

SOUTH HOLLAND

Living

March | April 2023



A Fresh Start for Spring



Easter EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 • 11:00 AM

**Veterans Memorial Park
500 E 160th Place – Rain or Shine!
FREE to South Holland Children
(ages 1-10 years; limit 4 per household)**

**Children are divided into five age groups
and will hunt for eggs filled with candy.**

Bring a basket or paper bag to collect your goodies.

- **Pre-registration (with proof of residency) is required.**
- **Sign up at the South Holland Community Center.**
Registration ends March 24,
or whenever spots are filled.

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor De Graff welcomes the owners of mSEED Group at their ribbon cutting

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

And so it begins... we're off to a great start as we enter the spring of 2023! There are so many exciting events and programs to look forward to as we enter this season of growth and renewal. I personally am thankful for the mild winter we've experienced to date. Now, as we begin to look forward, we are getting in gear to bring in a productive, active and fun spring season with the events and programs we have planned.

We have concluded our Vision 2022 strategic plan, but the four main tenets established in that plan are not going away. The Village will always have at its core Responsive and Progressive Leadership, A Connected Community, Clean Bright and Beautiful, and Signature Spaces and Places. We are holding onto these basic tenets as we begin the initial stages of our *Coming Together 2030* plan. The Village leadership has scheduled a number of meetings to meet with the leadership of our churches, schools, businesses, service organizations, and residential neighborhoods.

We as a Village Board and Administration are excited to find out how we can spend more meaningful time together. We are eager to discover ways to interact with each other, to create, and to improve the quality of life that we can experience together here in the Village of South Holland, Illinois.

We're off to a great start! We are looking forward to joining our hearts and hands to make a difference as we begin this exciting new venture of coming together, starting right now in 2023.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

VILLAGE BOARD

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Don A. De Graff

Clerk

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



PICKLEBALL COURT COMING

Everyone's favorite new sport is coming to South Holland! The Village is building four brand-new pickleball courts at Paarlberg Park, beginning this spring! Each of the courts are lighted and are equipped with a sport court surface. A new restroom and water fountain will be built near the courts as well, and there will be covered seating. Follow southholland.org and/or the Village Facebook page for updates about the opening of this exciting new amenity.



VEHICLE STICKERS

Any vehicle registered to a South Holland address is required to have a South Holland vehicle sticker. This applies whether the vehicle is parked on the street, in a driveway, or garage. The 2023-24 vehicle stickers are available starting May 1 and must be displayed before July 1.

Sticker Prices

Passenger Car: \$40
Truck C and higher: \$95

Truck and motor home: \$55
Motorcycle: \$30

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

WATER RATE UPDATE



The following rates will apply to water consumed beginning January 1, 2023 and payable on the March 2023 bill.

Water: \$9.91 per 1,000 gallons for the first 25,000 gallons, \$9.10 per 1,000 gallons for the next 100,000 gallons, \$8.97 per 1,000 gallons for the next 125,000 gallons. The minimum charge for water is \$19.82.

Sewer: \$0.38 per month plus \$0.47 per 1,000 gallons used

Garbage: \$29.54 per month (increases to \$30.43 on June 1, 2023)

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

OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

MARTIN LUTHER KING TRIBUTE

The South Holland Ministerial Association and the Village of South Holland partnered to present this year's Martin Luther King Tribute, held at Spirit of God Fellowship Church. The lively event featured a gospel choir representing several South Holland churches, a powerful spoken word performance, praise dancing, and a riveting keynote message by Pastor Phil Tarver. Light refreshments were served to the packed house following the service.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

MOTHER/SON 80S PARTY

Mothers and sons traveled back in time for an '80s themed party at the Community Center. Dressed in their best '80s attire, the mother/son pairs enjoyed food, dancing, pictures, and more.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

COMING TOGETHER 2030 KICKOFF

More than 140 community leaders joined Mayor Don De Graff and the Village Board and Administration for the kickoff of Coming Together 2030, the Village's new strategic plan. At the meeting, Mayor De Graff laid out the purpose of the Coming Together plan, which is to unite, support and empower the five key groups that make up the community of South Holland: residents, churches, schools, businesses, and service organizations.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

RIBBON CUTTINGS

Village officials and business leaders celebrated ribbon cuttings for two dynamic businesses. The first was for the expansion of mSEED Group, which specializes in the manufacturing, research and product development of beauty brands. The next was the opening of The Fairways Indoor Golf Center (503 W Taft St), which offers golf simulators for those looking to practice golf any time of year.



Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 4 • 7:30am

View details at southholland.org.



PANCAKES WITH THE POLICE

March 24 • 9:30-11:30am

Heritage House | 443 E 157th St

Come and have breakfast with the
South Holland Police Department!



Registration is required;
register by emailing mnorris@southholland.org.
(No phone calls, please.)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 3

DADDY/DAUGHTER HAWAIIAN LUAU PARTY

6:30-9pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

At this Hawaiian-themed event, dads and daughters are treated to a special night of dinner, dancing and photos. All daughters must be accompanied by their dad or favorite guy. Register at the Community Center.

March 4 and April 1

COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS

9am, 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.

March 7

MAYOR'S COFFEE

7pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

South Holland residents are invited to have coffee and conversation with Mayor Don De Graff. At this Mayor's Coffee, information will be presented on Coming Together 2030, the Village's new strategic plan, and we will hear from leaders of our service organizations. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

March 9-May 18

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

The Citizens Police Academy is an 11-week program that aims to enhance communication between the police and the community, as well as allow residents and business owners to learn the inner workings of the South Holland Police Department. Class size is limited to 30 participants who must either reside in South Holland, or be a business owner in South Holland. Please register at the Police Department.

March 14 and April 11

COMMUNITY POLICING MEETINGS

March 14: 7pm, April 11: 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.

April 1

EASTER EGG HUNT

11am, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl
South Holland children (ages 1-10 years) can participate in a free Easter egg hunt in the park! Pre-registration (with proof of residency) is required and can be done at the Community Center. Registration ends on March 24, or whenever spots are filled.

April 7

GOOD FRIDAY

Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed. The Customer Service Center will also be closed on Saturday, April 8, for the holiday.

April 22

E-WASTE RECYCLING

9am, South Holland Public Library – West Parking Lot, 16250 Wausau Ave
Bring your electronics to be recycled! This service is for South Holland residents only. Identification is required. Visit southholland.org for a list of electronic items that will be accepted.

May 4

MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

7:30am, Location TBA
Join South Holland pastors and Mayor De Graff as they pray for our Village, State and Nation.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

March 1-31

TEEN ROOM ART GALLERY

Celebrate Youth Art Month by admiring the talents of local students. Pieces will be available for viewing all March in the Teen Room.

March 14

LIVING LIGHTER

Community Room, 7pm

Minimize and downsize. Learn how to make decisions on what you can part with and what's a keepsake.

March 15

INVISIBLE WARRIORS

Introduction: March 5, 2pm

Q & A with Historian Gregory Cooke:

March 15, 7pm

This virtual event shares the experiences of African-American women who worked in factories and U.S. government offices during World War II. This documentary will be streamed March 5-15.

March 22

TAKING CARE OF YOU

Community Room, 6pm

Peggy Riggins, America's Pharmacist, will share with new tips on how you can take charge of taking care of you.

April 1

LITTLE SPROUTS WITH WE SOW WE GROW, INC.

Community Room, 1pm

Food connects us all and anyone can learn to garden! Join us for this fun and interactive look at urban farming and gardening with local farmers from We Sow We Grow, Inc.

April 12-26

BALLROOM BOOT CAMP

Community Room, 7pm

Learn the basics of ballroom dancing from Arthur Murray Dance instructors.

April 18

HOME SUSTAINABILITY: REDUCE WASTE AND RECYCLE

Community Room, 7pm

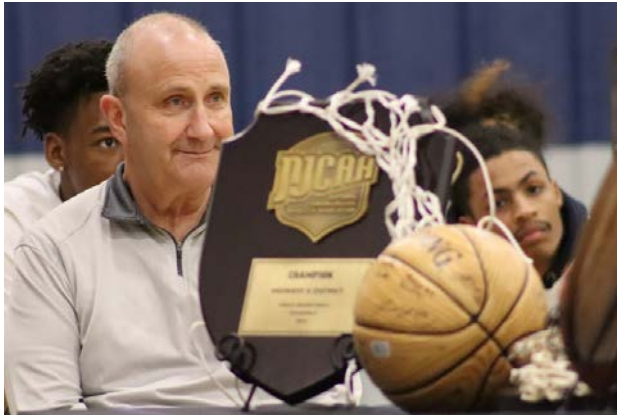
Celebrate Earth Day with Kate Carney of the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability. Learn how to create less waste and recycle more.

April 27

CONTAINER GARDENING WITH KAYLYNN

Community Room, 7pm

Discover how to create a gardening space where there is none.



HALL OF FAMER South Suburban College Basketball Coach Honored Nationally

One of South Holland's own athletic legends received national recognition this past January.

John Pigatti, the head men's Basketball Coach at South Suburban College, was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Region IV Hall of Fame. Pigatti has been the head coach at SSC for the past 17 years. He has a career coaching record of 480-88 and an impressive 265-15 home record. Last season, he led the Bulldogs to a perfect 33-0 record and an NJCAA Division II National Championship. It was the only time in history that a team went undefeated and won the NJCAA Division II National Championship.

During his robust coaching career, he has won 12 Region IV Championships at SSC and has been named Region IV Coach of the Year 12 times. In addition, Pigatti has coached the last three national players of the year with five total. He has had 16 All-Americans and 13 named to the 1st team. Last season he received the National Two-Year College Coach of the Year award and was the 2017 College Insider's Jack Bennett Man-of-the-Year Recipient.

Congratulations to Coach Pigatti and South Suburban College for this outstanding accomplishment!

Memorial Day Parade



Monday, May 29, 2023
11:00 am

**South Park Ave from 170th St
to Veterans Memorial Park**

**Take time to remember and honor military personnel
who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces
at South Holland's Annual Memorial Day Parade!**

**To enter the parade,
fill out an application form at southholland.org.**

FAITH IN

Motion

THE ETERNAL SEED

By Pastor Richard Zekveld of Covenant Fellowship Church of South Holland

I love Spring. Every year, God paints the canvas of creation green. The trees sprout their leaves, the sun's rays strengthen, the days lengthen. Creation shouts, "Life!"

Farmers and gardeners bury seeds in the ground, then wait in hope for rows of little green sprigs to emerge from the earth and grow into mature plants that bear fruit.

And that brings us to Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, just weeks away.

Jesus was in Jerusalem, about to die on his cross. He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24, ESV). It's true, isn't it? When you bury a seed in the ground, it must first die to produce the plant that rises from the earth. In that way, it reproduces many times over.

Jesus himself was that seed. And he knew it. His Father had sent him to Jerusalem to die under God's judgment for our sins on a cruel Roman cross. And then was buried in the ground like a seed. That was Good Friday. But on Resurrection Sunday, he burst from the earth as a vibrant green, life-giving plant to bear much fruit.

And what is his fruit? All who turn from their sin and entrust themselves to the care and control of King Jesus—to the One who died on Good Friday and rose on Resurrection Sunday—are the fruit of his



Richard Zekveld

life-giving work. He redeems us and plants us to thrive and grow in relationship with him. Through us, he produces fruit—qualities like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control, and the life-giving deeds that flow from them.

This Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, make your way to a local church to celebrate the planting and rising of God's ultimate Seed, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dine

SOUTH HOLLAND

POPCORN PARTY MOVIE LOUNGE AND POPCORN SHOP VENUE POPS UP IN SOUTH HOLLAND

By Carrie Steinweg
Photos by Michael McGee

Movies and popcorn go together like peanut butter and jelly. The two just seem to be a perfect combination. And a unique venue in South Holland is centered upon that favored duo. The venue is called Popacorn Popcorn—and in addition to a menu of multiple popcorn varieties, the shop also has a 24-seat theater featuring an 85-inch screen with surround sound. The venue can be rented out for a birthday party or special event, or you can simply watch a movie while there to purchase popcorn.

Micah Smothers is the owner of Popacorn Popcorn, which originally began as a food truck in 2012 and then expanded to a brick-and-mortar business at 47th and King Drive in Chicago in 2016. The South Holland location at 107 West Sibley Boulevard opened in August of 2021. It is one of two popcorn shops in South Holland, joining Flavor Addicts on 162nd Street.





Smothers said he had to close the Chicago location during the pandemic and was looking for the right spot to re-open. When he came across the available location on Sibley Blvd., he knew he had found the place. He continues to also operate the food truck, which appears at festivals and corporate events. A recent project he did was for the grand reopening of several Walmart stores, where custom-labeled popcorn was passed out to customers.

Fourteen different flavors are offered. "We do a lot of customized product—as far as putting a brand on bags for a personal touch for events. We specialize in that," Smothers says. "We also do wholesale for fundraisers and give an opportunity to raise money for a cause."

The flavors stay pretty constant—with tastes as simple as butter or cheddar and as out-of-the-box as Red Lobster Cheesy Biscuit or a seasonal Thanksgiving Pumpkin Spice flavor.

Each year, Smothers holds a contest where customers are able to taste some potential new flavors and vote for their favorite. The winning concoction makes its way onto the menu board.

"Some flavors are standard and others are more unique. We're looking to produce more flavors to make you go 'hmmm,'" says Smothers. "Maybe a cheeseburger or lasagna, just to get people curious and stretch the envelope a little more."

The theater recently began offering free movie nights for the community on Tuesday and Thursday nights. "It's something where people can come in and relax and watch a movie after work and taste the product," Smothers says. "It's been working out pretty good so far. We're trying to get more exposure. We're letting people know about the space and how they can use it... Popcorn is everywhere, but people don't expect to see a movie lounge in a popcorn shop, so that's kind of our niche."



The movie nights are a way to give back to the community and encourage customers to become regular visitors. "We have movies playing all the time if someone wants to relax and stay a while. I wanted it to be set up like a Starbucks—where there's WiFi and it's a safe space to hang out."

It's proving to be a popular place for kids' birthday parties, where family-friendly movies can keep kids entertained and the adults are relieved of the hassle of hosting the group in their home. "People can bring in their own food," Smothers says. "We provide the movie and popcorn in a private space. It works out well if you don't want to entertain the kids at your home and it's something that can keep their attention."

Soon there will be an entrepreneurship training in a four-week program that he has offered in the past. "It helps people learn the ins and outs of the popcorn businesses," he says. "We teach them how to make popcorn, how to do branding and how to do the packaging. They can also get it at wholesale prices and then sell it at retail cost."

"Popcorn and movies go hand in hand," Smothers say. "The end goal is to have independent filmmakers come in to show their movies." He says it can also give social media content creators a place to show videos or to celebrate with their audience. "We're trying to give people an opportunity to showcase their service or product on a big screen and collaborate on the popcorn." 🍿



POPACORN POPCORN

107 W Sibly Blvd, South Holland
Mon-Fri 4-8pm, Sat 1-5pm

To learn more,
visit orders.popcornpopcorn.com
or follow Popcorn Popcorn
on Facebook and Instagram.



FRESH START

NEW EMPLOYEES BRING CREATIVITY, INNOVATION TO COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMMING

By Josh Bootsma

For DeAnna Mahaffey and CJ Cross, planning and executing programs for the community isn't just a job; it's a passion.

The pair of Recreation Program Assistants are both in their late 20s, and were hired in 2022, injecting new life into the programming of the South Holland Community Center after a couple of pared-down pandemic years.



Community Center staff at the
Breakfast with the Elves event



CJ Cross

Mahaffey started working for the Community Center during the summers while she got her Recreation, Sport, and Tourism degree at the University of Illinois. She started as a sports camp counselor, then worked as a facility attendant in the fitness center before the pandemic closed things down.

When the opportunity arose to be involved again in the Community Center, she quickly took it. "I just thought this would be a great place to be creative and provide service to the community, and bring the community together," Mahaffey says.

Cross grew up in South Holland, and moved back after spending some years in the Western Illinois University area, where he gained experience working as a trainer, coach, and Special Education teacher. "I have aspirations to do a lot of directing in the sports world, and I feel this position will give me the skills and tools I need to learn and grow in my career," Cross says.

South Holland Department of Recreational Services Director Ed Stewart says the Community Center was looking for someone "energetic, creative, and willing to think outside the box" when it came to the Program Assistant position. "In both CJ and DeAnna, we were so fortunate to be able to identify individuals with dynamic personalities, unique skill sets, and an innate ability to weave innovation with tradition," Stewart says.

Cross and Mahaffey share the responsibility of planning and executing programs at the Community Center, from start to finish. For example, the Breakfast with the Elves event that took place in December at the Heritage House was the brainchild of Mahaffey and Cross, who secured Global Mom Life to provide breakfast, and purchased cookies and ornaments for the roughly 60 attendees to decorate.

"I enjoy going from nothing—just an idea or concept—to actually having an event and doing the work on that day. I like the whole process and seeing it all come together," Mahaffey says.

Another successful event was the Senior Prom that took place at the Community Center on



DeAnna Mahaffey

Headshot photos by Michelle Hamstra



Senior Prom



Breakfast with the Elves

February 10. In a clever twist, this “prom” was not for high school seniors, but for 55+ seniors, who were treated to dancing and food.

“We have a lot of seniors here, and we just wanted to have something to get them back into the building,” Mahaffey says. “We used to have luncheons and things here for the seniors, and now, since COVID, we haven’t had as many.”

“Their impact has been immediate, as we have seen their creations become reality in just a few short months,” says Wally Widelski, Deputy Director of South Holland’s Department of Recreational Services. “For residents young and old, they are quickly becoming the faces of SHRS.”

Mahaffey and Cross continue to plan upcoming events to bring the community together, out from the shadow of the pandemic. One such event is the upcoming Girls Basketball Academy that will run from March through May.

Cross, who also coaches girls basketball at Unity Christian Academy, has a passion for basketball and wanted to create a camp specifically for girls. “Basketball camp is always generalized to everybody, and most of the time, if not all the time, you’re going to get a majority of boys that come. I feel that can be a turn-off to potential young girl athletes,” Cross says.

The camp will run once a week, and is open to girls in third through eighth grade. As with many programs offered at the Community Center, the camp is open to anyone, and South Holland residents receive a discount.

Having both grown up enjoying the programs South Holland offers its residents, Cross and Mahaffey are determined to continue to meet the community’s needs. “We’re not super-super young,” Cross says, “But we’re not super old. We’re at the middle ground stage where we can have a mind for both generations. I think that is what we bring. I think that’s what this community needs: reinforcement and fresh ideas, but not just for one demographic.”

“I love the fact that we try to target making our community a family environment, and making everyone feel welcome,” Cross says.

The South Holland Community Center is located at 501 East 170th Street, and more information about the Center and upcoming programs is available at southholland.org. 🔥

3 ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR PREVENTING FLOODING ON YOUR PROPERTY

April showers bring May flowers... but it could also bring potential flooding. South Holland is subject to over-bank flooding from three sources: the Little Calumet River, Thorn Creek, and the Calumet Union Drainage Ditch. This does not mean, however, that water damage to your property is inevitable. There are many preventative measures you can take to protect your property in advance. These measures could save you thousands of dollars, and give you peace of mind the next time it rains.

1. GET FLOODING CONSULTATION... AHEAD OF TIME.

Learn from the experts how to prepare your home before the rain even arrives. The Village will partner with residents to provide site-specific property protection advice and financial support for pre-qualified flood proofing projects. Call the Community Development Department at 708.210.2915 to go over property-specific drainage and flooding issues. Residents may also request an on-site meeting with Village staff to further discuss these issues and investigate potential site improvements.

2. FLOOD PROOF YOUR PROPERTY.

There are a number of ways to flood proof your property, and the Village can potentially help you pay for it. The Flood Assistance Rebate Program allows pre-qualified residents to be reimbursed for a percentage of the cost of their flood proofing projects.

Residents can receive a 25% rebate (up to \$2,500) for certain qualifying flood-proofing projects. The Village also offers a cost-sharing program that pays 50% (up to \$5,000) for larger sewer backup prevention projects. Visit southholland.org for a list of qualifying projects.

3. BE NOTIFIED OF POTENTIAL FLOODING.

If it's raining hard, utilize the following avenues to learn of any flood notices:

- The National Weather Service (weather.gov) issues two types of flood notices: a flood watch and a flood warning. A flood watch indicates flooding is possible within the area described by the notice. A flood warning indicates flooding is imminent or occurring in the area described by the notice and emergency action should be taken.
- Visit southholland.org for a link to the National Weather Service's river gauge for the Little Calumet River.
- Sign up to receive CodeRED Notifications for community alerts during periods of severe weather. This service is free, and residents can sign up at southholland.org.
- An extra measure of protection is wise for residents living close to the Little Calumet River, Thorn Creek, or other drainage waterways. A NOAA weather radio can be purchased at a local electronic store for \$20 to \$30 and will enable residents to monitor the National Weather Service notices directly.

With these three actions, you will help minimize casualties and flood losses during the heavy rains this spring. Contact the Community Development Department at 708.210.2915 for more information on the Flood Assistance Rebate Program or with any questions you may have about flooding.

NIGHT LIGHT EGG-APALOOSA

Saturday, March 25
7-8pm

Veterans Memorial Park
500 E 160th Pl

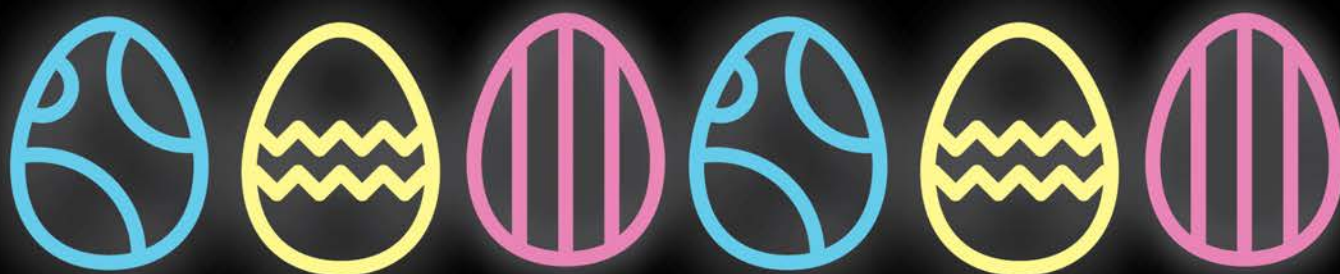
Why should the kids have all the fun?

Grab your basket, bring your flashlight, and join us for a fun-filled nighttime egg pursuit.

Be on the lookout for **special** prize eggs!

\$7.50 per person • Ages 25+

Register at southholland.org or at the Community Center by March 17.





E-WASTE RECYCLING

April 22 | 9am

**South Holland Public Library
(West Parking Lot)**

16250 Wausau Ave

**Bring your electronics to be recycled!
South Holland residents only.**

**Visit southholland.org for a list of
electronic items that will be accepted.**

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



Mayor's Coffee

**Tuesday,
March 7
7:00pm**

**South Holland Community Center
501 E. 170th Street**



southholland.org