## ISQUITH

July | August 2022

Celebrating Our Nation Family, Fun and Fireworks



#### FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

Here we are! It's hard to believe we are already approaching the 4th of July 2022. You will see in this issue that we have many wonderful events planned for this summer and early fall. Combined with the excitement and enthusiasm that this eventful season brings, this year is also South Holland's 175th anniversary. We have a robust history going back to 1847. Check out page 20 for a look back at the ever-changing 175 years since South Holland's founding.

As we honor the past, we also continue to plan for the progression of our village. Now at the end of our Vision 2022 plan, a tremendous amount has been accomplished over the past 10 years. We will share highlights of those accomplishments in the coming months. Even as we complete one strategic plan, we are currently in the development process of our next one, which will span through 2030. The essence of this new plan is for South Holland to come together, by engaging every key group in our community: churches, schools (public and private), businesses, service organizations (i.e. the Garden Club, Historical Society, Lions Club, Little League, Jets, etc.), and neighborhood groups. Our intention is for Village government to encourage, spur on, and call for meaningful discussions to allow these respective groups to create new relationships and ideas.

Yes, now, this season is an exciting transition period for South Holland. We are coming out of hibernation from the pandemic, finishing up a remarkable Vision 2022 plan, and beginning the process of a new strategic plan that will provide many opportunities for groups to come together in impactful ways.

Here in South Holland, we will never stand still and we will keep moving forward. We've had a great 175 years so far, and the next 175 will be even better!

#### VILLAGE BOARD

#### President

Don A. De Graff

#### Clerk

Dr. Sallie Penman

#### Trustees

Larry De Young Andrew Johnson, Jr. Cynthia Nylen Vickie Perkins Prince Reed John Russell

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

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Cover photo by Manuel Corazzari

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

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

With the July 4 holiday upon us, please remember the following guidelines to ensure fireworks safety.

• Individual home-based fireworks are **illegal** in Illinois, and they can be extremely dangerous to you and those around you. While we want everyone to enjoy the holiday, please remember that in addition to being illegal, fireworks can be greatly disturbing to neighbors, pets, veterans and small children. Please be considerate of others and yourself by foregoing fireworks at home.



- If you witness fireworks going off in your neighborhood, please call the South Holland Police Department at 708.331.3131 so we can respond accordingly. You can remain anonymous on the report.
- Instead of lighting fireworks at home, we encourage you to attend the Village of South Holland's Spectacular Fireworks Show at South Suburban College on July 4! See page 17 for more details

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST FOR VILLAGE EMAIL UPDATES

# Text SOUTHHOLLAND to 22828 to get started.



#### **VILLAGE NEWS**

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



#### **PUBLIC WORKS INVENTION**

Three innovative members of our Public Works Department-Keith De Young, Joseph Aghimier, and Robert Aguilar-developed a piece of equipment that makes a once slow and inefficient task much more portable and productive. Previously, when installing and removing sign posts, we had only one specific piece of equipment that could do the job. But Robert, Joseph and Keith figured out a way to build a portable rack that can attach to the front bumper of any plow mount. This means the PW team went from having 1 vehicle to now having 8 vehicles that can install and remove sign posts! This obviously increases productivity, allowing our Public Works team to spend more of their valuable time on other projects.

We are proud of our inventive team members who built this method all on their own accord, for the betterment of the Village!



#### SOUTH HOLLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Village of South Holland and the South Holland Business Association (SHBA) are excited to announce a new partnership that brings SHBA under the umbrella of the Village, wherein the Village will provide the staffing and support to help take SHBA to an exciting new level. SHBA will function semi-autonomously within this shared vision. The leadership of both SHBA and the Village of South Holland are excited about this opportunity, and are eager to see it reinvigorated to the benefit of the association's members, and the entire South Holland community. If you are a business owner and interested in becoming a member of SHBA, please contact Executive Director John Watson at jwatson@southholland.org or 708.210.2903.



#### **HOST A BLOCK PARTY**

One of the best ways to connect with your neighbors is to have 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 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 for a list of roads that are being resurfaced.

Join us for a fun and entertaining 5K run/walk through the streets of South Holland!

2022 SOUTH HOLLAND

## FUNRUN 5

Saturday, September 10
Opening Ceremony: 7am
Veterans Memorial Park • 500 E 160th Place

- Costumes/Accessories Encouraged
- ▶ Finisher's Medals
- **Cash Prizes**
- "Fun" Stations Along the Course!
- Register by July 15 to guarantee your T-shirt size!

#### **BENEFITING:**







South \ Holland

Faith, Family, & Future

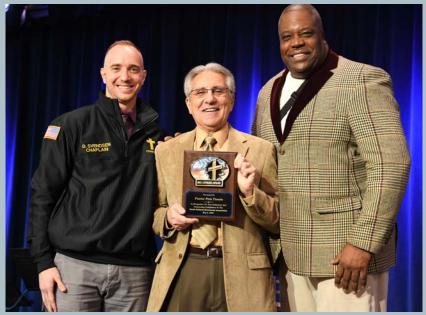
Sign up at southholland.org

#### FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

#### MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The South Holland Ministerial Association hosted the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at Spirit of God Church in observance of the National Day of Prayer. Mayor De Graff and several South Holland pastors prayed for our Village, State, and Nation. Pastor Alfonzo King Surrett, Jr., of Calvary Community Church was the keynote speaker. Pastor Pete Tassio of King's Community Church was the recipient of the Mel De Vries Award.









#### FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

#### **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

At the annual South Holland Memorial Day Parade, we celebrated and remembered those who gave their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Following the parade, which included more than 60 entries, a moving remembrance ceremony was held at Veterans Memorial Park.













#### **FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE**

#### SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE CONCERT

The South Holland Master Chorale hosted its final concert of the 2021-2022 season at Christ Our Savior Catholic Church in May. This concert also marked the final performance of Albert M. Jackson as musical director of the Chorale, as he is now retired. We thank Al for his many years of service to the Master Chorale! The new director, beginning with the 2022-2023 season, is Philip J. Bauman.







#### **FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE**

#### **GARDEN CLUB DONATION TO LOCAL SCHOOLS**

The South Holland Garden Club awarded Madison and E.C.H.O. Schools with a donation of \$1,000 each to help with the costs of their raised gardens. It is part of the curriculum at each school for students to be involved with the building and maintenance of their gardens.





#### WRAP SHACK RIBBON CUTTING

The Village celebrated the official ribbon cutting of Wrap Shack, a new restaurant featuring delicious wraps, sandwiches, salads and other healthy menu offerings. Wrap Shack is located at 954 E 162nd Street.



#### SOUTH HOLLAND SPORTS



#### KIDS ARE INVITED TO PITCH, HIT AND RUN

The Village of South Holland is once again hosting the Pitch, Hit & Run competition presented by Major League Baseball!

Pitch, Hit & Run is a free event that creates a safe and fun environment for kids to stay active and learn or continue to play baseball and softball in their local community.

The competition is for boys and girls 7-14 years old and consists of a series of movements that are important in baseball and softball (pitching, hitting, and running). Athletes will be tested and their measurements will be recorded. Based on their scores, they will advance to a Team Championship and then to the National Finals, which takes place during the MLB World Series!

Registration is required. Register at southholland.org.

#### Pitch, Hit & Run

Saturday, July 30 10am Veterans Memorial Park 500 E 160th PI, South Holland Please note that there is no Home Run Derby Jr. this year.

#### Join Us!

South Holland residents are welcomed and encouraged to enjoy this event as spectators! Come cheer on our youth as they take the field!

We are also looking for adults to volunteer for this exciting event. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 708.331.2940 or email sports@southholland.org.

The Village of South Holland is hosting a FREE competition presented by Major League Baseball!

### Pitch Hit & Run



#### WHEN

Saturday, July 30 10am

#### WHERE

Veterans Memorial Park 500 East 160th Place

#### **WHO**

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.

Register at southholland.org.

™/© 2022 MIE

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS



#### July 1-31 CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave

The South Holland Fire Department is sponsoring their annual Christmas in July food drive.

The Village collects nonperishable food items during the entire month of July. Donations can be made from 8am to 9pm any day at Fire Station 1.

#### July 4 PRAYER AT THE GATES

8am, Various locations

South Holland pastors will continue the annual tradition of leading prayer at all of the entryways into the Village on the Fourth of July. All are welcome to join. Visit southholland.org for a list of where pastors and congregants of each church will be praying.

#### July 4 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Family Fun Festival

10am-2pm, Veterans Memorial Park

Families are invited to a fun-filled day in our premier park that features food, live music, and a slew of fun activities. Activities include a climbing wall, bumper cars, inflatables, and more. The day kicks off with a Kiddie Bike Parade!

Fireworks Show

9pm (lots open at 7pm), South Suburban College

Finish the evening with the Village's spectacular fireworks show! The show takes place as a drive-in event at South Suburban College. We ask attendees to arrive in a vehicle (no walk-ups), and you can bring snacks and chairs to enjoy the show. See pages 17-19 for more details.

#### July 30 GARDEN WALK

10am, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

The annual Garden Walk begins at Veterans Memorial Park. Walk through amazing, creative, and decorative local gardens.

#### July 30 PITCH, HIT & RUN

10am, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

The Village is once again hosting the Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run! At this competition, boys and girls ages 7-14 can show their skills in baseball and softball. Champions will move on to the finals during the MLB World Series! Registration is free!

Register at southholland.org.

#### July 30 CRUISE NIGHT

4-8pm, 16056 South Park Ave

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. Attendees can enter a drawing to win a free \$100 gas card!

#### August 6

#### BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOKBAG GIVEAWAY

9am-12pm, South Holland Police Station, 16330 South Park Ave

The South Holland Police Department and Education Commission are giving away bookbags for back to school! South Holland residents only. Registration is required; email mnorris@southholland.org to register.

#### August 13 CONCERT IN THE PARK

6-9pm, Veterans Memorial Park 500 E 160th PI

Enjoy a free Ravinia-style concert in our beautiful premier park! Chicago-based band Vibe Music Live is performing cover songs from a variety of genres. Attendees can purchase food from a food truck or bring their own. This is a ticketed event; get your tickets at southholland.org.

#### September 10 FUN RUN 5K WALK/RUN

7:30am, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

Join us for a fun and entertaining 5K run through the streets of South Holland. This event raises money for local youth organizations. Open to all ages.

#### AT THE LIBRARY

The following programs are held at the South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Ave, unless otherwise indicated.

#### July 15

SENSES TO SOUL AFTER-HOURS CONCERT

7pm

Join the students of Senses to Soul as they play jazz and blues hits. This will be a live in-person concert, but we will be streaming it via Zoom so those at home can enjoy the evening, too. Registration required at shlibrary.org/calendar.

#### July 22 OUTDOOR MOVIE: THOR

8pm

Enjoy an outdoor movie in the Library parking lot, featuring the new film Thor Raganok.

#### July 13 and 27 GIRL FITNESS: STEP AEROBICS

6pm

Jump, step, or dance into step aerobics fitness with GIRLS Improving. This all-girls program is recommended for teens and up. July 27 will be outdoor weather permitting. Registration required at shlibrary.org/calendar.

#### August 20 NATURE WALK AT SAND RIDGE NATURE CENTER

llam

Come join us for a fun-filled adventure as we explore the forest preserves. Registration required at shlibrary.org/calendar.



#### IS IT WORTH IT? EVALUATING SUCCESS FROM A SPIRITUAL LENS

By Elder Phyllis Neuman Brown of Free Spirit Ministerial Worship Center

Many of us go through this journey of life trying to achieve various levels of success. We want to reach higher levels in our educational endeavors; we want to have powerful connections; meaningful relationships; greater financial stability, etc. As humans, we seek to be rewarded for our efforts and hard work. We have a desire to know, feel and to believe that our labor is not in vain

Ephesians 6:8 (NIV) states, "Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do." This is inspiring news but we must realize that the reward is also based on our motives. Teresa of Avila said, "The Lord doesn't look so much at the greatness of our works as the love with which they are done." This concurs with 1 Corinthians 16:14, which instructs us to do everything in love. This means that God will reward us for the good we do in love.



Elder Phyllis Neuman Brown

What then is our focus in life? What are we valuing? Are we going after those things that God will reward or are we going after those that will bring us self-gratification?

The things that God promises to reward:

- 1. Prayer and fasting
- 2. Compassion for those in need
- 3. Bearing insults and ridicule for being a Christian
- 4. Loving your enemies
- 5. Generous giving
- 6. Hospitality
- 7. Endurance through the pressures of serving in ministry
- 8. Quality work for your employer
- 9. Faithfulness through trials
- 10. Faithfulness to the truth.

The key is to be certain to have balance in our lives. We should always desire to seek the things of God first. When we do that, God promises that all other things that are in His will for our lives will be added.

Thus, as we journey through this life to achieve greatness, keep in mind that the ultimate goal should be to obtain the rewards that come from the Lord. Unlike humanity, the Lord will always remember your labor of love. His rewards are always worth it, both in this earthly life and for eternity.

## NOW OPEN!

# central Ciral Ork

510 Thornwood Drive South Holland, Illinois

Open daily from dawn to dusk

To apply for a membership to Central Bark, visit the Community Center front desk.





southholland.org/centralbark

# 4th of July elevration

#### A DAY OF FAMILY FUN. FESTIVITIES AND FIREWORKS

The Village of South Holland is eagerly anticipating the 2022 4th of July Celebration! We are incorporating some new elements into this year's event, for maximum fun and safety for attendees. The event is in two parts... we hope you can join us for one or both! (Continued on next page)



#### FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

10am-2pm Veterans Memorial Park - 500 E 160th Pl

Come enjoy a fun-filled day in our premier park that features food, live music, and a slew of activities!

Kiddie Bike Parade: Children ages 2-12 are invited to participate in our Kiddie Bike Parade! Participants are to line up along the promenade starting at the War Memorial (near the baseball fields) at 10am. All bikes must be decorated in red. white and blue (balloons. streamers, flags, etc) to participate. See the bike parade route at southholland.org.

Activities: Kids and adults alike will enjoy a host of games and fun activities such as:

- Bumper cars
- Climbing Wall
- Pony Wheel and Petting Zoo
  - Inflatables
  - · Basketball arcade game
    - And more!

Food: Chef Chris Monroe from SoHo Sweets/ Timbrook Kitchens is running the concession stand for the day! Pick up a delicious burger, hot dog, or sweet treat at Park Central!

Music: DJ Ed Crosby is playing fun family hits from 10am-noon, and cover band Spoken Four is playing from noon-2pm.

#### SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW

Lots open: 7pm | Fireworks begin: 9pm (or when dark) South Suburban College and surrounding lots

We are returning to South Suburban College for the Village of South Holland's drive-in fireworks show! We are asking attendees to arrive in a vehicle, and we encourage you to bring chairs and snacks to enjoy while waiting for the show to start. Music from the South Holland Municipal Band will lead up to the fireworks to get everyone into the patriotic spirit.

See the map on the following page for details on lot entrances. In addition to South Suburban College, you can also view the fireworks from one of the following nearby parking lots:

> 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

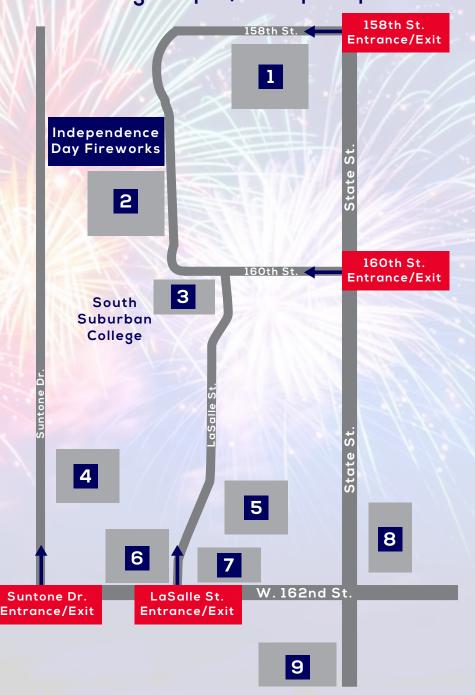




#### VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS

Monday, July 4

South Suburban College | 15800 South State St Show Begins: 9pm | Lots Open: 7pm



#### **Additional Parking:**

- 1-4. South Suburban College Parking
- 5. LaSalle Park 16101-16137 La Salle St
- 6. Advocate Medical Group 100 W 162nd St
  - 7. College Center One 44 W 162nd St
  - 8. Walt's Food Center 16145 State St
- 9. Spirit of God Fellowship 16350 State St

#### **EVENT GUIDELINES:**

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

# SOUTH HOLLAND PERMITTHEN THE SOUTH

CONTINUING TO PRIORITIZE FAITH AND FAMILY, EMBRACE DIVERSITY

By Carrie Steinweg

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the founding of South Holland.

The first immigrants from the Netherlands to the Great Lakes region arrived in 1846. Many settled in Michigan and some moved on to the south Chicago neighborhood that became known as Roseland or to an area called Laage Prairie, which translates into Low Prairie and was later renamed South Holland.

Mayor Don De Graff's Dutch roots go back to South Holland's beginning. His ancestors were on one of the first boats to arrive in the area as they made their way to present-day South Holland in search of religious freedom and fertile soil to carry on their farming traditions. Those early families include names like De Young, Paarlberg and Gouwens.

Now known by the motto of Faith, Family and Future, farming was once another of the main pillars of the village. South Holland retained its ethnic and agricultural heritage for over a century. One crop







#### CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

For the remainder of 2022, the Village will celebrate the 175th anniversary by giving out stickers, pins, t-shirts and more at various events. There will also be a reception in the fall. Details about the reception will be posted on southholland.org and on the Village Facebook page in the coming months.

did especially well-small onion bulbs-and made South Holland a hub for commercial production and distribution, earning the title "Onion Set Capital of the World"

"There was heavy farming into the 1950s and mid-1960s and beyond that we became a suburb as opposed to a rural community," De Graff says. As the landscape of the community evolved from farm fields to subdivisions, the demographics also began to see a shift. "It went from a rural community of primarily Dutch settlers into a suburban community with initially a number of other western and eastern European immigrants coming here, as well, to a number of African-Americans that came here in the 70s and 80s and 90s."

What was a 100% white farming community of 1,800 residents in 1930 now has a population numbering around 21,000 that is roughly 75% African-American, 18% White and 6% Hispanic or Asian American.

De Graff sees the cultural change in the village as one of the most significant parts of South Holland's history. "What I'm most thankful for and proud of is the ability that we've had to embrace diversity," he says.

As the village has progressed into modern times, it hasn't failed to retain the values it was built upon. "When you think about our history from rural to suburban, the biggest thing is values. We promote honesty and integrity. We really key in on service and what's unique is that whoever is in office is not

concerned about their political future. We're thankful to be able to serve in government, but we are apolitical. We do not want politics to be part of our governmental structure."

Family is still a focal point driving the village. "We have promoted traditional family values, knowing the importance of the family unit to the success of a community. And we've also promoted to the churches and schools and businesses a solid economic area. And we believe that when you have a strong faith component and a strong family component, it will lead to a bright future, and that's

why we have that longstanding motto of Faith, Family and Future." De Graff explains.

The first component of that motto is the village's unwavering dedication to faith. "Going back to the original roots of why people came here and that we have worked hard at is accentuating that we are a community of faith. That's one of those enduring legacies. It's been consistent. The first church was built in 1848—The First Reformed Church—and it still exists today. We have about 33 churches in town and that legacy continues," De Graff says.



De Graff has now served as mayor for 28 years and will soon welcome a great-grandchild, the ninth generation in his family to call South Holland home.

While placing priority on faith and family, DeGraff is excited about the future of South Holland. As village leaders enter a new eight-year plan outlining the strategic vision for 2030 that promises to expand the Town Center area and redevelop a number of businesses, he is confident that the village will become an even more unified community that can draw upon the best parts of its past while looking ahead and moving forward.



#### LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

2022 is also a significant year for South Holland because it marks the end of the Village's Vision 2022 strategic plan. This 10-year plan, launched in 2012, outlined goals for advancing the Village in terms of leadership, community connections, signature spaces, and beautification. Much was accomplished in the past 10 years and will be celebrated in an upcoming special edition of *South Holland Living*.

The Village administration is also developing the next strategic plan, which runs through 2030 and has an emphasis on the community coming together to enhance South Holland life.

The new plan will be shared in the coming months as well.



VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

# Cruise Might

### July 30 • 4-8pm 16056 South Park Ave







- \* Live Music
- \* Food Vendors
  - \* Yard Games
    - \* Gas Card Giveaways!

#### **CRUISE NIGHT**

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

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER





