

SOUTH HOLLAND

Living

March | April 2021



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**South
Holland**
Faith, Family,
& Future

SOUTH HOLLAND

FUN RUN



5K

JOIN US FOR A FUN AND ENTERTAINING 5K RUN
THROUGH THE STREETS OF SOUTH HOLLAND!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Veterans Memorial Park - 520 E 160th Place

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- CASH PRIZES
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Benefiting:

**Special
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FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor De Graff at the
2021 MLK Celebration

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

Spring has sprung! This year, the new life that comes with spring is both literal and metaphorical. Not only are temps rising and plants blooming, but we are finally coming out of a very difficult period in the life of our world. As we reach the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel that is the pandemic, we eagerly look ahead to what's coming. God is giving us new opportunities—the freedom to step outside our homes, to gather together, and move forward.

Spring brings with it a newness, freshness, and renewal. Now is not the time to look back but to focus our attention on where we are today and where we're going tomorrow. I'm pleased to say that South Holland's "tomorrow" is continually progressing, even as I write this.

Some of the developments happening this spring... we are installing beautiful decorative fencing around Veterans Memorial Park, making it an even more desirable destination in the south suburbs. The new stand-alone Starbucks opened this month and is a stellar addition to our growing Route 6 options. And coming soon... we are launching South Holland-themed apparel for residents to wear with pride! We'll share more details on that as the launch draws nearer.

We're also looking forward to our kids getting back in school. As you'll see in this edition, McKinley School has made beautiful renovations to its building and Greenwood School is about to embark on an extensive renovation project as well.

The Village of South Holland is leading the way in being a community whose residents truly care about each other, where diversity is embraced, and where ongoing progress opens new doors. Join me in celebrating a new season of hope, rebirth, and opportunity.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

VILLAGE BOARD

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Election day for local races is Tuesday, April 6. South Holland is blessed to be a united community. So while the municipal candidates are uncontested, it is still important to exercise our right and privilege to vote. Residents are encouraged to take the time to get out and vote on April 6.

Also, the South Holland Education Commission invites residents to learn more about the individuals who are on the ballot for a seat on the local School Boards. Visit southholland.org to read about each candidate's vision and goals.



WATER RATE UPDATE

The following rates will apply to water consumed beginning January 1, 2021 and payable on the March 2021 bill.

Water: \$8.81 per 1,000 gallons for the first 25,000 gallons, \$8.10 per 1,000 gallons for the next 100,000 gallons, \$7.97 per 1,000 gallons for the next 125,000 gallons. The minimum charge for water is \$17.62.
Sewer: \$0.38 per month plus \$0.47 per 1,000 gallons used
Garbage: \$27.84 per month (increases to \$28.68 on June 1, 2021)

You can pay your water bill in one of three ways: online at southholland.org, via direct debit, or in person at the Customer Service Center (16220 Wausau Ave, Building A).

VEHICLE STICKERS



Any vehicle registered to a South Holland address is required to have a South Holland vehicle sticker. This applies whether the vehicle is parked on the street, in a driveway, or garage. The 2021-22 vehicle stickers are available starting May 1 and must be displayed before July 1.

Sticker Prices

Passenger Car: \$40

Truck and motor home: \$55

Truck C and higher: \$95

Motorcycle: \$20

Those 65 years and older receive a 50 percent discount. Late fees are incurred beginning on July 1.



YARD WASTE PICKUP RESUMES

Beginning April 1 through November, pickup of yard waste will take place on the same day as your regular garbage collection. Please use the toter designated for yard waste. When the toter is full and there is still more waste to dispose of, you may use brown paper yard bags. To request special pickup of outdoor landscape debris, contact the Public Works department at 708.339.2323.

The Water Department is in the process of updating our records so we have accurate contact information for our residents.

To ensure we can reach you if needed, please take a quick minute to fill out the form below.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____



Scan to complete form online.

You can deposit the form in one of the water payment dropboxes at Village Hall. Or scan the QR code above to fill it out online.

ALARM PERMITS

If you have an alarm system for your residence or business and have not yet registered for a permit or renewed your permit for 2021, please do so at

southholland.alarmreg.com

or at the

South Holland Police Department
16330 South Park Ave

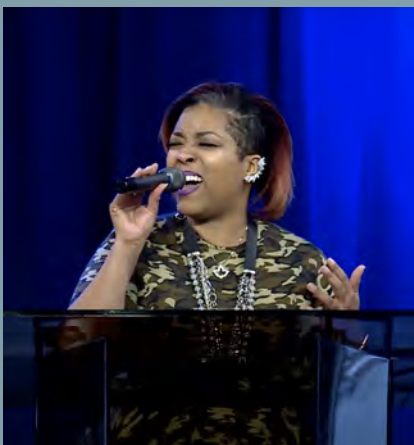


OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION

This year's tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a virtual service streamed live on Facebook and at southholland.org. The ceremony was filmed at Spirit of God Fellowship. Pastor Brian Kamstra was the master of ceremonies and Pastor Phil Tarver gave the keynote message (see a transcript of his message on page 19). Vocalist Monica Guthrie-Purchase sang two moving songs, and South Holland artist DaJuan Marshall did a live painting of Dr. King throughout the service (see the painting below). Mayor Don De Graff closed the ceremony with his final remarks.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To celebrate Black History Month in February, the Village of South Holland created banners commemorating past and present notable Black individuals, including South Holland's own late Trustee Art Bennett. These banners were placed at Village Hall, the Customer Service Center, and the Police Department. We also partnered with the South Holland Public Library to give away paint kits to kids as a fun way to learn more about Black History Month.



DELIVERING

Cheer

BALLOON BUDDIES BRIGHTEN SENIOR SPIRITS ON VALENTINE'S DAY

By Carrie Steinweg
Photos by Lawrence Bickerstaff



South Holland business The Balloon Queens donated a balloon display for the lobby of Elevate Senior Living.

The internet has been a lifeline for South Holland resident Tiasha Echols, co-owner of The Balloon Queens, this past year where she has kept up with colleagues that she would normally see at an annual convention. As a professional balloon artist, she participates in several social media groups with others around the country who are in the business.

"A lot of our colleagues have brick and mortar stores and we were pretty nervous, but instead of worrying how to weather the pandemic, we focused on the positive and other people," she says. "Some have parents in nursing homes that they weren't able to see. Some had lost loved ones in nursing homes and weren't able to be with them. We came up with the #adoptagrandparent campaign as a way to spread some joy to people in those facilities who are sometimes forgotten about."



Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller, Balloon Queens co-owners Tiasha Echols and Sandra Woods, and South Holland Trustee Andrew Johnson donated balloon buddies to Elevate Senior Living residents on Valentine's Day.

Echols reached out to Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller, who helped garner support and donations to provide a "balloon buddy" to each of the 82 residents at Elevate Senior Living in South Holland. Commissioner Miller and Echols, along with her husband, son and business partner Sandra Woods, spent Valentine's Day making the delivery. They set up near the center's coffee shop where residents could come down and receive their gift. It happened to be Echols' 33rd wedding anniversary that day, and she says she was touched by the opportunity to be able to spread love with the delivery.

The amount of donations exceeded their goal, so they are now working on securing more donations with the plan to provide balloon buddies to each resident of additional senior facilities in South Holland. Each balloon buddy costs \$15. Donations can be made via Zelle to saundra@theballoonqueens.com. For more information, call 773.681.9995.

ABOUT BALLOON QUEENS

Echols and Woods, both certified balloon artists, have a combined 20 years of experience in balloon art and run a store at 503 West Taft Drive. "We opened in November of 2019 and the pandemic hit in March. We never even got an opportunity to have a grand opening," says Echols. "It's been rocky, but we're surviving."

The business specializes in arches, marquees, yard art, sculptures, bouquets and custom decor for any occasion. Visit theballoonqueens.com for more information and follow "The Balloon Queens LLC" on Facebook and @the_balloon_queens on Instagram.



MESSAGE OF

Hope

SOUTH HOLLAND MOTHER/DAUGHTER TEAM PUBLISHES BOOK ON ACCEPTANCE

BY JOSH BOOTSMA



Aniela Brooks signs a copy of "God Made Us All Different & I Am Special Too!" at her book signing on October 3, 2020.

Aniela Brooks was born with three fingers on her right hand. But that didn't stop her from writing a book.

The ten-year-old South Holland resident has encountered more callous comments and lingering stares than most other girls her age, and she and her mom, Tanesha Newman, wanted to do something about it.



Ten-year-old Aniela Brooks (right) and her mom Tanesha Newman worked together to write a book about how all people are special, even if they're different.

"Unfortunately, at this age, kids can be kind of cruel," Newman says. "I noticed that she was hiding [her hand], and I didn't want her to hide it, so I'm like, okay, let's do something."

That "something" took the form of a short book published in September titled, *God Made Us All Different & I Am Special Too!* The book is written by both Brooks and Newman, who works for the South Holland Fire Department. Newman says the book-writing process took only two weeks overall. The pair was intentional about including a diverse representation of characters in the book, and worked with illustrator Thakshila Dissnayake to create the images in the book.

The story follows a girl named Liberty—modeled after Brooks—who goes to school and is made fun of by a new boy who hasn't seen her hand before. On the bus ride home, Liberty is comforted by her brother who says she is special and can do the same things anyone else can do. By the time the pair returns home, Liberty feels confident about herself again.

The title of the book is a combination of two messages: "God Made Us All Different" is a point Newman wanted to make, and "I Am Special Too" is a message Brooks wanted to emphasize.

The book has received positive reviews and was number one in the special needs section of Amazon for a couple of weeks, Newman says. Available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, roughly three hundred copies of the book were sold in the first month alone, Newman says. It is also available at the South Holland Library.

Causing thoughtful conversation between parents and their children is one effect Newman hopes the book will have. She says talking about potential differences and how to respond to them is something that is easily overlooked for parents, but is important.

"It's okay to be born different," says Brooks, who has not let her own difference stop her from enjoying painting, acting, and swimming.

"We all are born different," Newman says, "but it doesn't make [us] any less special."

The pair is planning on writing another book about Aniela attending a new school in the upcoming fall. 🔥



Aniela and her mom often wear crowns to emphasize that all people are special.



ENHANCING SCHOOL SPACES

TWO SOUTH HOLLAND SCHOOLS GET A FACELIFT

By Bob Bong
Photos courtesy of JMA Architects





When the administration at South Holland School District 150 decided it was time to update McKinley and Greenwood schools, they knew they didn't want to burden the taxpayers with the hefty bill, so they started putting money into a capital improvement fund.

"The school board is very cost conscious," says Jim Maciejewski, principal architect at South Holland-based JMA Architects, who is overseeing the multi-year project. "They didn't want to increase the tax burden on residents. They did not sell bonds or increase taxes. They set the money aside and reserved it for the capital campaign. It's quite an ambitious campaign."

Maciejewski says the situation at District 150 is not unique. "You're



dealing with 1950s vintage schools. They haven't been renovated in 60 years or so. Lots of districts are dealing with changing times and needs."

The renovations, which began in May 2020, consisted of new restrooms at Greenwood School and new classrooms, restrooms and a gymnasium at the McKinley School's campus.



McKinley's Classroom
BEFORE

"We made sure that all of the classrooms were renovated and brought up to date in terms of environment, technology and comfort," says Maciejewski. "It was quite a bit of work."

The first phase of the project took place almost all summer at the elementary side of the McKinley campus, which is divided into an elementary school for fourth and fifth grades and a junior high school for students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Restroom renovations went on at Greenwood School, which hosts kindergarten through third-grade students.

Classroom renovations included new lighting, technology, ceilings, floors and doors, says Maciejewski. The renovated gymnasium at McKinley received new lighting, bleachers, and a special sports floor. Restroom renovations were among the most challenging because they involved plumbing upgrades as well as new fixtures, tiles, lights and partitions.

Even when students were at home remote learning, staffers were at school and able to utilize the upgrades, says Maciejewski. "It's fully functional."



McKinley's Classroom
AFTER



McKinley's Computer Lab
BEFORE



McKinley's Computer Lab
AFTER

The absence of students due to the pandemic did not factor into the job. "Our goal was to be done and out of the way before school started in the fall," Maciejewski says. "Their absence did allow us to get started a bit earlier."

Protocols necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as asbestos removal have made the job trickier. "Asbestos removal is always a concern with buildings this old," says Maciejewski. "In the 1950s asbestos was used everywhere." Asbestos tiles and insulation have to be removed during the renovations, he says.

Renovations will continue this summer and into 2022, says Maciejewski. "This year we will work on modernizing the junior high side at McKinley and start on classrooms at Greenwood."

The final phase will be a new gymnasium at McKinley. "The district wants to be able to host conference sporting events," says Maciejewski. "It's part of the long-range goal."

Reaching Out

A CALL TO CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS AMID THE PANDEMIC

By Julia Perla Huisman



Exactly one year ago this month, the United States changed forever with the arrival of the Coronavirus. In March of 2020, in order to keep hospitals from overcrowding and to keep people from contracting the virus, virtually everything locked down, and we quarantined inside our houses for weeks.

Now, a year later, restrictions have moderately lifted, a vaccine is starting to be administered, and hope is in sight. But the virus is still here, and many of us are still staying home as much as possible until the vaccine is more widely distributed. Loneliness has become all too prevalent over the past year, and even though we are rounding a corner on defeating this pandemic, there is no doubt we're all still reeling from its emotional impact.

This is why it is so important—now more than ever—to reach out and support each other. When the pandemic first began, we heard endless stories of neighbors helping neighbors (we even dedicated a whole issue of *South Holland Living* to this topic last May). Although much has changed since then and we've all settled into a new way of life, it's vital to continue showing care and concern for each other so we can build stronger connections and communities for when this pandemic is behind us.

Maybe it's been a while since you've checked in on your neighbors. Maybe new neighbors have moved in and you haven't had a chance to introduce yourself. Maybe you yourself need help and would love to have someone to turn to who lives on your block.

The Village of South Holland encourages residents to use this month, the year "anniversary" of Covid-19, as a way to reconnect with your neighbors.

We are nearing the light at the end of this tunnel. Let's emerge from the darkness arm in arm, with bonds that are stronger because of the care we have shown each other.

Let's be a community of neighbors helping neighbors.



HERE ARE SOME CONTACTLESS WAYS YOU CAN REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO LIVE NEAR YOU:

- Write a note and leave it on their door. (We've provided a template you can use to write such a note; visit southholland.org or pick up hard copies at the Customer Service Center.)
- Call, text or email those whose contact info you have. Send a word of encouragement and offer to help with anything they need.
- Offer to pick up groceries or other household items.
- Send a meal via an online delivery service.
- Help with any lawn care needs as we transition from winter to spring.
- Offer to walk their dog.
- Send flowers, balloons, or a fruit basket to simply brighten their day.
- If they are not on social media or online, or if they have just moved to South Holland, pass along information from the Village, Township or Cook County that might be helpful for them, particularly regarding vaccine distribution. (Sign up for weekly updates from the Village at southholland.org.)

These are just a few of many ways to reach out to your neighbors. Please remember that for any in-person interactions, practice physical distancing, wear a mask, and wash your hands afterward.

FAITH IN

Motion

THE BRIDGE TO UNITY AND LOVE

By Pastor Phil Tarver of United Faith Center Ministries International

Editor's Note: This is a transcript from part of Pastor Phil Tarver's speech given at the Dr. Martin Luther King virtual celebration in January 2021. That service can be viewed at southholland.org.

Pastor.

Activist.

Civil rights leader.

Drum major for justice.

Nobel Peace Prize recipient.

All of these and more describe the life, ministry and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thrust into the center of racial inequality and injustice in the deep south, Dr. King was called upon to represent the poor and the disenfranchised. He was called upon to be a voice for the voiceless. Dr. King would become a catalyst for change for the generations that followed.

A Baptist minister and the son of a pastor, Dr. King's ministry would become his message: a message of equity and justice for the poor, the downtrodden and the disenfranchised. Dr. King's mission, though difficult, was to achieve racial equality through unity and Christian love. Since those days of the 1950s and '60s we have certainly come a long way, but it would seem that we still have a ways to go.



Pastor Phil Tarver

It is unfortunate that in recent times we've seen the images of those who would turn back the clock to darker days in our history. In recent days we've heard the messages of those who would undermine the underpinnings of Dr. King's dream of justice and equality. The rhetoric of recent hatred would seem to overshadow his message of love and peace.

In light of the recent events in our nation, I submit to you that we don't need any more words that HURT. We need words that HEAL. We don't need words that DIVIDE us. We need words that UNITE us!

One of the beautiful things about the Village of South Holland is that we see the message of Dr. King modeled out. Our goal as a Village is to celebrate diversity, unity and inclusivity to all. Our desire is to live together under the banner of Christian love.

With our Mayor, who is God-fearing, and Village leadership that looks to uplift each and every individual, we see Dr. King's message in action. With many churches that propagate the gospel and share the same message of unity and love, we see the model of Christ-likeness lived out in our community.

Dr. King's message of unity was and is a bridge of hope for us all. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man would lay down his life for his friends." Dr. King's life was a bridge laid down for others to cross over.

In the goal of achieving equity, inclusivity and equal justice, I say to you: don't be a wall, be a bridge!

Be a bridge of help! Be a bridge of hope! Be a bridge that someone can use to cross over to a better tomorrow!

Dr. King's message was and is a bridge over troubled waters and we, as citizens of this Village and citizens of the world, must be a bridge over these troubled times.

So, what is our assignment? What role should we play in fulfilling Dr. King's dream?

I say to you, be the bridge.

Be the bridge. . . not to racism but to reconciliation.

Be the bridge . . . not to violence but to victory through equality.

Be the bridge . . . not to hatred but to healing.

Dr. King was a bridge of hope, leading to unity and love.

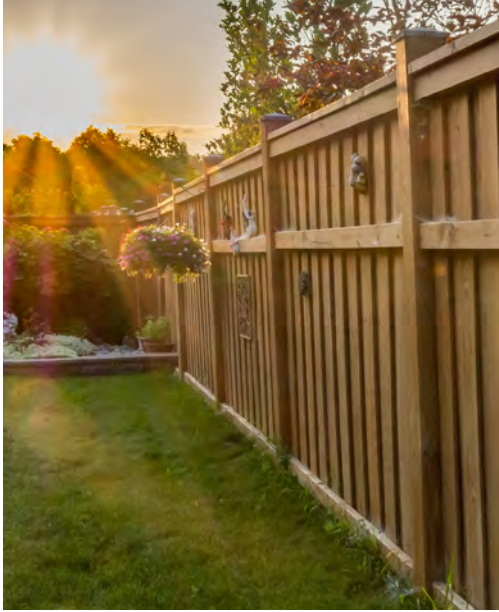
Now you go and be the bridge that would lead, not only South Holland but the world to become one village. A village like no other.

Be the bridge. 🔥



DID YOU KNOW?

LEARN ABOUT THE VILLAGE ORDINANCES THAT HELP KEEP SOUTH HOLLAND A CLEAN, BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY.



Did you know...

... that pets are not permitted in any South Holland parks? This excludes dogs leading the blind.

... that garbage containers should not be placed on the curb prior to 4 p.m. on the day before scheduled pickup, and should be removed from the curb by 8 p.m. on the day of pickup?

... that if you would like to build a fence on your property, you must first obtain a permit? Visit the Customer Service Center at Village Hall (16226 Wausau Ave) for a permit application.

For more information about Village ordinances, call the Building and Code Department at 708.210.2900.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST FOR VILLAGE EMAIL UPDATES

Text
SOUTHHOLLAND
to **22828** to
get started.



SOUTH HOLLAND SPORTS



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL COMES TO SOUTH HOLLAND By Wally Widelski

Famous Brooklyn Dodgers catcher Roy Campanella once said, "To play the game of baseball, you have to have a lot of little boy in you." The same holds true for their softball counterparts. What else holds true is that while our community continues to evolve and grow in these changing times, serving as a model for future successes, one thing about our village has remained constant . . . South Holland is a sports town.

In particular, on the baseball and softball diamonds is where South Holland student-athletes have really shined. From baseball and softball state champion and World Series teams, to nationally ranked high school programs, our community's youth have proudly represented our village at the highest levels of competition. South Holland's programs can claim four Major League Baseball alumni in Steve Trout (White Sox, Cubs,

Yankee, Mariners), Cliff Floyd (Expos, Marlins, Red Sox, Mets, Cubs, Rays, Padres), Mark Mulder (A's, Cardinals), and Justin Huisman (Royals).

It's now time for the next generation of South Holland athletes to carry the torch and pave their own pathways to success, and there's no better way to begin that journey than by participating in Major League Baseball events in their own hometown.

MLB Pitch Hit & Run and MLB Jr. Home Run Derby are terrific opportunities for South Holland baseball and softball players to showcase their skills, exhibit their passion for the game, and continue the rich athletic tradition for which our village is known.

Springtime is right around the corner, so let's "play ball!"

Saturday, May 22
Veterans Memorial Park - 500 E 160th Place

Pitch Hit & Run - 1pm
Jr. Home Run Derby - 3:30 pm

Both competitions are free of charge! For more information and to register, visit southholland.org.



POWERED BY
@MLBdevelops



The Village of South Holland is hosting two FREE competitions presented by Major League Baseball!

Saturday, May 22
Veterans Memorial Park • 500 East 160th Place

PITCH HIT & RUN - 1PM

Baseball and Softball divisions for players ages 7-14

Pitch Hit & Run provides kids with an opportunity to participate in a competition that recognizes individual excellence in core baseball/softball skills.

JR. HOME RUN DERBY - 3:30PM

Open to players 14 years and under

The Jr. Home Run Derby is a fun and exciting youth competition for talented kids to showcase their hitting abilities.

Register at
southholland.org

Participants in both competitions have a chance to advance to the Finals in conjunction with the MLB World Series!

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



Virtual MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Join South Holland pastors and Mayor De Graff
virtually as they pray for our Village, State, and Nation.

THE RECHARGE IN 2021

*Renewing our Faith, Reconnecting
with Family and Recovering our Future*

THURSDAY, MAY 6 • 8:00 AM

Online at:

Facebook Live (Village of South Holland page)



southholland.org