

SOUTH HOLLAND

Living

July | August 2024

Celebrating our Nation!



SOUTH
HOLLAND

4TH OF JULY

Celebration

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024

Veterans Memorial Park • 500 East 160th Place

FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL
NOON-4PM

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
9PM

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.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
INCLUDING PARKING, VISIT [SOUTHHOLLAND.ORG](https://southholland.org).**



The Village of
**South
Holland**
*Faith, Family,
& Future*

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor De Graff at the ribbon cutting for the Family Centered Educational Agency

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

We're off to a great start! Our 2024 summer of fun is now in full swing. What a wonderful and diverse assortment of our community life paraded along South Park on Memorial Day! It was a great parade followed by a meaningful ceremony to remember and honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to serve in our military on our behalf.

As we enter July we approach another milestone together, celebrating the 248th birthday of the United States of America. Our Village has planned an excellent day of special events and activities for all ages to enjoy at the best park in the Chicago Southland, our own Veterans Memorial Park. As we approach dusk on July 4, we will have the opportunity to sit back and enjoy the most spectacular fireworks display anywhere in Chicagoland.

As you peruse this issue of *South Holland Living*, you'll enjoy learning about many more exciting upcoming summer and fall events here in South Holland. You'll also read about another example of the latest technology our South Holland Police Department has obtained to continue its desire to provide the highest degree of public safety.

Enjoy this July/August issue of *South Holland Living* magazine. It reminds me how thankful I am that God continues to bless the Village of South Holland to be a vibrant community. We are on a mission to serve, with a methodology designed for us to come together, motivated by our desire to enhance and empower each other's lives, raising the bar even higher for us to enjoy our beloved community of South Holland, Illinois.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

VILLAGE BOARD

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Don A. De Graff

Clerk

Dr. Sallie Penman

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Andrew Johnson, Jr.
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VILLAGE NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



FIREWORKS SAFETY

With the July 4 holiday upon us, please remember the proper guidelines to ensure fireworks safety. Individual home-based fireworks are illegal in Illinois. They can be dangerous to you and those around you and can be disturbing to your neighbors. Those who light off fireworks can incur fines of up to \$750. If you witness fireworks going off in your neighborhood, please call the South Holland Police Department at 708.331.3131. Instead of lighting fireworks at home, we recommend attending the Village of South Holland's 4th of July Celebration at Veterans Memorial Park on July 4!



PERMIT FEE VACATION

Looking to do a home project this summer? The Community Development department is offering a Permit Fee Vacation from July 8-19, 2024! This means you will not have to pay permit fees for qualifying home projects submitted during that time frame. Please visit southholland.org for pertinent details about this program, to ensure you qualify.



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 Tool Lending Center. This is a mobile trailer filled with tools for yard work such as lawnmowers, 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.



SMART911 EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Are you signed up to receive emergency alerts from the Village? We encourage all South Holland residents and business owners/managers to sign up for Smart911 Emergency Alerts. With it, we have the ability to place thousands of phone calls per minute (to both landlines and mobile phones), and to send out texts immediately. You can also fill out a profile on your household so that first responders can help you faster in an emergency. Visit southholland.org/smart911 for more information and to sign up.



VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

Cruise Night

July 27 • 4-8pm
16056 South Park Ave



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

NEW THIS YEAR:
Food and Beverage Garden!

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.

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, a moving Remembrance Ceremony was held at Veterans Memorial Park, featuring the music of the South Holland Master Chorale, South Holland Municipal Band, Chicago Christian Band, and 144th Army Band.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

MUNICIPAL CAREER DAY

The Village partnered with Thornwood High School and Unity Christian Academy for Municipal Career Day. Twelve students visited with Village department heads to learn about a career in municipal government. The interactive day included the use of equipment such as a fire hose and excavators, a Q&A with South Holland police officers, and lunch with Mayor De Graff.



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 Fellowship in observance of the National Day of Prayer. Mayor De Graff and several South Holland pastors prayed for our Village, State, and Nation. Spirit of God's Pastor Brian Kamstra was the keynote speaker. Evangelist Betty Wilson, of Breaking of Bread Fellowship Ministries, was the recipient of the Mel De Vries Award.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Concert in the Park

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 5 p.m. any day at Fire Station 1.

July 6 and August 3

COFFEE 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 where pastors and congregants of each church will be praying.

July 4

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Noon-10pm

Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

Families are invited to a fun-filled day in our premier park featuring food, live music, and many family-friendly activities. In addition to kids' attractions such as carnival games, inflatables, balloon artists, and more, there will also be food trucks and live music for all ages. The fireworks show will kick off in the park at dusk. The park will close from 5-6pm to prep for the fireworks.

Visit southholland.org for more information.

July 4, July 25, Aug 29, Sept 2

SOUTH HOLLAND MUNICIPAL BAND

CONCERTS

The South Holland Municipal Band performs a series of free concerts over the summer. Each concert is held at Veterans Memorial Park except for the September 2 concert, which is at Paarlberg Park for the Heritage Fest. Visit southholland.org for more details.

July 9 and August 13 **COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING**

*July 9: 7pm, August 13: 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 20 **GARDEN WALK**

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

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 20 **PITCH, HIT & RUN**

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

The Village is 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 27 **CRUISE NIGHT**

4-8pm, South Park Ave and 161st St
Stroll South Park Avenue to view classic, custom, antique and exotic cars, trucks and motorcycles. There will also be music, food trucks, and—new this year—a food and beverage garden! Free to all vehicle owners and spectators.

August 9 **BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK GIVEAWAY**

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

The South Holland Police Department and Education Commission are giving away backpacks filled with school supplies! The backpacks will be given to children from kindergarten to 8th grade. This giveaway is for South Holland residents who have a valid ID. For more information, visit southholland.org.

August 10 **STEPPIN' & LINE DANCING**

*12-2pm
Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl*
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.

August 17 **CONCERT IN THE PARK**

*6-9pm
Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl*
Enjoy a free Ravinia-style concert featuring Chicago band Hey Jimmy! Attendees are welcome to bring food and drinks. This is a ticketed event; get your tickets at southholland.org.

September 2 **HERITAGE FEST**

*10am-4pm, Paarlberg Park, 17234 Paxton
Ave*

The South Holland Historical Society is hosting its annual Heritage Fest on Labor Day. The event celebrates local history and heritage, with crafters, wood carvers, traditional Dutch food, and performances by the South Holland Municipal Band and Master Chorale.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

July 10 or Aug 18

MEET US AT THE BALLGAME!

July 10: 6:35pm, Aug 18: 1:05pm

Enjoy an afternoon or evening game of the Windy City Thunderbolts. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a ticket pass.

July 19

**MOVEMENT WITH MOANA FEATURING
THE BAREFOOT HAWAIIAN**

1pm

The Princess series returns with Movement with Moana! Traditional Polynesian dance troupe The Barefoot Hawaiian will lead in dancing and fun. Stick around and meet Moana for a cool craft and photos!

July 27

**AMAZING ANIMALS WITH
CROSSTOWN EXOTICS**

3pm

Stop in for a special critter-filled afternoon and visit with some slithery friends from Crosstown Exotics.

July 31

**SENIOR BUS TRIP TO DRURY LANE
OAK BROOK THEATRE**

12pm

Seniors are invited to see the show "Ain't Misbehavin," the toe-tapping, finger-snapping revue that journeys through the Harlem Renaissance to the music of legend Fats Waller. Registration is \$25 per person and must be done in person at the Reference Desk.

August 3

SUMMER READING FINALE

6:30pm

Celebrate the culmination of the summer reading program with a bubble truck, axe throwing, tacos, Icee's and a drive-in movie after dusk.

August 9

**IL Secretary of State Mobile Event
with the Village of South Holland**

10am-2pm

Get your driver's license renewed, update your license plate sticker, or get your state ID. Please call the Reference Desk to schedule a time slot.



South Holland Garden Club Presents:

Garden Walk

**Saturday, July 20
10:00am to 2:00pm**

(rain or shine)

**Starting at
Veterans Memorial Park**

FAITH IN

Motion

SUMMER SANITY

How to make the most of your time with others this summer

By Pastor Jim Oord of First Reformed Church

As I write this, I'm sitting on my couch doing calming breathing exercises, recovering from a day in the West Loop trying to herd/entertain/guard/placate my 8-year-old son and his 7-year-old friend. Both are high-energy, eager to explore, and always plotting something.

This issue of *South Holland Living* hits right in the middle of summer fun: barbecues and bike rides, pick-up games and popsicles, running through sprinklers and family reunions. I know every parent, grandparent, godparent, auntie and uncle have had moments like I'm having right now... tired out from a full day while my son is still bouncing off the walls.

I tell everyone who asks, South Holland is a great place to raise kids, and it's always a fun place to be during the summer. There are so many great opportunities for summer fun and activities (just flip through this issue or ask around the Library or Community Center). But tonight I'm not writing about Summer Activities... I'm writing about what I need (and maybe you do, too): Summer Sanity.

Proverbs 19:8 says, "The one who gets wisdom loves life." I'd like to love life and stay sane this summer. Here are some tips I'm trying to learn in Summer 2024. Will you join me?

1. Set Aside Time

One thing I always tell soon-to-be-married couples in pre-marital counseling sessions is that they should have a meeting once a week where they pull out their phones (or planners) and write in a couple of



Pastor Jim Oord

hours every week to just be together. They always scoff—we're madly in love, we're going to share a home, why on earth would we have to schedule time together?

But we all soon learn how quickly the weeks fill up, especially if you're in a household with children! All of the activities, events, meetings, games, chores, etc., pile up and before you know it, a week has gone by where you've barely had time for yourself, let alone time to just sit and be with the people you love.

So plan it out. Call it whatever you want: "time together," "peace and quiet," "do not disturb," etc. But once it's on the calendar, think of the freedom you'll have. Someone calls you and asks you to do something that evening and all you have to say is: "Sorry, I've got something on my calendar already." They'll always believe you.

In a busy summer, set aside time to rest and just be together. Maybe we can keep each other a little saner.

2. Put Away Phones

There's nothing wicked or evil about smartphones. But they do demand a lot of your attention. You can be in the middle of a conversation with your preteen daughter about some drama with her friends, and then you feel your phone vibrate. Even if you don't check it right away, it triggers a little alarm in your brain... who's texting me? What news am I missing? Who posted what?

Our phones take us out of the moment. Even a quick little check takes your attention off of the people you're with, creates an interruption, and mentally shuts down the connection you have with the people around you.

What might happen if your family or friend group committed to one meal a week where everyone put their phones on "airplane mode" for the duration of the meal? Or you could buy one of those mesh shoe organizers that hangs from a closet door. Label it "the cell phone parking lot" and set aside a few hours where everyone in your house has to park their phone and just be together. Use that time instead to play a game, watch a movie and talk about it, or sit and give Grandma the gift of a half-hour of your full attention.

You don't have to lock up your smartphones all the time, but I think it's worth trying for a little bit every week... who knows what summer sanity it might unlock?

3. Allow Yourself Some Grace

Every time you look at Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, or whatever your drug of choice is, you will scroll through a whole array of people who look like they're having a better summer than you. Look at their perfect beach day... their daughter's birthday party was over-the-top awesome... that block party was rocking... can you believe the vacation they're on!

No one posts pictures of the tantrums and meltdowns, the frantic packing, the sand down their swimsuit, the cake ground into the carpet. You're just seeing one snapshot, usually one that was manufactured to show that one perfect moment. And it always leaves you wondering: am I doing enough... what am I missing out on... are my kids getting enough... is my summer lame?

Can we all agree to give ourselves a little grace this summer? For every picture-perfect moment we experience, can we commit to being okay with the days in between? Can we be gracious with ourselves? There are some days when you and your spouse can give each other a high five: you kept the kids alive for another day... and that's enough. It's okay to have normal days, boring days, whiny days, frustrated days, unplanned days.

4. Give Time to Others

If your summer feels insane, you'll be surprised what some time focused outside of yourself can do for you. Make a pitcher of lemonade and invite that older couple from down the street to sit on the front steps with you. Throw a baseball around with your kids. Volunteer a couple of times a month (pastors usually have tons of ideas of where you can get involved!). Get out of your own head and give some of your time to others.

Anything that can get our egos out of the driver's seat and focus our attention on others can be remarkably healing, giving us a fresh perspective on life and keeping us sane.

These are some things I've been working on in Summer 2024. I'm hoping they'll lead to a summer like no other with friends and family in our Village Like No Other.

BEYOND

THE FINISH LINE

SOUTH HOLLAND WOMAN INSPIRES THROUGH VOLUNTEERING AND MULTIPLE MARATHONS

By Carrie Steinweg



South Holland resident Mireya Ibarra is a shining example of a good neighbor and a true inspiration in serving her community. In 1988 her church, Spirit of God Fellowship, started Restoration Ministries, a non-profit organization that provides programming and support for at-risk youth, addicts and families in need. Ibarra got involved with the organization 28 years ago and continues to volunteer there faithfully.

She was inspired by her pastor and founder of Restoration Ministries who encouraged her to serve and help others.

"I started serving at the food pantry and the after-school program for Harvey kids. I also helped at the free Spring and Fall Seniors Banquets," Ibarra says. "I still volunteer at the food pantry on Saturdays when I'm not running a race or training."

When she says "running a race," she's not talking about a little jog around the neighborhood or even a 5K or 10K. Since running her first race just a decade ago, she has participated in more than 100 half-marathons, 19 marathons, and three 50K ultra-marathons. Ten of those marathons were the Chicago Marathon, including a virtual one done during the pandemic. For most of these races, she has raised money for Restoration Ministries.



"I started running in 2014. Running a marathon was on my bucket list, so I did my first one in 2014. My youngest was a senior in college at that time and she didn't need me as much, so it was a good time for me to start running," she says.

Once she ran her first race, she was hooked. "I love the freedom of running. You're by yourself and I'm connecting with God," she says. "I also enjoy meeting so many people and making new friends."



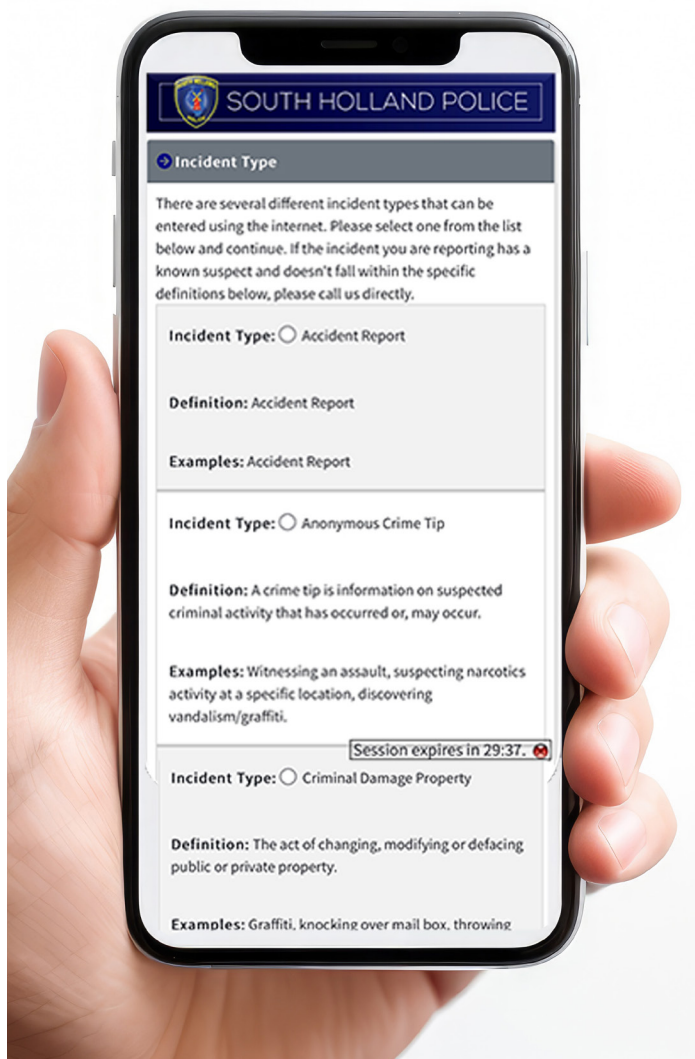
A native of Mexico, Ibarra has been a South Holland resident for 20 years. She runs her own business as a Mary Kay consultant and also volunteers as a pacer in half-marathons.

Ibarra is a mother of three. Her oldest son, Francisco, lives in Cancun, son Guillermo is an Army veteran and her daughter, Nancy is a graduate of University of Illinois – Urbana with degrees in business and marketing.

"Whenever there is a need, Mireya is always there to help," says Karen Vrdolyak, Vice President of Development and Administration for Restoration Ministries. "She's even modeled in our Tabitha House Fashion Show twice! This is totally out of her comfort zone, but she does it because she wants to help. She is a weekly volunteer at our Saturday Food Pantry when she doesn't have a run or training. She is just an amazing, generous, kind, and fun person!" 🔥

RAISING THE BAR

CUTTING-EDGE TECH AND NEW ALLIANCES BOOST SAFETY IN SOUTH HOLLAND



The South Holland Police Department (SHPD) has a long history of embracing innovative technology and strategic partnerships to enhance public safety. With the implementation of the new innovations listed below, South Holland is poised for significant improvements in emergency response and crime prevention. These advancements, coupled with new training opportunities for local officers, promise to enhance the safety and security of our residents and businesses alike.

ONLINE POLICE REPORTS

This spring, the SHPD launched a program that brings a new level of convenience to the public by enabling the filing of police reports online. Until this point, all public-initiated police reports had to be filed in-person at the Police Department. Now, residents can submit a report immediately from the comfort of their home using their smartphone or computer. This convenient reporting option will help ensure that incidents such as property damage, theft, and lost property will be reported, leading to a safer community! South Holland is the first village in the south suburbs to adopt this technology.

Visit southholland.org/policerreport for more information and to file a report.



ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

This same program allows individuals to submit anonymous tips to police. You can submit tips about a crime or suspicious activity without having to identify yourself. When filing a Tip Report, you can even include files such as photos/videos, names or addresses of involved suspects, vehicle descriptions, and a description of the crime or suspicious activity observed.

Tips can be submitted at southholland.org/crimetips or by texting 833.426.0894.

HIGH-TECH DRONE

The Village has acquired a state-of-the-art drone specifically designed for police work. This advanced drone will effectively serve as an additional first responder. It can be used for high-priority calls in progress, locating missing persons, managing special events, capturing footage of traffic accidents to aid investigators in understanding the scene, and more.

The drone can be deployed in under 45 seconds and can travel at speeds of up to 45 mph, enabling it to arrive at accident or incident scenes ahead of our officers. Once on site, the drone operator can relay real-time information to first responders en route to the scene. In addition to capturing overhead photos and videos, it can construct a 3D model of the accident site. This 3D model can be used as evidence by investigators and assist first responders in making quicker, more informed decisions to save lives.

A notable feature of the drone is its thermal imaging capability, which is exceptionally useful for search and rescue operations. In cases where a child or elderly resident goes missing, the drone's thermal detection can locate them, even among dense trees, significantly reducing the time and resources required compared to ground searches by officers.



A special certification is required for police officers and other government agents to operate this type of drone. South Holland's drone team is comprised of six operators who have been certified and licensed by the F.A.A. (Federal Aviation Administration) with a Remote Pilot License.

"South Holland is one of the first communities in the south suburbs to have a drone in its police department," says Police Chief Shawn Staples. "This technology will be invaluable to our police department and will benefit the South Holland community overall."

VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS

The South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, led by our own Chief Shawn Staples as President, has relocated its headquarters to South Holland, now situated on the municipal campus of Village Hall. Additionally, the Illinois State Police's Crimes Scene Investigation (CSI) and Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit have established offices in the same building.

This collaboration offers significant benefits to South Holland. When a traffic crash or crime scene requires a response from the Illinois State Police, their new close proximity allows them to arrive within minutes, a substantial improvement over the previous response times from their location in Joliet. Moreover, their State Anti-Violence Enforcement (SAVE) team is partnering with the South Holland Police Department, enabling our officers to ride along and learn advanced crime-fighting techniques.

These developments will significantly enhance the quality of life for those who live and work in South Holland. From advanced technology that streamlines reporting to the numerous advantages of utilizing a police drone, and the close partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, the Village is continuing its commitment to relentlessly identify ways to enhance public safety. 🔥

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

The Village of
**South
Holland**
*Faith, Family,
& Future*

2024 SOUTH HOLLAND

FUN RUN

5K



Saturday, September 21
Opening Ceremony: 7am
Veterans Memorial Park • 500 E 160th Place

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

**Earlybird
deadline
July 31!**



CONCERT IN THE PARK



August 17
6-9pm

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Enjoy a Ravinia-style concert in our beautiful premier park!



Featuring Hey Jimmy

Tickets
\$10



NEW THIS YEAR:
Order a charcuterie tray
from SoHo Sweets!

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

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PERMIT #4

Pitch Hit & Run

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

WHEN

Saturday, July 20
10am

WHERE

Veterans Memorial Park
500 East 160th Place

WHO

Baseball and Softball divisions
for players ages 7-14



Register at southholland.org.

TM/© 2022 MLB



southholland.org