Home for Christmas
SOUTH HOLLAND’S
WINTER WONDERLAND

• Friday, December 6, 2019 •

Begins at 6:00pm with Tree Lighting
Free Admission

Veterans Memorial Park
520 E. 160th place
South Holland, IL

Visits with Santa*
Kids’ Activities with Santa’s Elves
Trolley Rides
Amazing Light Display
Refreshments & More!

*Visits with Santa are limited to South Holland residents only, by in-person registration only at the South Holland Community Center.

southholland.org
Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

As we enter into this season of giving thanks and celebrating Christ’s birth, we reflect on just how blessed we are as a Village.

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. In fact, this year we celebrate 125 years of God’s faithfulness to us! South Holland was incorporated as a village in 1894. You can read more about our Village’s rich history on page 16 of this issue.

As we move forward collectively as a village, may the spirit of the Christmas season unite us as a community.

On behalf of the Village Board and administration, we express our sincere desire for each of you to experience the peace, hope, love and joy during this blessed Christmas season and throughout the upcoming 2020 New Year!

Don A. De Graff
Mayor
SOUTH HOLLAND SPORTS

WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE
Sunday, December 8 | 2:00-5:30pm
South Holland Community Center | 501 E 170th Street

Be a part of South Holland’s inaugural sports showcase! In this wide-ranging, fast-paced instructional sports clinic, boys and girls ages 3-10 will learn the fundamentals of baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. A free cheer session is also offered from 1-2pm.

Participants will enjoy 40-minute instructional sessions led by coaches and administrators of South Holland Little League, South Holland Jets, and SHRS’ newest partner, All Star Sports. Special guests will be on hand to meet campers. A raffle and autograph session will be held immediately after the camp. T-shirt and snacks are included. Pre-registration is required!

REGISTRATION FEE
Before Nov 25: $10  |  After Nov 25: $15

Register at the South Holland Community Center or at southholland.org.

MAYOR ON THE MOUND
Mayor Don De Graff represented South Holland at a Chicago White Sox game this summer when he was given the opportunity to throw the first pitch! The Mayor is a lifelong baseball fan, so this was a monumental occasion for him personally as well as for the Village of South Holland!
OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

HERITAGE HAUL

Photos by Isaiah Easter

Runners and walkers traversed through the streets of South Holland in near-perfect weather for the 14th Annual Heritage Haul, a 5K run/walk, 10K, and Half Marathon. This year’s race benefited Special Olympics Illinois’ regional office, whose events and programs support athletes in South Holland and surrounding communities. A total of $2,500 was raised for this great organization!
ARTISTS’ GALLERY OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION
*Photos by Lawrence Bickerstaff*

In October, 26 South Holland artists displayed their work in our annual Artists’ Gallery. The gallery opened with a reception for artists and their guests, who were treated to hors d’oeuvres and a first look at the wide array of art, which included photography, oil painting, watercolor, 3D displays, and more. For three days, the art was available for viewing at the South Holland Community Center.
OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE RECEPTION
Photos by Julia Perla Huisman

The South Holland Master Chorale opened their 2019-20 season with a concert and reception at First Reformed Church. The concert theme was Traveling Music, featuring African-American spirituals and American hymns and jazz anthems. Following the concert, Chorale members and friends gathered for a lively reception in the church’s Fellowship Hall.

MILITARY TRIBUTE
Photos by Julia Perla Huisman

Veterans and their families were honored at the Village’s 5th Annual Military Tribute, a luncheon and ceremony recognizing those who sacrificed so much for our country. The event included a moving tribute to those who have lost their lives in combat as well as a more lighthearted portion featuring music by the duo Sweet Reminder. Special guests included Congresswoman Robin Kelly and a representative from Senator Tammy Duckworth’s office.
December 6
WINTER WONDERLAND
6pm, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl
The 5th annual holiday extravaganza features a tree lighting ceremony, trolley rides, visits with Santa (for South Holland residents only and registration is required; register at the Community Center); face painting and balloons, a Christmas movie shown in a heated tent, live music, refreshments and more.

December 8
WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE
2-5:30pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St
In this inaugural event, boys and girls ages 3-10 will learn the fundamentals of baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. A free cheer session is also offered from 1-2pm. Pre-registration is required. The fee is $10 before Nov. 25, $15 after.

December 8 and 15
SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS
The South Holland Master Chorale is hosting two holiday-themed concerts in December. The first is December 8, 4pm, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Homewood (17951 Dixie Ave), and the second is December 15, 3pm, at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Dyer (500 Northgate Dr). Both concerts will feature the music of Corelli, Kuhnau, Mendelssohn, and new arrangements of beloved Christmas carols and hymns.

January 11
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TRIBUTE
10am, First Reformed Church, 15924 South Park Ave
The annual South Holland Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration takes place at First Reformed Church, a historical stop along the Underground Railroad. The service honors Dr. King’s legacy through music, dance, art, and more. A reception with food and drinks will follow the ceremony.
**December 10**

**MAYOR’S COFFEE**
7pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St
At the December Mayor’s Coffee, the Mayor along with the Chiefs of Police and Fire will talk about public safety and community engagement. Please note that this event was originally scheduled for the morning but has moved to the evening for the public safety presentation.

**December 7 and January 4**

**COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS**
8:30am, Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave
Residents can meet and talk with members of the South Holland Fire Department on the first Saturday of every month.

**Holiday Closings**
Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28, for Thanksgiving; Wednesday, Dec. 25, for Christmas; and Wednesday, Jan. 1, for New Year’s Day. Police and fire services will still be available 24 hours a day.

**The following are programs held at the South Holland Public Library (North Meeting Room), 16250 Wausau Ave.**

**DECEMBER 4 AND 18**

**CHAIR YOGA WITH MARGARET JOHNSON**
10:30am
Chair Yoga isn’t just for seniors! Come and unwind with low impact chair yoga.

**DECEMBER 9**

**SENIORS CONNECTING: GAME DAY**
1-3pm
Want to spend the afternoon playing Scrabble, checkers or card games with other seniors? Stop in and join us. Light refreshments will be served.

**DECEMBER 12**

**GIFTING HERBS WITH MARCIA LAUTANEN RALEIGH**
7-8pm
Create unique and personal gifts with herbs grown in your garden. You will learn how to make culinary blends, herb vinegar, bath salts, scrubs and tub teas along with individual scented items for sleep, headaches and more. Registration required.

**DECEMBER 14**

**TEDDY BEAR EXPRESS**
1-2pm
Come enjoy a story and build your own fluffy friend for the holiday season with Noah’s Ark Animal Workshop. Registration required!

**DECEMBER 19**

**CANDYHOUSE CREATIONS**
6:30-8pm
Join us for our 5th annual Candy House Creations! Children, teens, and families are invited to build a candy house. All supplies are provided. Children five years of age and younger will need adult assistance.

**DECEMBER 16**

**NOSTALGIA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS “UNDER THE MISTLETOE”**
7-8pm
Get into the holiday spirit with a cabaret show featuring favorite holiday songs. Light refreshments will be served.
Village of South Holland’s

MARTIN LUTHER KING
CELEBRATION

Love That Unites

Saturday, January 11
10:00am

First Reformed Church
Historic Underground Railroad Site
15924 South Park Ave,
South Holland

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
through song, dance,
art, film, and more!

Reception to follow.

southholland.org

Cover art by South Holland artist DaJuan Marshall
With winter upon us, please remember the following guidelines in order to ensure safety on the streets.

• When you see larger plows, please leave ample distance behind the trucks. They may slow down at a moment’s notice or make wide turns to the right or left, maneuvering into side streets.

• Be aware of Public Works’ pickup trucks whose job it is to clear alleys, courts, and public spaces throughout the village.

• Please be aware of the village’s snow ordinance, which states that vehicles shall not be parked on any street if snow exceeds two inches or more.

• Residents shoveling snow should deposit it to the right side of the driveway (when facing the street) to minimize plows from blocking you in.

• If a fire hydrant is located on your property, we are requesting you please assume the responsibility of keeping the snow removed from around it, in order for our Fire Department to be able to readily locate it in the case of a fire.

STARBUCKS RETURNS!
The Village is proud and excited to announce that Starbucks is coming back to the commercial district of South Holland! The coffee shop’s new home will be located at 425 E 162nd Street (the former Perruso Dry Cleaners), between Fifth Third Bank and the Heritage Center.

“This means a lot to the community,” says John Watson, director of economic development for the Village. “Not only does it bring one of the top establishments in the world back to South Holland, it also eliminates blight on our major thoroughfare, as it takes the place of an abandoned building.”

This isn’t the first time Starbucks has had a presence in South Holland. Years ago, the coffee shop was located inside the Heritage Center but exited the market in 2008 during a time when Starbucks was reducing their store count, according to Watson. Of course, there is also a Starbucks located inside the Chicago Southland Lincoln Oasis, which is in South Holland. This new store, however, is a welcome return to the increasingly growing Route 6.

“After 10 years of relentless pursuit, we now have the three most requested fast casual restaurants by South Holland residents: Panera, Chipotle and Starbucks,” Watson says.

On-the-go coffee drinkers will be pleased to know that the new Starbucks has a drive-thru window, something that was missing from the previous location, as well as top-of-the-line design and amenities found in other Starbucks locations. It is estimated to open in or before October 2020. We will report more about this exciting development in upcoming issues of South Holland Living and at southholland.org.

PUBLIC ART COMES TO TOWN
You may have noticed some extra visitors hanging out at a few of the public spaces around the Village! These are the new life-size, lifelike bronze statues located at the spots listed below. The Village worked with the company Randolph Rose Collection to select statues that reflect our unique community and our values of Faith, Family and Future.

“Public art has a way of uniting a community and portraying a town’s values,” says J. Wynsma, Village Administrator. “The statues we selected display themes of family, education and diversity, three values we deem highly here in South Holland.”

Right now the statues can be seen in five locations, and additional statues will be added in the spring of 2020.

Locations:
1) “Fly Away”
   170th St and Luella Ave
2) “Boy on Bike – Dirt Trails”
   Paarlberg Park
   East 172nd St and Paxton Ave
3) “Celebrate Diversity”
   South Holland Community Center
   501 E 170th St
4) “Story Time”
   South Holland Public Library
   (west entrance)
   16250 Wausau Ave
5) “Quality Time”
   South Park Hardware
   16074 South Park Ave
WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND

YARD WASTE PICKUP ON PAUSE
The South Holland Public Works department would like to remind residents that Republic Services will stop picking up yard waste from their totes on November 30 through the winter months. Pickup will resume April 1. From December through March, the yard waste totes can be used for regular garbage.

TOY DRIVE FOR LOCAL FAMILIES
The South Holland Professional Firefighters Association Local 4109, in conjunction with the South Holland Fire Department and Village of South Holland, are spearheading an annual toy drive for those in need. All toys collected must be new and unwrapped. Everything collected is then donated to Restoration Ministries for their annual toy sale, where parents in need can purchase the toys for pennies on the dollar. The proceeds of the sale go right back to Restoration Ministries. Toys can be dropped off at Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave, any day of the week through December 9.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHORALE
The South Holland Master Chorale is hosting two holiday-themed concerts in December. The first is December 8, 4pm, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Homewood (17951 Dixie Ave), and the second is December 15, 3pm, at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Dyer (500 Northgate Dr). Both concerts will feature the music of Corelli, Kuhnau, Mendelssohn, and new arrangements of beloved Christmas carols and hymns.

If you’re looking for a gift idea for the music fan in your life, you can now purchase a CD or DVD of the South Holland Master Chorale’s performance of Mendelssohn’s “Hymn of Praise,” accompanied by the LakeShore Symphony Orchestra and featuring the Davidsmeier Quartet. To order your copy, email chorale@southholland.org.

SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE EXPANDING
South Suburban Community College announced an expansion to their South Holland campus with the construction of a new Allied Health Facility, a 130,000-square-foot, four-story facility that will serve as a cutting-edge teaching facility to train students for health care careers. With an average of 24 percent of South Suburban Community College students choosing career pathways in nursing and allied health professions, this new facility will help meet growing student demand for health-related education and training. The project is estimated to cost around $70 million. The college will receive $35.8 million in state funding, as part of the state’s Rebuild Illinois capital plan.
Having grown up in a household with numerous siblings—12 to be exact—winter break from school was always an exciting time. Our parents absolutely loved Christmas and New Year’s Day, and as a result, Christmas became my favorite time of year. I remember as a little girl trying to stay up all night awaiting Santa’s arrival on his sleigh being pulled by Rudolph and the other reindeer.

Although I was always excited about opening gifts that miraculously appeared under the tree on Christmas morning, I was taught at an early age the true meaning of Christmas. Notwithstanding that gifts are fun, both to give and receive, they are only symbolic of a much greater gift: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

As believers, we have set aside December 25 to celebrate the birth of Jesus. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Just as we celebrate our own birthday, we should incorporate the true meaning of Christmas into our family’s holiday by throwing a birthday party for Jesus, complete with birthday cake. We can gather friends and family and go caroling at a nursing home, hospital or seniors’ residence. Sharing the love of Jesus through song is a great way to reach the lost.

There is no greater gift you can give those who have not yet met the Lord than to share with them the Good News of the true meaning of Christmas. You can accomplish this by volunteering to pack and deliver food, gifts, and clothing for needy families. Serve dinner to homeless families. Invite your friends and loved ones to worship with you at a Christmas service.

All of the shopping, decorating, and entertaining never fully meets our deepest desires. In order for Christmas to be totally and completely fulfilling, we simply need to receive Jesus’ gift to us—a relationship with Him. There is no greater joy this holiday season than having a relationship with Jesus and then offering Christ to someone else. Choose this day how you will celebrate Christmas!
SOUTH HOLLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

IT’S TIME TO SIGN UP

Register Now for Spring 2020

CO-ED BASEBALL  GIRLS SOFTBALL
AGES 4-10 | $175.00 AGES 4-10 | $175.00
AGES 11-13 | $275.00

$25 down reserves your slugger’s slot!
Automated payment plans available!
Take advantage of the early-bird discount,
$25 off until December 3rd.

SOUTHHOLLANDLITTLELEAGUE.ORG
South Holland is celebrating its 125th anniversary as a village this year, but the community’s roots go back much farther.

“Dutch immigrants from the Netherlands who felt that the state church was too liberal and taxes were unfair came to the United States and settled in the area in 1846,” says Robin Scheldberg of the South Holland Historical Society. The Netherlands was also suffering from a potato blight and a cattle disease.

The first settlers endured a 90-day voyage on ships that were by no means luxury liners. Some of the immigrants died en route from disease and their bodies were buried at sea.

That’s what happened to members of the Paarlberg Family. Antje Paarlberg was heading to the United States with her husband and seven kids. Her husband died at sea from pleurisy and she lost her baby after they arrived in Chicago.

Antje is believed to be the inspiration of Edna Ferber’s character Selina DeJong in her 1924 novel So Big, which also features South Holland’s onion fields as background.

South Holland was incorporated as a village in 1894, with John Shilling as its first village president from 1894 to 1896. John was also an owner of the first meat market in South Holland. If you go inside the South Park Hardware store and go up the couple of stairs into the other north section of the store, you will be where the meat market section was located.
Many of the farms in South Holland grew onions and by the 1940s, South Holland was known as the “Onion Set Capital of the World.”

New housing subdivisions started in the years after World War II. One of the early developments near 158th Street and Kimbark was stopped when a Native American burial and ceremonial grounds dating back to the 1600s were uncovered. That area is now the Little Calumet Park and there’s a plaque commemorating the burial grounds.

Mayor Don De Graff is a lifelong resident of South Holland. He has been involved in village government since joining the Planning and Zoning Commission in 1987. He soon stepped up to trustee in 1993 and then replaced Harold Gouwens as mayor when he passed away in 1994. He’s been elected village president seven times.

De Graff was working on the 1994 centennial commission when he coined the town’s motto, “Faith, Family, Future.”
“South Holland is a remarkable village,” he says. “Until the late 1950s, it was a small bedroom community.”

That all started to change when food and transportation companies came to town. “Then we started to see increased retail in the mid-1990s, partly because of tax incentives and the TIF [Tax Increment Financing] district,” he says. “We used the TIF district to encourage retail growth.”

What hasn’t changed is South Holland’s embrace of its values and commitment to its motto of Faith, Family, Future. “A huge step is making sure every one of our departments does everything they can to embrace our values,” says De Graff. “To make sure we could continue our momentum to energize our churches, schools and business community.”

That’s one reason South Holland has remained vibrant and successful over many decades.

One way the village has succeeded is through fiscal responsibility. “We have always operated on a balanced budget.” De Graff also makes sure village leaders...
We asked our Facebook followers, “What do you love most about living in South Holland?”

“The community and government together represent love and respect for a positive progressive unification.” –Joyce A.

“The unique mix of seasoned citizens who have lived in the community for decades (our neighbor is 96), as well as the new wave of young families, such as ours, who have young children who are learning and growing in a thriving community. Additionally, we love how welcoming and kind all of the community members are and how in many respects, South Holland is just one big family working together to maintain a great place to live, work and love!” –Mario R.

“I love that the community is filled with homeownership pride! I love the peace and quiet, the variety of businesses and availability of restaurants and stores. I feel the Government is engaging and addressing the needs of the Community. You truly feel the Faith, Family and Future!!” –Donna G.

“I appreciate the transparency of the village leadership. I love the peace and quiet, as well as, my house-proud neighbors all over town. I love hearing the church bells every day at 6 pm and the call to service on Sundays. I love the way my neighbors look out for one another and the time we spend together. God and family values are still a priority in this community and I am proud to live here.” –Stacie P.

“South Holland is a community that celebrates diversity and promotes its value. South Holland is a community of faith and is not afraid to say so. South Holland has a great future because of the values it promotes and the leadership it provides.” –Richard Z.

“What I love most about South Holland is that we are a village that grows together as a whole. I also love that South Holland is becoming more advanced and modern everyday, with the stores and restaurants being introduced, and the fact that South Holland keeps up with the beautification of the village. South Holland is just a great place overall!” –Daniel B.

do not take anything for granted. “We are continually looking to improve,” he says. “Every six months, we have a Committee of the Whole meeting to review our strategic plan, what we call Vision 2022.”

The result is South Holland is a “strong, diverse town. We seek to ensure that fair and equitable housing is available to everyone.

“We have a unified government,” De Graff adds. “I’m very thankful that we have been blessed by God and thankful for the community he’s provided for us throughout the years.”
The Christmas tree is the focal point for the majority of holiday decorating, so it’s a good idea to put thought into what supplies you need, and what to budget for them.

Tree sizes will vary depending on the situation and whether you are in a home or business setting. For purposes of the content of this discussion, let’s use the dimensions of a standard 7-1/2’ artificial tree.

There are several questions to think through when buying a tree and its adornments. How many lights will you need? How many ornaments and varieties of sizes and shapes should be used? What will the cost of the tree, lights, ornaments and other decor mean to a budget? If you are having a professional handle the decorating, what costs will need to be set aside for that service? What kind of theme or color scheme do you want?

LIGHTING
The biggest question, aside from the type of tree to buy, is whether to select one that is pre-lit or un-lit (one that you would need to light yourself). I personally prefer to get a tree that I can light my own way, because once the guarantee on the lights is over, it is much easier to change out any strands of lights that no longer work. You have to put them on the tree, so you will know exactly how and where you strung them on in the first place. So much of the horror of decorating is due to lighting issues. You know the case... the tree goes up simple enough. Then you plug it in. Lights are out here and there and it takes an electrician to find the problem.

Trees around 7-1/2 feet look best when lit with a minimum of 100 lights per foot. If you get a pre-lit tree, most will come with 750-850 lights. So a good quality pre-lit tree will cost an average of about $100 per foot. If you are considering lighting it yourself, you can get the same tree for about $50 per foot, which means you can save money and avoid future frustration.
Trustee Cindy Nylen decorated this tree and the elements on the following pages based on the tips given here.
ORNAMENTS
For a Christmas tree that is 7 1/2', the most appropriate number of ornament sets is usually at least 5. There should be one larger, focal type ornament, which could be anywhere from 5 to 6 inches, depending on the shape. You will want at least 9 to 12 of these ornaments.

Then you will want to complement the focal ornament with two or three 3- to 4-inch ornaments. Be sure to have at least 12 to 18 of each of these for your tree. Your final consideration for ornaments would be the filler ornament. This could be a floral spray or accent ornament that has a more delicate look to it. You would need at least two dozen of these.

If you have a budget for your expenses, that will help dictate what types of ornaments to look for. At this point you will need approximately five dozen ornaments to cover your tree. Costs can range anywhere from $100 to $150 on the low end.

When selecting ornaments, consider having a theme or color scheme. The feature or focal ornament is what your eye will pick up first. It should be true to your theme or main color. The next two or three ornament choices should be complimentary tones, colors or shapes. For example, if your feature ornament is a red poinsettia, you would want to choose a teardrop in gold, a round in a red subtle pattern or with a gold accent, and a textured round in gold. The filler ornament you would look for would be some kind of complimentary floral spray like a berry cluster that would have interesting sprigs of vines or foliage for additional texture. Something with flecks of gold would serve to enhance the gold ornaments as well.

FINISHING TOUCHES
Your Christmas tree is not complete without garland and a fabulous topper. Garland can be mesh, ribbon, beads or any number of novelty choices. Garland of beads or novelty items are usually sold in 6-foot sections. For a 7-1/2’ tree, you would need to have no less than six
or seven strands of garland. Garland can cost anywhere from $2 to $3 on the low end, so your total garland costs would be at least $12 to $21.

Using mesh or ribbon as garland can be more expensive but will result in a more elegant look. It can also fill in empty spaces much more efficiently than bead garland and can be shaped to create a flow that bead garland is not designed to do. For mesh or ribbon, you should figure it will take at least 12 yards of material to appropriately cover the tree. Ribbon is most often sold by the bolt and comes in lengths of 10 to 25 yards per bolt. If you can find a bolt of ribbon for $6 to $7, you are in the ballpark. So plan on additional $12 to $14 total for your ribbon or garland.

If you have chosen to use ribbon for your tree topper, remember to consider this in the amount of ribbon you will need. To make a beautiful bow for the top of your tree you will need another 5 to 6 yards of material. Don’t forget to consider the amount of ribbon needed for trailing tails; you can usually just add one more bolt of ribbon to your costs for this. A really fabulous topper would also include extra sprays of your filler ornament or perhaps some sparkling or glittery branches to compliment your lighting.

I hope that these examples and tips help ease the task of selecting and setting up your holiday decor. Happy decorating!
Mayor’s Coffee

December 10, 7pm

South Holland Community Center
501 E. 170th Street

Come meet Mayor Don De Graff and enjoy coffee and refreshments!

Featuring a special presentation on public safety from the Chiefs of Police and Fire

southholland.org