

July 29 • 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!

Visit southholland.org for more info.

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor De Graff at Concert in the Park

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

What a great time of year! Summer is in full swing, and our annual 4th of July Celebration is upon us! The celebration of our nation's birthday in South Holland is always very special. We're back at Veterans Memorial Park for the most spectacular fireworks in the Chicago Southland region! We will again be providing a wide variety of family fun activities during the day, along with an evening of music by the Chicago Skyliners Big Band featuring Wayne Messmer.

This is the first summer that kicks off our Coming Together 2030 strategic plan. We have a series of wonderful events planned for this summer, including Cruise Night, Concert in the Park, and the Fun Run 5K. The purpose of these events is to gather together as neighbors and friends, in the warm weather and festive spirit unique to summertime, and grow closer together as a community.

South Holland is also home to many landmarks that are a must-visit this summer, which we detail in this issue. I challenge you to make your way through this bucket list, which includes parks, ice cream shops, and hidden gems you may not even know about (like our brand new pickleball courts!).

As we gather together this summer, we can be thankful for the freedoms we enjoy. It is a blessing to celebrate and grow together as a community, and it is my prayer that the Summer of 2023 is the best one yet.

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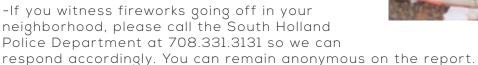
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DID YOU KNOW?

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. Those who light off fireworks can incur fines up to \$750.







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510 Thornwood Drive • South Holland, Illinois

Open daily from dawn to dusk

To sign up for a membership to Central Bark dog park, visit the Community Center front desk.

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southholland.org/centralbark

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

FROM SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORT SERVICES

Summer is a fun and enjoyable season with lots of opportunities for gatherings, socializing, and outdoor activities. In the midst of these festivities, however, it's important to be aware of the possibility of things like extreme heat and severe weather. South Holland's Public Safety Support Services (also known as PS3) have provided the following tips to help keep you and your family safe during these summer months.

- 1. Never leave pets or people in a car. It is never a good idea to leave a person, child, or animal in a car, but especially in the warm weather months. Even on 80-degree days, vehicle interiors can reach over 100 degrees. Infants and children are especially in danger of getting heat stroke or dying.
- **2. Drink water.** It is also very important to keep yourself and your pets hydrated during warm days. The more active you are, the more important it is for you to drink extra water. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink your H2O; make it a regular habit throughout the day.
- **3. Find air conditioning.** If your home does not have air conditioning, try to find some type of public place or cooling shelter. A few hours spent in the air conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat. Keep in mind that while electric fans may provide some comfort, when the temperature is in the high 90s they will not prevent heat-related illness.
- **4. Keep your house cool.** You can keep your house cooler by insulating it and covering your windows with drapes or shades. Use window reflectors such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard to reflect heat back outside.
- **5. Dress appropriately and wear sunscreen.** Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool down and can make you dehydrated. If you must go outdoors, protect yourself from the sun by wearing loose, lightweight, light-colored clothes. A wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses are recommended as well.
- **6. Avoid strenuous activities.** High heat and outdoor activities don't always mix well. If possible, try to limit your outdoor activity to when it's coolest. If you have to work outside, try to take frequent breaks in shady areas.
- **7. Check on your family and friends**. Older adults, children and people with chronic medical conditions are at high risk of heat-related injury and death. Check in on them often during the hottest days.
- **8. Eat light.** Hot, heavy meals add heat to your body. It's best to consume light, fresh foods to keep you cool and provide proper nutrients.

SEVERE WEATHER TIPS

Severe weather can happen at any time of the year. Preparing for floods, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms before they strike will help you stay safe throughout the year.

Know the hazards. Be aware of the hazards that exist where you live.

Know when to expect dangerous weather. Monitor forecasts and information from your local National Weather Service, and always have more than one way to receive emergency alerts and notifications. Sign up for South Holland's Smart911 emergency notification system at southholland.org.

Be alert and ready. Be aware of issued watches, warnings and advisories.

Have a plan to stay safe. Make sure that each member of your family knows what protective actions to take during each level of an emergency.

VILLAGE NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



TOOL LENDING CENTER

Are you part of a neighborhood group, church, organization or business looking to give back to the community? As part of the Coming Together 2030 plan, the Village has put together a new program called the Tool Lending Center. This is a mobile trailer filled with tools for yard work such as lawn mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, rakes, etc. We encourage groups to use these tools for a group cleanup day or to help individuals in need of yard work. For more information and to register for the trailer, visit southholland.org/toollendingcenter.



NEW BUSINESSES

This spring, we celebrated the ribbon cutting for a pair of businesses located at 930 E 162nd St. Protected Biometrics offers fingerprinting, background checks, tenant screenings, and more. JMC License & Title provides services similar to the DMV (licenses, registration, etc.) but without the long lines! Let's give them a warm South Holland welcome!



ROAD REPAIRS

This summer we are continuing our 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.



FLOWERS ON THE PORCH

This summer, the Neighborhood Groups Organizing Committee encourages South Holland residents to place a flower pot on their front porch with an American flag in it. This is a simple way to beautify our neighborhoods while also uniting around a common goal. It will show a common patriotism for our country as well, just in time for the 4th of July!

OUT AND ABOUT

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. Reverand Roy Patterson, of the Moody Bible Institute, was the keynote speaker. Pastor Alfonzo Surrett, Jr., of Calvary Community Church, was the recipient of the Mel De Vries Award.





SHBA STATE OF THE VILLAGE LUNCHEON

Mayor Don De Graff and the Village Administration hosted the annual State of the Village Luncheon for the South Holland Business Association (SHBA). Attendees learned about the latest updates and initiatives happening in South Holland, especially as it pertains to local businesses.





OUT AND ABOUT

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 75 entries, a moving remembrance ceremony was held at Veterans Memorial Park.











OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE









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 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. any day at Fire Station 1.

July 1 and August 5 COFFÉE WITH FIREFIGHTERS

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

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 locations.

July 4 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Noon-10pm, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th PI

Families are invited to a fun-filled day in our premier park that features food, live music, and a slew of fun activities, and the fireworks show is back at Veterans Park this year as well! Visit southholland.org for more information.

July 4 and 20, Aug 10 and 24 SOUTH HOLLAND

MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERTS

The South Holland Municipal Band performs a series of free concerts over the summer. All of the concerts are held at Veterans Memorial Park except for the July 20 concert, which is at Celebrate Senior Living.

Visit southholland.org for more details.

July 11 and August 8 COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

July 11: 7pm, August 8: 10am, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

The South Holland Police Department hosts a Community Policing Meeting on the second Tuesday of every month, alternating mornings and evenings. This is an opportunity to address any questions or concerns for the Police Department.

July 22 **GARDEN WALK**

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

Take part in a walk through amazing, creative, and decorative local gardens. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased on the day of the walk at the Veterans Park main entrance. From there, you will receive a map of the Garden Walk locations.

July 29 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 29 CRUISE NIGHT

4-8pm, South Park Ave & 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. Free to all vehicle owners and spectators.

August 5 EDUCATION FAIR

10am-2pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

The South Holland Education Commission is hosting an Education Fair, featuring South Holland schools, free dental and vision screenings, food, raffle prizes and more. The South Holland Police Department will also be holding their annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway at the fair.

August 10 CONCERT IN THE PARK

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

Enjoy a free Ravinia-style concert in our beautiful premier park! Attendees can purchase food from a food truck or bring their own. This is a ticketed event; get your tickets at southholland.org.

August 12 STEPPIN' & LINE DANCING

12-2pm, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Place

Put your dancing shoes on and head to the park for Steppin' & Line Dancing! Instructors will lead everyone, so even if you're new to these dance moves, you will learn all the right steps. Various Chicago area DJs will be there to provide the music.

September 16 FUN RUN 5K WALK/RUN

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

Join us for a fun and entertaining 5K run through the streets of South Holland. This event raises money for Tabitha House for Women. Register at southholland.org by Jul 23 to guarantee T-shirt size.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

July 19 CARDIO DRUMMING

7pm

Mary Commodore of Get Fit Nutrition brings together drumsticks and an exercise ball to create one of the most fun workouts you'll ever do. Registration required.

July 20 LINCOLN PARK OBSERVATORY BUS TRIP

9:30am-3pm

Join us on a visit to the Lincoln Park
Conservatory and Zoo. Hop on a coach bus
and enjoy a relaxing morning excursion
with your family. The bus departs from the
Library at 10 a.m. sharp. A \$25 deposit is
required to reserve a seat.

July 27 BLOOD DRIVE

1-6pm

The Library is partnering with Versiti Blood Center of Illinois for a blood drive. Preregister for an appointment by calling the Information Desk at 708.527.3160. One lucky blood donor will be awarded a gift card.

July 28

ILINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE MOBILE EVENT

10am-2pm

Get your driver's license renewed, update your license plate sticker, or get your state ID.

Aug 2 and 20 FAMILY DAYS AT THE WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS

Let's enjoy a day at the ballpark with the Windy City Thunderbolts! Register at Youth Services for two free tickets per family for either day.



A LEGACY OF\LOVE

By Dr. Renee Allison of New Life House of God

"If I were to speak with eloquence in earth's many languages, and in the heavenly tongues of angels, yet I didn't express myself with love, my words would be reduced to the hollow sound of nothing more than a clanging cymbal."

These are words written in 1 Corinthians 13 from The Passion Translation. They remind me of a conversation I had with my mother when I was 14 years old. I, like many, didn't have a love reference point. In other words, I was never told that I was loved by my mother. I believed by her deeds that she loved me, but I needed to hear the words. I needed to know because I had never heard her say it. Scripture tell us in Proverbs 18 that death and life are in the power of the tongue; therefore, words are important, and we need to express our feelings in both words and deeds.

Have you ever had a question that you needed answered but you were afraid to ask? My mother was an extremely hardworking woman—at this point a single mom diligently providing for her family—and I really appreciated her sacrifice for us. But I needed to hear the words. So with trembling knees, my heart racing fast and with a shaky voice, I asked her the question, "Do you love me?"

I was so concerned about her response because I had never asked a question like this of anyone. Initially, I saw pain in her face. I saw her looking in my eyes to determine why would I ask such a question. Then I saw her face began to soften like a beautiful unfolding flower as she realized that I had no ulterior motives... I just needed to know that I was loved. Without hesitation she said, "Of course I love

you!" When my mother spoke those words to me, she left me a Legacy of Love!

The word of God tells us in John 3:16 (TPT), "For here is the way God loved the world—He gave His only, unique Son as a gift.



Dr. Renee Allison

So now everyone who believes in Him will never perish but experience everlasting life." Father God demonstrated His love for us by giving us His Son. He left us a Legacy of Love!

Millions of people right now may never have heard or even felt the love of a mother or father and feel the void or emptiness of never being told that they are loved or valued. But today we want you to know that you are indeed loved! God showed us through His son Jesus, and His word tells us over and over again, that He, our Father, loves us.

1 Corinthians 13 says that love never stops loving. That's what happens when we leave a Legacy of Love. It continues through the course of time, to reach past our reach. Love—especially God's love—can cover us and outlast hurt, shame, guilt, and hate. It can even outlast death. Those three simple yet powerful words, "I Love YOU,"

have indeed left a mark in my heart that has reached my children, grandchild, and now great-grandchildren and others.

The Legacy of Love still lingers in my heart and soul and has been the impetus of what I get to do as I serve in my life and community. Faith works by love and allows love to have its perfect complete work in us. Jesus tells us in John 12:34 (ESV), "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." Likewise, in I Corinthians 16:14 (ESV) we are advised, "Let all that you do be done in love."

Let us all leave a Legacy of Love!

The South Holland Garden Club Presents:

Garden Walk

Saturday, July 22 10:00am to 2:00pm

(rain or shine)

Starting at Veterans Memorial Park

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased on the day of the walk at Veterans Park, from 10am-1:30pm.



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 ages 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. Please register at southholland.org.

Join Us!

South Holland residents are welcome 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.

History of Pitch, Hit & Run in South Holland:

South Holland began hosting this event in 2021, and the Village is proud to have seen its fair share of participants advance to the highest levels of the competition. In 2021, Scarlett Widelski (age 7/8 softball division) and Kayla Hearn (age 13/14 softball division) were two athletes who advanced to the White Sox Team Championship, both finishing in 2nd place. In 2022, 5 total athletes advanced to the White Sox Team Championship, with Derrick Davis (age 13/14 baseball division) and Charleigh Widelski (age 9/10 softball division) winning the championship in their respective age groups.

Pitch, Hit & Run Saturday, July 29 10am Register at southholland.org. With her qualifying Team Championship score, Charleigh ultimately received an invitation and an all-expenses paid trip to participate in the Pitch, Hit & Run National Championship at the MLB World Series in Houston, Texas, where she finished 3rd in the country.

We are proud of our young athletes! Way to represent South Holland! Join us for a fun and entertaining 5K run/walk through the streets of South Holland!

2023 SOUTH HOLLAND

FUN RUN

Saturday, September 16
Opening Ceremony: 7am
Veterans Memorial Park • 500 E 160th Place

- Costumes/Accessories Encouraged
- Finisher's Medals
- Cash Prizes
- "Fun" Stations Along the Course!

Scan to learn more and register!



Register by July 23 to guarantee your T-shirt size!

Interested in sponsorship? Email events@southholland.org

YOUR 2023 SOUTH HOLLAND BUCKETLIST

7 SPOTS TO SPEND TIME THIS SUMMER

By Carrie Steinweg



1. SoHo Sweets 16129 South Park Ave

What's better on a summer day than a big scoop of ice cream? You can indulge in that creamy frozen treat and much more at SoHo Sweets. You can also swing by for elevated breakfast options like waffles with fruit, breakfast croissants, breakfast burritos and a charcuterie brunch-board, or enjoy a number of salads and sandwiches with sides like sweet potato fries, bacon twists and buffalo parmesan tots. Several menu items are gluten-free. The extensive coffee menu features Kusanya coffee, and there are other brand names you'll recognize,



like Sherman's Ice Cream and donuts from Calumet Bakery. Best of all, you can enjoy the beautiful weather of the season and linger on the porch or outdoor patio space that includes a cozy fire pit and fun selfie station.



2. Veterans Memorial Park 500 E 160th Place

Pair a meal or treat at SoHo Sweets with some relaxing time at nearby Veterans Memorial Park. South Holland's premier park, it offers playground equipment, a pavilion and picnic tables, gazebo, walking paths, restroom facilities, tennis courts, soccer fields and a wildlife observation deck. There's a pleasant and peaceful vibe and it's a perfect spot for a leisurely stroll, to curl up with a book, or to have a picnic in the shade. There's also plenty of open space for getting a kite up in the air!



3. Kirk's BBQ 16102 South Park Ave

Feeling hungry? Summer and BBQ are a perfect pair, and there's no better place to dig in than at Kirk's BBQ. The aroma of slow cooked meats and tangy sauce will draw you in to this spot that has received a big thumbs up from Windy City Live and Chicago's Best. From ribs and rib tips to chicken and hot links, Kirk's has you covered. Seafood lovers can also get their fill of catfish and fried shrimp. Prepare to get messy and have napkins on hand-but you may not even use them because this stuff is finger-lickin' good!



4. Central Bark Dog Park 510 Thornwood Dr

Our furry friends love summer too, as well as the chance to get out and exercise and hang with other canines. Take them out on a doggie date to this members-only dog park with key card access gates, lighting, drinking fountains for dogs and humans, and a shade shelter. There are also separate play areas for small dogs and for larger dogs so pet owners can feel more comfortable letting them explore. It's open every day from sunrise to sunset. This is a membersonly dog park; sign up for an affordable membership at the Community Center.





5. Cunis Candies & Ice Cream 1030 E162nd St

Your summer just won't be complete until you pay a visit to a South Holland icon-Cunis Candies & Ice Cream, which has been serving customers and satisfying their sweet tooth for 90 years now. Stepping in the doors is a fun throwback to simpler times where you can still buy freshly-made handdipped candies and have a sundae made with homemade ice cream loaded with whipped cream, fresh fruit and nuts. This family business has also been featured on Chicago's Best!



6. Gouwens Park 159th St and Seton Rd

If you're planning for some active summer days, Gouwens Park is the place to be. This large, 27-acre public space is one of the larger recreation facilities in the area and features a sports complex with baseball/softball fields, tennis courts, a canoe/kayak launch and paved trails for walking, jogging, biking or rollerblading. The waterway trail is a nice spot for beginning paddlers in this stretch of the Little Calumet River with wooded banks and usually slow-flowing water.



7. Pickleball Courts At Paarlberg Park – 173rd St and Paxton Ave

If you have not yet jumped on the pickleball bandwagon, it's time to get started! This popular and fast-growing sport has come to South Holland with new pickleball courts at Paarlberg Park equipped with a sport court surface (four courts total) and restroom facilities. The courts are lighted and open from 7am-10pm. The sport has a following of friendly, enthusiastic players of all skill-levels who are eager to find camaraderie on the court. Get out to meet some new people, get some exercise and have some fun!

These are just some of the many spots in town to enjoy this summer. South Holland is also home to popcorn shops, a golf simulator, several Little League games all summer long, and more!



A DAY OF FAMILY, FUN, AND FIREWORKS

The Village of South Holland is eagerly anticipating the 2023 4th of July Celebration! This year, the entire celebration will take place at Veterans Memorial Park, including the fireworks show! 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!

FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

Noon-4pm 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: The day will kick off with a Kiddie Bike Parade! Kids ages 2-12 are invited to decorate their bikes in red, white and blue and ride the path at Veterans Park. All participants must line up at the promenade by 12:00pm, and the parade will begin at 12:15.

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

- Carnival games
- Hippo Bungee Grab
- Climbing wall
- Petting zoo and pony wheel
- Rain room
- Balloonist and airbrush artist
- And more!





Food: SoHo Sweets is running the concession stand for the day! Pick up a delicious burger, hot dog, or sweet treat at Park Central! There will also be food trucks and local food vendors in the park.

Music: There will be a variety of live music in the bandstand all day long!

Noon-2pm: South Holland Municipal Band

2-4pm: Return2Soul

7-9pm: Chicago Skyliners Big Band with Wayne Messmer

All activities are free, except for the food vendors. Tents and grills are not permitted in the park that day. The park will close at 5pm to prepare for the fireworks show and will reopen at 6pm.



FIREWORKS SHOW

Park Reopens: 6pm Fireworks begin: Shortly after dusk Veterans Memorial Park - 500 E 160th Pl

Enjoy the best fireworks show in the region! This year, the fireworks are being held at Veterans Park. Families are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chairs to watch the fireworks show from the sprawling lawn of the park.

What's New?

In order to make the event a more enjoyable experience, we have implemented the following security measures for the fireworks show only:

- Kids 18 and younger must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian
- No backpacks
- No grills or tents
- All items brought into the park are subject to search upon entry
- · All guests will be subject to a metal detection screening

PARKING

Free parking is available at the following locations:

- Gravel lot at South Park Ave and 160th Pl
- First Reformed Church 15924 South Park Ave
- Gravel lot behind SoHo Sweets/Town Center Commons (off E 161st St)

View additional parking info at southholland.org.





FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL - NOON-4PM

Kiddie Bike Parade • Inflatables • Games Food Vendors • Live Music • And More!

Tents and grills are not permitted. The park will close at 5pm to prepare for the fireworks show, and will reopen at 6pm.

SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW

Fireworks Show in the Park!
Park Opens: 6pm
Fireworks Begin: Shortly After Dusk

In order to make the event a more enjoyable experience, we have implemented the following security measures for the fireworks show only:

- Kids 18 and younger must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian
- No backpacks
- No grills or tents
- All items brought into the park are subject to search upon entry.
- All guests will be subject to a metal detection screening.

Arrive early to beat the lines!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING PARKING, VISIT SOUTHHOLLAND.ORG.



*******ECRWSSEDDM********* LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER





