Village of South Holland’s
MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION
“A 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
LOOKING BACK AT PROGRESS MADE AND FORWARD TO 2020 AND BEYOND

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR DON A. DE GRAFF:

Dear Residents and Friends of the Village of South Holland,

It’s exciting and yet hard to believe that the year 2020 has arrived! As we embark upon a new year and a new decade, let’s take a few minutes together to reflect upon the progress made in our village during 2019, having built upon the past 7 years of our Vision 2022 strategic plan. Vision 2022 began on January 1, 2013, and as we enter our 8th year of the plan, it is extremely gratifying to see how much our Village has progressed over the years.

In 2019 we indeed took another giant leap, setting the standard as the model community for all of the Chicago southland region. Changes were implemented, growth abounded, and through it all, South Holland has remained fiscally and operationally strong, while balancing our budget each and every year. As we enter 2020, we are determined to keep that momentum going and to excel more than ever at the four tenets of Vision 2022:

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

Allow me to share with you some of the remarkable accomplishments in 2019, as well as our Village’s exciting Vision 2022 plans that are anticipated for 2020...
ADMINISTRATION

A HEALTHY ORGANIZATION

The Village of South Holland continues to maintain a healthy, balanced budget, as it has for more than 50 years. In addition, our bond rating was once again affirmed at the high grade level. The Village board is diligent about seeking new revenue sources to keep the tax burden as low as possible for our residents and keeping our operating expenditures within budget. Under the direction of the Village administrators, our fiscal readiness and stability set us apart and ensures economic growth continues as a priority for our community. When we have a balanced budget, new revenues provide for a higher quality of life.

PUBLIC ART

This fall, we installed bronze statues in five locations throughout the Village. The life-size statues feature mostly children and depict themes of family, education, and diversity. They are located at some of South Holland’s most notable spaces like the Community Center, South Holland Public Library, and Paarlberg Park. More statues are scheduled to be installed this spring.

LOOKING AHEAD

South Holland is the newest member of the South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority. This important partnership will help provide expertise and funding for eliminating distressed properties in our Village. South Holland’s real estate values increased again last year, and to keep that positive momentum and beautify our Village even more, we’re committed to aggressively addressing all abandoned homes and buildings.

In partnership with a few neighboring communities, we recently established the Southland Water Agency for the sole purpose of developing our own connection to Lake Michigan water. This is so exciting because it will enable us to no longer be subject to Chicago’s ever increasing water rates. This is projected to save our region billions of dollars over the coming decades.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
We recognize the positive impact that individual façade improvements and other investments can have on the overall appearance, quality and vitality of our commercial districts. Knowing this, we launched a façade improvement program in May 2019 that provides financial incentives for businesses to increase the physical attractiveness and marketability of our Route 6 business corridor. Greater incentives are available when using South Holland contractors and certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Participating businesses receive a free consultation with an architect, financial incentives to help cover the upgrade costs, and special recognition from the Village for their participation. Five businesses have had consultations with the architect, and at least three of the five are anticipated to begin their projects in Spring 2020.

NEW/EXPANDED BUSINESSES
2019 was a year of growth in South Holland. We issued 57 new business licenses, including such businesses as Seafood Junction, which features steamed and baked fish of several varieties, stone fabricator Sambor Stone, which notably fabricates a large percentage of American-made granite used in hotels across the United States, well respected electrical contractor the BarTech Group, a cell phone store owned and operated by telecommunications giant AT&T, popcorn retailer Flavor Addicts (owned by South Holland residents), and Power Distributing, a company that distributes Red Bull to retail stores in the Chicago and Northwest Indiana area. In addition, we reached an agreement enabling the construction of a new 2,400-square-foot Starbucks with drive-thru at the site of the strip center formerly anchored by Perruso Cleaners at 425 E. 162nd St. The upgrade of our hotel corridor on Halsted Street continued with the conversion of independent brands Holland Inn and Red Carpet to the established national brands Super 8, Travelodge and Econolodge. Finally, Gatling’s Chapel completed their $1.3 million expansion, adding more sanctuary and repast space along with a carport. This investment earned Gatling’s a 2019 Beautification Award from the South Holland Business Association.

LOOKING AHEAD
In 2020 the final phase of our Halsted Street hotel corridor upgrade will take place, as the vacant building formerly known as the Chicago Southland Hotel at 17345 Halsted is expected to be converted to a brand new Best Western Plus. Additionally, the entire corridor will be enhanced with new landscaping that meets the architectural guidelines of the Interstate Zoning District. We anticipate breaking ground for the multi-use entertainment center that will be constructed at 1500 E. 162nd Street in the spring. We also anticipate exciting expansions and additions to our industrial corridor, and will continue to work to secure tenants for vacant Town Center spaces and new investors for vacant Town Center land.
An attractive facade, like the ones shown here, improves the overall appearance, quality and vitality of a business, which is why we launched a Facade Improvement Program to be implemented beginning this spring.
LIFESAVING TECHNOLOGY

In 2019 we purchased new tools for helping cardiac arrest patients who need chest compressions. The Zoll AutoPulse Resuscitation System acts as a CPR device, pumping the chest of victims of sudden cardiac arrest to improve blood flow to the heart and brain. The device automatically sizes to the patient and has shown improved outcomes in numerous clinical trials. The system is designed to maintain compressions while paramedics are moving down stairwells, around corners and even in elevators. It reduces interruptions in compressions during transport by more than 85 percent. We have used the AutoPulse system several times since placing them in service in early September and had successful resuscitation on two patients.

STAFF PROMOTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Lieutenant Rick Triemstra was appointed to Captain and Firefighter/Paramedic Al Wynsma was promoted to Lieutenant. In addition, 6 full-time and 4 part-time staff were trained and hired. We also implemented a new system of best practices for preventing firefighter cancer and have established initiatives for our staff to maintain physical fitness and receive medical physical exams.

LOOKING AHEAD

We continue to research technology that will result in even greater outcomes. We are renovating Fire Station 1 to move firefighters’ sleeping quarters from upstairs to the main level in order to improve response times.

We continue to engage the community through public events such as the Pancake Breakfast (April 4) and our annual open house (October 3), in addition to our monthly Coffee with Firefighter events.
New Resident Breakfast

APRIL 4 - 9:00AM
South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St.

Call 708.210.2904
or email cmmarshall@southholland.org
to add your name to the guest list.
In an effort to keep South Holland clean, bright and beautiful, we have continued our program involving seasonal inspections of residential and commercial properties, and we achieved successful results. Over 3,700 property maintenance violations were identified and we have had an overall compliance rate of 91 percent.

Our department issued 1,398 building permits, which represents $13,833,775 of investment and improvements in our community.

Based on our GNRHI Ordinance, we have issued 200 citations against rental properties, and their owners, that are not in compliance with our Triannual Rental Inspections Program. Due to the citations issued, we have inspected the properties that are in violation and requiring these properties to be in compliance with our codes.

In 2020, Planning Development and Code Enforcement plans to review and update current ordinances, continue with our seasonal property maintenance inspection program, and enhance our informational database.

Well-maintained properties set South Holland apart as a clean, bright and beautiful community.
LICENSE PLATE READERS
In 2019, we implemented the use of license plate readers to help our Police Department with investigative needs, which in turn helps stop crime and promote community safety. The readers, which are mounted on police cars and utility poles, are not used for detecting traffic violations, as is commonly perceived, but to better locate those who have recently committed or are wanted for criminal activity. The technology sends instant alerts to officers so they can locate individuals who are a threat to community safety.

PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORT SERVICES
We have revamped our ESDA (Emergency Services Disaster Agency) program with a new name of Public Safety Support Services, or PS3. This group aids the SHPD with services such as traffic control, crowd control, and assisting other local communities with their public safety needs as well.

LOOKING AHEAD
In May, we will host our first Dog Microchip Day, which would promote microchipping, vaccinations, and licensing. This will help the SHPD with identifying lost dogs at large. We also continue to research new technologies and methods for improving public safety for our Village.
CRUISE NIGHTS
This year, we enhanced our annual Town Center Social events with the addition of a Cruise Night component in July and August. Each month, more than 100 vintage and exotic cars lined both sides of South Park Avenue while live music played. The event also featured food trucks and local food vendors as well as a host of activities for kids. Two more Cruise Nights are planned for the summer of 2020.

ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS
In 2019 we rebranded our bimonthly publication to become South Holland Living, which uses high-quality photography and compelling writing to tell the stories of South Holland residents and business owners while also sharing news and information from Village Hall. We also launched a new website that is cleaner and more user-friendly, as well as an email newsletter to keep residents informed of Village events and updates.

LOOKING AHEAD
In 2020 we will launch a multi-media branding campaign designed to attract new residents to South Holland. Our goals also include introducing a new Village app, adding new community events, adding extra excitement/engagement to our ongoing events, and increasing the amount of block parties held in order to connect neighbors.
RESURFACING PROJECTS
In June of 2019, we completed a Pavement Management Study to gather information about resurfacing needs for streets and parking lots throughout South Holland. We are using the information obtained from the study to implement a five-year/$5 million road resurfacing program. Already, 7 miles of road were resurfaced in 2019 and another 7 miles are due to be repaved in 2020.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
Since 2016, we’ve replaced old, non-compliant playground swing sets with new sets in 15 of the 20 parks that needed it. The equipment for the remaining 5 parks has already been purchased and will be installed by summer 2020. This will complete the replacement of all non-compliant equipment in our parks ahead of schedule. Also, a new playground unit for Gouwens Park has been purchased and will be installed by the summer of 2020.

TREES IN THE PARKS
In September 2019 we partnered with the Student Conservation Association and the Morton Arboretum to plant 50 native trees (a variety of Shingle Oak, Pin Oak, Chinquapin Oak, Kentucky Coffee, Illinois Pecan, Bald Cypress and Sour Gum) in Paarlberg Park. In addition, we planted 10 oak trees at Thorndale and Tomahawk Parks.

LOOKING AHEAD
We are continuing with our five-year program to remediate tripping hazards on sidewalks throughout the village. Safety Services & Assessments is contracted to grind these hazards, saving money by repairing rather than having to replace the sidewalks.
RECREATIONAL SERVICES

FACILITY UPDATES
The South Holland Community Center continues to keep the facility modern with aesthetic updates. This year we added new scoreboards to the gym, a new playground structure for the preschool, and repaired sidewalks on the west side of the building.

A GROWING MEMBERSHIP
Our Fitness Center membership continues to increase. The current membership total is 2,426, which we have accomplished through an aggressive approach in targeting new corporate members as well as a marketing strategy that is aimed at families. We want our members to feel like they are at home.

LOOKING AHEAD
In 2020 Recreational Services will look to grow our youth program offerings through a new partnership with All Star Sports. We will offer sports clinics in youth soccer and basketball for children 3 to 10 years of age. We also plan to increase community center participation and awareness by being involved in other community events, activities, and outreach opportunities.
My Reflections

It’s important to look back in our rearview mirror to see where we’ve been. That said, it’s even more important to see now how we can build upon our ever-strengthening foundation. 2019 was a year of tremendous growth and progress. We are a blessed community, and by the grace of God, we go forward! We have outstanding residents, businesses, churches, schools, and service organizations who are committed to excellence, diversity, quality of life, and serving others.

The vision of our community is guided by the values God has instilled in us. Values of Faith, which is reflected not only in our many churches but also in the upstanding character of our residents; values of Family, embedded in the familial unit which is encouraged and supported, and where we also treat our neighbors as family; values that breed a Future where we embrace progress and dream big.

As we move forward together through these remaining years of Vision 2022, it is my prayer that together we will do so boldly and with the firm conviction that the Village of South Holland is and will always be a Village like no other.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

Clean, Bright, Beautiful

southholland.org
MEET OUR Board

THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND IS BLESSED TO HAVE A LOYAL, UNITED BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND VILLAGE CLERK WHO FAITHFULLY SERVE SOUTH HOLLAND. GET TO KNOW THEM AND THE COMMITTEES THEY REPRESENT, AND LEARN WHAT THEY ENJOY MOST ABOUT SERVING ON THE BOARD.

Larry W. DeYoung  
Community Development Committee

“I really enjoy working with our village family. They are people of integrity who love the Village of South Holland as much as I do. Our administration is blessed because we treat our position as a ministry to God.”

Andrew Johnson, Jr.  
Public Safety Committee

“My greatest joy as a trustee is the ability to connect with residents and serve as their voice in the local government, insuring their concerns are addressed and we continue to push to make South Holland the best community it can be.”

Cynthia L. Nylen  
Community Coordination Committee

“It’s an honor and privilege to serve our community. We are a Village of faith that allows us to be truly mindful of having the servant spirit of Christ. We aim to be His hands and feet to all those we have the privilege of serving.”
Vickie L. Perkins  
Recreational Services Committee

"I have lived in the Village of South Holland since 1995 and two things have remained consistent all these years: my love for the people and my desire to serve the community. A community will thrive as a unified body with the participation of its board, staff, and residents. This is what I enjoy most about serving as a trustee—the unity of our board and administration, the commitment of our employees, and engagement of our residents. I enjoy the countless opportunities for family-oriented engagement through our village events, and I equally value the input and feedback of our residents during Mayor’s Coffee and board meetings. We are all in this game of life together, so the more we connect and engage, the more united we are in the Village of South Holland."

Prince Reed  
Public Works and Parks Committee

"For me, South Holland is literally the best place in the world. My career and passion for travel means that I visit many communities, foreign and domestic. South Holland is unique in that our focus on Faith, Family and Future creates an atmosphere that you think about providing for your neighbor as you would for yourself. Our residents are simply the best. I smile as I walk, drive or ride through our neighborhoods and observe families, neighbors and friends behaving as I believe God intended: enjoying and looking out for one another. This community has been more like a family, which doesn’t mean that we’re perfect, as no one family is. But it does mean that we love and work through our challenges with respect for one another. We are nestled, it seems, in a slice of paradise."

John R. Russell  
Finance Committee

"Serving as a trustee for the Village of South Holland is like working with a great big family. Whether it’s going shoulder to shoulder with the Mayor and the trustees developing village programs, serving on village committees, working closely with department heads and village employees, or relating to all the residents, churches and business owners I come into contact with, there is a common theme—people who respect each other, who enjoy being together, and who are working toward the common goal of maintaining and growing this great community we all live and work in. It genuinely feels like family."

Sallie Penman  
Village Clerk

"I work with a group of public servants who are passionate about the issues that affect our community and are ready to find solutions to keep the village moving forward. It does not matter which office we hold. Each of us contributes to the success of the village with the same sense of pride and responsibility. As individuals, we may have different stories about what brought us to public service, but as a team, we know that what is important is the well-being of our residents and this wonderful community we call home."
OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

WINTER WONDERLAND
Children and adults filled Veterans Memorial Park for South Holland’s Winter Wonderland! The evening began with a tree lighting that also lighted the whole park with a dazzling display of Christmas lights. The event also included visits with Santa, live reindeer, a coffee and hot chocolate bar, viewing of The Polar Express, and trolley rides through town.
GATLING’S CHAPEL RIBBON CUTTING
Gatling’s Chapel recently renovated and expanded their building, adding more sanctuary and repast space along with a carport. This investment earned Gatling’s a 2019 Beautification Award from the South Holland Business Association. Local leaders, plus friends, families and partners of Gatling’s, were invited to a ribbon cutting to celebrate the chapel’s reopening.

WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE
The South Holland Recreational Services department held its first-ever Winter Sports Showcase, which was an instructional sports clinic for boys and girls ages 3-10. Clinics included baseball, basketball, football, soccer, and cheer. More than 50 kids attended the sold-out event.
January 4 and February 1
COFFEE WITH THE 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.

January 11
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL CELEBRATION
10am, First Reformed Church
15924 South Park Ave
Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy with the theme, “A Love That Unites,” featuring music by special guest Isaac Tarver and the South Holland Master Chorale, plus dance, videos, and more. The celebration is held at First Reformed Church, which was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Refreshments will be served following the service.

January 23 and February 27
SOUTH HOLLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEONS
11:30am, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St.
The South Holland Business Association holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Cost is $10 for members and $15 for nonmembers. The topic or speaker is posted on the SHBA calendar at its website at shba.org.

February 22
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
11am and 2pm, Sand Ridge Nature Center
15891 Paxton Ave
Sand Ridge Nature Center will hold a free Black History Month event. “Underground Railroad Hike” is an imaginary journey following an Underground Railroad route used in Illinois before the Civil War. Hikes will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
March 26
SOUTH HOLLAND BUSINESS EXPO
10:30am-2pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St.
Shop and support local businesses and organizations by attending the South Holland Business Association’s Business and Community Expo. Explore a diverse array of products and services, network, gather information, and sample products all in one convenient location. The event is free and open to the public and features prizes and giveaways.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS
Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, Feb. 17, for Presidents Day.

AT THE LIBRARY

The following are programs held at the South Holland Public Library
16250 Wausau Ave.

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 7-28
LINE DANCING WITH DAWN THE DANCIN’ DEEVA
2pm
Get into shape while line dancing.

JANUARY 14
DISCOVERING THE SILENT CINEMA
7pm
Jay Warren presents the history of the silent cinema in this fun interactive program.

JANUARY 15
DREAM BIG WHILE COLORING
10:30am-2pm
Drop in and relax while coloring and listening to uplifting music. Coloring sheets and coloring supplies will be provided.

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 5-26
STEPPER’S DANCE CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS
7pm
Join instructors John Lambert and James Robins as they show us Steppin’.

FEBRUARY 10
RICH AND ROMANTIC HISTORY OF VALENTINES
7pm
Learn the history of Valentine’s Day. Supplies will be available for you to make a Valentine to send to your special someone.

FEBRUARY 13
SOUL FOOD COOKING WITH KIM MILLER
7pm
Have fun learning about Soul Food Cooking while watching Kim Miller demonstrate cooking techniques. Samples will be shared.

FEBRUARY 22
OUR CULTURE. OUR VOICES. OURSELVES!
1-2:30pm
Join us for a celebration of black culture and history through African dance by Muntu Dance Company. The event also features storytelling, music and a theatrical experience.
Join us for our first-ever Mother / Son Valentine Party. Mothers and sons (ages 3-14) are encouraged to come dressed to impress and will enjoy an evening that includes food, dancing, pictures and more. All sons must be accompanied by their mother or favorite lady for a spectacular evening.
Mayor's Coffee

Tuesday, March 10
7am

South Holland
Community Center
501 E. 170th Street

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