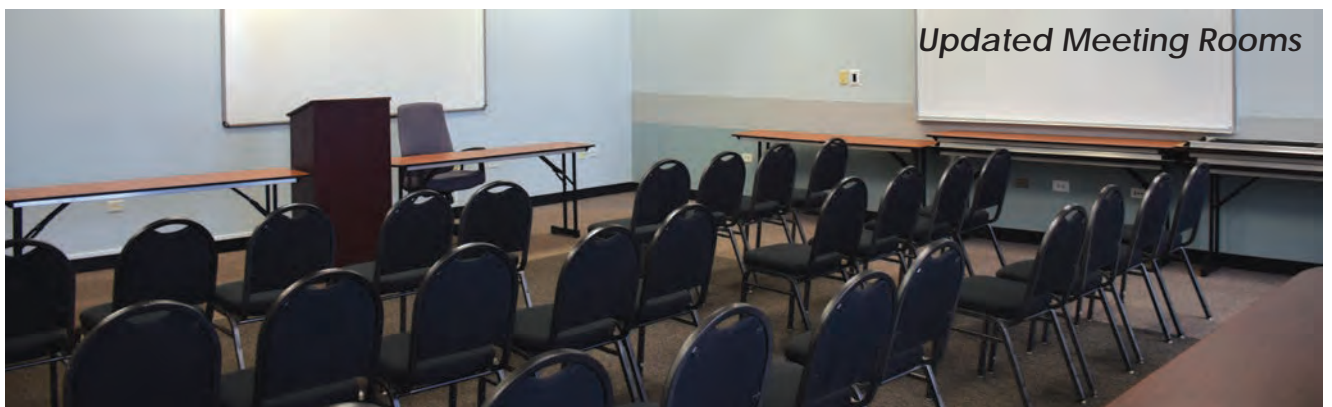
RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Community Center Increases Activities



In 2016, the South Holland Community Center had an aggressive goal to increase family activities and to update the facility. With careful planning and fresh ideas, South Holland residents and community neighbors were able to enjoy many new fun events and return for many of the village's best attended.

To better serve our residents and area neighbors, the South Holland Community Center made significant updates to the facility, improved the overall appearance of the building, and modernized additional equipment to become more efficient.



Events

The Daddy Daughter Dance and the Mother and Son Superhero parties were the first two new family fun events of 2016. Over 160 families danced the night away with their special "date."

South Holland's Independence Day Celebration, held on July 4th at Veterans Park, is the community's grandest and most highly attended event of the year with thousands coming from many communities throughout the area. As South Holland's banner event, this is Recreational Services' opportunity to bring family, friends and neighbors together in celebration with fun, food and entertainment.

The annual Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony, held at Veterans Park, is the village's way to honor those who sacrificed and served the country in war and peace time.



South Holland's Annual Memorial Day celebration includes a parade, ceremony, the municipal band, and military apparatus.



Events

Fall Fest, held in October, brought out 500 residents and neighbors for a car show and fun activities, including train and hay rides.

The Military Tribute, held in November at the Community Center, was a tribute of thanks to our veterans for Veterans Day. 200 people attended the event.

The South Holland Winter Wonderland event, held in December at Veterans Memorial Park, was a spectacular celebration of the village's

holiday spirit. The community enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus, a children's workshop hosted by The Home Depot (Homewood), complimentary hot beverages and cookies, trolley and train rides, and so much more. The collaboration of local businesses, schools, and nonprofit service organizations resulted in an array of decorated Christmas trees lining the pathway to Santa's gazebo. Winter Wonderland is quickly becoming the village's signature holiday showcase.



Fall Fest



Celebrating our Veterans



Winter Wonderland at Veterans Memorial Park

MY REFLECTIONS

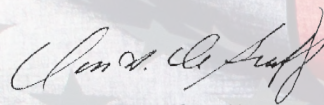
It's clear that God has blessed our village and that much has been accomplished during 2016. It's fair to say that from the perspective of many historians and those of us who lived through the unique events during this past year, that 2016 would by most people's standards be considered a very unusual year, if not characterized as "extraordinary." The Chicago Cubs winning a World Series championship after a 108 year drought have given us all a reason to pause and wonder what's in store for us in 2017.

Depending on one's perspective, there's been times of euphoria and disappointment. The circumstances surrounding our world events as they relate to our beloved country, the State of Illinois, and the City of Chicago certainly can create concerns of future instability.

That said, what has been consistent is the ability for our Village of South Holland, through its united and hard working leadership team to continue our undying pursuit "to be the best we can be" by developing and realizing our Vision 2022 strategic plan for the betterment of our entire residential and business community.

With this in mind, as Mayor of this great village, I am very thankful for our leadership team, who, in a very united manner, cast a vision and continue this important work as God intended it to be accomplished, with customer care, innovation, integrity, professionalism, and respect for each other. This indeed characterizes the distinctiveness of our great village of Faith, Family, and Future, now in 2017 and as we move forward together for many years to come.

As a committed and united Village Board of Trustees and Administration, we appreciate the opportunity you have provided us to serve and work together. It is a distinct honor, a privilege, and a humbling responsibility for which we will always be thankful. sdg



Don A. De Graff
Mayor



Pictured left to right (top row) Mayor De Graff and Clerk Dr. Sallie Penman; (middle row) Fire Chief Brian Kolosh, Trustees Vickie Perkins, Larry DeYoung, Prince Reed, Cynthia Nysten, Andrew Johnson, Jr. and Dr. John Sullivan; (first row) Village Administrator Jason Huisman, Director of Public Relations Mary Ann Thornton, Police Chief Greg Baker, Director of Recreational Services Ed Stewart, Director of Public Works George Gunkel, Director of Economic Development John Watson, Director of Planning, Development & Code Enforcement Frank Knittle, and Deputy Administrator Pat Mahon.



Village of South Holland
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MAYOR'S COFFEE

MARCH 28
7 P.M.

South Holland Community Center
501 East 170th Street



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President

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