

# SOUTH HOLLAND

*Living*

July | August 2021



A Summer of Celebrations





VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

# Cruise Night

+ DRIVE-IN MOVIE

July 24 + August 28

*Car Cruise:*

4-8pm | South Park Ave and E 161st St

*Drive-In Movie:*

9pm | First Reformed Church

July 24: Raya and the Last Dragon | August 28: Beauty and the Beast



- \* Live Music
- \* Food Vendors
- \* Yard Games

## CRUISE NIGHT

Open to classic, antique, custom and exotic cars, trucks and motorcycles. Limited specialty car space available. FREE to all cruisers and spectators!

Visit [southholland.org](https://southholland.org) for more info.

## FROM YOUR MAYOR



*Mayor De Graff and Village Board members with Rib Fest winners at a previous 4th of July Celebration*

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

Summer is here! We are enjoying the longer days and the warmer weather, and it's so great to be together again. Thanks to all who joined us for Memorial Day, with our annual parade down South Park Avenue. It was a beautiful day, with a festive and spirited crowd.

Now we're approaching our Independence Day celebration, which commemorates our freedom. On Saturday, July 3, the South Holland Ministerial Association is again sponsoring Prayer at the Gates. On Monday, July 5, we'll have our spectacular Independence Day Fireworks show at South Suburban College. We look forward to returning to Veterans Park next year for our full 4th of July Celebration!

The summer will continue with many fun-filled events, including Cruise Night, drive-in movies, South Holland Municipal Band concerts, and more. We're also looking forward to the opening of SoHo Sweets, our new ice cream and coffee shop on South Park Avenue! We'll cap off this exciting summer season with the Heritage Fest on Labor Day and our Fun Run on September 11.

As we gather together this summer, we can be thankful for the freedoms we enjoy. Now more than ever, we realize it is a blessing to celebrate and grow together as a community.

Don A. De Graff  
Mayor

## VILLAGE BOARD

### President

Don A. De Graff

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# *Independence Day Fireworks*

**Monday, July 5th**

**SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE  
15800 SOUTH STATE ST**

**SHOW BEGINS: 9PM | LOT OPENS: 7PM**

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The Village of South Holland is hosting a spectacular, drive-in style fireworks show at South Suburban College! Park your car, bring some snacks, and enjoy the show!

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**Visit [southholland.org](http://southholland.org) for more information.**





# INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS

Monday, July 5

South Suburban College | 15800 South State St

Show Begins: 9pm | Lot Opens: 7pm



## Additional Parking:

Walt's Food Center – 16145 State St  
LaSalle Park – 16101-16137 La Salle St  
College Center One – 44 W 162nd St  
Spirit of God Fellowship – 16350 State St  
Advocate Medical Group – 100 W 162nd St

## EVENT GUIDELINES:

- Vehicles only
- Please park in designated spots
- No tents, grilling or personal fireworks

## VILLAGE NEWS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



#### HOST A BLOCK PARTY

This summer, as more and more people are being vaccinated and activities are opening up, we encourage neighborhoods to host a block party! Block parties are a great way for residents to come together and renew friendships, meet neighbors, and experience genuine camaraderie. Those who choose to host a block party should fill out a Block Party Request form at [southholland.org](https://southholland.org) or in person at Village Hall. The Village will then provide road blocks, picnic tables and emergency vehicles for children's viewing (subject to availability). Finish the summer strong by getting to know your neighbors!



#### ROAD REPAIRS

This summer we embarked on a \$2 million street resurfacing project that will improve the quality of about 5 miles of our roads. Some driveway aprons, sidewalks and curbs that are damaged may be replaced as part of the project. Visit [southholland.org](https://southholland.org) for a list of roads that are being resurfaced.



#### RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ORDINANCE

The Village of South Holland has always had the desire to balance the interest of the owner occupied homes and the interests of the rental units, as well as maintain a healthy balance in housing. In order to do so, the Residential Rental Ordinance ensures that rental units are not concentrated in one area of the Village by limiting the number of rental units located on any given 2020 Census Block at 10 percent of the residences located in a Census Block. For more information, visit [southholland.org](https://southholland.org).



#### FIREWORKS SAFETY

For the upcoming Fourth of July holiday, please remember that individual fireworks are illegal in Illinois, and they can be very dangerous to you and those around you. If you witness fireworks going off in your neighborhood, please call the South Holland Police Department so we can respond accordingly. You can remain anonymous on the report.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### July 3

#### PRAYER AT THE GATES

*8am*

South Holland pastors lead prayer at several locations throughout town. All are welcome to join. Locations are posted at [southholland.org](http://southholland.org).

### July 3 and August 7

#### COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS

*9am, Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave*

Our monthly Coffee with Firefighters is back! Residents can meet and talk with members of the South Holland Fire Department on the first Saturday of every month.

### July 5

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS

*9pm (lot opens at 7pm), South Suburban College  
15800 South State Street*

The Village is hosting a spectacular, drive-in style fireworks show at South Suburban College. This is a vehicle-only event; for the safety of attendees, no walk-ups are permitted.

### July 22, August 12 and 26

#### BAND CONCERTS

*Veterans Memorial Park  
500 E 160th Pl*

The South Holland Municipal Band performs a series of concerts over the summer. The concerts are held at the bandstand at Veterans Park on various Thursday evenings.



**July 24 and August 28**  
**CRUISE NIGHT AND DRIVE-IN MOVIE**

*Cruise Night*

*4-8pm, South Park Ave & E 161st St*

**Stroll South Park Avenue to view classic, custom, antique and exotic cars, trucks and motorcycles. There will also be live music, food vendors and yard games.**

*Drive-In Movie*

*9pm, First Reformed Church, 15924 South Park Avenue*

**Finish Cruise Night with a drive-in movie! Bring the family to see *Raya and the Last Dragon* (July 24) and *Beauty and the Beast* (August 28) on the big screen.**

**September 6**

**HERITAGE FEST**

*Paarlberg Park, E 172nd St & Paxton Ave*

**Come to Paarlberg Park for a day of activities for the whole family. Heritage Fest, hosted by the South Holland Historical Society, features live entertainment, food, and music by the South Holland Municipal Band and Master Chorale.**

**September 11**

**SOUTH HOLLAND FUN RUN – 5K WALK/RUN**

*Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl*

**Join us for a fun and entertaining 5K run through the streets of South Holland! Costumes and accessories are encouraged. Each participant receives a finisher's medal and goodie bag, and cash prizes are awarded to top finishers. Register at [southholland.org](https://southholland.org).**

**AT THE LIBRARY**

**VISIT THE SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY (16250 WAUSAU AVE)  
FOR THESE SUMMERTIME EVENTS!**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, June-August**

**HEALTHY FOOD FOR COMMUNITY KIDS**

*12pm-2pm*

**In partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the library is providing grab-and-go snack boxes to youth and teens 18 and under on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**August 13**

**DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT**

*7pm*

**Bring your blanket, pillows, and lawn chairs for a screening of *Tom & Jerry: The Movie* in the library's west parking lot.**

**August 21**

**BLOOD DRIVE**

*8:30am-12pm*

**August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month. In partnership with Versiti Blood Center of Illinois, help save a life by donating blood. Register by calling 708.527.3160. Drop-ins are also welcome.**





# *Coming Soon...*



The Village-owned SoHo Sweets Ice Cream & Coffee shop is  
**OPENING THIS SUMMER!**  
Visit [southholland.org](https://southholland.org) for updates on the opening.



## OUT AND ABOUT

### FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

#### MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The South Holland Memorial Day Parade returned this year, to a crowd of happy faces relieved to be celebrating again after a year off due to the pandemic. The parade moved down South Park Avenue and featured several organizations, businesses, churches, sports teams, and entertainers such as stilt walkers and mascots.





# OUT AND ABOUT

## FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE





## OUT AND ABOUT

### FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

#### DOG MICROCHIPPING DAY

The South Holland Police Department partnered with the South Suburban Humane Society to microchip residents' dogs, which helps to identify the dog's owner if the pet goes missing. It was a great day with lots of friendly, furry faces.





## OUT AND ABOUT

### FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

#### MINIAT COMMUNITY DAY

Employees from the Ed Miniat company served the Village of South Holland by cleaning areas throughout the village for their Community Day in April. Those who participated picked up trash and debris along Gouwens Park and the trail on Riverside Drive.



#### COFFEE WITH A COP

Starbucks Coffee Company hosted Coffee with a Cop, where residents could connect with police officers over coffee and casual conversation about community issues. This event will be held quarterly at the new Starbucks on 159th Street.



# KEEPING THE VILLAGE CLEAN

## AFTER NOTICING STRAY GARBAGE WHILE RUNNING, RETIREE DOES SOMETHING ABOUT IT

By Carrie Steinweg  
Photos by Michelle Hamstra



When Gerald Harris is passionate about something, he gives it 110%. It's true about several things that have been a big part of his life—coaching and umpiring baseball, running, horses. He has also put that same passion into helping keep South Holland looking good.

Harris had lived in South Holland at one time and then moved away, but he always knew he wanted to return. So when he turned 55, he moved into the Villas of South Holland townhouse community, which is designed for individuals age 55+. That was 13 years ago. He got involved with the grounds committee at the Villas and pitched in with beautification efforts. "I'd go around here and there and clean up and touch up," he says.





But he didn't stop in his own neighborhood. As a runner, he'd notice stray garbage on his route and make a mental note to get back there with a garbage bag and stick and pick it up. "It's like breadcrumbs," he says. "I just start and go to the next street and then the next street and then I find myself on Route 6. I feel like that's our front porch, so I want it to be clean."

The retiree considers it good exercise, and while he says he isn't out there as often as he used to be, it's something he wants to keep doing. "It's not a big deal to me," he says. "I just want to keep it clean."

Harris gives kudos to the village employees who work diligently on the town's appearance. "They do a great job," he says, but he wants to help where he can. "If you love your community, you do it," he says. "This is my village."

Regarding his other passions... he dedicated many years to Little League Baseball as a coach, manager, umpire and board member in Chicago. He even umpired in the semi-pro level. After that chapter ended, he became interested in horses and has owned four since then. His current horse, who is boarded in Dyer, has been with him for 20 years. He has been seen riding a horse in the annual Memorial Day Parade. In retirement, Harris became an avid runner, and in last fall's Fun Run 5K, he placed second in the 60-and-older age division.

"I'm a passionate person and when I get interested in something, I do it totally," he says. "I'm just a blessed person. Everything I ever needed has come to me. I've always had just enough. Not more than I needed, but always enough." 🔥



# Making MUSIC

## A SOUTH HOLLAND COUPLE SINGS WITH THE STARS

By Josh Bootsma

Photos courtesy of RAll & Whitney



Most married couples prefer to go by their mutual last name. But RAll and Whitney are no ordinary couple. Married in 2010, the pair use their performance names almost everywhere they go. RAll stands for Rhythm, Alternative, Instrumental, and Inspirational, and sounds similar to RAll's legal name. Together, RAll and Whitney—married couple—combine to make RAll & Whitney—accomplished musical duo.

Both of the current South Hollanders first started singing when they were in church choir growing up, and they met as part of a gospel group years ago. Now, RAll & Whitney have performed with the likes of Ed Sheeran, Alicia Keys, Estelle, and Common as supporting vocalists. They have also released several of their own albums.

"We definitely did not see being a supporting vocalist to the stars in our future," Whitney says, remembering how the two of them struck up a professional relationship with each other before they started dating. "But God had other plans, and I'm super grateful for that because being a supporting vocalist and touring internationally for a living definitely showed us the business side of it... and what it actually takes spiritually, mentally, and emotionally to have that type of lifestyle."

The pair has traveled the world twice over, using their voices to support the stars' voices. RAll & Whitney can





be spotted in videos of live performances with Ed Sheeran, Alicia Keys, and others online.

Faithful America's Got Talent fans will also recognize the duo from the 2016 season of the show, where they drew the words "I really, really like you two," from curmudgeonly judge Simon Cowell.

The couple has released three albums and multiple singles and EPs available on Spotify and similar platforms. Most recently, they released a Christmas album in 2020 and an album called "Car Tunes Tuesday Volume 1" before that. The "Car Tunes" album came out of a social media experiment where RAIL & Whitney would post videos of themselves as they sat in a car together and performed short songs with simple messages on Tuesdays.

"We did it in a cool, fun way in the car," Whitney says. "And then it went viral and musicians started adding music to it on social media... people rapped to it, a lot of kids started to love it... teachers were saying they were playing it in their classrooms for encouragement."

RAIL & Whitney are hoping to release their first children and family-oriented album later this summer. "That's been probably one of the most fun projects I personally have worked on," Whitney says.

RAIL & Whitney do their vocal supporting work through their company His & Her Entertainment. They also perform for special events, and work with aspiring artists and musicians to help them achieve their dreams through training and development.

"Our [lessons] are vocal and performance because we realize there is a disconnect with learning the technique of the voice and performing live," Whitney says. "With our programs, we like to kind of bridge that gap."

RAIL & Whitney are also certified as life and relationship coaches.

"When we do our vocal and performance programs, we don't just train the voice, we're also working on the person. It's huge for both of us not to just train another generation that is caught up in perfection trying to be the best singers," Whitney says.

The couple's heart for helping others stems from their Christian faith. Both RAIL and Whitney grew up going to church, and their faith has formed them as they've moved through life—and moved through the music industry.

"People have a difficult time conceptualizing us in the industry being Christian, but they don't have that same challenge when they think about lawyers, or doctors, or any other field that is not overtly 'glorifying God' per se," RAIL says. "We know that part of our purpose is to be that light, but then also to equip and train other artists to feel comfortable enough to be grounded in their Christianity and still be sent to these places where that might not be the main religion."

With faith as their focus, RAIL & Whitney have found themselves right at home in South Holland, a village that first caught RAIL's eye years ago when he saw a "Faith, Family, Future" sign while driving past. Although their first year living here was full of touring obligations and their second year was stifled by a global pandemic, the pair hopes to get more involved in the South Holland community in the years to come.

RAIL & Whitney are on all the major social media platforms, and their music can be found on all major music platforms as well. Find them online at [railiandwhitney.com](http://railiandwhitney.com) and [hisandherentertainment.com](http://hisandherentertainment.com). 🔥

Village of South Holland



# 2021 BREAST CANCER WALK & DRIVE

*Moving in Tandem*

**Men Get It Too!**

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, October 9 | 9:00am**

**Veterans Memorial Park**

**500 E 160th Place**

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Join us in recognizing both female  
and male breast cancer survivors!

Proceeds from this event will benefit breast cancer  
research efforts at the University of Chicago.

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**Register at [southholland.org](https://southholland.org).**



# FAITH IN

# Motion

## THE PROBLEM FACTOR HOW GOD USES ADVERSITY FOR OUR GOOD

By Elder L. Phyllis Neuman Brown of Free Spirit Ministerial Worship Center

Over the last sixteen months, most people have experienced a harsh reality. This reality is that problems are real and ever present in our lives. Our problems may be financial, emotional, physical, spiritual or mental in nature. It makes us ponder the following: Why do I have problems? What are the reasons for the problems that I am facing? How are problems benefitting me?

We first must realize that life is a series of problems. We are either in a problem, coming out of a problem or going into a problem. This is what I call the "Problem Factor." As Christians, we have somehow embraced the idea that we would live on this earth problem-free because of our belief and spiritual walk with Jesus Christ. Well, I have news for you. Problems are God-designed. There is purpose for our problems.

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing" James 1:2-4 (NLT). Problems are a test of our faith. They help develop patience, which means they help us become stronger in our faith as they expose our weak areas.

Our problems refine our faith. They cultivate and polish our spiritual walk so we develop our full potential in Christ. Many times, we seek to place blame on someone or something for the difficult issues in our lives. However, things we attribute to evil may well be the heat God applies that will result in purity and joy. For example, illness may be designed to bring fear to surface so God can build trust. Financial difficulty may raise materialism to the surface. Loneliness may raise idolatry to the surface. Relational difficulty may raise bitterness or unforgiveness to the surface. Disappointment at work may raise pride to the surface.

God brings our weaknesses to the surface so that ultimately we will be stronger, more like Him and more reflective. Problems also cause us to rely on God. If we never have problems that we are unable to handle on our own, we will never sense our need of



Elder L. Phyllis Neuman Brown

God. When we become overwhelmed with our problems, it is an indication of pride. We are trying to handle them all by ourselves instead of seeking the Lord for wisdom.

Problems have no respect of person. They attack everyone. The rich and the poor; the strong and the weak; the most affluent and the poorest of the land. Problems cause us to refocus our priorities. It causes us to take note on what is important. It is not what we have but who we are that is important.

As each of us deal with the Problem Factor, remember Genesis 50:20, when Joseph told his brothers that the evil meant against me, God used for good. Problems are used to fulfill God's purpose and plan for our lives. God's purpose for allowing problems in our life is to produce spiritual growth and maturity. So approach each day and each problem with this assurance: "The Lord will perfect that which concerned me: thy mercy, O Lord, endures forever" (Psalm 138:8) because Romans 8:28 reminds us that "... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." 🔥





### **SOUTH HOLLAND JETS GEAR UP FOR 49TH SEASON** **By Bob Bong**

The South Holland Jets football and cheer program is one of the oldest continuously operating youth football programs in the south suburban area, having started in 1972.

League President Malik Jones says registration is now underway for the Jets' 49th season. "We are taking registration for the new season at [shjets.org](http://shjets.org) for both football and cheer," he says.

The Jets take in kids from ages 5 to 14. They play tackle football and the program starts with Mighty Mites and goes all the way up to Varsity. The league makes sure kids play with other kids of about the same size.

Jones says the new season will start a little later this year because the Jets joined a new league. "We are moving from the Will-Cook League to the Southwest Midget Football League, and they start their season a couple of weeks later than the Will-Cook League," he says.

The new 10-game season will start August 2 with the first practice, and the first game will take place on Saturday, August 28. Home games will again be played at Thornwood High School. "Mostly on Sundays," Jones says.

Jones says the Jets will play Dolton this year, the first time that has happened for the teams from the neighboring communities. For more information and to register, visit [shjets.org](http://shjets.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

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



### Did you know...

... that a permit from the Village must be obtained before installing a fence?

... that all basketball hoop standards must be kept and maintained in good condition with no visible damage?

... that grass on a residential or commercial property must be maintained under 6 inches?

... that properties with a swimming pool must be fenced with a locking gate or a foldable ladder at the pool?

**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  
**SOUTH HOLLAND**  
to **22828** to  
get started.





**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

- **COSTUMES/ACCESSORIES  
ENCOURAGED**
- **FINISHER'S MEDAL**
- **CASH PRIZES**
- **GOODIE BAGS**

Benefiting:

**Special  
Olympics  
Illinois**



**SIGN UP AT [SOUTHHOLLAND.ORG](http://SOUTHHOLLAND.ORG)**

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*

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Photos, events, announcements and more!



[southholland.org](http://southholland.org)