



# Monday, May 30, 2022 11:00 am

South Park Ave from 170th St to Veterans Memorial Park

Remembrance Ceremony following the parade at 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, email cmarshall@southholland.org or call 708.210.2904.

### FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

Summertime is here, and this one is really special! It is the first summer since 2019—before the pandemic—that we've had the opportunity to truly come together and enjoy safely gathering for our favorite summertime activities. This is a season of much-needed renewal, revival, and rebuilding of community relationships.

You will see in this issue a preview of our many summertime activities and events—from the Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony, to our 4th of July Celebration, to Cruise Night, as well as the South Holland Municipal Band concerts in the park, and more. It's also a great time to utilize our parks and outdoor spaces for a vibrant and active summer. Make sure to stop by SoHo Sweets and enjoy an ice cream while swinging on the swings at Town Center Commons. Check out a Little League game at Veterans Memorial Park. Even our furry friends can have fun at our brandnew dog park! (Read about that on page 5.)

This summer is also the first to observe Juneteenth as an official national holiday. In this issue, we have two very poignant articles on Juneteenth and what it means for South Holland and our country as a whole. Please consider some of the ideas suggested in these articles to personalize and celebrate this well-deserved holiday with your individual family.

The excitement in the air for this upcoming summer is palpable. I hope you'll join me in taking every opportunity to get outdoors with your neighbors and friends. Let's together take advantage of the tremendous resources the Village of South Holland provides as we enjoy the summer of 2022.

### VILLAGE BOARD

### President

Don A De Graff

### Clerk

Dr. Sallie Penmar

### Trustees

Larry De Young Andrew Johnson, Jr. Cynthia Nylen Vickie Perkins Prince Reed John Russell

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**Deputy Village Administrator**Pat Mahon

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### **VILLAGE NEWS**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



### **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 2022-23 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

Stickers are available beginning May 2, 2022 at the Customer Service Center at Village Hall, 16220 Wausau Ave. Late fees are incurred beginning on July 1.



### TREE TRIMMING

As we enter the summer months, it is important to keep trees and bushes trimmed so as not to obstruct the sidewalks or streets. This is especially vital for any shrubbery that may block the line of site for motor vehicles. The Village has an ordinance that requires all trees and shrubbery to be properly trimmed. For a list of local companies that provide tree trimming, visit southholland.org. For any questions about the ordinance, call the Community Development office at 708.210.2915.



### **GRASS MAINTENANCE**

Similarly, a Village ordinance requires that grass be trimmed so as not to exceed 6 inches in length. This helps keep South Holland looking clean, bright and beautiful. If you are in need of a lawn mowing service, visit southholland.org for a list of local companies that can help.



### **TORNADO SIREN TEST**

You may have noticed that occasionally a loud siren will sound on a perfectly sunny day. That's because on the first Tuesday of every month at 10am, the Fire Department tests the tornado and severe weather outdoor warning systems. If you hear the siren at this time and there is no imminent weather threat, you may disregard.

### **VILLAGE NEWS**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND

### DOG PARK COMING TO SOUTH HOLLAND!

South Holland is about to be home to a dog park! The brand new facility, named Central Bark, will be located at 510 Thornwood Drive, just east of the Community Center, and is expected to open in late May.

Central Bark will feature agility equipment, a double-gated entry, and designated areas for both large and small dogs. This exciting new amenity will be a safe and friendly place for our residents and their furry friends!

Central Bark is a members-only park. Members pay a small annual fee and their dog must meet certain vaccination requirements. The membership process is listed at southholland.org/centralbark. Dog owners can register at the Customer Service Center at Village Hall, 16226 Wausau Ave. Once registration has been received and processed, a Central Bark dog tag and entry card will be issued. These are required for entering the park.

A list of community guidelines for the park can be found at southholland.org/centralbark. We look forward to seeing your pups at Central Bark this summer!







### **OUT AND ABOUT**

### FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

### AFTER HOURS LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

In honor of Black History Month, the South Holland Public Library partnered with the Village of South Holland and McKinley Elementary School to provide a night of live music by the students of District 150. Families and residents filled the McKinley gym to hear songs related to Black history and culture.









### **OUT AND ABOUT**

### **FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE**

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

South Holland children visited Veterans Memorial Park for an Easter egg hunt on April 9. Kids ages 1–10 searched for eggs filled with candy, and in addition, each participant received an Easter basket generously sponsored by various South Holland businesses. Families also had the opportunity to take photos with the Easter bunny.











### SOUTH HOLLAND SPORTS



A NEW SPACE FOR SPORTS SOUTH HOLLAND YOUTH SPORTS TO GET CLUBHOUSE By Bob Bong

South Holland has a rich history of youth sports, dating back to 1956 with the creation of the South Holland Little League.

That legacy expanded starting in 1972 with the founding of the South Holland Jets youth football program.

Now, the Village is in the process of supporting these programs by building them a clubhouse where they can store their equipment, keep their uniforms, display their trophies, view game films and hold meetings.

"It will be a cool setting for the kids as well as a place for the coaches. It exemplifies the village's commitment to youth sports," says Recreation Services Deputy Director Wally Widelski, a former South Holland Little Leaguer.

"They can hang championship banners and there will be a trophy case so today's players can recollect the rich history of the South Holland sports teams," says Widelski. "Kids born in the last 10 years have no idea of the history of their teams."

He says the Village hopes the clubhouse will help Little League President Derrick

Davis and Jets President Malik Jones further their programs.

The clubhouse will be located off 164th Street north of Laren Montessori School and behind the snow hill in Municipal Park.

"The clubhouse concept was spurred by Mayor De Graff and Village administration," says Widelski. "They wanted a quality, designated space for our Little League and Jets teams."

In the 950-square-foot building, there will be a storage room and restroom. The building will be air conditioned and heated. A turf practice field is planned for the land adjacent to the clubhouse.

"We can open (the garage door) for registration and other gatherings for the teams," says Widelski.

The building will have a white board and DVD players for the coaches to help instruct their players. "There will be a TV with a sound system and plenty of shelving."

Widelski says the clubhouse will be open in early May. "When people see the finished building, they will love it."

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS



# May 5 MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

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

Join Mayor De Graff and the South Holland Ministerial Association as they pray for our Village, State and Nation. Breakfast will be served. Admission is \$7 per person at the door.

### May 6 MOTHER/SON 80'S PARTY

6:30-9:00 pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th Street

Mothers and sons are invited to enjoy a 1980s-themed evening that includes food, dancing, pictures and more. All sons must be accompanied by their mothers or favorite lady. Register at the Community Center.

# May 7 and June 4 COFFEE WITH THE 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.

# May 10 and June 14 COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

May 10: 7pm, June 14: 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.

### May 19

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS COFFEE FOR CHAMPIONS

5am-12pm, Dunkin', 460 E 162nd Street

Visit with South Holland police officers at Dunkin' and help raise support for the upcoming Law Enforcement Torch Run (happening June 14) for Special Olympics Illinois.

### May 20

### DADDY/DAUGHTER HAWAIIAN LUAU PARTY

6:30-9:00 pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th Street

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 for a dazzling evening. Register at the Community Center.

# May 30 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

llam, South Park Ave

South Holland will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade, which kicks off at 11am from 170th Street and South Park Avenue. Following the parade, there will be a remembrance ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.

# June 7 MAYOR'S COFFEE

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

Residents can hear from and speak with Mayor Don De Graff. Coffee and refreshments are provided.

### June 16

### SOUTH HOLLAND MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT

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

The South Holland Municipal Band performs a series of concerts over the summer. The concerts are held at the bandstand at Veterans Park on various Thursday evenings.

### AT THE LIBRARY

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

# May 20 OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

8pm, West Parking Lot

Grab a blanket and bring a chair for a showing of Disney's Encanto.

Come sing and dance with us.

# May 21 SATURDAY YOGA AT THE LIBRARY

11am

DuShaun Pollard, founder of Sage Gawd Collective, is back by popular demand. Bring a yoga mat, clear your mind and get in some good stretches.

# May 26 PET DONATIONS DRIVE

5pm, East Parking Lot

Help a pet in need and bring donations. We are partnering with the South Suburban Humane Society.

# June 4 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE KICK-OFF

llam-3pm

Get signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge for all ages. Join us for food, dancing, petting zoos, and more as we kick off Summer Break 2022.



### SEEING GOD'S IMAGE IN ALL

By Pastor Jim Oord of First Reformed Church

As I'm writing this in the middle of March, we've just experienced the first few days that passed 60 degrees. The track around Veterans Park has finally dried out and it is packed. Teens flocking to the soccer field for a pickup game; kids swarming the playground; a father teaching his little son and daughter how to pitch on the baseball field; walkers, joggers, bikers making loop after loop; the sounds of laughter, conversation, and music. It feels like that first hint of summer in South Holland.

By the time this issue of South Holland Living reaches our mailboxes, we'll be entering summer full tilt. And I think about all the things that make summer in South Holland so amazing, all the things that make me love spending this season in our "village like no other."

The sound of Stevie Wonder blaring across the block from a backyard party. The smell of Kirks' Barbecue wafting over the neighborhood. I think of the line to get an ice cream cone at SoHo Sweets. I think of that magical day when fresh peach ice cream becomes available at Cunis Candies. I think of block parties, neighborhood gatherings, parades, fireworks, and so much more that makes up summer in South Holland.

I think of the summer holidays with parties and cookouts. And as I write this article for the May/June mailing, I think of the most important summer holiday, Juneteenth (June 19), with all its meaning and significance.

The observance of Juneteenth is a painful

yet absolutely necessary admission... that for many years, the promises made on July 4, 1776, that all people are "created equal," were not extended to all human beings in the United States.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued



**Pastor Jim Oord** 

his Emancipation Proclamation, which declared free all enslaved people in the parts of Southern States that had rebelled against the federal government. This Proclamation was an incredibly important step, but it couldn't be enforced in all areas. Even after the Civil War ended, remote parts of our country still practiced chattel slavery.

It wasn't until June 19, 1865, that the last enslaved people were set free in the State of Texas. This was an incredibly important step toward our country keeping the promises it made, but of course it was only the beginning of the long journey toward Civil Rights and racial equity.

Churches began celebrating Juneteenth as early as 1866, and the celebration has

grown since then, until our nation declared Juneteenth as a federal holiday last year.

Juneteenth is a powerful recognition that independence, freedom, and "liberty and justice for all" did not exist in our country until 90 years after its founding. But Juneteenth is also a celebration of tenacity, a celebration of the hope that if we keep on working, keep on praying, keep on fighting, keep on hoping, positive change can come.

Juneteenth is our nation's recognition of something that Christians have known (and in many cases, should have been fighting much harder for) all along—that every human being on this earth is made in God's image.

Genesis 2 uses the imagery of God "getting his hands dirty" as he put special care and attention into the creation of human beings. Women and men are God's special creation, and he calls us his "image-bearers." In other words, God made us to look like him. That's our privilege and our task here on earth, to do the things that God does. If God is loving, we need to be known for our compassion. If God is creative, we need to be known for our imagination. If God is just, we need to be known for our activism and willingness to stand with the oppressed. If God is beautiful, we need to be known for our celebration of all that is good.

To believe that all humans are made in the image of God is to believe that every person you meet is worthy of respect, worthy to be heard, and worthy to be loved. What kind of summer would we have if we agreed to recognize God's image in each person we meet? What kind of summer could we experience if we committed to celebrating each person around us as God's special creation? No matter their gender, age, creed, ethnicity, race, ability, seeing them as someone to love, respect, and cherish.

It's a hard truth that summer usually brings an increase of gun violence in urban and suburban areas, and an increase of calling the police on teenagers. Along with all the joys of summer, there seems to come a rise in distrust, crankiness, and some of the worst parts of our humanity.

As we enter the summer of 2022, what if we as a community committed to having a "summer like no other?" A summer where we did the work of getting to know our neighbors, extending some kindness, and sowing trust instead of suspicion. A summer where we committed to recognizing God's image in each person we see biking past, each group of kids we see hanging out in the park, each person driving on the next lane on Route 6. Let's do it!

Our Village could lead the way. We already have public servants doing this work. We already have Village leaders working hard to build togetherness. We already have Police and Fire stations committing to care. We already have businesses creating community. We already have churches working together to serve.

As we enter a new summer, as we approach the celebration of Juneteenth, as neighbors, as friends, as citizens, let's have a "Summer like no other." Let's really be a "Village Like No Other!"



School teachers and educators have the difficult but vital job of instructing young students during the most pivotal time of their life. This instruction goes beyond basic facts and figures... teachers help instill in their students the invaluable skills of work ethic, cooperation, discipline, and so much more. A teacher can change a child's life and take them to great heights.

In South Holland, one of our three core values is Future (in addition to Faith and Family), and young people are the Future of our community, nation and world. South Holland is blessed to have hundreds of teachers who are fully committed to their students, and therefore are investing in our Future. On behalf of the Village Board and Administration, I would like to take this opportunity to list those teachers by name over the next few pages, and to thank each and every one of them for their hard work and unwavering devotion to our kids.

Thank you, teachers!



### CALVARY ACADEMY

Principal: Taylor-Imani Gates

### **TEACHERS**

Lannaea Alexander Endhy Amoros Darryl Ashley Katie Baranowski Kelli Bille Bianca Boyas Akai Carter Charlotte Catchings Michelle Courtney Ryan Gates Theresa Kraiss Latonya Lewis Nicole McPherson
Paula Morgan
Erica Murray
Nancy Paul
Julie Rejonis
Erin Ritzema
Bryon Ritzema
Dawn Robinson
Susan Russell
Judy Santana
Gabrielle Surrett
Brittan Weaver
Leah Wideman
Fredrick Wilson
Julie Wroughton

Bob McKenzie

# CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Principal: Randy Moes Assistant Principal: Andrew Fentress

### **TEACHERS**

Kelly Archie
Julia Baurain
Amy Boerman-Cornell
Kimberly Bolkema
Sally Breems
Leah Casson
Sharai Colar
Qiana Dukes
Lisa Dykstra
Alex Eiland

Andrew Fentress Stacy Harvey Julie Jann Jennifer Kooyenga Allison Krooswyk April Kujawa Lisa Meeks Randy Moes Wendy Moes Rhonesia Moore Linda Neal John Nutter Jacaueline Perez Jon Postma Sarah Powers Charlotte Purnell Kvann Rule Stacia Smits

### **COOLIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Principal:

Mrs. Patricia Payne Assistant Principal: Mrs. Tiedra-White Mooty Superintendent:

Dr. Teresa Hill

### **TEACHERS**

Brittanye Allen Sarah Allen Elizabeth Almeda Joe Baranski Heather Bettenhausen Prezemek Bogdanowicz Shaunte Brown Gregory Brown Michael Bruce Willie Butler Mark Chamberlain Megan Collins Maura Culbertson Rosa Drumgole Angela Fergus Christina Field Toni Foxworth Sharon Fuller Natasha Gargola Toya Gary Todd Gervase Crystal Hoofe Aisha Jackson Traci Jendrzejak Connell Jones Laurena Lacey Kameela Lacy Candace Litherland Stephanie Machart Kassidy Malachi Cheryl Mangialardi Jennifer McDonald Karen McShane John Milazzo Mario Moody Linda Muldrow Richard Nagy Jacqueline Perez Ernestine Proctor-Harris Eric Ramos ViAnn Rickey Oku Satcher Allen Schab Thomas Sedlacek Paul Smiley George Sterlin Tradena Taylor

Karen Zega

### **ECHO SCHOOLS**

Superintendent: Dr. Sandra Thomas Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Celia Arresola Principal: Jennifer Cowan Assistant Principal: Julie Balis

### **TEACHERS**

Kimberly Davis Laura Hacko Tim Hewitt Angelique Hoekstra Lori Hurley Samantha Lullo Rose Munizzo Kyle O'Bright Cheryl Ragland Megan Rasche Emily Reed Russell Regan Sandra Sawczak Kimberly Smith Erika Wiater Tiarra Wilkins Sarah Wulf

### **EISENHOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Peter Kolinski Assistant Principal: Mrs. La'Trica Gamble-Green Superintendent: Dr. Teresa Hill

**TEACHERS** Stephanie Bondi-Smith Laura Carr Sara Chickerillo Catherine Coppin Keith Decker Rozlyn Dunmore Robin Gutsch Melina Hernandez-Jimenez Caitlin Kabak Jen Lazarski Amanda List Vania Long Dawn Love Julie Lunt

Sally McDermott Rafael Mendoza Diana Mickow Rebecca Ownes Kimberly Smith Catherine Sweeney Elayne Tyderek Jaclyn Wernersbach Brian Wilson Kristi Zaldivar

### **GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Carla Cunningham Assistant Principal: Antoinette Patton Superintendent: Dr. Michele Morris

### **TEACHERS**

Teresa Arroyo JoMarie Burns Caryn Ciciora Ashley Dacio Yesnia Diaz Adreanna Doizan Lizabeth Duncanson Marcie Ferrell Rebecca Gannuscio Alexis Gonzalez Tiva Hanks Terri Harrington Lisa Kirby Erika Mora Tonya Nattsas Cheryl Pickert Tanika Price Jennifer Roark Lisa Rourke Christina Schmidt Briana Sublett Sherry Thomas Monique Walker Joyce White

### LAREN **MONTESSORI**

SCHOOL Nina Mulyani Madeline Ziolkowski Miran Harvey Delilah Owens Elizabeth Sigeti

### **MacARTHUR SCHOOLS**

Superintendent: Dr. Sandra Thomas Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Celia Arresola Principal: Diane Barnes-Maguire

### **TEACHERS**

Megan Andersen Lisa Beymer Anne Clemency Kristen Hill Cierra Johnson Evette Johnson-Bradley Heather Lewis Michelle McCauley Patricia McGoldrick Katherine Nydam William Sebenik Olivia Stevens Sonji Walker

### **MADISON ELEMENTARY**

Principal: Jerald McNair Assistant Principal: Chevia Rush Superintendent: Dr. Teresa Hill

### **TEACHERS**

LaTasha Bailey Courtney Beemsterboer Emanuel Bramlett Kimberly Davis Yasmeen Elayyan Christopher Goldschmidt Jessica Gomboz Bre'Ann Jones John Katsibubas Felicia Maholmes Tiffany McMillan Edward Medina Mario Moody Melody Murphy Michelle Orth John Pace Jennifer Perez Mayra Ramos Tracy Rodenberg Thomas Sedlacek Shirley Smith Lanita Stewart

Kimberly Swett Kevin Van Soest Kristen Ward Jolanda Washington Karen Zega

### **McKINLEY ELEMENTARY** and JR. HIGH SCHOOLS

Principal: Dr. Jerome Ferrell Jr. Assistant Principal: Ayanna Perkins Assistant Principal: Joseph Ingram Superintendent: Dr. Michelle Morris Assistant Superintendent: Tiffany Webb

### **TEACHERS**

Laura Anderson Audria Arrington Eric Ballenger Ronesha Bonds Brooke Bryant Robert Bush Lisa Carter-West Carlos Chiona Caprice Cook Deion Craig Kyle Cyrus Pam DePeder Dawn DeYoung Nora Dunne Andre Finney Jennifer Fisher Lisa Gonzalez Kimara Hall Scott Hannagan Jill Hotchkin Ricardo Howard Charles Krugman Janna Lee-White Ericka Lohr Antoinette Marshall Laura Martinez Lisa Merriman Jill Neish Beth O'Shea Tracey Palmer Christine Pearson Michael Poore Alma Ramirez Alison Renfroe

Gloria Sockwell Lara Terry Michelle Thomas Adriana Vasauez Casey Vitolka Yashica Waddy Carlene Walker-Harris Latana Weems Rochelle Wilson Lori Zegarac

### **TAFT ELEMENTARY**

Principal: Christine Wilson Assistant Principal: Angelica Guisinger Superintendent: Dr. Teresa Hill

### **TEACHERS**

Kerri Banach Faviola Carrasco Molly Carroll Brenna Chambers Gabriela Cornejo Natia Durms-Marsh Samantha Gale Mathew Gorecki Sharon Gormley Yaretsi Hernandez Kylie Irvin Angel Johnson Barbara Kampenga Catherine Kircher Maureen Knaack Mayra Mendez Megan Munoz Caroline Olson Rebecca Owens Karla Patino Corrine Pennington Nicole Rothgeb Ronald Rottmann Ethan Shebesh Kimberly Smith Shannon Stacey Samantha Tucker

### THORNWOOD HIGH **SCHOOL**

Sarah Walmsley

Principal: Don C. Holmes Assistant Principal: Dr. Camilla Covington Assistant Principal: Dr. Nakeisha Knight Assistant Principal: Thomas Walsh Superintendent: Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr. Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Jerry B. Doss Assistant Superintendent: Toriano Horton

### **TEACHERS**

Nifoz Abdrabo Paul Adams Samuel Agyarko Lora Alexander-Flaherty Susan Antonini Natalie Atia Patricia Bailey Shannon Bandy Dwayne Bearden Lunye Benson Gregory Bibeau Rhea Bickham Daniel Biesiada Razietta Bishop Kelly Bonomo Nathan Boylan Rebecca Boyter Jena Brannon ShaunaBrown Patricia Brucki Billy Bundy Christine Burger James Burnette Thomas Carr LaTonia Carr Carmen Cedano Andrew Chidester Michael Cierski Anthony Clemons Cherise Clowers Noni Coleman Gina Collier LaVerne Collins Kevin Connor Joseph Crane Cheryl Cruikshank-Harris Carol Curtis Mark Danielson Mary Doornbos-Johnson Jennifer Durkin James Dye Robert Easton **Denard Eaves** 

Steven Edgar

Shawn Embry

Brian Evans Afsar Farooqui Melissa Fekete Daryle Flaherty Lashunda Fleming-Willis Jasmine Flowers Shavon Fomby Brian Frank Patrick Gaffney Daniel Galvan Daniel Garcia Richard Geier Jose Gonzalez Jeffrey Governale Danny Gray Veronica Guerrero Elizabeth Gutierrez Martine Guzman Annika Hardy Douglas Alexandria Hay James Heimlich Cedric Henderson Julie Henneman Jasara Hines Jordan Hock Martez Hodges Gloria Hoekstra Brandon Holmes Jennifer Honeycutt Susan Hudson Danielle Jania Krista Jarrett Sheila Joannie Johnston Stacey Jones Jalena Jones Steven Jones Vince Kaslev Teressa Kent Karen Keorpes Jennifer Kilian Tammy King Felicia Knowles Patrick Kovalan Jennifer Kovalan Andrew Krakar Kristi Krooswyk Maxine Lane Ivalue Langs Shelly Lester Despina Liaskos Michelle Liberio Christina Lim Kelli Louden Jason MacConnell Christine Mangin Marlene Matthias Melva McGee Anthony Medina

Ericka Roberts

Crystal Meier-Balousek Jennifer Merwald Katherine Metro-Craig Wilber Milhouse Michele Moore Veronica Mosley-Raggs Adilah Muhammad Valencia Norton Alejandra Ortiz Edgar Palacios Okeycha Pettigrew Alicia Pettigrew Jennifer Pitts Michael Powers Kay Pyron Harts Karianne Randick Rashea Ratliff Darryl Reddick Katrina Robinson-Oliver Alma Roque Kyle Rusco Shindana Sales Michael Sanders Dwayne Sanders Rachael Santos Deborah Scaletta Paul Slavich Kenneth Smith Daniel Snyder Myriam Souffrant Rita Stoncius Charles Surina Shelia Svoboda Rufus Taylor Crystal Taylor Alessandra Teodori Monica Townes-Hudson Daniel Turner Adrian Vargas-Ibarra Joel Vickers Carolyn Walker Kathryn Walsh

Kenneth Wendorff John Werner Stephanie White-Wayne David Wilk Lionell Williams Eric Wilson Mary Wimmer Amelia Wise Stacy Woodson-Dave Tihila Wright Gus Yiakos Robert Young Kourtney Young George Zalewski Dan Zhong Lisa Zuccolo Thaddeus Zuzga

### **UNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

Principal: Neil Okuley Assistant Principal: Steven Harrison

### **TEACHERS**

Charis Bootsma Josh Bootsma Anna Buegel Geneise Grant Alex Eiland Noah Friesen Brian Mazique Mattie Mikitka Trelissa Moses Jim Oord Amy Veldboom Richard Zekveld

### SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE

President: Dr. Lynette D. Stokes

### **TEACHERS**

George Alexopoulos Bruce Allardice David L Anderson Amy Babinec Robert A Bailey Laura J Baltuska Sheral Brooks Alfred R Brown Cynthia Brown Christine Calhoun Leticia Carrillo Godwin Chou Kyle Churney Keith Collett Latherese R Cooke Lisa Curless Eugenio Damiani Patrick T Deane Richard T Evans Dectric Fletcher Jazaer H Fouad-Farrar Gerald A Griffith Diane Grzeczka Lucas Gunby Mark Hannon Zubeir Haroun Ginah Haynes Samuel Hinkle Gregory Horn Ruchi Jairath Lakesha Jefferson Ona Johnson Lauren Johnston Melvin R Jones Sandra Karim

Jennifer G Kraft Sangeeta Kumar Yixia Lu Michael Lyttle Kimberly Marks Sarah McAlev John McGreevy Shunda L McGriff Jennifer L Medlen Suha Mohammed Dennis J Monbrod Maureen Moran Gina Mrozek Eric R Myers Caleb A Olaleye James J O'Leary Patrick O'Leary La'Taria Overstreet Pamela Planera Edith R Raices Adrienne Reaves Joan Rosen David A Schaberg Margaret A Shear James E Simpson Mickel Smith Herman E Stark Megan Tabag Juhelia Thompson Anthony D Todd Eric Tucker Steven D Vivian Donna Walker Marcia A Wallace **Becky Walters** Jamie D Welling Marilyn M Wells Naomi West Crystal Wiley Michael Wilson Lynn Wollstadt Naketa Young

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ighte the imagination, and instill a love of learning." -Brad Henry

Amy Kelley

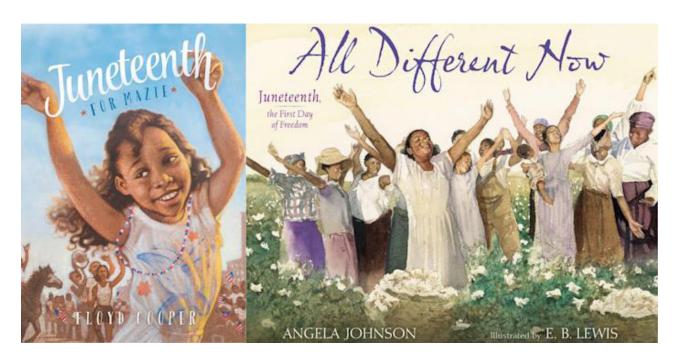


### A TIME OF CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE

### By Ronda Williams



Juneteenth, celebrated annually on the nineteenth of June, was first recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021. This holiday is a celebration of freedom and the remembrance of the end of American slavery that was set into motion by the Emancipation Proclamation. The journey to this holiday is significant as it weaves together our struggles as a nation to recognize that all Americans, regardless of race or ethnicity, have protection and equal rights under Constitutional law. Juneteenth reflects a journey that continues to evolve as we look back from where we have come from and determine where we are going.



HERE ARE A FEW RESOURCES THAT CAN BE FOUND AT THE SOUTH HOLLAND LIBRARY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JUNETEENTH:

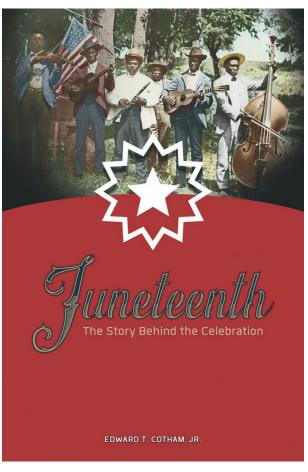
### Children and youth books

- I. Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper
- 2. J*uneteenth* by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
- 3. All Different Now: The First Day of Freedom by Angela Johnson

### Adult books

- 1. On Juneteenth by Annette Gordon Reed
- 2. Juneteenth, The Story Behind the Celebration by Edward T. Cotham, Jr.
- General Gordon Granger: The Savior Behind Chickamauga and the Man Behind Juneteenth – by Robert C. Connor

Finally, look for community announcements of Juneteenth celebrations taking place this summer. Learning about our past will help us to fully appreciate and celebrate our world today.



# IF YOU ARE READY TO HOST YOUR OWN CELEBRATION, HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

- Host a cookout and invite family, friends, and neighbors. Include red drinks or red sodas a recognition of African American perseverance and those who have died in pursuit of equality.
- 2. Raise a flag in honor of Juneteenth.
- 3. Play trivia games that teach about the history of the holiday and the achievements of African Americans.
- Encourage family members to share family history and record their stories on video or live streaming.
- 5. Make a commitment to financially support black-owned businesses and bank at black-owned financial institutions.

History teaches that while the Emancipation Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863, declaring that all enslaved Africans were free, it was not until June 1865 that enslaved people in Texas became aware of their freedom. Union troops who waged a deadly and hard-fought war continued in their battle to the farthest state at the time, Texas. Until this time, the Emancipation Proclamation had negligible impact in Texas.

After the surrender of General Lee in April 1865, news of the end of the Civil War finally got to Texas. Upon their arrival in Galveston, Texas, the Union Army under the leadership of General Granger announced the end of slavery, thus freeing the remaining enslaved people in Texas. This was the birth of Juneteenth celebrations.

Also known as Jubilee Day, Freedom Day or Black Independence Day, Juneteenth was first celebrated in Texas, which was also the first to officially commemorate it as a state holiday on June 7, 1979.

Today our nation celebrates Juneteenth with reflection, celebration, and hope. We reflect on where we have come from and look forward with a renewed hope of living out freedom and justice for all. This holiday is one where everyone can honor black achievements in education, business, and community development.

For some families and communities, celebrating Juneteenth means eating barbecue, shooting fireworks, hosting a cookout, and drinking red colored drinks as a symbol of perseverance. It can also mean supporting black-owned businesses and reflecting as a community in conversations about our past, present and future as a nation.

Briana McCarthy, South Holland business owner of Bri on Brows, celebrates Juneteenth with family and friends, and like a new kind of Independence Day recognizes this holiday as a day of freedom.

"As a black business owner, I realize that the opportunities I have are an outgrowth of many people who came before me," McCarthy says. "Those who fought for freedom, the right to vote, the right to own a home and operate a business forged a pathway for me to achieve my dreams. Juneteenth reflects my opportunity to successfully run a business because of the perseverance and sacrifice of others."

# DOUBLE DUTCH CLUB

### CREATING FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH FITNESS, FUN, FELLOWSHIP

### By Carrie Steinweg

As women move through life, there come routines and stresses of everyday existence and the struggle to juggle it all. Sometimes we forget how to laugh and have fun.

The 40+ Double Dutch Club was founded in 2016 by Pamela Robinson and Catrina Dyer with the aim of connecting women over age 40 by recreating the fun of childhood games. It's since spread around the world with over 40,000 members, not only in the U.S., but also in Germany, Canada, Israel and Jamaica, according to Kendra Morrison, captain of the South Holland sub-club.





For those couple of hours that the women join together, they relive the excitement that's reminiscent of carefree childhood days and experience a boost in confidence as ladies realize they've still got it—and can double dutch the way they did decades ago. The club provides a camaraderie that Morrison says goes "beyond the ropes." It's more than a club, she explains. It's a movement.

Morrison got involved when she saw a question posed in a Facebook post. "Are you over 40 and do you like double dutch?" She replied 'yes' and was soon meeting with Robinson. She learned about the mission of the 40+ Double Dutch Club and agreed to lead a sub-club in South Holland. Oak Park was the first sub-club. South Holland was the second, starting in June 2019. It now has over 100 members, ranging in age from 40 up to 84. Each member purchases a club T-shirt in lieu of a membership fee, and their name and age are printed on the back. "We're proud of our age," Morrison says. "I'm 53!"

An appearance on Windy City Live helped spread the word, which was followed by additional media appearances and mentions, locally and nationally, that have included numerous talk and news shows and O Magazine.

"I love the peace that it's brought to my life," says Morrison. "I had a wonderful childhood and it takes me back to a place where there is peace." She also appreciates that each meeting ends in prayer. "We do a prayer at the end and do prayer requests. You just don't know what someone else is going through. I'm a woman of faith. To me, if you put God in anything, it's going to be good."

New members are always welcome. You can show up at any sub-club to check it out and learn about membership. The only requirements are that you be a female and over the age of 40. You don't have to be a master at double dutch. "No sister is left behind. You can go to any club and do what works for your life," says Morrison.

The club has fun doing not just double dutch, but sometimes hula hoop, jacks, hopscotch and dancing. Morrison says the club grew so quickly that Ace Hardware couldn't keep clothing line on the shelf-that's what they use for jump rope.

Tracy Singleton has known Morrison since they jumped double dutch together in junior high. "We were classmates and Kendra extended the invitation when they were securing ladies, so I went to a meet-up and loved it. I love the whole community. We come for fun, fellowship and to meet new friends. It's a sisterhood," she says. "We have those hours together and close in prayer. It creates a true bond."



She loves seeing the transformation in women who have struggled with working out and she likes that the group is also active in the community by doing collections for homeless and other service projects. The group appeared at the South Holland Fun Run 5K, doing demonstrations and inviting the public to join in. They're scheduled to appear at a library event in June.

Tameka Hawkins-Floyd was also an early member. "I enjoy being a part of the 40+ Double Dutch Club because I love double dutch and I love to see people have fun," she says.

### **CLUB DETAILS**

If you'd like to join, the 40+ Double
Dutch Club meets at the South Holland
Community Center on Friday nights at
7pm. When the weather is warmer, they
meet at Veterans Memorial Park on
Saturdays at 4pm. For more information,
visit 40plusdoubledutchclub.com where
you can also view a trailer for an upcoming
documentary on the group and movement.

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



# Mayoris Prayer Breakfast

From Recovery to the Remarkable

Thursday, May 5 • 7:30am

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





southholland.org