

SOUTH HOLLAND

Living

March | April 2024

New Beginnings in South Holland

Memorial Day Parade



Monday, May 27, 2024
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!**

A Remembrance Ceremony will follow the parade at Veterans Memorial Park.

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

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor De Graff celebrating the expansion of Blueberry Field Restaurant

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

It's hard to believe, but the winter of 2024 is almost behind us. In some ways, it seems like winter never really came. The 2024 El Niño effect has clearly given us a break by providing one of the warmest and driest winters in recent memory.

While it's true that Spring is officially just arriving, we as a Community of Faith, Family, and Future have, like our weather, been springing into action right from the beginning of 2024.

In this issue, you'll see how we began 2024 with two outstanding community events. In January, we held one of the most memorable celebrations we've ever had in the long history of our Martin Luther King birthday tributes. In February, we celebrated the widespread volunteerism that has been so evident here in South Holland over its long and rich history.

As we get together for these annual events, it's not just out of ritual but it is to thankfully celebrate our village's strong value system that encourages volunteerism and servanthood. It's who we are today and who we have been for over 177 years.

Now that the vibrant colors of spring start to paint our landscape, there's an undeniable buzz of new beginnings that sweeps through our community. In this issue, you'll be encouraged by so many fun and interactive opportunities we can look forward to as part of our "Coming Together 2030" Strategic Plan.

Some of our upcoming events include the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on May 2, and the annual, vibrant Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony. Also in this issue you'll read about the exciting new direction of the South Holland Business Association, and much more.

Let's embrace God's gift to enjoy another spring season of life, where new beginnings provide even more wonderful opportunities for us to come together as the community of South Holland, Illinois.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

VILLAGE BOARD

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VILLAGE NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND

NEW HOURS AT CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER



Beginning April 1, the Village of South Holland Customer Service Center (where you go for payments and permits) will have new hours of operation:

Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri: 8am-5pm, Wed: 8am-7pm, Sat-Sun Closed

There are many other ways to pay your water bill or other services without visiting in person. You can pay online (at southholland.org) via credit or direct debit, call 855.786.5265 to pay over the phone, or drop your payment in a dropbox at the Customer Service Center (16220 Wausau Ave) or Village Hall (16226 Wausau Ave).

NEW GARBAGE PICKUP VENDOR



The Village has selected Homewood Disposal Service as the new waste and recycling provider. Services with Homewood Disposal will begin May 1, 2024. There will be no change to your pick-up day or your every-other-week recycling schedule!

Homewood Disposal will deliver new garbage, recycling and yard waste carts to each home in April. Please do not place these carts out for collection until your first pick-up day in May. Continue to place your current carts out for collection through April. The current hauler will quickly retrieve their carts after their last pick-up day–April 24-30. Homewood Disposal will begin picking up material in their carts May 1-7, 2024. For more information about this transition, visit southholland.org.

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 and motor home: \$55

Truck C and higher: \$95

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, 2024 and payable on the March 2024 bill.

Water: \$10.41 per 1,000 gallons for the first 25,000 gallons,
\$9.56 per 1,000 gallons for the next 100,000 gallons,
\$9.42 per 1,000 gallons for the next 125,000 gallons.
The minimum charge for water is \$20.82.

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

Garbage: \$31.34 per month

For any questions, please contact the Clerk's office at 708.210.2900.

OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 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 musical tribute by Rev. Dr. Ozzie Smith, and a riveting keynote message by Rev. Dr. Patrick Daymond of Covenant United Church of Christ. Light refreshments were served following the service.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

The Village of South Holland hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to thank and honor the faithful volunteers who help make South Holland the wonderful community it is. Members of our commissions and committees, along with the boards of our service organizations, were invited. The elegant event held at the Community Center featured a dinner, live music, and a program where Mayor De Graff and others honored our volunteers.

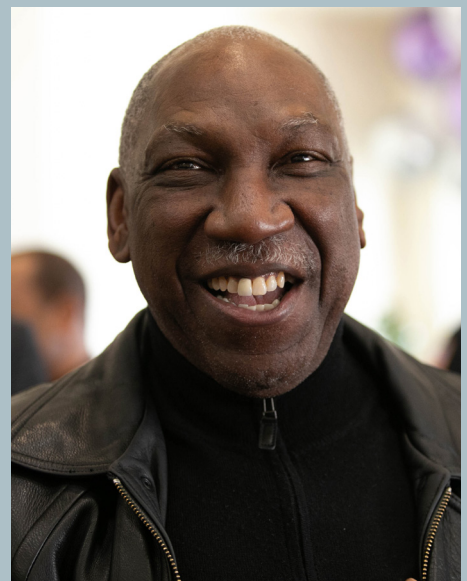


OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

BLUEBERRY FIELD EXPANSION

Blueberry Field Restaurant, a longtime South Holland staple, has renovated and expanded its space to accommodate more seating. It has a large new section that can be rented out for parties and gatherings. Village officials joined the Blueberry Field staff for a ribbon cutting to celebrate this next chapter. Blueberry Field is located at 558 E 162nd Street.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 23 EASTER EGG HUNT

11am, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

Kids ages 1-10 years old are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Bring a basket or paper bag to collect your goodies. This event is for South Holland residents and registration is required. Register at the Community Center.

March 29 GOOD FRIDAY

Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed. The Customer Service Center will also be closed on Saturday, March 30, for the holiday.

April 6 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.

April 9 COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

10am, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th Street

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 27

E-WASTE RECYCLING

9am-1pm, South Suburban College, 15800 State St, north side of campus

Bring your electronics to be recycled! This collection will take place at the new Center for Hard to Recycle Materials at South Suburban College. Visit southholland.org for a list of electronic items that will be accepted.

May 2

MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

7:30am, Spirit of God Fellowship, 16350 State St

In observance of the National Day of Prayer, the South Holland Ministerial Association is hosting the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Join Mayor De Graff and South Holland pastors as they pray for our Village, State, and Nation. Breakfast will be served. Admission is \$5 at the door.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

March 20

HOW TO SET GOALS, BUILD A BUDGET, AND SAVE

7pm, Community Room

Join Brandon Mells of Chase Bank as he gives tips on setting financial goals and building a budget to succeed.

March 21

HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS AND YOUR FUTURE

4:30pm, Teen Space

Find out what local colleges are doing to attract, support, and encourage students from Hispanic backgrounds. Hear from representatives from local schools such as St. Xavier University, Purdue University Northwest, and Governors State University.

April 9

SH BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS

7pm, Community Room

Whether you are a major corporation, a small company, or working a side hustle, branding is everything. Branding is what attracts customers and clients. Join us to learn the ins and outs of branding.

April 20

DÍA DEL NIÑO / DAY OF THE CHILD

1-3 pm, Community Room

Let's celebrate our kids! Join us for Cardio Drumming fun with Ms. Mary, a special visit and sing-a-long with The Madrigal Sisters from Encanto, and a simple craft. Registration required.

April 22

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION GREEN CLEANING: SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME

7pm, Community Room

Learn things we can do to make our homes and the planet healthier, including properly recycling and making our own green cleaning alternatives. Make a green scouring scrub to try at home.

DID YOU KNOW?

FLOOD PREVENTION AND PROTECTION



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.

3. Be notified of potential flooding.

If it's raining hard, there are several ways to learn of any flood notices. Visit southholland.org for a link to the National Weather Service's river gauge for the Little Calumet River and for any breaking notifications. It is also advised to sign up for Smart911, for community alerts during periods of severe weather. The service is free, and residents can sign up at southholland.org.

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Season of the Open Door

Thursday, May 2 • 7:30am

Spirit of God Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
16350 State Street, South Holland

Speaker: Pastor Brian Kamstra
Spirit of God Fellowship

Fee: \$10 per person at the door



Hosted by the
South Holland
Ministerial
Association



FAITH IN

Motion

KINDNESS: A RARE, RADICAL IDEA

By Mark Morris, Lead Pastor of Thorn Creek Church

I try to hold doors open for other people as often as possible. It's a simple way to be kind that usually requires very little of my time. It also creates an opportunity to smile and say, "Hi." As a rather extreme extrovert, that gives me a nice shot of adrenaline. It's a win-win.

What if we all expanded this from a **habit** to a **lifestyle**? What if we all (especially followers of Jesus, who is the most "door-opening" personality in history) actively sought out small opportunities to put others first? What if we actually tried to put Philippians 2:3 into practice: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves"?

A few Biblical thoughts about this:

1) When the Apostle Paul lists the fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5, "kindness" makes the list. When the Holy Spirit lives in us, being kind is a natural result.

2) According to Ephesians 4:32, God's kindness to us should motivate us to be kind to each other. Maybe we need to have more thoughts like, "If Jesus was willing to be tortured and crucified for me, I can probably let this car in front of me on the expressway."

3) God's kindness to us is never earned by anything that we have done. Titus 3:4-5 reminds us that "...when the kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, **but according to His own mercy.**"



Mark Morris

4) Romans 2:4 tells us that it is God's kindness that leads us to repentance. What if God's kindness, being demonstrated in our lives, can have the same effect on others around us?

You've probably noticed that kindness is in short supply in our society. There are plenty of examples when it comes to politics, social media, road rage . . . the list goes on.

Even if you don't consider yourself a Christian, do you think the world would be a better place if we were, quite simply, **nicer** to each other?

If you've read this far, you've probably found yourself thinking something like, "Well, duh, Pastor. I learned this in 3rd

grade Sunday School.” But have we learned this? Or does this fit into the category of “living up to what we have already attained”?

It’s actually a radical idea.

Imagine if South Holland was flooded with people saying things like:

- “You only have three items in your cart. Why don’t you go ahead of me?”
- “Excuse me, ma’am. I think you dropped your glove.”
- “Hey, neighbor, I’m going to the grocery store. Can I get you anything?”
- “Hi, neighbor. My name is _____. Welcome to South Holland.”

Maybe we should start by reminding ourselves that EVERYONE around us is made in the image of God. How does that impact the way we treat them?

I’ll admit that there’s a certain amount of discomfort and even risk in extending a hand of kindness. But if our Savior is our model, then discomfort and risk are part of the package. After all, there are no comfort zones on a cross.

2024 SOUTH HOLLAND

FUN RUN 5K



Saturday, September 21
Veterans Memorial Park • 500 E 160th Place

Learn more at
southholland.org



Village of South Holland

Customer Service Center NEW HOURS!

Beginning April 1,
the Customer Service Center will have new hours of operation:

Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri 8am-5pm

Wed 8am-7pm

Sat-Sun Closed

REMEMBER!

There are many other ways to pay your water bill and other services:

- Online at southholland.org
- Drop your payment in a dropbox at the Customer Service Center or Village Hall
- Direct debit
- Call 855.786.5265 to pay over the phone



**Save Time...
Pay Online!**

Village of South Holland Customer Service Center
16220 Wausau Ave, South Holland, IL 60473

THE VILLAGE OF
South Holland

BLOCK PARTY!

Trailer

▶▶▶ SouthHolland.org/BlockParty



Get to know your neighbors by hosting a block party!
The Village of South Holland will provide a trailer
with the following items:

Folding tables • Folding picnic tables • Road blocks
Garbage cans • Two 60-quart coolers

Games/Activities:

Bean bags, Connect 4, Jenga, and more

Reserve the Block Party Trailer today!



South Holland residents only.

FAMILY FOUNDATION

THE HISTORY AND RISE OF CARL BUDDIG & COMPANY

By Josh Bootsma



During lunch breaks across the country, countless people enjoy deli meat that was seasoned, cooked, sliced, and packaged right here in South Holland.

Carl Buddig & Company has four facilities in South Holland, and has become an anchor of the village's industrial area.

The company started in 1943 when Carl Buddig, who'd run his own meat distribution business near the Chicago stockyards, decided to try his hand at creating his own meat product. What resulted was "chipped beef," a ready-to-eat four-ounce package of sliced, smoked beef that was commonly combined with milk and spread on toast—and sold for 39 cents.

Eighty years later, Buddig is a household name, and the company sells its products all over the United



States and internationally. And though much has changed in those eight decades, the family-oriented aspect of the business has remained.

The company is currently owned by five siblings, all grandchildren of Carl Buddig. Though some have retired from active operations in the business, siblings Tom, Karen, Bob, Tim, and Roger have continued their father's and grandfather's legacies of providing quality meats to customers.

"All of us worked in the plant at one time, loading trucks, shoveling spice, or working in the smokehouse, whatever it might have been," says Tom Buddig. "And many of the next generation have worked in the plant as well." Of the next generation of Buddigs, Tom says five out of 13 are working for the family business.

The company now produces a variety of sliced deli meats, including turkey, ham, and beef. It also produces "Fix Quix"—pre-cut strips of fully grilled chicken for use in salads, pastas, casseroles, and other dishes.

Buddig also acquired snack sausage brand Old Wisconsin in 1981, which is based in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. "At our Old Wisconsin facility, we make turkey and beef products that are kind of like a





Slim Jim, but cut into small pieces. That's at every cash register at every Walmart in the United States," Buddig says.

In 2017, the Buddig company purchased Rupari Foods on the north side of South Holland, and started using the facility to produce Kingsford products, such as pre-cooked barbecue ribs and pulled pork.

In total, Carl Buddig & Company employs roughly 2,500 people, 1,700 of whom work in South Holland.

Most of the South Holland employees work at the Buddig plant on Taft Drive, near State Street. Once owned by Hershey's, the facility was purchased by the Buddig company, and operations started in 1976. The company moved to South Holland after it outgrew its previous location at 119th and Peoria in Chicago. Starting with only five packaging lines, the South Holland plant has grown to 55 lines.

"We've had a good relationship with South Holland. We've found it to be a great place to operate," Buddig says.

Along with a distribution center in Munster and another facility in Montgomery, Illinois, Carl Buddig & Company has its products on the shelves of 92% of the country's grocery stores. They also have products available for purchase on a variety of airlines. In addition, Buddig is currently in collaboration with fast food chain Sonic on some limited-time pulled pork sandwiches.

The company has donated food in local communities, sponsored local Little League teams, brought staff to volunteer at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, and taken other steps to give back to the community.

On the safety front, Buddig's South Holland operations have earned a "Level 3" Safe Quality Food certification from the Global Food Safety Initiative—the highest level available. "We have to account for everything," Buddig says. "They can take any number of our employees and ask, 'What's your job, why is it important, and when's the last time you were trained?' And we're in the 98th percentile."

Beyond a commitment to safe food practices, Buddig says he believes a special ingredient in the company's 80 years of success is "focus and family commitment."

For example, a married couple worked at Buddig for years and recently retired. "One of their kids is a doctor now, and the other is in banking," Buddig says. "They have a house in Lansing and a house in Florida. And they said it's all because of the things that happened at Carl Buddig for their family."

Those interested in exploring a career at Carl Buddig & Company can learn more at buddig.com/careers. 🔥

THE Next Chapter

SHBA HEADS IN NEW DIRECTION

By Carrie Steinweg

The South Holland Business Association celebrates a long history (45 years, to be exact!) of connecting South Holland businesses and offering resources to help them grow and thrive.

The South Holland Business Association (SHBA) has the same functions as a traditional chamber of commerce. Businesses that are members of SHBA are invited to monthly events for networking and resources such as HR best practices, legal advice, or marketing tactics. There are also fundraisers and social events held throughout the year, including a golf outing and holiday party.

Over the past couple of years, the South Holland Business Association (SHBA) has undergone a transition of leadership and direction. In 2022, SHBA came under the umbrella of the Village of South Holland. In this partnership, the Village provides staffing and funding, but SHBA still functions semi-autonomously and has its own board and executive director.

The SHBA Board of Directors is composed of representatives from SHBA member businesses. They volunteer their time to run the operations of the organization alongside the executive director and now the Village.





SHBA Board members Brian Tennis, Ruth Ramirez, Trustee Larry De Young, Executive Director Shanetta Davis, Joe Blandford, Lisset Lacayo, and Thomas Crosby

"SHBA has worked closely with the Village since its inception in 1979," says SHBA board President Brian Tennis. "Since this new partnership was initiated in 2022, we've brought new life into the organization, more exposure, and a general excitement among SHBA members."

In October 2023, a new Executive Director was named. Shanetta Davis, a 15-year resident of South Holland, has served on the SHBA Board and the South Holland Economic Development Commission for several years, while also working as a freelance marketing and branding strategist for business clients. This along with her background in event planning made her a natural fit for the position of Executive Director.

In her new role, Davis is working to make the events and resources provided by SHBA to its members more accessible and useful. Monthly events are being rotated through the morning, afternoon and evening to reach more individuals. She's also planning some events that will be open to the public to raise awareness and boost business for its members.

One of the first things she did in her new role was to reach out and try to get a pulse for the business community and how SHBA has benefited them, or how it can going forward. "There are almost 800 businesses in town. My goal is to speak to every business that exists in South Holland," she says.

"Some of the feedback I got was that there were businesses that people were unaware of. Our events now are aimed at networking and we're spotlighting different industries," Davis says. In February, health and wellness members were the focus. Such events include live demos, vendors and interactive activities. "We're being more intentional with our spotlighting. Earning value for our members is our first priority."



SHBA granted \$8,750 in scholarships to local college students in 2023

Among the upcoming activities are monthly networking mixers, a business expo that will combine a job and resource fair with a marketplace, and a fashion show at South Suburban College that will highlight local apparel retailers and restaurants.

For the first time in SHBA history, the organization will have its own dedicated office that will also be a resource center for members to utilize for internet usage or co-working space. The new office will also allow space for hosting meetings or workshops. Monthly board meetings will rotate to different brick-and-mortar locations to highlight what they offer. Davis's background in marketing will be tapped in promoting the local business community via social media.

The most recent membership total is 135, surpassing last year's membership in just the first couple months of the year. More than half are new members who were not part of the organization last year.

Two key people in Village leadership who work closely with SHBA are Trustee Larry De Young, who is the board liaison, and Will Neibert, who provides oversight on behalf of the administration. "The new partnership of the Village and the South Holland Business Association is going very well," Neibert says, "and we are excited about the organization's continued growth and momentum. SHBA is proactively enhancing its programs and networking opportunities and offering them at various times and locations to make it easier for members to participate. We're also re-focusing our fundraising efforts for our annual college scholarships for the children of SHBA members."

The membership fee for SHBA is just \$100, and a large portion of that goes into the scholarship fund. "We recently reduced the cost of joining to make membership an even greater value and more accessible to all local businesses," Neibert says. "This new partnership between the Village and SHBA makes for a stronger business community here in South Holland, which positively impacts the quality of life for our residents." 🔥

LEARN MORE:

Business owners interested in learning more about the South Holland Business Association can visit shba.org.



JOIN THE SOUTH HOLLAND
FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR

COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS

9:00AM
1ST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
FIRE STATION 1 (43) • 16230 WAUSAU AVE



The Village of
South Holland
Faith, Family,
& Future





E-WASTE RECYCLING

April 27 | 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.**

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



south holland central bark



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.

southholland.org/centralbark



southholland.org