



Monday, May 29, 2023 11:00 am

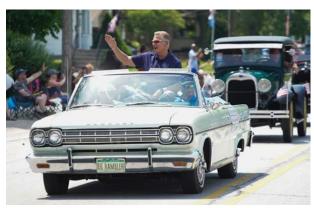
South Park Ave from 170th St to Veterans Memorial Park

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

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

Learn more at southholland.org.

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor Don De Graff at the 2022 Memorial Day Parade

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

Yes, it's that time of year! Summer is approaching, and our wonderful village of South Holland is on the starting line. We're ready, we're set, we're poised to go! We're ready to break out and celebrate together. This coming season is filled with many faith-oriented and family-centered fun outdoor activities that make South Holland such a great place to live, worship, work, and raise a family.

In this issue, you will see that our new "Coming Together 2030" strategic plan is off to a great start. The key stakeholders in South Holland are already beginning to come together to share in a variety of celebrations. We're celebrating ribbon cuttings for a growing number of new South Holland businesses, and we're excited about the beautiful renovation of our South Holland Library. We're anxiously anticipating our Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony and all of our annual summer holiday celebrations, as well as new budding opportunities for summer block parties, including our two new Block Party Trailers.

Additionally, as the 2023 school year comes to an end, we're seeing an ever-increasing number of impressive and noteworthy accomplishments that have happened at both our public and private schools. We are proud of our students and educators who have gone above and beyond to soar to new heights this past year!

Enjoy this spring and summer issue of *South Holland Living*. It's a great reminder of why South Holland is a community of faith, family and future.

Don A. De Graff Mayor

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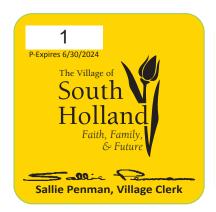
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VILLAGE NEWS

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 2023-24 vehicle stickers are now available 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 at the Customer Service Center at Village Hall, 16220 Wausau Ave. New this year... you can now purchase your stickers online! Visit southholland.org/vehiclestickers to purchase yours.



TREE TRIMMING/YARD WASTE

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. The Public Works department will pick up branches on the day after your regular garbage day. Branches must be trimmed to lengths of 4 feet. You do not need to call Public Works to inform them about a branch pick-up. General yard waste is to be placed in yard waste toters or inside of recyclable paper bags and will be picked up on your regularly scheduled garbage collection day.

For more information on tree trimming, yard waste and other waste collection guidelines, visit southholland.org.



GRASS MAINTENANCE

The Village asks 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.

OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

DADDY/DAUGHTER LUAU

Dads and daughters had a tropical night out with a luau party held at the Community Center. Dressed in their best Hawaiian attire, the father/daughter pairs enjoyed food, dancing, pictures, games, and more.











OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATION

The South Holland Public Library recently underwent an extensive renovation project, which is now complete. The Village and the Library celebrated the renovation with a ribbon cutting. The remodeled building is bright, open and inviting, with restructured spaces designed to engage people of all ages and backgrounds.







OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

PANCAKES WITH THE POLICE

The South Holland Police Department invited residents to join them for breakfast at the Heritage House. Nearly 50 people attended the gathering, which featured presentations by SHPD leadership, and time for conversation with South Holland officers. Officer Megan Norris was recognized for her involvement in the community.











FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL - NOON-4PM

Kiddie Bike Parade • Inflatables • Games Food Vendors • Live Music • And More!

Tents and grills are not permitted. The park will close at 5pm to prepare for the fireworks show, and will reopen at 6pm.

SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW - 9PM

Fireworks Show in the Park!
Park Opens: 6pm
Fireworks Begin: Shortly After Dusk

In order to make the event a more enjoyable experience, we have implemented the following security measures for the fireworks show only:

- Kids 18 and younger must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian
- No backpacks
- No grills or tents
- All items brought into the park are subject to search upon entry.
- All guests will be subject to a metal detection screening.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING PARKING, VISIT SOUTHHOLLAND.ORG.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 6 and June 3 COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS

8:30am, Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave
Residents can meet and talk with members of
the South Holland Fire Department on the first
Saturday of every month.

May 9 and June 13 COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

May 9: 7pm, June 13: 10am, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

The South Holland Police Department hosts a Community Policing Meeting on the second Tuesday of every month, alternating mornings and evenings. This is an opportunity to address any questions or concerns for the Police Department.

May 19

SPECIAL OLYMPICS COFFEE FOR CHAMPIONS

5am-noon, Dunkin', 460 E 162nd St

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

May 29 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 6 MAYOR'S COFFEE

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

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

June 9 SUMMER BINGO

12pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

The South Holland Police Department is hosting a summer bingo event for South Holland residents ages 55 and up. Food will be provided, and prizes will be awarded.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

May 1-31 EYEGLASS DONATION DRIVE

Circulation Desk

Donate your expired eyewear to someone in need. All donations go to the South Holland Lions Club for Healthy Vision Month.

May 20 FIRST VISIT TO THE LIBRARY

Bring your little one to the library and learn about all of the resources available to you. Enjoy a fun story time, a goodie bag, and a tour of our newly renovated library.

May 27 PAPER SHREDDING

10am-noon

Shred your sensitive documents. Limit two boxes. South Holland residents only.

June 3

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE KICK-OFF

Noon-3pm

Join us for a fun-filled start to summer.
Enjoy games, activities, performances and prizes. Plus, get signed up for this year's Summer Reading Program, "A resource in your own backyard!"

Saturday, September 16 Veterans Memorial Park • 500 E 160th Place Scan to learn more

and register!



YOU CAN FACE TOMORROW

By Pastor Preston Winfrey of Pioneer Missionary Baptist Church

We are on this side of Resurrection Sunday and will soon head into the summer months. We are reminded daily of possibilities of what can be, and the roles we can take in the implementation of such possibilities. And while we are excited, we also have shades of fear because of the challenges that are presented to us daily. In the words of C. A. Tindley, in the third stanza of the hymn We'll Understand It Better By and By:

"Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand, all the ways that God will lead us, to that blessed Promised Land; but He guides us with His eye, and we'll follow till we die. For we'll understand it better by and by."

I am sure that you will agree with me when I say, I wish there was a magic wand that could be used to eradicate all those things that disrupt our tranquility. There are so many questions about tomorrow that we just cannot understand. Sometimes, we can be tempted to just lock ourselves inside with hopes that troubles, heartaches, and pains will disappear.

May I offer to you the best solution I have found, to those things that I wish would disappear? The best solution is not in places, people or things. It is in the person of our Resurrected Savior, who gave His testimony on the Lord's Day. He said, "I am he who was dead, but I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18).



Pastor Preston Winfrey

So, to make a long story short, because He lives, we can face tomorrow. I want you to be encouraged, and I want you to open your drapes and lift your shades. Allow the "Light of the world" to come in, and you too will begin to live. Jesus, our way out of 'no way,' our friend who is closer than a brother, and our shepherd, calls us from death to life. My friend, do not allow this summer to pass you by. Expect life! Desire to live! Exercise faith in God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and you will have life abundantly. Come on, let the Son-Shine in! God loves you, and so do I. Have a great summer, and please be safe.



Host your **SUMMER GATHERINGS**at the

HERITAGE HOUSE

443 E 157th Street - at Van'O Park

The Heritage House is a beautiful space for hosting intimate events of 50-60 people.

BOOK YOUR EVENT TODAY!

Visit southholland.org for more information.

Successes

This past school year was a standout year for South Holland schools. Since the pandemic, it was the first time that all schools met in person for the full year. They bounced back quickly, with countless stories of innovation and unique measures of success. Although we could easily fill a whole magazine with accomplishments made at every school in town, in this story we tell three inspiring stories that were particularly noteworthy.



MADISON STUDENTS LEARN NEWS BIZ WITH HIGH-TECH STUDIO By Carrie Steinweg Photo courtesy of KaSandra Diggs



In March 2021, Madison School was visited by CBS News, and a segment aired highlighting the school's newscast, which had started during the pandemic when students were doing online learning as a way to celebrate Black History Month. Once school resumed in person, the newscast, called Action News 7, continued with students serving as news anchors and camera operators, sometimes giving up recess to be involved. Sponsors Michelle Orth and KaSandra Diggs guide the students and work on editing and graphics.

"We never expected the Broadcast Media Club to grow as much as it has," says Diggs and Orth. "It started with a simple idea during the pandemic when we were remote teaching. Our students' voices are being heard throughout the community. The program has given our students the opportunity to interact with professional news anchors and cameramen. We are so excited to see where the program goes next."

The program has already grown by leaps and bounds since that broadcast. In December, CBS News returned to air an update. After the original story aired, the Illinois Press Foundation, along with the

Illinois Farm Bureau, donated funds to help elevate the experience for the kids involved in the program. The funds allowed the school to upgrade their studio with new microphones, a larger green screen, an anchor desk and a teleprompter. The media club started with 10 students and now has more than two dozen members.

"I like being a part of the Broadcast Media Club because I like to express myself as a news anchor," says student Eric Lopez, age 11. "By being a news anchor I get to share my school's news and interesting information with my peers."

Assistant Principal Chevia Rush says she is proud of her students and how much they have grown since the Broadcast Media Club began. "What started as a simple idea has now evolved into a greater platform for our students. I am furthermore impressed that these students willingly give up their recess to participate! They sit in front of the cameras and handle the equipment like pros."

Houng Entrepreneur

THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MAKES MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING HER BUSINESS By Ronda Williams Photo courtesy of Autumn Harmon



A Thornwood High School senior has combined her passion for dance with her impressive business acumen, and is being recognized for it.

Autumn Harmon won first place in the regional entrepreneurship challenge hosted by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). In a *Shark Tank* style presentation, Autumn presented her business idea to support the mental and physical health of teens through dance. Her business idea, Express Yourself Studio, provides youth an outlet for creative expression, communication through movement, and a safe space to be vulnerable

The NFTE program gives students an opportunity to learn from local community leaders, business owners, and academics. The project-based curriculum teaches students how to develop a business plan, present

their plan, and to compete for scholarships and seed capital.

Autumn's love and passion for dance started early and has been a way for her to channel positive energy through challenging times. During the COVID pandemic she recognized the struggles of isolation, loneliness and anxiety that her peers faced, and saw the need to help them through difficult times.

As a budding business owner, Autumn is dedicated to seeing her dream flourish. "This is the first time that I've been involved with something of this magnitude," says Autumn. "The competition opened up doors for me to travel, to meet business people, and to learn so much."

This coming fall, Autumn plans to attend college. With over 15 acceptance letters to universities around the country, she has her sights set on Jackson State University, where she plans to major in dance education and business.

"Dance is therapeutic and can provide emotional healing," says Autumn.

Autumn is committed to destigmatizing mental health support and educating her peers on the value of seeking help when needed, and not being afraid to admit when they are not feeling emotionally well.

"This process of attending the NFTE class, of creating a business plan, presenting my idea and being recognized has been amazing," says Autumn. "I took a risk in opening up and sharing my ideas with others, and I'm encouraging others do the same."



Autumn Harmon won first place in a regional entrepreneurship challenge for her business idea to support the mental and physical health of teens through dance.



RECORD-BREAKING ESPORTS TOURNAMENT COMES TO SOUTH HOLLAND By Josh Bootsma Photos courtesy of The Lansing Journal



Over 250 students from 62 high schools from across Illinois gathered in the gym at Calvin Christian School in South Holland for the largest high school Super Smash Bros. tournament in the U.S.

Unity Christian Academy and Calvin Christian School collaborated in 2022 to host the largest high school Super Smash Bros. tournament in the United States. Taking place at Calvin on December 10, the esports tournament saw hundreds of teenagers punch, slash, and blast each other into electronic oblivion.

Sixty-two high schools from across the state of Illinois gathered for the tournament, which lasted about 12 hours. The roughly 250 participants competed on about 80 monitors situated on tables set up in the gym

"There's never been a community that has reached out and gone the extra mile like this community has."

and elsewhere in the school. Competitors grabbed their controllers to play Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, a fighting game on the Nintendo Switch platform in which players battle using various Nintendo characters and attempt to knock each other out of an arena.



"We were really excited because this was something we really wanted to do, not just for UCA, but for the [local community]," says John Purnell, former board president at Unity Christian and a UCA parent who coaches the school's esports team."

Part of the challenge in hosting the tournament was determining what equipment was needed.

"Ozinga Construction loaned us 20 monitors, Prairie State College loaned us 12 monitors, and families in the community [donated] as well," says Purnell, who worked with Calvin Christian staff to determine the best way to handle the electrical load using outlets and cords throughout the gym.



Andy Mendez, the Executive Director of the Illinois High School Esports Association, praised the efforts of Unity Christian Academy in bringing the tournament to life.

"Unity Christian Academy has been an incredible host," he says. "There's never been a community that has reached out and gone the extra mile like this community has."

Purnell and Mendez say esports scholarships are becoming more common, and some of the most sought-after competitors in the country are from the Illinois High School Esports Association.

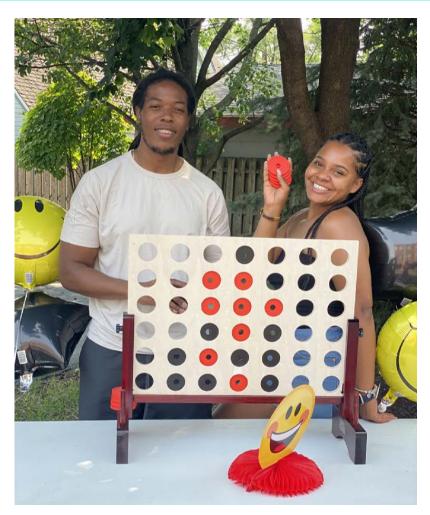
A version of this story first appeared in The Lansing Journal.



BLOCK PARTY

TRAILER

GATHERING FOR THE LOVE OF NEIGHBORS



Block parties have long been a tradition in South Holland. Every year, the Village encourages residents to host and attend block parties so we can get to know our neighbors better. From these block parties, many relationships have been forged and neighborhoods strengthened.

The Village wants to make it as easy as possible for residents to host a block party. So this year we are introducing a feature to do just that... a mobile Block Party Trailer!

The trailer comes stocked with all of the equipment you need to host a block party:

- Folding tables
- Folding picnic tables
- Road blocks
- Garbage cans
- 2 60-quart coolers
- Games/Activities: Bean bags, Connect 4, Jenga, and burlap sacks for sack races

Once the trailer is reserved, the Public Works department will bring it to your block on the Friday before the party. You will receive a code to open the trailer, and then unload whatever equipment is needed for your gathering. After the party



SHARE PHOTOS FROM YOUR BLOCK PARTY!

The Village may feature them on our Facebook page, website and/or South Holland Living!
Email your photos to events@southholland.org.





AMP UP YOUR PARTY!

Here are some ideas you could incorporate to make your block party even more enjoyable!

- Provide fun activities for the kids: Inflatables, slip-n-slides, mini pools, yard games.
- Rent a video game truck.
- Hire a local band or musician for live music.
- Have a theme: Luau, patriotic, casino night, beach party, movie night, etc.
- Host it at a different time of day: breakfast party in the morning, ice cream or s'mores in the evening.

concludes, hosts will place the items back in the trailer. (The Village will provide clear instructions on where everything goes.) Then the Public Works department will pick up the trailer on the Monday following the party.

In addition, members from the Neighborhood Groups Committee will visit each block party to offer a friendly welcome and bring a special gift bag filled with items/activities for the hosts and guests.

"Block parties are essential to the fabric of our community," says Mayor Don De Graff. "When we can gather together as fellow neighbors, we will have more of a tendency to look out for each other, serve each other, and meet each other's needs. It ties right in with our values of Faith, Family, and Future. Our hope is that the block party trailer will breathe new life into our neighborhoods, making it fun and easy to come together and celebrate."

This initiative is one of the first of the Coming Together 2030 plan, in which the Village partners with residents, businesses, churches, schools, and service organizations to connect, serve, empower and enhance each group, and therefore the community as a whole. The block party trailer is an example of how the Village facilitates a method or resource, then the residents take it from there to connect with each other

In order to accommodate multiple block parties in a weekend, there are two trailers, which are available on a first-come, first-served basis and must be reserved online at southholland.org/blockparty. Please note that the trailers will only be used for legitimate block parties. Individual family gatherings, such as birthday parties or family reunions, do not qualify.

For more information, visit southholland. org/blockparty or call Village Hall at 708.210.2900. We look forward to seeing the Block Party Trailer on your block this summer!

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510 Thornwood Drive South Holland, Illinois

Open daily from dawn to dusk

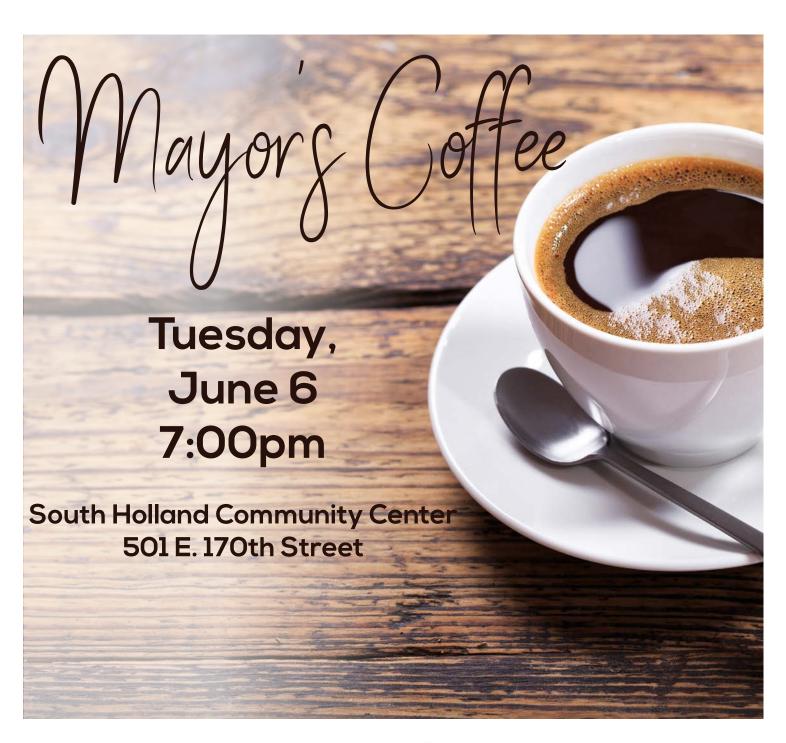
To apply for a membership to Central Bark, visit the Community Center front desk.





southholland.org/centralbark







southholland.org