

SOUTH HOLLAND

Living

March | April 2025

Springing Into Action

Memorial Day Parade



Monday, May 26, 2025
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.**

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

It's that time again! The Spring of each year when we "spring forward" our clocks, losing that hour of sleep, but gaining the extra hour of daylight. Spring is testament to the beauty of God's design and cycle of life. It's a season of renewal where we look forward to witnessing what was dormant come back to life again.

Now in the Spring of 2025 our Village Board and Administrative team have been looking forward, springing into action to create exciting outdoor and indoor programs and events. Our "Coming Together 2030" strategic plan is in full swing and now as our weather warms, our team is providing a full menu of interactive activities for us to enjoy as residents, churches, businesses, schools, and service organizations.

This issue of our *South Holland Living* clearly demonstrates the importance of the unity we share in our diversity as the wonderful community of South Holland, Illinois. We'll take a quick look back at our outstanding MLK celebration and at a wonderful ribbon cutting for the new home for Robinson Engineering. We'll look forward to our upcoming Spring events as well as take an opportunity to get a little more familiar with the wonderful women and men who comprise our South Holland Village Board.

In an era of government dysfunction we see all around us, God has provided us a Village Board of selfless individuals who work extremely well together year after year. I am very thankful for each member of our Board as they continue to lead our distinctive Village of Faith, Family, and Future in a unified and uniquely professional manner. It is for that reason the example of how to get things accomplished has become known year after year, as the "South Holland Way."

I hope you enjoy this 2025 Spring issue of our *South Holland Living* magazine.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



BLOCK PARTY TRAILER

Block party season is right around the corner! The Village encourages residents to host and attend block parties so neighbors can get to know each other better. From these block parties, many relationships have been forged and neighborhoods strengthened. Block party organizers can begin reserving the Block Party Trailer for the 2025 summer season! The trailer comes with tables, chairs, road blocks, coolers, games, and more. Hosts can also request a visit from the Police and/or Fire Department. Reservations for the trailer fill up quickly; visit southholland.org/blockparty to reserve one for your neighborhood block party!



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 2025-26 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 be effective on the water bill issued in May.

Water: \$10.82 per 1,000 gallons for first 25,000 gallons
\$9.93 per 1,000 gallons for next 100,000 gallons
\$9.97 per 1,000 gallons for gallons over 125,000
Sewer: \$0.94 per 1,000 gallons used
Sewer flat: \$0.41 per month
Garbage: \$32.91 per month
Minimum charge for water is \$21.64; minimum total bill is \$54.96.

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



YARD WASTE PICKUP

Beginning April 1 and continuing through November 30, pickup of yard waste will take place on the same day as your regular garbage collection. Please use the toter designated for yard waste. When the toter is full and there is still more waste to dispose of, you may use brown paper yard bags. To request special pickup of tree branches/brush, contact the Public Works Department at 708.339.2323.

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 music by men's group When Men Worship, prayer and reflections from several South Holland pastors, and a keynote message by Pastor Jason Perry of Living Springs Community Church. Light refreshments were served following the service.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

ROBINSON RIBBON CUTTING

Robinson Engineering, a longtime South Holland business, recently moved to a new location in South Holland. In February, they celebrated the relocation with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The new office, located at 16133 LaSalle St, was beautifully renovated and provides ample space for their growing staff.



Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 1 • 7:30am

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

Fee: \$10 per person at the door



Hosted by the
South Holland
Ministerial
Association



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 5

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 8

COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

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 11

NIGHT LIGHT EGG-APALOOSA

7pm, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

The Recreational Services Department is hosting an Easter egg hunt for adults! Grab your basket, bring your flashlight, and join us for a fun-filled nighttime egg pursuit. Ages 25 and older. Register at the Community Center or at recservices.southholland.org.

April 12
EASTER EGG HUNT

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

South Holland kids ages 1-10 years old are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt! 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. Kids can also have their photo taken with the Easter bunny! This event is for South Holland residents. Pre-registration (with proof of residency) is required. Register at the South Holland Community Center.

April 18
GOOD FRIDAY

The Village of South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed in honor of Good Friday.

May 1
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 \$10 at the door.

AT THE LIBRARY

The following programs are held at the South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Ave, unless otherwise indicated.
Visit shlibrary.org for a list of all upcoming events.

April 17

TEEN STEAM LAB: Water Filtration Experiments

6pm

Earth Day is around the corner, so try this handy bit of science! Learn how to harness nature's ingredients to create your very own water filter.

April 17

SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY @ THORNTON DISTILLERY CO!

*6:30pm, Thornton Distilling Co.
400 E Margaret St, Thornton*

Join us for Hear Me Out, an open mic event at Thornton Distilling Co. Whether you want to step up to the mic and share your poetry, music, comedy, or spoken word, or just vibe and enjoy the talent, this night is for everyone. Come for the performances, stay for the good times! Ages 21+ only.

April 22

MISS BUNNY'S STUFFY SLEEPOVER

11am

Hop on over to celebrate Miss Bunny's 2nd birthday! We're throwing a fun-filled party with music, dancing, and treats! Drop off your plushie for a cozy sleepover with Miss Bunny at the library. All plushies will get a tag to make sure they find their way home safely. Pick them up anytime after the sleepover.

Let's make some memories and have a hoppin' good time!

April 29

CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY

11am

Celebrate Children's Book Day/Day of the Child with a special visit from Miss Make-Believe. Each child will receive a free book!

April 30

CHICAGO'S BLACK AVIATORS

7pm

From its beginnings, Chicago has played an essential role in the growth and development of the aviation industry, including the importance of Black aviators. Michael Haupt will share the story of those pilots who made aviation history.



Easter EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 • 11:00 AM

Veterans Memorial Park

500 E 160th Place

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.

FAITH IN

Motion

UNITY: THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM?

By Brian Kamstra, Senior Pastor, Spirit of God Fellowship

Is unity an impossible dream?

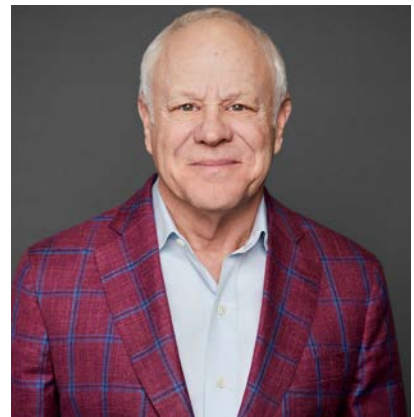
Look around and you'll find people who are different from each other: different political beliefs, different ethnicities, different cultures, different socio-economic standings, different religious beliefs, different priorities, different mindsets. And isn't that great? Embracing diversity, rather than resisting it, makes us stronger and helps us grow.

However, as a community, as a country, as Christians—we need to find common ground. We need to look beyond our differences and see how powerful it is to be in unity. While some people may say that unity is an impossible dream, I disagree. When we stand together as a diverse but unified group of people, we stand strong and we stand beautifully, just like the Bible says: "How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1, NLT).

Unfortunately, too often, brothers and sisters stand on opposite sides of an issue, and we feel that difference takes away any common ground we may share. But in order to achieve the beauty of unity that is blessed by God, we need to accept one another. We need to forgive one another. We need to love one another. We need to listen to and learn from one another.

Unity begins with understanding perspective. Many people's beliefs are based on personal experience. If we're serious about moving toward unity, let's try to put ourselves in someone else's

shoes before we judge them. Instead of deciding someone's experience isn't real because it isn't real to us, let's open up our minds to the possibility that our different experiences could both be true experiences, and that all people deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and empathy.



Pastor Brian Kamstra

It's okay to disagree with each other, and it's actually an incredible experience to have a respectful conversation with someone who stands on the opposite end of an issue from us. Those differences don't have to stop us from achieving unity, even during this time of political change. Instead, that unity will allow us to keep having conversations and keep seeing different perspectives, which in turn will help us continue to grow and learn.

Unity isn't about being the same—it's about standing together regardless of our differences. Let's fiercely protect that unity we find—in our churches, our schools, our communities, and, yes, our country. Unity is worth fighting for, now more than ever.

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 • Chairs • 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.



HITTING THE HIGH NOTE

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE TO PERFORM AT CARNEGIE HALL

By Carrie Steinweg



Formed in the 1970s, the South Holland Master Chorale has always been a well-known and respected musical group in the Chicagoland area. It will soon be recognized on the country's most prestigious stage as well—Carnegie Hall in New York City.



Founded by the late J. Albert Kindig at what was then Thornton Junior College, the group later became the South Suburban Chorale and was led by Albert M. Jackson from 1988 until 2022. The group now receives financial support from the Village of South Holland, hence the name South Holland Master Chorale. It is currently under the leadership of Philip Bauman with around 80 singers, drawing from more than 40 communities in Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

"The Chorale presented a concert in the fall of 2023 titled 'Of Hope, Healing & Discovery,'" says Bauman, "in which we performed a couple of selections by American composer Christopher Tin. This got the attention of the Director of Development for Distinguished Concerts International in New York (DCINY). He was putting together a concert of Mr. Tin's music, with the composer conducting, in the spring of 2024. We were selected to participate in that concert based on our reputation and audition tape."

Due to scheduling conflicts, however, the Chorale could not attend. "We were encouraged to find another concert that interested us," Bauman says. "When the Spring 2025 calendar was announced, I revisited the conversation so that we could participate in a concert by French composers. Having already performed the Fauré Requiem recently, a Carnegie Hall concert featuring that work seemed like the ideal concert setting for us."

This will be the first performance at Carnegie Hall for the 38 members that will be traveling to New York to participate. "All of our singers volunteer their time," Bauman says. "It's a big commitment of time and talent. But our singers love to sing and make glorious music with one another. They put their heart and soul into everything they do. They are an incredible group of dedicated singers."

The big performance will take place on Sunday, June 8 at 2 pm in the Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall. The concert will feature two works—the Fauré Requiem and the Misatango by Martín Palmeri.

"It is an honor to be selected to participate in this concert. It is a testament to the dedication and artistry of the choir, that we were sought after and selected to be in this concert," says Bauman. "It is an opportunity to represent our village, community and state on the world's most recognized and sought after stage." 🕯️



UPCOMING CONCERTS

Watch the South Holland Master Chorale perform locally at one of these upcoming concerts this spring.

Sunday, May 18 | 4pm

Thorn Creek Reformed Church
1875 E 170th St, South Holland

Sunday, June 1 | 4pm

St. John the Evangelist – St. John, IN
10701 Olcott Ave, St. John, IN

GET TO KNOW THE *Village Board*



The South Holland Board of Trustees faithfully serves the Village alongside Mayor Don De Graff. Each Board member brings unique perspectives and a shared commitment to the community, working together to shape the village's future. In this Q&A, the trustees share their insights on why they serve and what they love most about South Holland.



DON DE GRAFF

Mayor, Village Board President

Q: How long have you been on the Board?

A: I've been on the board for nearly 32 years total, and I've appreciated being Mayor now for just over 30 years.

Q: What inspired you to serve on the Board?

A: Having been born and raised in South Holland, I've always appreciated everything that my Village has provided for me and my family. As a result, when asked to serve, it gave me great pleasure to accept. From my youth on, I have always been interested in wanting to embrace diversity. No matter what kind of leadership capacity I've been in, I'm inspired to embrace the diversity of how God created us to

be. As Mayor, that has meant making sure there was fairness and equality for all of our residents and guests.

Q: What do you like best about serving South Holland?

A: I enjoy the ability to provide opportunities for residents, businesses, churches, schools and service organizations to interact with each other and grow stronger in their relationships with each other, which in turn leads to a more vibrant community life. When I can be instrumental in helping lead something that people not only enjoy but are blessed by and grow from it, that's what I enjoy most. These interactions and relationships ensure there's a higher quality of life for every one of these individuals and groups.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in South Holland?

A: Leading and participating in the Village of South Holland events. I love the Village Board meetings, Mayor's Coffees, events at Veterans Park; events like the MLK Tribute, Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, and the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. These events are opportunities to build and develop relationships with residents and our community's key groups.

Q: What is something you want South Hollanders to know about you?

A: I'm a man of faith, a Christian who loves the Lord, loves my family, my church and my Village. This summer my wife Nyla and I look forward to celebrating our 53rd wedding anniversary with our children, 18 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. I'm blessed and thankful for my family and for the opportunity to serve as Mayor for my Village.





SALLIE PENMAN

Village Clerk

Q: How long have you been on the Board?

A: 20 years

Q: What inspired you to serve on the Board?

A: I didn't seek out the opportunity to serve. The opportunity sought me out and I'm glad it did. We owe it to ourselves and our community to give back when we can.

Q: What do you like best about serving South Holland?

A: I like the way we approach governance, with joy and respect for each other; with a collaborative spirit and the absence of personal agendas.

We work well together—the Board, the leadership team, and the residents—for the benefit of everyone, and that is what I believe democracy looks like.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in South Holland?

A: My favorite thing is to attend events held in Veterans Park, especially our Concert in the Park. Music has a unique way of bringing people together. I don't remember who said this but, "without music, life would be a mistake."

Q: What is something you want South Hollanders to know about you?

A: I believe that as South Hollanders, we are united by a shared vision for our collective well-being and the prosperity of this place we call home. This shared vision is what makes our community so special, and I feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to contribute to its continued success.



LARRY DE YOUNG

Trustee

Q: How long have you been on the Board?

A: I will be on the Village board 35 years in May of this year, and was just re-elected to serve 4 more years.

Q: What inspired you to serve on the Board?

A: I was President of the South Holland Business Association and realized I enjoyed being in leadership. I had served on the Parks Advisory board for 9 years. Mayor Gouwens then appointed me to take Richard Zimmerman's seat when he took over the job of Deputy Clerk.

Q: What do you like best about serving South Holland?

A: I enjoy working with our Board of Trustees and with our Village Administration because we all have the same goals—to make South Holland better. I see no jealousy or one-upmanship practiced among our leaders. Also, it's always fun when I can help one of our residents work out a problem.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in South Holland?

A: I really enjoy being involved in the various committees where we can meet new people and hammer out new ideas.

Q: What is something you want South Hollanders to know about you?

A: The Village government and our churches and civic organizations have played a huge part in my life for many years and I have been grateful for the experiences. This is 'My Kind Of Town.'



CYNTHIA NYLEN

Trustee

Q: How long have you been on the Board?

A: Since September of 2002, 23 years.

Q: What inspired you to serve on the Board?

A: Since becoming involved in governmental activities under the Gouwens Administration during the 1980s, I was inspired by the dedication of those who served in an elected position. I appreciated the ways they would look ahead for ways to be aggressive in foundational policies for future generations in the community. Patricia Chase Magon, the first female to serve as a South Holland Trustee and who had been a great mentor to me, initiated conversation for me to replace her. It

was an honor and blessing to be included in that consensus appointment.

Q: What do you like best about serving South Holland?

A: Our residents are such a diverse and inclusive group who inspire me daily to help shape policies, activities, and improvements that enhance our community's quality of life and ensure a lasting legacy. The current administration is dedicated and invested in both foundational and forward-thinking village planning. Their support allows me to contribute ideas and strengthen our vision for a bright future.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in South Holland?

A: I love to walk through the community, especially Veterans Memorial Park, and see the workings of things that I can say I've had a hand in over the years. I also love visiting with residents, most of whom are people who love our village and engage in the things that inspire us, embracing new ideas and perspectives.

Q: What is something you want South Hollanders to know about you?

A: For years, dating back to the 1980s, I have personally been involved in the physical beautification of this community. Each year brings fresh ideas to enrich the lives of residents and visitors, inspiring greater participation in the activities and investments that strengthen our diverse and inclusive community. With hope, we remain united through the beauty of God's blessings and the promises of his faithfulness.





ANDREW JOHNSON, JR.

Trustee

Q: How long have you been on the Board?

A: Since 2008 (17 years in the fall).

Q: What inspired you to serve on the Board?

A: I have always wanted to serve in a capacity to make things better, not for myself but overall. I was never one who enjoyed angry and dirty politics that we see in other communities or nationally. I saw the South Holland Board as a unit that could disagree on issues but overall wanted what was best to keep a safe and prosperous community. Some of my early mentors, Art Bennet in particular, gave me the awareness that for a community to thrive you must get involved to make it better. This was

enough to push me toward getting involved and to do whatever is necessary to make South Holland an ideal community.

Q: What do you like best about serving South Holland?

A: The community. I appreciate the interaction with residents and hearing what they need. It is a pleasure to be able to bring those issues to the board and administration. I truly enjoy engaging with the residents at neighborhood meetings and events.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in South Holland?

A: Going to the Community Center. I enjoy enrolling in programs or classes and attending events. The Community Center is a great place to meet and greet residents, use the fitness equipment, engage with walkers on the track, and interact with families participating in youth events.

Q: What is something you want South Hollanders to know about you?

A: My family says that most people don't know I'm always willing to give of myself for the betterment of others.





VICKIE PERKINS

Trustee

Q: How long have you been on the Board?

A: 10 years

Q: What inspired you to serve on the Board?

A: I believe that I was “born to serve.” I am a strong believer in Servant Leadership, which prioritizes serving others and the community over personal gain. Compassion, character, and competence are the heartbeat of servant leadership. As a parent and community ambassador for 19 years, I was honored to have been appointed by Mayor Don DeGraff in 2015 as South Holland’s first African American female Trustee.

Q: What do you like best about serving South Holland?

A: South Holland is truly “A Village Like No Other.” I enjoy supporting and working with leaders/ administrators who are truly vested in the interests of the residents and not themselves. Our leaders lead with integrity, passion, and commitment. As I travel through South Holland, I see “signature” work executed by all of our departments. I enjoy serving in a community that has limitless possibilities being fueled by its proven and effective leadership. Last but not least, South Holland has the best residents in all the Southland region. It brings me great joy to serve our community and make life better for our families.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in South Holland?

A: South Holland has earned a distinguished reputation for hosting organized, wholesome and engaging family events. I enjoy attending these events, meeting residents, and getting their feedback on what they think, and how we can enhance what we are doing. Our Veterans Memorial Park is my favorite park. I have enjoyed many quiet walks on our walking path, and the state-of-the-art playground equipment with my grandchildren.

Q: What is something you want South Hollanders to know about you?

A: I am a Christian, a devoted wife, mother and nana, dedicated community leader and ambassador, and an accomplished professional in the retail industry.

Prior to my trustee appointment, I was a long-time member of the South Holland Youth Commission, including serving as commission chairwoman. Still today, I meet young adults at various village events that walk up to me and say they remember those events and how special they were.

In 2013, I was the recipient of the Mayor’s Award for Future Leadership, and in 2014, I was the recipient of the Diversity, Inc. Community Spirit Award.



PRINCE REED

Trustee

Q: How long have you been on the Board?

A: I was elected to the board in 2015.

Q: What inspired you to serve on the Board?

A: I was actually very comfortable serving in the background. But to protect the unity of the board and for the stability of our government, I agreed to be a candidate to serve the community that I love.

Q: What do you like best about serving South Holland?

A: Watching the global political and social climate, South Holland is a utopia in the midst of unrest and uncertainty. Our unashamed reliance on our faith and each other is unique, rewarding and fulfilling.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in South Holland?

A: Cycling through the community, taking in the essence of who we are as a village.

Q: What is something you want South Hollanders to know about you?

A: My passion for serving stems from having been the recipient of community investment in me. It is a joy for me to give back and provide the sense of safety and care that I received from my extended community.



JOHN RUSSELL

Trustee

Q: How long have you been on the Board?

A: In October 2017, I was appointed to fill the seat of the late Dr. John F. Sullivan.

Q: What inspired you to serve on the Board?

A: For years, I served the Village in a variety of capacities. I started with the Planning and Development Commission in 1993, and the Library Board in 2001. I had never really aspired to be a Trustee. Of course, working and interacting with the Mayor and the other trustees over the years was a huge influence, but it is the greatest honor for me to follow John Sullivan. He was my pastor, my mentor, and a dear friend, and though I will never come close, the example of his enthusiasm for serving the people of South Holland is my greatest motivation.

Q: What do you like best about serving South Holland?

A: I love being active in the vision our team has for South Holland. It's all about the people of our Village, and it is such a joy to see so many residents get involved, contribute ideas, and become part of the vision, too. "Faith, Family, and Future" is not a cliché, it's how our community comes together and relates to each other.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in South Holland?

A: I love experiencing our beautiful neighborhoods, taking walks with my wife, Susan, or my dog, Turbo. People take such great pride in their homes and businesses, and there's always a friendly encounter to brighten my day.

Q: What is something you want South Hollanders to know about you?

A: If people don't already know, I am an attorney, so I am trained in matters related to the dark side of the force. But my bigger secret is that my undergraduate degree is in music education, and I occasionally can be coaxed into singing, either as a soloist or with a group. 🔥

PROTECT, PREPARE, PREVENT



6 TIPS FOR PREVENTING FLOODING ON YOUR PROPERTY

Spring is upon us, which means greener grass and blooming flowers... but also more frequent rain showers. South Holland is subject to over-bank flooding from three sources: the Little Calumet River, Thorn Creek, and the Calumet Union Drainage Ditch. While flooding is a possibility because of our topography, it does not mean that water damage to your property is inevitable. There are many preventative measures you can take to protect your property in advance. Here are some tools to help prepare your property for potential flooding.

1. KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD.

What exactly is the flood hazard in South Holland? The Village is subject to three types of flood hazards: overbank flooding, local drainage, and sewer backup. Depending on where you live in the Village, your property may be susceptible to one, two, or all three of these hazards. To find out if you are in a mapped floodplain, visit southholland.org or call the Community Development Department at 708.210.2915.

2. PROTECT PEOPLE FROM THE HAZARD.

How can I protect my family during a flood? Every resident should have an emergency plan in place. Create a family communication plan, understand evacuation routes, and build an emergency kit with drinking water, canned food, first aid supplies, batteries and a flashlight. Check out ready.gov/kit for more supply kit ideas and additional information.



3. PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM THE HAZARD.

How can I protect my property from the flood hazard? Did you know the Village provides a Flood Prevention Program? This program allows residents who have been pre-qualified to be reimbursed for a percentage of the cost of their floodproofing project. Residents can receive a 25% rebate (up to \$2,500) for projects that address surface water diversion, sewer backups and subsurface improvements (such as foundation waterproofing or repairs). The Village also offers a cost-sharing program that pays 50% (up to \$5,000) for larger sewer backup prevention projects. Call the Community Development Department at 708.210.2915 for more information.

4. INSURE YOUR PROPERTY FOR THE HAZARD.

Did you know that most homeowner insurance policies DO NOT cover a property for flood damage? Flood insurance can be purchased by ALL residents of the Village. Because South Holland participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and is a Class 5 community, residents located within the floodplain are eligible to receive a 25% discount of their flood insurance policy and all other residents are eligible to receive a 10% discount. Renters can obtain contents coverage to protect buildings. Contact your insurance agent to learn more about flood insurance opportunities.

5. BUILD RESPONSIBLY.

How can residents build responsibly? Always contact the Community Development Department at 708.210.2915 before you build on, add fill to, or change your property in any way. A permit may be required and a Village review of the proposed changes may help you avoid potential drainage problems.

6. PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS.

What can residents do to help protect the floodplain? The natural function of the floodplain is to provide storage and conveyance of floodwaters, protect water quality and recharge groundwater reserves. It can and should be protected by all Village residents. Use garden chemicals sparingly and only when necessary, and be sure to properly store and dispose of oils, chemicals, and other toxic materials. If you see dumping of debris in ditches or filling in the floodplain, contact the Community Development Department at 708.210.2915. 🌿

STAY INFORMED

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 Smart911 notifications for community alerts during periods of severe weather. This service is free, and residents can sign up at southholland.org/smart911.
- Tune to a local radio station or news broadcast.
- 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.

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

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southholland.org/centralbark



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